

# ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

# CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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

**AUGUST 2025**

*"From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised." ~ Psalm 113:3*



*"If the Orchard Lake Schools did not exist, it would be necessary to establish them." ~ St. John Paul II*





## ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER UPDATE

### LONG-AWAITED DIVINE MERCY ALTAR IN THE SHRINE CHAPEL COMES TO FRUITION

Installing the Divine Mercy Altar in our Archdiocese Shrine of St. John Paul II is the culmination of a plan launched by Fr. Mirosław Król in 2015 to have the totality of the Divine Mercy story visible in our Shrine Chapel and have it be a sanctuary of devotion to it. Installing the altar dedicated to St. John Paul II on the left side of the Shrine Chapel was the first phase. On August 10, 2025, the new marble altar will be blessed by Archbishop of Detroit, Edward Weisenburger, who will celebrate Mass at 11:00 AM in the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II.





This moment was made possible thanks to the generosity of donors who contributed to the successful St. Faustina & Divine Mercy Altar Project Fundraising Campaign. Look for the full story in the September issue.

*Here, Joseph Majcher shares a look at the project.*

Divine Mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska, and St. Pope John Paul II are inextricably intertwined. Theirs is a powerful spiritual journey that spans decades and helped shape modern Catholic devotion.

St. Faustina Kowalska was a humble Polish nun who lived from 1905 to 1938. She received mystical visions of Jesus, who asked her to spread the message of His Divine Mercy - a love that forgives and heals even the greatest sins. Jesus instructed her to record His messages in a diary which is now a spiritual classic. He also requested that she promote the image of Divine Mercy which is Jesus with rays of red and white light emanating from His heart with the inscription "Jesus I trust in you." In addition, Christ asked that the Church establish Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.

St. Pope John Paul II was deeply influenced by St. Faustina's message early in his life. Pope John Paul II called Divine Mercy "love's second name" and considered it central to his pontificate. He initiated her beatification in 1993 and canonized her in 2000, declaring her the first saint of the new millennium. During her canonization, he officially established Divine Mercy Sunday for the entire Church. In 2002, he entrusted the world to Divine Mercy at the Shrine in Kraków, saying the world desperately needed God's mercy in the face of suffering and injustice. He died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005, a moment many saw as divinely symbolic.

Today, the Divine Mercy devotion includes praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, venerating the Divine Mercy image of Jesus, and living out mercy in daily life.

**JOSEPH MAJCHER**

*Chairman Pro Tem, St. John Paul II Liturgical Center*



## IN THE WORDS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Recently, the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II has received a relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who was a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, priest, missionary, and martyr. He volunteered to die in place of a man named Franciszek Gajowniczek in the German death camp of Auschwitz. He was canonized on October 10, 1982, by Pope St. John Paul II. His memorial is celebrated on August 14th, and we will prepare for it by a novena prayer beginning on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Here are some extracts from the homily of St. John Paul II during St. Maximilian Kolbe's canonization:

*'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13).*

*From today on, the Church desires to address as 'Saint' a man who was granted the grace of carrying out these words of the Redeemer in an absolutely literal manner.*

*For towards the end of July 1941, when the camp commander ordered the prisoners destined to die of starvation to fall in line, this man-Maximilian Maria Kolbe-spontaneously came forward and declared himself ready to go to death in the place of one of them. This readiness was accepted and, after more than two weeks of torment caused by starvation, Father Maximilian's life was ended with a lethal injection on August 14, 1941.*

*All this happened in the concentration camp at Auschwitz where during the last war some four million people were put to death, including the Servant of God, Edith Stein (the Carmelite Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), whose cause for beatification is in progress at the competent Congregation. Disobedience to God-the Creator of life who said, 'Thou shalt not kill'-caused in that place the immense holocaust of so many innocent persons. And so at the same time, our age has thus been horribly stigmatized by the slaughter of the innocent.*

*Father Maximilian Kolbe, himself a prisoner of the concentration camp, defended in that place of death an innocent man's right to life. Father Kolbe defended his right to life, declaring that he was ready to go to death in the man's place, because he was the father of a family and his life was necessary for his dear ones. Father Maximilian Maria Kolbe thus reaffirmed the Creator's exclusive right over innocent human life. He bore witness to Christ and to love. For the Apostle John writes: 'By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren' (1 John 3:16).*

