

CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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

MARCH 2025

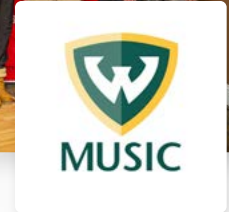
"I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever." ~ Psalm 86:12



The Galeria here on campus was the perfect place for the Annual Alumni Scholarship Awards & Networking Event on Thursday, February 28 — an evening to celebrate our scholarship essay finalists amidst the Polish Institute of Culture & Research's newest exhibit featuring famous Polish Americans throughout history. Special thanks to Prep students and families, friends, alumni, faculty and staff for your tremendous support of this time-honored scholarship tradition and alumni networking night. Read more about it inside this issue.

IN & OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

Congratulations to our OLSM band and orchestra students on fantastic performances! Sophomore **DEAN PLOWMAN** (Violin) was selected to participate in the 2025 Wayne State University's Honors Orchestra.



The following students were selected to participate in Wayne State University's Honors Band:

FRESHMAN

DEVOURIE (DJ) NESBY JR. (*Percussion*)

SOPHOMORE

ISAAC BOJI (*Tuba*)

JUNIORS

JILLIAN GIBBS (*Clarinet*)

LUKE SALLACH (*Clarinet*)

COLIN STEMPIEN (*Alto Saxophone*)

DELANEY WALSTAD (*Tenor Saxophone*).



Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered with OLSM's Catholic Athletes for Christ, January 30 - February 7, to help fill the pantries for the annual **Sister Judie Outreach Food Drive!** So many helped so many in need.



Black History

ART CONTEST

2D (9"X12") -OR- 3D(6"X6"X6")

DUE WED. FEB 26, 2025

PRIZES: 1ST - \$150 FOR BOYS & GIRLS
2ND - \$100
3RD - \$50

THEME: PHOTOGRAPHY -OR- COLLAGE

PAINTING

GRAPHIC DESIGN

SCULPTURE - OR - CERAMICS

DRAWING, ANY MEDIA

See Mrs. Johnson or email: tjohnson@stmarysprep.com

Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep

Last month, OLSM celebrated Black History Month with many events related to the extraordinary accomplishments of historical African Americans in our nation. We uplifted the inspirational contributions of Black artists, writers, musicians, scientists, politicians, and religious figures through a variety of activities, including our student art and essay contests. Art entries were submitted to Ms. Saldana and essay entries to Mr. Matyus (deadline is March 6).

Throughout the month, the halls were filled with music inspired from Black musicians of the 20th century. Students also participated in a scavenger hunt matching the description of a historical figure to photos, and more.

GREATEST GALA ON EARTH

I was honored to offer a brief prayer before dinner at the lively and successful Moms and Dads Club Auction. It was a moment to express appreciation not only to our very deserving auction Co-Chairs, Kari Poxon and Kristin Wheeler but also to Monica Higgins and the Board for leading the yearlong effort. Thanks also to the countless parents who diligently fulfill their volunteer hours and positively impact the experiences of our sons and daughters. Every act of service, no matter how simple or complex, brings meaning to our motto, “God. Family. St. Mary’s.” and serves as an inspiring model for our students as they grow.

Prior to the prayer, I shared a brief quote from Servant of God Fr. Walter Ciszek, a remarkable St. Mary’s graduate from the Prep Class of 1925 and St. Mary’s College Class of 1928 whose life continues to inspire. Born in 1904 in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, Fr. Ciszek’s formative years at Orchard Lake instilled in him a deep commitment to faith that carried him through decades of service and sacrifice. His journey took him to

the Soviet Union, where he endured 23 years in prisons and labor camps, remaining steadfast in his mission to offer spiritual guidance and hope. Today, as he is recognized as a candidate for sainthood, his extraordinary resilience and dedication remind us of the transformative power of faith nurtured with gratitude.

I was asked about Fr. Ciszek several times at dinner and afterward, so I wanted to share his words with our community along with a link for those interested in learning more about this extraordinary man: “Faith is inseparable from love; out of these two twins hope is born.”

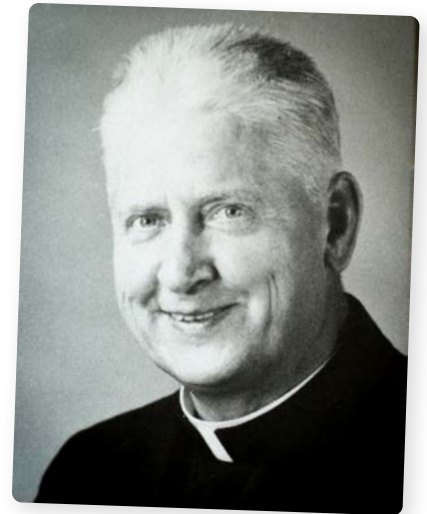
I share these reflections not only because Fr. Ciszek is a cherished part of our school’s legacy, but also because his words capture the very essence of parenthood. His belief that faith and love together pave the way for a hopeful future mirrors the dedication you bring to enriching our St. Mary’s community. Once again, your service makes a lasting difference, and the faculty and staff are sincerely appreciative. Online readers can check out this link for more information about Fr. Ciszek from his designation last year as a Distinguished Alumnus – along with the story of other extraordinary alumni:

<https://uploads.strikinglycdn.com/files/f40ae0af-6fcf-4719-bad2-bd4dc2883765/Distinguished%20Alumni%20Bios%202024.pdf>

I hope you look out for the monthly Campus Communicator and take time to learn about the many inspiring things happening at St. Mary’s, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, and the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center.