*The Church has venerated Father Maximilian as 'Blessed' since 1971. By laying down his life for a brother, he made himself like Christ.*

*Gathered today before the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, we wish to express the special value which Father Maximilian Kolbe's death by martyrdom has in the eyes of God.*

*'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.' These are the words we have repeated in today's responsorial psalm. It is truly precious and inestimable! Through the death which Christ underwent on the Cross, the redemption of the world was achieved, for this death has the value of supreme love. Through the death of Father Maximilian Kolbe, a shining sign of this love was renewed in our century which is so seriously and in so many ways threatened by sin and death.*



**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, Sept 7<sup>th</sup> • 1:00 PM**

- Polish Dinner after the Mass in the Dining Hall - Cost: \$20
- Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or [bernardwitek@yahoo.com](mailto: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, 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 ARMED FORCES DAY

## Sunday, August 17, 2025



### 1:00 PM:

Polish Mass in the  
Shrine Chapel of  
St. John Paul II

*Celebrated by  
Fr. Bernard Witek*

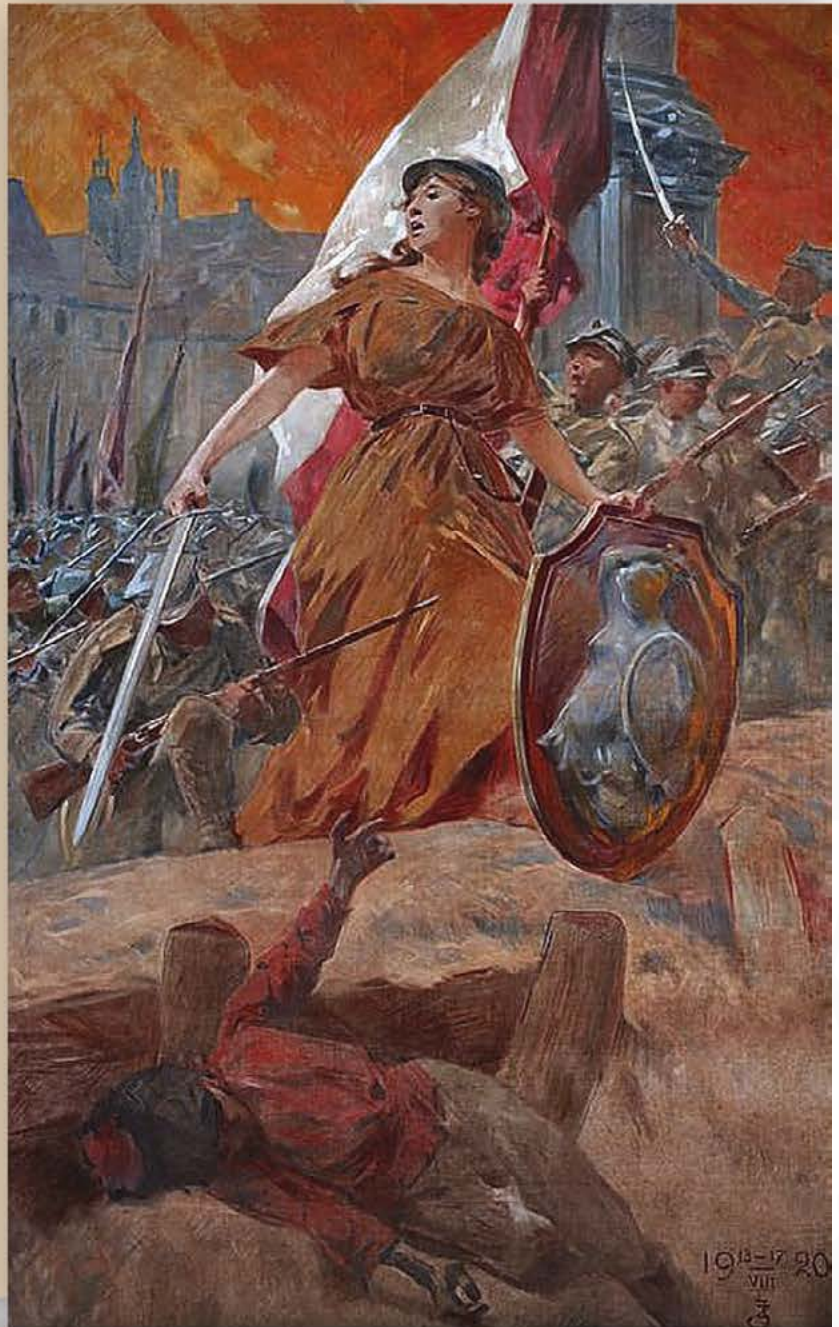
*Singing by  
Filaret Choir*

### 2:00 PM:

Polish Dinner

*Campus  
Dining Hall*

*\$20/person*



## PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 13, 2025

Contact Fr. Witek at: (248) 602-7579 OR [bernardwitek@yahoo.com](mailto:bernardwitek@yahoo.com)





# THE MARY PROJECT

AT ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

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 2 will begin in early November. Sales for Phase 3 (continuing towards the lake) begin September 15, 2024. There is plenty of space for additional commemorative bricks. Bricks purchased for Phase 3 are \$150 each and will be installed in November 2025.

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

## REFLECTING ON MY TERM AS MOMS & DADS CLUB PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that my two-year term as Moms and Dads Club President has come to an end. It truly flew by! As I reflect, I firmly believe that God placed our family at St. Mary's for a reason, especially now, having completed this meaningful role.

Back in 2018, our son made a last-minute decision in June just before his freshman year to attend St. Mary's instead of his originally chosen school. At the time, we had no idea how pivotal that decision would be, not just for his journey, but for ours as a family. What seemed like a sudden change of plans turned out to be divine direction.