CHRIS CZARNIK

Chief Development Officer, Orchard Lake Schools



THINKING PINK AT THE OLSM RINK

Together, we helped make a difference in the fight against cancer on Saturday, February 8 at the 3rd Annual Pink in the Rink event. Over the past two years, this event has raised more than \$136,000 for cancer research, and we're proud of the impact it's made. This year, we once again partnered with the Karmanos Cancer Center to support breast cancer research and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) for childhood blood cancer research.

This year, we also supported research for the Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation to bring awareness to this very rare disease and to support one of our very own community members. Our mission remains steadfast: to continue raising funds each year until we eradicate this devastating disease.



This all-day event included games played by the Orchard Lake Hockey Association followed by three games featuring the Orchard Lake St. Mary's (OLSM) hockey teams vs their rival – Brother Rice (BR), culminating with the Varsity game at 7:00 PM. Raffles, merchandise sales, and attendance from more than 1,500 people, as well as more watching the Live Broadcast on The Prep, culminated in the donations we give to our partners in cancer research.

The impact our community and our hockey programs can have on cancer is immeasurable. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and support! For more information on how you can contribute, visit our PITR website: www.stmaryshockey.com/pink-in-the-rink-2025.

DESMOID TUMOR FOUNDATION SUPPORTED BY PINK IN THE RINK

One of our very own Orchard Lake Schools staff members, Lisa Gray, shares a glimpse of her personal journey of this rare disease with us, and advocates for others:

In 2023, after over a year of searching for answers, I was diagnosed with a desmoid tumor. For those unfamiliar, desmoid tumors are rare, cancerous growths that grow locally and can be aggressive and invade surrounding tissues. My tumor is located in my neck, making it inoperable. The diagnosis came after an open biopsy in September 2023, which confirmed what had been causing my symptoms of swelling and pain in my neck.

Initially, I was placed on a “wait-and-watch” protocol to monitor the tumor’s growth. During this time, I sought a second opinion from a sarcoma specialist at a clinic -- a doctor who also serves on the board of the Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation (DTRF). Organizations like this are doing vital work to advance research and improve treatment options for patients like me.

Recently, I had the incredible honor of being recognized at the “Pink in the Rink” event and my son, Ryan (P’19), accompanied me out on the ice. It was a deeply humbling experience to share my story publicly and to see the Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation benefit as one of the event’s fundraising recipients. The number on my jersey represented the year of my diagnosis—2023—and served as a powerful reminder of how far I’ve come since then and what I can do to help advocate for and make a difference in the lives of others on this journey to find a cure.



*“We never give more honor to Jesus than when we honor his Mother.”
- St. Louis DeMontfort*



The Mary Project is dedicated to the beautification of the Marian Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Orchard Lake St. Mary's. The Mary Project is a registered 501(c)(3) and all donations are tax exempt.



THE MARY PROJECT
AT ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

CHEERS TO OUR CHAMPS!

Congratulations to our Boys Ski Team on winning the League, Catholic League, and MHSAA Division 2 Region 6 Championships!

Cheers to the St. Mary's athletes that received All Catholic League honors at the Catholic League (CHSL) Championship Race:

Boys Division:

- PIERSON KUHN
- EDDIE LOGSDON
- NOAH MORLEY
- BRADY WEBSTER

Girls Division:

- ADDISON KUHN



Go Eaglets! Three OLSM wrestlers won at Regionals and competed at the State Wrestling Championship at Ford Field beginning Friday, February 28. Congratulations to junior **AYDEN TATUM** and seniors **MALEK ZAWAIDEH** and **DEJAE WHITE**.

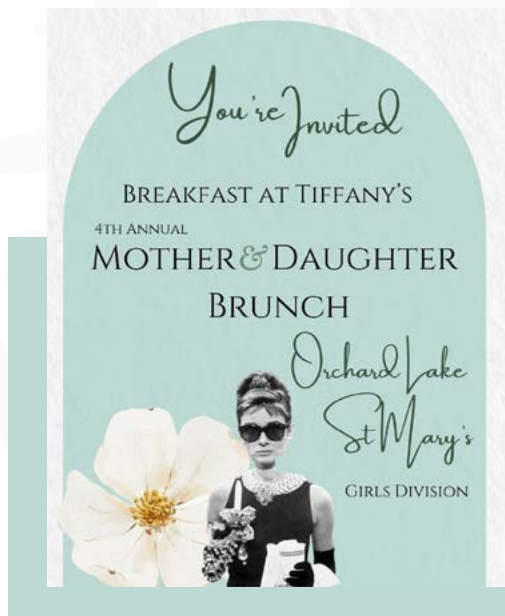
Congratulations to Freshman **SOPHIA BOURASAW** for receiving the CHSL All League Honor in Pom & Dance! St. Mary's Prep co-ops with St. Catherine Academy in Pom & Dance.

We're so proud of our varsity basketball back-to-back CHSL Champs who defeated #1 U of D Jesuit (58-57) in the championship game at Calihan Hall! Next up, MHSAA playoffs!



It's time for glitz, glam and a morning of memories, laughter, and fun as we celebrate the St. Mary's sisterhood at the **4th Annual St. Mary's Girls Division Mother & Daughter Brunch**.

This fun-filled "Breakfast at Tiffany's" themed event takes place Sunday, March 30, at Wabeek Country Club. Strike a pose for photos, enjoy games, raffles, sweet treats, and of course, a delicious brunch spread.



SPRING SEASON IN OUR SIGHT



Please join us in welcoming Varsity Volleyball Head Coach Ross Talbott to the St. Mary's family!



We're excited to announce our assistant coaches for the 2025 softball season: Emily Raubuch, a former pitcher at Morgan State University; Madison Campagna, a former outfielder at Saginaw Valley State University; and Izzy Dawson, a former infielder at Aquinas College.

MSU & NBA GREAT MATEEN CLEAVES TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL OLSM FATHER & SON EVENT



All men of St. Mary's, past and present, are invited to the OLSM Father Son Mass and Luncheon, the annual fundraiser for the OLSM baseball program. On Sunday, March 2, we are proud to host Mateen Cleaves as our guest speaker for this annual tradition for the men of St. Mary's.

Born in Flint, Michigan, Mateen Cleaves is a natural leader with lots of determination, talent and discipline, qualities that helped define a nine-year professional basketball career. Cleaves is most remembered for his brilliant career at Michigan State where he led the Spartans to a National Championship victory in 2000. The university's only 3-time All-American was also named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Cleaves' No. 12 jersey was officially retired at Michigan State University on February 3, 2007.

Drafted the 14th pick by the Detroit Pistons in 2000, Cleaves has played for NBA/NBDL teams such as the Sacramento Kings, Seattle SuperSonics, Boston Celtics, Cleveland Cavaliers, Huntsville Kings, and Bakersfield Jam. He has also played overseas in Greece and Russia. Moving off the court, Cleaves has provided on-air camera commentary for outlets like NBA TV, Big Ten Network, Channel 12/24 News, Flint, MI, and Sacramento News 10. Mateen also has a son, Mateen Jr., who is a freshman at OLSM and on the varsity basketball team.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS, ALUMNI NETWORKING & GALERIA EXHIBIT SNEAK PEEK!

Oh, what a night for our student finalists, alumni, and others who supported the 7th Annual Alumni Scholarship Awards & Networking Event on Thursday, February 27, in the stunning, newly renovated Galeria on campus. This year's finalists, announced at the student Masses just prior to the event, include **JILLIAN GIBBS**, **MADÉLINE NEIL**, **LUKE SALLACH** and **DILLAN ARAFAT**.

The magical night at the Galeria opened with a prayer by Board of Regents Vice Chairman Mr. Joseph Majcher. Chief Development Officer Chris Czarnik welcomed guests and offered insights on upcoming campus initiatives, including the St. Faustina and Divine Mercy Altar Fundraising Campaign, and Founder's Day. Polish Institute of Culture & Research Director John Radzilowski shared the sneak peek of the new art exhibit, Biography, Art, History: Polish American Memories of Great Men and Women open February 28 until May 18 to the public.

Alumni Relations Officer Don Buchanan and Alumni Association President Bryan Gray commended the scholarship finalists and announced the winners from both the Boys and the Girls Divisions. Congratulations to 1st place winners **JILLIAN GIBBS** and **DILLAN ARAFAT** who each received \$3000 toward their senior year tuition, and to 2nd place winners **MADÉLINE NEIL** and **LUKE SALLACH** who each received \$2000.



OUR 2025 FIDELITAS MEDALIST: RICHARD TRZCINSKI (P'70)

Each year at the Ambassadors Ball, we honor our Fidelitas Medal tradition. We are excited to announce our 2025 Fidelitas Medalist, **RICHARD TRZCINSKI (P'70)**.



The FIDELITAS MEDAL, first awarded in 1949, is presented in recognition of one's Fidelity in serving God, country, and the Orchard Lake Schools. Fidelitas medalists are evaluated for their realization of the religious and cultural ideals of the Orchard Lake Schools founder, the Rev. Joseph Dabrowski, a Polish missionary priest, who established the original education institution in Detroit in 1885.

Richard Trzcinski's deep-rooted faith and compassion for the Orchard Lake Schools have guided him to champion the mission and vision of our founder, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski.

"God is my pillar of strength, and the power of prayer can help accomplish what we are all here to do – to thrive," said Hamtramck native Richard Trzcinski. "I am so blessed to be honored as the 2025 Fidelitas Medalist! It is such a privilege to be part of the 140-year history of the Orchard Lake Schools and help build upon the faith, education, culture and tradition that continues to shape the future of generations to come."

The Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad within our campus community is one of the many such efforts that connects our founder's mission and vision – the footsteps of the past, including those of a saint – with the present and future. Richard and his wife, Mary, have made extraordinary, transformative contributions to the Orchard Lake Schools that also include the Ever Forward Strategic Planning Project initiative.