From that very first welcome event to countless fundraisers, service projects, and school traditions, being part of this community has been a blessing. Serving on the Moms and Dads Club Board for the past 6 1/2 years, and most recently as president, has allowed me to connect more deeply with other parents, support our dedicated faculty and staff, and help strengthen the mission of St. Mary's in a very personal and fulfilling way.

The Moms and Dads Club Board is made up of truly incredible people – parents who give their all to make St. Mary's a wonderful place for our children. I've seen firsthand how powerful parent involvement can be not just in the lives of students, but in shaping the spirit and legacy of this school. I've been continually inspired by the generosity, creativity, and faithfulness of the families here.

St. Mary's is a school steeped in tradition, and it's been a joy to witness how those traditions have evolved with the addition of the Girls Division, while also creating new ones. I know change will continue to come, but it's comforting to know it will always be guided by the values that make St. Mary's so special.

When I began my term, I had a few specific goals in mind. One of the most important was improving our volunteer system. Parents often told us they wanted to help but didn't know how to get involved or found that opportunities filled up before they could even sign up. We looked at the MyImpact system – already a success with the St. Mary's Fair – and explored how it could be expanded. While we're still fine-tuning the process, we've made strong progress thanks to the school's support and the tireless efforts of our Volunteer Coordinator, Molly Anson. Our events simply wouldn't have been possible without our amazing volunteers. They are the heart of our community and the foundation of lasting friendships between families.

Another vital piece of our work is fundraising. The money we raise – from the raffle, auction, and other events – goes directly back to supporting student activities and important initiatives across campus. In recent years, we've helped fund SMART Boards, a Kubota for our Athletic Trainer, a new digital sign at the Indian Trail entrance, and a \$35,000 donation to the St. Faustina & Divine Mercy Project to enhance the Shrine Chapel, among many other contributions. We are always mindful of using our resources to benefit the broader St. Mary's community.

Having had children at other high schools, including one that closed, I can say with confidence that St. Mary's is truly a unique and special place. With continued school support and the commitment of our Moms and Dads Club, I believe we'll keep building on everything that





makes this community so extraordinary. I'm excited for what lies ahead and confident that the board is in excellent hands with our new president, Jamie Stewart. Jamie and I share similar passions and a shared vision for preserving and strengthening all that makes St. Mary's so meaningful.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