The St. Mary's Preparatory graduate of the Class of 1970 and commercial real estate developer who founded and is the president of Primerica Group One, Inc. in Tampa, Florida, believes that the Orchard Lake Schools community is grounded in the religious and cultural ideals that Fr. Dabrowski, a Polish missionary priest, first established in Detroit in 1885. It is the place where all those within our campus community, both near and far, grow and prosper. "These are some of the major reasons Mary and I made the gift for the beautification of the Quad," said Trzcinski. "And with the implementation of the St. Mary's Preparatory Girls Division now in its fifth year and the strong leadership of headmaster Len Karschnia and his faculty and staff, we know the students here will continue to grow and prosper into future leaders in society."

Richard Trzcinski was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, and experienced very humble beginnings. By the fourth grade, he and his family moved to Shelby Township, and he went on to attend Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory where he lettered in basketball, baseball, and golf. He was also elected sports director by the student body. He has fond memories of growing up with the brotherhood that is St. Mary's. "Back then, all students lived in the dorms," he said. "The Class of 1970 was special. We had a daily regimen that began with a structured breakfast followed by Mass, classes, athletic practices, and study hall. We all kept busy. That is one of the secrets to what made the student body who we are today. That time management regimen helped prepare me for my acceptance into the University of Michigan."

The spiritual aspect of the Orchard Lake Schools family is very dear to his heart just as his own family is at the center of everything he does. Just like his three daughters have grown and prospered, he wants nothing more than for the Orchard Lake Schools to reap the core values inherent in the historic, grounded campus foundations. "It's a place where young men and women are thriving on their motivation and good grades, alumni and friends are networking, and all those who come here, even if they are just passing through, are engaging in cultural traditions, and following their spirituality entrenched in their core moral values," he added. "God is their pillar of strength, and the power of prayer can help us all accomplish what they are here to do – to thrive."





March 25th is the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, one of the most important feasts commemorating a remarkable event in the history of human redemption. For God's plan to redeem humanity relied on Mary's acceptance of God's will that she would become the Mother of God, as the Mother of our Redemer. At the very moment she accepted it, she conceived through the Holy Spirit. And therefore, nine months later, on December 25th, we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of the Messiah was foretold on various occasions in the Old Testament, but Mary's "YES" was necessary, indeed indispensable for the implementation of God's plan. Mary believed in what was said to her through the archangel Gabriel, and therefore she is called the Mother of those who believe and Abraham is called the father of all believers.

St. John Paul II, in his encyclical *Redemptoris Mater: On the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the Pilgrim Church* (numbers 13–14) while meditating on the Annunciation, also establishes that link between Mary and Abraham:



IN THE WORDS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Mary uttered this fiat in faith. In faith she entrusted herself to God without reserve and "devoted herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son." And as the Fathers of the Church teach—she conceived this Son in her mind before she conceived him in her womb: precisely in faith! Rightly therefore does Elizabeth praise Mary: "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." These words have already been fulfilled: Mary of Nazareth presents herself at the threshold of Elizabeth and Zechariah's house as the Mother of the Son of God. This is Elizabeth's joyful discovery: "The mother of my Lord comes to me"!

Mary's faith can also be compared to that of Abraham, whom St. Paul calls "our father in faith" (cf. Rom 4:12). In the salvific economy of God's revelation, Abraham's faith constitutes the beginning of the Old Covenant; Mary's faith at the Annunciation inaugurates the New Covenant. Just as Abraham "in hope believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations" (cf. Rom 4:18), so Mary, at the Annunciation, having professed her virginity ("How shall this be, since I have no husband?") believed that through the power of the Most High, by the power of the Holy Spirit, she would become the Mother of God's Son in accordance with the angel's revelation: "The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Lk 1:35).

However, Elizabeth's words "And blessed is she who believed" do not apply only to that particular moment of the Annunciation. Certainly the Annunciation is the culminating moment of Mary's faith in her awaiting of Christ, but it is also the point of departure from which her whole "journey towards God" begins, her whole pilgrimage of faith. And on this road, in an eminent and truly heroic manner—indeed with an ever greater heroism of faith—the "obedience" which she professes to the word of divine revelation will be fulfilled. Mary's "obedience of faith" during the whole of her pilgrimage will show surprising similarities to the faith of Abraham. Just like the Patriarch of the People of God, so too Mary, during the pilgrimage of her filial and maternal fiat, "in hope believed against hope." Especially during certain stages of this journey the blessing granted to her "who believed" will be revealed with particular vividness. To believe means "to abandon oneself" to the truth of the word of the living God, knowing and humbly recognizing "how unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways" (Rom 11:33). Mary, who by the eternal will of the Most High stands, one may say, at the very center of those "inscrutable ways" and "unsearchable judgments" of God, conforms herself to them in the dim light of faith, accepting fully and with a ready heart everything that is decreed in the divine plan.

Thus while we are still at the dawn of Jesus' life, we are already oriented to Calvary. It is on the Cross that Jesus will be definitively confirmed as a sign of contradiction, and it is there that his Mother's heart will be pierced by the sword of sorrow. We are told it all from the beginning, on the 40th day after Jesus' birth, on the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, so important in the Church's liturgy.

FR. BERNARD WITEK

Director, St. John Paul II Liturgical Center

ZAPRASZAMY

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

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

Sunday, April 6th • 1:00 PM

- Polish Lunch after the Mass in the Dining Hall - Cost: \$20 (Kids Pizza for \$5)
- Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, April 2nd.
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com.



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

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, 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.



ST. FAUSTINA & DIVINE MERCY ALTAR PROJECT

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



A MESSAGE FROM FR. WITEK

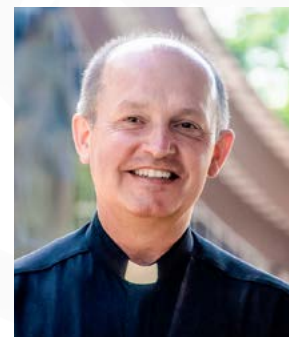
The Shrine Chapel at Orchard Lake Schools stands as a beacon of faith, hope, and spiritual renewal. For generations, it has symbolized our commitment to fostering a deeper connection to God while honoring the cultural and spiritual legacies that define our diverse community. At the heart of this mission is the Divine Mercy—God’s infinite love and forgiveness offered to all.

As we enter the Jubilee Year 2025, designated as the year of “Pilgrims of Hope”, we recognize an extraordinary opportunity to complete the Divine Mercy Altar, making the Shrine Chapel a more profound place of pilgrimage and reflection. This will also complete the Shrine of St. John Paul II, since in his teaching the Divine Mercy was one of the main focuses, as he himself stated it, “The Message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me . . . which I took with me to the See of Peter and which it, in a sense, forms the image of this Pontificate.”

The Shrine of St. John Paul II at Orchard Lake has been officially designated as one of 12 Detroit-area pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year 2025, reaffirming its significance as a place of grace, mercy, and renewal. This designation provides an extraordinary moment to complete the altar project and welcome pilgrims seeking spiritual growth, healing, and indulgences through prayer and reflection.

The Shrine continues to foster Polish spiritual traditions while welcoming a broader, diverse faith community. **With this final piece of the Divine Mercy Altar, we invite you to be a part of this historic and sacred endeavor.**

FR. BERNARD WITEK, SDS
Director, St. John Paul II Liturgical Center



HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT FR. WITEK'S WORK

Campaign Goal: \$100,000



Gifts of any amount are needed and are blessings to our work.

- All gifts will be recognized with a listing in a future issue of the Campus Communicator.
- All gifts of \$500 or more will be recognized on a permanent plaque inside the Shrine Chapel.
- Sponsorships are reserved in a first-come, first-served manner.
- Should we exceed our fundraising goal, ALL gifts will be dedicated to the Liturgical Center for additional needs including sprinkler systems around the Shrine gardens and other approved priorities as identified by Fr. Witek.

To reserve a sponsorship or for more information, please contact:

Chris Czarnik
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
(248) 392-9267
cczarnik@orchardlakeschools.com

Fr. Bernard Witek
DIRECTOR, SJPLC
(248) 602-7579
bwitek@sjp2liturgicalcenter.com

Joseph Majcher
VICE CHAIR, OLS REGENTS
jmajcher@orchardlakeschools.com

To make a gift by mail, please send a check made out to Orchard Lake Schools and clearly noted for the "Shrine Altar Project."

Send to: Chris Czarnik, Development
The Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Commerce Road
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

To make a secure online gift using a credit card, go to Orchardlakeschools.com and click on "Support Us" and then "Shrine Altar Project"





THE MARY PROJECT

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

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 1 will begin in early November. Sales for Phase 2 (continuing towards the lake) began October 1, 2023. There is plenty of space for additional commemorative bricks. Bricks purchased for Phase 2 are \$150 each and will be installed in November 2024.

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, 2025

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

\$150 - 4x8 Brick

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

LINE 1
LINE 2
LINE 3

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

If you have any questions,
please contact: Maureen Gross
themaryproject@myyahoo.com

5K RUN & WALK

2nd Annual
VIVAT 3 MAJA
Sport Event

SATURDAY, MAY 3 – 9:00 AM
ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

COME & JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE POLISH CONSTITUTION OF MAY 3RD

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25
EARLY REGISTRATION
(BEFORE APR. 1ST) \$15

REGISTRATION ONLINE
STARTS ON MARCH 1ST

Each participant in the Run/Walk
receives a starting number, a medal,
and a T-shirt



MORE INFO & REGISTRATION
www.polishweekly.com/vivat



POLISH INSTITUTE UPDATE

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW & LOOKING AHEAD

February was a month filled with rich cultural experiences at the Polish Institute! We began with a compelling lecture by Professor Ewa Barczyk, *Footprints of Polonia*, exploring Polish historical sites across North America and highlighting the deep-rooted legacy of Polish immigrants.

Later in the month, our Galeria opened its newest exhibition, *Biography, Art, History: Polish American Memories of Great Men & Women*, celebrating figures such as Tadeusz Kościuszko, Helena Modrzejewska, and Józef Piłsudski. This remarkable display of portraiture, artifacts, and historical narratives will run through May 18. The opening night featured an unforgettable concert by world-renowned guitarist Krzysztof Meisinger, who captivated the audience with Polish classical and Flamenco music. Adding to this month's excitement, we had the great privilege of hosting a delegation from the National Museum in Warsaw, strengthening ties between our institutions and exploring new opportunities for cultural collaboration.