MONICA HIGGINS



# 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](http://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*

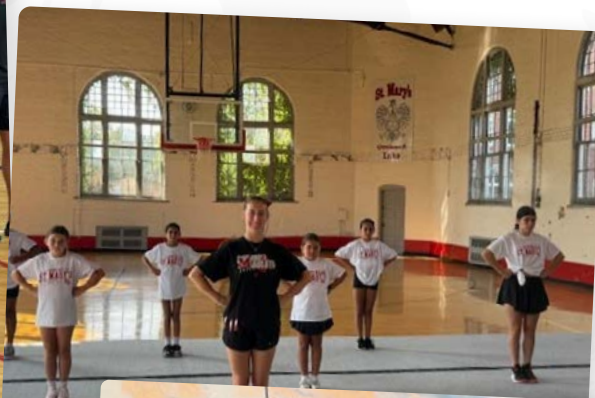
For naming opportunities, please contact Maureen Gross at  
[themaryproject@myyahoo.com](mailto:themaryproject@myyahoo.com).

*All donations are tax deductible. EIN: 82-5453994*

# S-U-M-M-E-R CAMPS

Summer Camps this season offered 21 camps for kids across the metro area to choose from, including a newly offered Overnight Middle School Football Camp and a Mini Cheer camp. With over 700 kids on campus over the course of two months, our camps allowed for an intimate experience at Orchard Lake where participants were instructed by OLSM coaches, got campus tours, swam in "O' Lake", and competed in a fun and developmental environment.

In partnership with Prep Alumnus **JOSHUA ROSS** (P'17), who is the only OLSM football alumni to receive All State honors for three consecutive years, we hosted a free youth football camp where kids not only got to be coached by NFL players, but also were treated to an amazing lunch sponsored by My Big Fat Shawarma, free cleats, treats and more! The summer camps department received countless emails from parents expressing how much their children enjoyed the camps and how they couldn't wait for next year. Summer Camps 2026, see you soon!



**FIND THE CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR ONLINE AT:**  
[www.orchardlakeschools.com/campus-communicator](http://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



ALUMNI, LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SEASON!

# FOOTBALL FRIDAYS

FIELD-SIDE FOOD, FUN & FESTIVITIES FOR ALUMNI!

## "FOOTBALL FRIDAYS" ALUMNI TENT

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

### AVAILABLE TO ALUMNI ON THE FOLLOWING GAMES:

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> • OLSM vs. Toledo Central Cath. • HOMECOMING  
Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> • OLSM vs. Br. Rice  
Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> • OLSM vs. River Rouge

### FOR MORE INFO:

Contact Alumni Relations Officer  
Robert Mazur at (248) 830-9711  
or [rmazur@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:rmazur@orchardlakeschools.com)

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

BBQ & Corn Roast  
**TAILGATE**

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Homecoming  
Chili  
Cookoff!

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



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



# HOMECOMING WEEKEND

BBQ & Corn Roast

# TAILGATE

BEFORE THE GAME

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Homecoming  
**Chili  
Cookoff!**

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

Bring your family!



Don't miss the opportunity for your children or  
grandchildren to stand with the Eaglets on the red turf  
during pregame festivities!

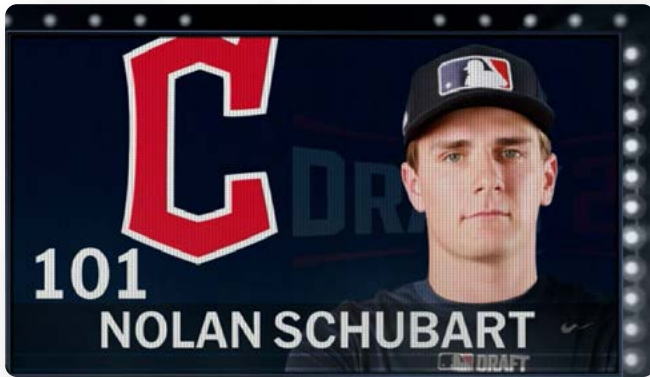
**Fri, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> • 4:00-7:00 PM**





## ALUMNI NEWS

In the 2025 MLB Draft's first round, Auburn Tigers' catcher/outfielder **IKE IRISH** (P'22) was selected as the 19<sup>th</sup> pick by the Baltimore Orioles!



Oklahoma State University Cowboys' outfielder/first baseman **NOLAN SCHUBART** (P'22) was drafted as pick 101 in Round 3 of the 2025 MLB Draft by the Cleveland Guardians!

### 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](http://www.orchardlakeschools.com/Ever-Forward)



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

**4:00–8:00 PM • OLSM CAMPUS QUAD**



# Jingle all the Way

## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

### AT ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY'S

11/23/25



## 2025 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### **\$5,000 "MINGLE ALL THE WAY" SPONSOR**

*Bring the magic to life! From Santa's train ride to twinkling traditions!*

### **\$2,000 "DASHER & DANCER" REINDEER SPONSOR**

*Help guide Santa's sleigh with a gate full of festive flair and prancing reindeer cheer!*

### **\$2,000 "NATIVITY NIGHT" CAMELS SPONSOR**

*Transport guests straight to Bethlehem! Sponsor the gate where majestic camels steal the scene.*

### **\$1,500 "STARRY STABLE" DONKEY SPONSOR**

*Bring the nativity to life with a gentle friend kids adore and memories that last a lifetime.*

### **\$1000 "WINTER WONDERLAND BITES" FOOD SPONSOR**

*Warm hearts and bellies, your sponsorship makes every bite a taste of holiday joy.*

### **\$300 "TWINKLE & GLOW" SPONSOR**

*Make spirits bright! Your support lights up the heart of the event and every smiling face beneath the tree.*

### **\$500 "SANTA'S MAGICAL MOMENTS" SPONSOR**

*Help create the magic! Sponsor the gateway to meet the man in red and make Christmas wishes come true.*

### **\$1500 "TINSEL TUNES" ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR**

*Keep the festive beat going! Your support puts the "fa la la" on stage for all to enjoy.*

### **\$500 "SANTA'S WORKSHOP" KID'S FOOD DECORATING SPONSOR**

*Where frosting flies and sprinkles sparkle! Sponsor the sweetest hands-on fun of the night!*

### **\$500 "MAGICAL MOMENTS" PHOTOGRAPHY SPONSOR**

*Make memories last! Help capture every joyful grin and holiday hug with Santa.*

### **\$250 "REINDEER REFRESHMENTS" DRINK SPONSOR**

*Warm hearts one cup at a time. Sponsor the hot cocoa that keeps everyone cozy and merry.*

### **\$250 "SANTA'S SWEETS" DESSERTS SPONSOR**

*Satisfy sweet cravings with treats that twinkle! Your support brings sugar and smiles to the season!*

### **\$100 "LITTLE ELVES" LUNCH SPONSOR**

*Fuel our fantastic student elves! A small gift that makes a big difference for big-hearted helpers!*

**To secure a sponsorship, contact Lisa Gray at (248) 392-9974.  
For wreath information, contact Robin Goddard at (248) 410-9109.**



## POLISH INSTITUTE UPDATE

### FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Though the classrooms may be quiet in these midsummer weeks, the heart of our campus continues to beat—steadily, meaningfully. In the absence of students, we've welcomed visitors from all over Michigan and beyond into our Galeria and Archives. On June 28, we had the honor of hosting the 12th Chicago Cavalry Reenactment Group, who explored the Galeria, museums, the St. John Paul II Sanctuary, the Grotto, and our historic grounds. For those drawn to heritage and history, Orchard Lake offers a place to pause, to learn, and to reflect.



Now, we sense the coming shift. Fall is in the air—not just in the wind off the lake, but in our pace and planning. The season ahead promises to be one of the most exciting in recent memory.

We are thrilled to announce that Maestro Jacek Kasjan will perform “Three B Flat” on September 13—a long-awaited concert that will launch our 2025–2026 cultural season. A reception will follow, and we hope you'll join us for an evening of extraordinary artistry.

We also invite you to celebrate Polish heritage with us at the Polish Day Parade in Warren on August 23, where we are proud to serve as one of the event sponsors. You can find more details at [www.picrol.org/calendar](http://www.picrol.org/calendar).

Our Galeria is once again the home of a beloved tradition: the 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition, revived in partnership with the Polish Institute. Submissions are open until September 2, with the opening reception set for October 5 and an award ceremony at 3 p.m. Esteemed juror Professor Martin Skalski, of Pratt Institute, brings both distinction and insight to this special exhibition.