March kicks off with a beloved Polish tradition—Pączki Day on March 4 at Orchard Lake St. Mary's! We're bringing delicious pączki from Irena's Pastry & Bistro and Śródek's to campus, reminding everyone that on Fat Tuesday, we're all a little Polish! To pre-order a dozen pączki for \$30, submit requests to info@picrol.org by March 3. Then, on April 5, don't miss our 3rd Annual Pisanki Workshop—a hands-on experience in the intricate art of Polish egg decorating. This event always sells out, so be sure to reserve your spot early!

On April 8, we invite you to experience the majesty of Polish ballet as the European Royal Classical Ballet brings Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* to West Bloomfield. As part of their U.S. debut tour, this breathtaking performance will be followed by an exclusive meet & greet with the dancers and directors, hosted in partnership with the Polish Institute.

MARCH & APRIL IN POLISH AMERICAN HISTORY

March and April are months of deep historical significance for Polish Americans. March 1 marks National Remembrance Day of the Cursed Soldiers, honoring the brave resistance fighters who opposed Soviet rule after WWII. April 14, known as National Polonia Day, celebrates the achievements of the Polish diaspora and their contributions to communities worldwide.

As we reflect on these legacies, we encourage you to stay engaged, support cultural programming, and continue celebrating Polish heritage. Stay connected with us at www.picrol.org and follow us on Facebook for the latest updates. Be sure to check out our comprehensive Polonia calendar, covering events across Michigan and northern Ohio: www.picrol.org/calendar. Dziękujemy za waszą obecność i wsparcie! Niech kultura polska kwitnie w naszych sercach i społecznościach. Do zobaczenia na kolejnych wydarzeniach!

ANIA BIECIUK

Associate Director for Polonia Affairs, Polish Institute of Culture & Research

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

NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW DELEGATION VISITS PICROL

From February 17–21, 2025, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL) had the honor of hosting a distinguished delegation from the National Museum in Warsaw, a visit made possible through the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland.

Our esteemed guests included Michał Kulik from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, along with specialists from the National Museum: Ksenia Zdzieżyńska-Demolin, Renata Higersberger, and Aleksandra Janiszewska-Cardone.

During their weeklong visit, the delegation engaged with Trustees, Regents, members of the Wikiera Foundation, and the Michigan Polonia community, lending their expertise and insights to the preservation and study of Polish heritage in North America.

Their time at PICROL included an in-depth review of our collection, offering valuable perspectives that will shape future curatorial and conservation efforts. They also attended Professor Ewa Barczyk's lecture, "Footprints of Polonia".

A highlight of their visit was the soft opening of our newest exhibit, "Biography, Art, History: Polish American Memories of Great Men and Women." This exhibition, part of our inaugural season, presents an inspiring portrayal of figures whose lives have profoundly influenced Polish American history and culture.

The delegation also had the opportunity to explore the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), where they visited the Conservation Department and met with the museum's expert team. This behind-the-scenes experience fostered meaningful dialogue on preservation techniques and museum practices. Our sincere gratitude goes to the DIA staff and administration for their generous hospitality, with special thanks to Dorota Chudzicki for her invaluable insights and facilitation of this visit.



This week of cultural exchange and collaboration has strengthened the ties between our institutions and laid the foundation for future partnerships. We look forward to continued dialogue and shared efforts in preserving and celebrating Polish heritage.



PICROL AT INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL IN MIAMI

Dr. John Radzilowski, Director, and Ania Bieciuk, Associate Director for Polonia Affairs, represented the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL) at the 52nd International Polonaise Ball in Miami, hosted by the American Institute of Polish Culture. The event provided an excellent opportunity for networking and promoting PICROL's mission in Michigan, fostering connections within the broader Polonia community and strengthening cultural ties.

The POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH
celebrates Fat Tuesday at OLSM!



PAŃCZKI DAY!

with pańczki from
Irena's Pastry & Bistro, Srodek's



**Pańczki for everyone!
Because today,
we're all a
little Polish!**



**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4th
OLSM Dining Hall
Lunch**

To pre-order a dozen pańczki for \$30, submit requests to info@picrol.org by March 3rd

EXPLORING POLONIA'S LEGACY: AN EVENING WITH PROFESSOR EWA BARCZYK



On February 20th, the Galeria at the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake hosted an inspiring lecture by Professor Ewa Barczyk on “Footprints of Polonia: Polish Historical Sites Across North America.” Her presentation highlighted the rich legacy of Polish communities and underscored the importance of preserving our cultural landmarks. We are grateful for her insights and dedication to documenting Polonia’s contributions across the continent. Thank you to all who

attended and helped make this event a success!



EVER FORWARD!
ZAWSZE DO PRZODU!

2023-2024
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

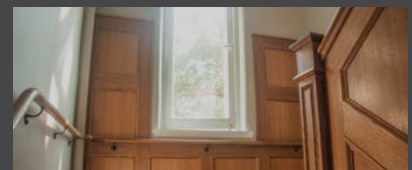
LOOKING FOR IMPACTFUL CAMPUS DEDICATION OR NAMING OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAVE A LASTING CAMPUS IMPRESSION FOR GENERATIONS TO ENJOY?



Contact:

CHRIS CZARNIK

CCZARNIK@ORCHARDLAKESCHOOLS.COM



Experience the majesty of Polish ballet...

TCHIAKOVSKY'S

Swan Lake



with the
EUROPEAN ROYAL CLASSICAL BALLET

Executive Directors: Marcin Rolczynski & Norbert Nirewicz Artistic Director & Ballet Master: Alessandro Bonavita

EUROPEAN ROYAL CLASSICAL BALLET IS AN EXPANSION OF POLSKI BALLET KRÓLEWSKI (THE POLISH ROYAL BALLET).

The creators and directors of ERCB are elated to unveil a production crafted with the finest artists and stagecraft from their European tours as they make their debut on American soil. We eagerly await the opportunity to share with our new American audiences the captivating artistry and boundless talents of our performers who have been illuminating the theatres of Europe for years.

After many years of successful performances and tours in Poland and throughout Europe, Polish Royal Ballet grew to include European Royal Classical Ballet in preparation for their Inaugural U.S. Tour.

The Polish Institute at Orchard Lake is proud to partner with the European Royal Classical Ballet (ERCB) as they bring Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" to West Bloomfield as part of their Inaugural U.S. Tour. As part of our collaboration, we are pleased to offer a special discount for our friends.

A private meet and greet will take place directly after the performance. Friends of the Polish Institute will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the producers, directors, and performers. To attend, please RSVP to info@picrol.org.



This is a remarkable opportunity to celebrate Poland's deep ballet heritage, as the ERCB is an expansion of the Polish Royal Ballet. After years of touring Poland and Europe, they now bring their artistry and world-class talent to American audiences. Let us welcome our European guests and ensure their return.

***Scan code for tickets.
Use code PICROL20 at checkout for discount.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 8th 7:00 PM

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

6600 W MAPLE RD, WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, MI 48322

The Polish Institute of Culture & Research presents the 3rd Annual

PISANKI WORKSHOP



THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH is hosting an educational workshop about the art of making Pisanki Easter eggs which is decorated using the wax-resist method. You'll learn how to create an authentic Pisanka (singular egg) with skilled instructor, Iwona Jędrzejczak.

Workshop Fees • Price includes your egg & kit supplies.

Adults \$40 • You will be able to take your final

Children (up to 18 years) \$15 product home!

Call (248) 836-1284 to reserve your seat today! Space is limited.

SATURDAY • APRIL 5, 2025

10:00 AM • 2:00 PM • 5:00 PM • DINING HALL

KIDS CLASS

ADULT

ADULTS

ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS • 3535 COMMERCE ROAD • ORCHARD LAKE, MI

PLEASE NOTE: Please park in main lot adjacent to Archdiocesan Shrine.

ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS FOUNDER'S DAY 2025

FOUNDER'S DAY SCHEDULE

MORNING EVENTS

ENJOY FUN, FOOD & MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S ATHLETIC COMPLEX

8:00 AM • 5K Fun Run/Walk

9:00 AM • Breakfast at Concessions Stand

9:30 AM • Alumni Soccer Game

11:00 AM • Lunch at Concessions Stand begins

11:30 AM • Alumni Flag Football Game

EVENING CELEBRATION

GREAT FOOD • CIGAR BAR • CASINO TABLES • BOURBON TASTING

4:30 PM • Holy Mass at Grotto • Fr. Witek, Celebrant

5:30 PM • Cocktail Hour with Polish Appetizers

6:45-10:30 PM • Founder's, Alumni & Friends Dinner



FRIDAY MORNING GOLF AT PINE KNOB • JUNE 6th • Limited Tee-Times starting 10:30 AM

Our Alumni & Friends Golf Outing in the Fall will replace the annual Founder's Day Golf Outing. QUESTIONS? Contact Robert Mazur at (248) 830-9711

ADMISSION • \$125
\$100 FOR 1885 CLUB MEMBERS

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER OR
email: foundersday@orchardlakeschools.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 7th

ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS CAMPUS



We are thrilled to invite you to Founder's Day 2025, where we're introducing a fresh format with a return to some great traditions and the addition of some new features. After listening carefully to feedback from past events, we think we have a great plan for 2025 and want you to be a part of it.

One thing was clear—everyone loved the on-campus celebration in the Old Gym and the Quad. The setting was beautiful, welcoming, and the perfect backdrop for reconnecting with fellow alumni and friends – reunion classes loved it. At the same time, while the golf outing at Orchard Lake Country Club was well received, we also heard that the cost was prohibitive for some guests and limited the financial impact on our schools. Additionally, many alumni felt that holding two golf outings—one in June and another in September—was too close together.

A NEW APPROACH TO GOLF

Rather than holding a formal golf outing during Founder's Day and Reunion Weekend, we are moving the Founder's Day Outing to September 15 with the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing—creating one Orchard Lake golf event to rule them all! This allows us to focus our efforts on a single premier outing while maximizing its impact for Orchard Lake Schools.

And, for the June weekend, we've reserved tee times at Pine Knob Golf & Country Club at a special price. Join us there on Friday, June 6, for an easygoing day of friendship and fun on the course. For reunion classes, it creates a great couple of days to get together with old friends.

FOUNDER'S DAY 2025: BIGGER & BETTER!

Back on campus, the Founder's Day Celebration on June 7 will be better than ever, bringing together families, friends, and alumni—especially those celebrating reunion years. As always, we will honor our Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Alumni, and Honorary Alumni. Plus, we're bringing back some favorites, including the famous Polish Platter, a Vegas Tent, and the beloved frozen drink machine serving up Hummers.

In addition, sponsorships for Founder's Day and the Fall Golf Outing will have the added benefit of being advertised at both events as long as the sponsorships are filled prior to Founder's Day.

This new approach ensures a fun, engaging weekend while increasing support for the mission of Orchard Lake Schools. We can't wait to welcome you back!

FOR PINE KNOB TEE TIMES
contact Robert Mazur
(248) 830-9711

**FOR FOUNDER'S DAY INFO &
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
contact Lisa Gray
(248) 392-9974.



THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS
AMBASSADORS BALL

SUPPORTING THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

ORCHARD LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

GIFTS TO THE AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT FUND ARE PRUDENTLY INVESTED, AND ANNUAL EARNINGS ARE USED TO SUPPORT THE CORE PARTS OF THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS. SINCE 1974, THE AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN \$6 MILLION TO PROJECTS IMPACTING EDUCATION, OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, AND POLISH HERITAGE.

— *Ambassadors with current annual memberships* —
receive two complimentary tickets to the Ambassadors Ball.

If you are an Extraordinary Ambassador, Perpetual Ambassador, or current Annual Ambassador for 2024-2025, you will receive a mailed invitation. To check on your Ambassador Membership status, contact Stephanie Gonzales at (248) 392-9209.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS ESTEEMED GROUP,
ATTEND THE AMBASSADORS BALL, AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON
THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS, PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.ORCHARDLAKESCHOOLS.COM/AMBASSADORS

OR CALL STEPHANIE GONZALES AT (248) 392-9209.

UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2025

- 1-5/18 PICR Exhibit: Biography, Art, History: Polish American Memories of Great Men & Women @ Galeria**
- 1 Rowing @ Hungry Eagle Erg Sprints @ Skyline HS**
- Boys Varsity Hockey MHSAA Quarterfinals**
- Bowling MHSAA Finals Singles**
- 2 POLISH 1st SUNDAY MASS @ 1:00 PM**
- Fall & Son Mass and Luncheon @ OLS**
- 3 Boys Varsity Basketball MHSAA Regionals**
- 4 PACZKI DAY**
- 5 Ash Wednesday (Start of Lenten Season)**
- 3-7 Girls Varsity Basketball MHSAA Districts**
- 6 Boys Varsity Hockey MHSAA Semifinals @ USA Hockey**
- 7 END OF 3rd MARKING PERIOD**
- 8 Boys Varsity Hockey MHSAA Finals @ USA Hockey**
- 9 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**
- 10-12 Girls Varsity Basketball MHSAA Regionals**
- 11 Boys Varsity Basketball MHSAA Quarterfinals**
- 13 Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- 14 Boys Varsity Basketball MHSAA Semifinals @ MSU Track Scrimmage @ 4:00 PM**
- 15 Boys Varsity Basketball MHSAA Finals @ MSU**
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
- 18 Girls Division NHS Induction Ceremony**
- Girls Varsity Basketball MHSAA Quarterfinals**
- 20 Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Green Hills @ 7:00 PM**
- 21 Girls Varsity Basketball MHSAA Semifinals @ Breslin**
- 22 Girls Varsity Basketball MHSAA Finals @ Breslin**
- 25 Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Toledo St. John's @ 7:00 PM**
- 26 Boys Division NHS Induction Ceremony**
- 27 Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Gabriel Richard @ 7:00 PM**
- 28 Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Mona Shores @ 6:00 PM**
- 30 Mother & Daughter Brunch @ Wabeek CC**
- 31 Track vs. Notre Dame Prep @ 4:00 PM**

Check www.olsmathletics.com for more information on MHSAA 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 January.

JAMES MICHAEL BOBEL	JOSEPH F. KIERNICKI	AMELIA PIEKANSKI
PAULETTE M. BOROWICZ	NICOLE FRANCES KOWALSKI-KLEINSASSER	JOAN MARIE PORRITT
JIMMY COLA	SUE MAKOWSKI	FRANCES ROCHA
KEITH CONRADE	RICHARD MOHR	TIM ROCK
RUGGERIO "ROGER" DELUCA	SAADE MOUAWAD	ISABELLA SCARSELLA
MICHAEL DELUCIA	TONY OGNANOVICH	SANTINA SHEA
RONALD FREDERICK	HELEN ONOFRIO	MICHAEL WILLIAMS
IVO GOLUB	DELORES PETERSON	SHARON JOAN ZAMMIT

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

MARCH 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 • **ASH WEDNESDAY**

5:30 PM	FR. WITEK • POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
7:00 PM	FR. WITEK • LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

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, MARCH 16

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

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

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS OF LENT 6:30 PM ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

DAILY MASSES

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS 7:00 PM • IN ENGLISH ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SATURDAYS 9:00 AM • IN ENGLISH ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

ALL NIGHT ADORATION

3/21 - 3/22 FRIDAY AFTER 7:00 PM MASS UNTIL 9:00 AM SATURDAY ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

CONFESSIONS

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

FRIDAYS IN LENT 5:30 PM - 6:25 PM ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

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