In October, we are honored to help host a rare moment in Polonia history: the Lech Wałęsa National Tour comes to Detroit on October 26, with a program at Huntington Place. Please save the date—this will be a significant and moving event.

As we look ahead, we also pause to remember. August brings with it the memory of the Warsaw Uprising, a solemn reminder of courage, loss, and national resilience. This month, we especially mourn the recent passings of Ms. Jackie Kołowski and Fr. Czesław Krysa—two steadfast champions of Polish culture and history, whose connections to Orchard Lake were both profound and personal. Their legacy endures in the work we carry forward.

*Pielegnując pamięć zbiorową, oddajemy hołd tym, którzy kształtowali naszą tożsamość i kulturę.*

Finally, if you or someone you know is interested in learning Polish, we've created a helpful guide outlining language programs throughout the state. Now is a wonderful time to begin—or reconnect with your roots.

*Z Szacunkiem,*

ANIA BIECIUK

Associate Director for Polonia Affairs  
Polish Institute of Culture & Research



### VISIT THE POLISH INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We invite you to explore our social media pages for more photos and news.

(Online readers can click below)

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



THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH  
*proudly presents:*

# “Three B Flat” PIANO CONCERT

FEATURING ACCLAIMED  
POLISH PIANIST

**JACEK KASJAN:**

*Performing works by  
Bach, Chopin, and Szymanowski*

Join us for an unforgettable evening of  
classical music in the elegant setting of the  
Galeria at Orchard Lake.

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.**

  
Polish Institute  
of CULTURE  
& RESEARCH  
AT ORCHARD LAKE

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM • TICKETS: \$20** *(includes concert, reception, and exhibit access)*

**PURCHASE ONLINE: VISIT [WWW.PICROL.ORG](http://WWW.PICROL.ORG)**

**EVENT INFO & TICKETS: [WWW.PICROL.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.PICROL.ORG/CALENDAR) | [INFO@PICROL.ORG](mailto:INFO@PICROL.ORG) | (248) 836-1284**

**SAT, SEPT 13 • CONCERT AT 7:00 PM**  
THE GALERIA, ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS



# POLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

## DETROIT METRO AREA



**1 Father Dabrowski Polish Language Center\***  
**ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS**  
3535 Commerce Road • Orchard Lake, MI 48324  
(Classes held in Adam Cardinal Maida Alumni Library)  
**Child Registration:** <https://forms.gle/BaPqihw3mFeg23P77>  
**Adult Registration:** <https://forms.gle/Vsawrr29speeqNn9A>  
**First Class:** September 8, 2023  
**Class Times:** 5:45-7:15 PM & 7:20-8:50 PM  
**Ages:** 3-18 years old or Adults  
**Contact:** Grazyna Stanowska 586-242-2077  
**Email:** [polskaszkolaorchardlake@gmail.com](mailto:polskaszkolaorchardlake@gmail.com)  
**Mailing Address:** 4254 Nickolas Drive  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

**2 Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School\***  
**OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA CHURCH**  
3100 18 Mile Road • Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
**Registration:** [www.szkolamickiewicza.org](http://www.szkolamickiewicza.org)  
**First Class:** September 8, 12, and 13, 2023  
**Class Times:** 5:30 PM & 7:00 PM (classes are 90 min)  
**Ages:** 5 years old - Adults  
**Contact:** Jolanta Gmurowska 248-709-2975  
**Email:** [jgmurowski@gmail.com](mailto:jgmurowski@gmail.com) OR  
[sz.mickiewicz@hotmail.com](mailto:sz.mickiewicz@hotmail.com)

**3 General Kazimierz Pulaski Polish Language School**  
**ST. THOMAS APOSTLE CHURCH**  
31530 Beechwood • Garden City MI 48135  
**Registration:** <https://forms.gle/JSTwFHAz6CT73PX27>  
**Open House:** September 23 & 30  
**First Class:** September 23  
**Class Times:** 9:45-10:30 AM Kindergarten  
10:30-11:15 AM Preschool  
**Ages:** 4-17 years old (currently only have classes  
for younger children)  
**Contact:** [polaniedetroit96@gmail.com](mailto:polaniedetroit96@gmail.com)  
**Mailing Address:** 10255 Bassett St. Livonia, MI 48150

**4 Saint John Paul II Polish Language School\***  
2622 Florian Street • Hamtramck, MI 48212  
**Open House:** After 10:30 AM (PL) Mass Fellowship  
(kawiarenka)  
**First Class:** September 16th  
**Class Times:** 9:00 AM - 1:50 PM - 3 separate slots  
**Ages:** 3-18 years old  
**Contact:** Maria Kutak-Kozik (248) 818-1527  
or call Parish Office at (313) 871-2778  
**Email:** [polskaszkolajp2@gmail.com](mailto:polskaszkolajp2@gmail.com)  
**Mailing Address:** 2626 Poland St. Hamtramck, MI 48212

### Piast Institute\* ONLINE ZOOM CLASSES ONLY

**Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/polishclasses>  
**First Class:** Ongoing & Customized (based on needs)  
**Class Times:** Customized  
**Ages:** 16 years old - Adults  
• Beginner  
• Advanced Beginner  
• Advanced  
**Contact:** Benita Wojciechowski (586) 354-8296  
**Email:** [wojciechowski@piastinstitute.org](mailto:wojciechowski@piastinstitute.org)  
**Mailing Address:** 11633 Joseph Campau,  
Hamtramck MI 48212  
Memo: Beginner Polish Language Class

**5 Polish Language Center in Ann Arbor\***  
**SPIRITUS SANCTUS ACADEMY**  
4101 E Joy Road • Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
**Classes:** In Person (Child) & Online (Child/Adult)  
**Registration:** <https://polskaszkola.weebly.com>  
**First Class:** September 9th  
**Ages:** In-person (Child): 3+  
Online (Child): 5+  
Online (Adult): 18+  
**Contact:** [PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com](mailto:PolskaSzkolaAnnArbor@gmail.com)  
**Class Times:** (see below)  
**In-person Child:** Saturdays 9:30 AM-12:00 PM  
**Online Child:** Custom  
**Online Adult Individual:** Custom  
**Online Adult Groups:** Saturdays (listed below)  
A0 (Beginners) • 9:00-10:30 AM A1 • 9:15-10:45 AM  
A0+\*\* • 10:45 AM-12:15 PM A2 • 11:00 AM-12:30 PM  
\*\*Beginners with little bit of Polish language knowledge



\* FIND US ON FACEBOOK!



# 29<sup>th</sup> Friends of Polish Art FINE ARTS COMPETITION

In partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research



*Image: detail of painting by Richard Kubinski*

**Open call to artists of all media**  
**Submission deadline is September 2, 2025**  
**go to: [tinyurl.com/FPA-Competition-Submission](https://tinyurl.com/FPA-Competition-Submission)**

**Opening Reception 2-5 pm on October 5, 2025**

*at the Galeria 3535 Commerce Road, Orchard Lake, MI*

*Awards to be presented at 3:00pm*

**Exhibition on view October 5-24, 2025**

*send questions to Elijah Majewski, Galeria Manager [emajewski@picrol.org](mailto:emajewski@picrol.org)*





# A STROLL THROUGH THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

The visit from the 12th Chicago Cavalry Reenactment Group brought a powerful sense of history and purpose to the Orchard Lake Schools. Representing the proud traditions of the Polish Uhlans, the reenactors arrived in full regalia—evoking the dignity, discipline, and legacy of Poland’s mounted forces.



Their presence reminded us that history is not only preserved in books and exhibits, but also in those who choose to embody it. As they moved through the Galeria, our museums, the St. John Paul II Shrine Chapel, the Grotto, and the historic grounds, they offered more than just a visual impression. They invited conversation, sparked curiosity, and reminded all present of the sacrifices and ideals tied to Poland’s fight for freedom. We are grateful for their visit and honored to share in this living tribute to Polish history.



*Photos by Jakub Baraniak and Mietek Oniskiewicz*

## ENDURING LEGACY

We mourn the loss of two remarkable stewards of Polonia and Orchard Lake: Fr. Czesław Krysa and Miss Jackie Kołowski. Each, in their own way, shaped the cultural and spiritual life of our community with unwavering devotion. Their absence is deeply felt, but their legacy is enduring.



## SAVE-THE-DATE: LECH WALESA TOUR

The Polish Institute is proud to partner in the upcoming President’s National Tour. Please save the date: Sunday, October 26. Details will be shared soon at [www.picrol.org](http://www.picrol.org) and on our official Facebook page. Stay tuned!





# ST. MARY'S ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual *Alumni & Friends* **2025** **GOLF OUTING**



*Play 18 holes on  
one of Michigan's  
premier championship  
golf courses!*



**\$250** ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND.  
**PER** **Scan QR code to register**  
**GOLFER** For more information please contact Stephanie Gonzales [sgonzales@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:sgonzales@orchardlakeschools.com)

CHECK IN • 10:00 AM  
BUFFET LUNCH • 10:30 AM  
SHOTGUN START • 12:30 PM  
DINNER RECEPTION • 5:00 PM

### 50/50 RAFFLE • PRIZES

*Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive & More!*

### SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Call (248) 392-9974 or [lgray@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:lgray@orchardlakeschools.com)

# MONDAY, SEPT 15<sup>th</sup>

**OAKHURST GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**  
*7000 Oakhurst Lane • Clarkston*

# UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

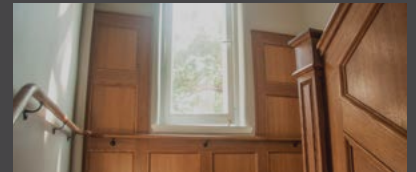
## AUGUST 2025

- 1 ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW UPRISING**
- 3 POLISH 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY** 1:00 PM Mass  
Polish meal to follow
- 10 Shrine Altar Blessing Mass** @ 11:00 AM  
Mass with Archbishop Weisenburger
- 15 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
Polish Armed Forces Day (Poland)
- 17 POLISH SOLDIERS DAY** Mass & Dinner  
@ Shrine Chapel @ 1:00 PM
- 18-19 Freshman Orientation** (½ Day)
- 20 Soph/Jr/Sr Orientation** (½ Day)
- 21 Classes Begin** (All Students Full Day)
- 23 Polish Day Parade** in Warren
- 29 LABOR DAY WEEKEND** (No School)

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



Contact:  
**CHRIS CZARNIK**  
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 June.*

MARY MARGERET BOSCO  
HELEN BOYER  
MARY KATHLEEN CLARKE  
FR. STANLEY J. DOMINIK  
DOUGLAS HAWKINS  
VALERIE KOWAL  
CZESLAW M. KRYSA

ROCKO LOGIODICE  
SHARON LOSSIA  
CAROL MCFINN  
CAROL MUKAVETZ  
HUGH ROSS, JR.  
MARY SANGSTER  
BETTY SORNIG

MARY JO KURK STEINMAN  
RICHARD TONDREAU  
ANDREW TOTH  
FR. HOWARD VOGAN  
JOHN JOSEPH WANIOLEK  
DIANE WOJKOWSKI  
PETER PAUL ZERNA

*For more enrollment information, please contact Lisa Gray at [lgray@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:lgray@orchardlakeschools.com)*





## THE MARY PROJECT

AT ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

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

*St. Louis DeMontfort*



### PLEASE NOTE:

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE GROTTO AND THOSE WHO KEEP IT CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL FOR US.

NO CANDLES FROM HOME ALLOWED, ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIMES AS SOMEONE HAS TO REMOVE THEM.

NO VASES, BASKETS, PAPERS, OR ITEMS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR OR LEFT ANYWHERE ON GROTTO GROUNDS. WE HAVE PLACED TWO LARGE VASES ON THE SIDES OF THE ALTAR FOR CUT FLOWERS.

*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.*

# AUGUST 2025

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

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
1:00 PM	FR. WITEK • POLISH* <b>POLISH 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY</b>	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

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

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 • SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7:00 PM	FR. WITEK • ENGLISH	MARIAN GROTTO
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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

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, AUGUST 24

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, AUGUST 31

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

\*Feed for the Live stream of the Polish Masses: [www.facebook.com/olsnews](http://www.facebook.com/olsnews)

## 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

## SHRINE OPEN HOURS

SUNDAY-SATURDAY	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
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## CONFESSIONS

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS	6:00 PM - 6:55 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
SATURDAYS	8:00 AM - 8:55 AM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE