# CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

St. John Paul II Liturgical Center 🔻 St. Mary's Preparatory 🛂 Polish Institute of Culture & Research



#### **APRIL 2024**



"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." ~ Philippians 4:13

Easter symbolized a time of joy, reminding us of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a time of new beginnings. April ushers in a breath of fresh air, of new life in perennial favorites. Here at Orchard Lake, this month is full of remarkable moments, many of which are history-making firsts and lasts.

This is no more evident than with our first ever St. Mary's Preparatory Girls Division Class of 2024! This group of young women made history as the first female students of OLSM and set the bar high for each subsequent class to follow. The motto - God. Family. St. Mary's. - became co-divisional, and these young women demonstrated that "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). The Boys Division found a new balance on campus through that same strength. And with this new beginning in campus history came incredible firsts and celebratory lasts that serve as springboards for all classes in both divisions to learn from and leave their own marks alongside the Class of 2024's footsteps.

This month, the Class of 2024 gets closer to their first and last cap and gown "walk" and the Alumni Association each time they travel the outdoor hallways through the Trzcinski Quad on their way to and from the Bookstore, Constantakis Prep Classroom building, the Burkacki Academic Center, the athletic facilities and last-minute chats in parking lots.

Alumni, friends, donors, benefactors and supporters of the Orchard Lake campus community, this is the perfect time for new beginnings and renewed commitments by becoming a member of the Orchard Lake Schools Ambassadors. Join us for the elegant Ambassadors Ball returning to The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan, on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Check out all the details inside this issue.

May will be here before we know it, so we want to remind you of amazing events taking place here on campus. Alumni, May 4<sup>th</sup> is a great time for you to visit campus! Start your day at crew's annual Laddie Cup Regatta, a major Midwest rowing event where thousands of athletes compete for this coveted title. Whether or not you've attended a crew event, THIS ONE is not to be missed. That same day, be part of the 5K Run (or walk) sponsored by the Polish Media Center in celebration of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Polish Constitution Day. Drop by the OLSM baseball doubleheader beginning at 11:00 AM, an event honoring the Prep's varsity baseball 1984 State Championship Runner-Up team.

Come usher in April with us here at Orchard Lake. Attend Mass. Show your team spirit at our spring sports including baseball, softball, crew, soccer, lacrosse, track & field, golf and tennis. Visit the Grotto. Pick up your spring spirit wear at the Campus Bookstore. Sit for a minute. Look for and listen to spring arrivals. Refill your spirit and refuel your strength.

We pray for you daily. Please pray for us.

The Orchard Lake Schools



#### STUDENTS SHINE AT NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to all our new 2024 NHS Inductees! On Wednesday, March 6, the Girls Division held its 2024 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony while the Boys Division celebrated new members on Wednesday, March 20. Both ceremonies took place in the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II. Special thanks to Ashley Yenor, OLSM's NHS Advisor, for her guidance, and to the following new NHS members:



#### **BOYS DIVISION • SENIORS**

BEN GIETZEN BRANDON OROW JAYDEN SALMAN

#### **BOYS DIVISION • JUNIORS**

PHIL ASSAD	RICHARD GOIKE	Andrew Jarvis	Jake Malloy	Antonio Shammas
Jayden Ayar	Luke Gulli	Gabriel Jonna	Aiden Marshall	Noah Shamon
Anthony Bakkal	Aiden Hanks	Jayden Kalasho	Colton Mercier	Christian Shina
Kyle Berry	William	Roman Kalasho	Ethan Mukhtar	<b>Ј</b> АСОВ <b>S</b> МІТН
Wyatt Borbi	Hardenburgh	Ashton Kassab	Lucas Najor	Cameron Stewart
Preston Brikho	Craig Hartley	DOMINIC KASSAB	GABRIEL RICHER	Chase Tonnies
Nathan Ciaramitaro	Brendan Hegedus	WILLIAM KEANE	Luke Richer	Logan Whalen
Cameron Delly	Noah Heymes	Logan Kinane	Noah Sallach	Jack Wieczorek
PATTERSON DOYLE	Hudsen Hitch	Benjamin Klingbeil	Luca Santangelo	Bryson Williams
Nate Dresselhouse	COOPER HOLLIS	GRANT KLYM	Constantinos	Malek Zawaideh
Dylan Filiatraut	Francis Jabboury	Walter Knysz IV	Sarigiannis	Cole Zewatsky
Grant Foumia	Ethan Jackson	JEROME LEE	Drake Scorzo	Adam Zielinski
Roman Fox	Jacob Jarjosa	Christian Leighton	Pierre Shaba	Matthew Zora



#### **GRACE RABBAN**

#### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

- Middle School: Our Lady of Sorrows
- Parents: Roy & Alise Rabban
- Siblings: Preston Rabban and Brittney Rabban Kalasho
- Athletics: Currently in my varsity soccer season
- Favorite Campus Activity: Spreading love and humbling my peers.
- Fun Fact: I'm going to be an aunt in one month and am super excited!
- *College/Career Aspirations*: Still deciding on a college. I aspire to get my real-estate license when I turn 18, then go to school for law and create my empire from there.



#### **GIRLS DIVISION • SENIORS**

Ava Barbat

#### **GIRLS DIVISION • JUNIORS**

Lola Abrams Kylie Duffany ALEENA MONA Amanda Atty CHLOE MOUTAFIS NATALIE DYKSTRA ALAYNA AYAR Kristen Esshaki ELLA MUHLECK GRACE AYAR Sofia Ezmerlian GIANNA NIKPRELAJ ELLIE AZZATO Cassidy Hesano SIMONE ORAHA Angela Perkovic Madison Barash ISABELLA HESANO Adriana Barbat Stella Poota KYLIE HINDERLITER PAIGE BASHAWATY KIRA HOWCROFT Marisa Rakoski Ella Bassett KENDALL JABERO EMMA RAYBUCK Amelia Blair CHLOE JAMIL Brooklyn Rodriguez SARAH CLOUSE SOPHIA JOHNSON Lauren Shin LILIANA CORONA KAITLYN JONNA CLARA SIMINOVICH Lourdes Kalasho SIENNA SMITH ARIEL COSNOWSKI ALAYNA KIRMA SOPHIE SOSNOWSKI **ADYSON COVERT** NICOLE KOLWICH Amelia Czarnik Addison Sullivan CAROLINE KOPMEYER MIRIAM CZARNIK KADIE TARASIEWICZ MORGYN LAFONTAINE MEA D'AGOSTINO GRACE WATHA ALEXIS LASKOWSKI Daniella Daman ABIGAIL YALDO Nina DiFonzo CLARE MAHER



#### **ZANE WILSON**

- *Middle School*:Sashabaw Middle School (Clarkston)
- Parents: Bob & Wendy Wilson
- Siblings: Younger sister, 15
- Athletics: Varsity football and baseball
- Favorite Campus Activity: I am a regular at the St. Mary's bookstore.
- *Fun fact*: I'm a black belt in karate.
- College/Career Aspirations: I will be playing baseball for Indian Hills College in Iowa.



### CHEERING ON OUR CHAMPS!

Congratulations to our Boys Basketball Team for winning their first Division 1 State Title! They defeated North Farmington (63-52) on Saturday, March 16, at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

St. Mary's is also the only school in MHSAA history to win a state title in every division (1 in Class D, 2 in Class C, 1 in Class B and 1 in Class A).





Congratulations to our MHSAA District Champion Girls Basketball Team, defeating Cranbrook Kingswood 64-32 on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>!

#### SPRINGING INTO ACTION



#### CALLING ALL SPRING SPORTS FANS!

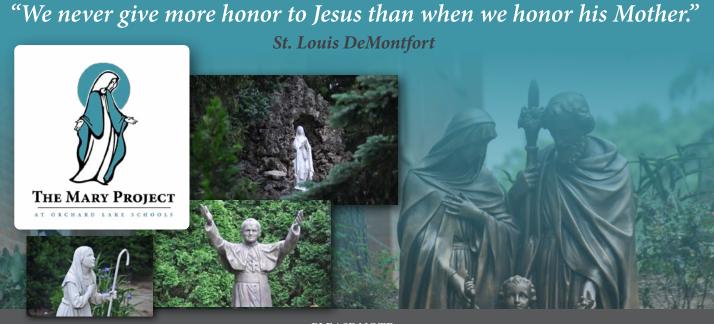
Don't miss all the exciting action during the OLSM spring sports season. Check out the April calendar of events inside this issue for dates and times. It's always a great day to cheer on the Eaglets!

BASEBALL • CREW • GOLF • LACROSSE • SOCCER SOFTBALL • TENNIS • TRACK & FIELD



### MAY 4<sup>th</sup> REGATTA CELEBRATES FORMER COACH JACK "LADDIE" LEBLANC

The Orchard Lake St. Mary's Rowing team will be hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Laddie Cup Regatta on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The event hosts 15 teams from Michigan and Ohio and features some of the fastest teams in the Mid-West region. Please come support the athletes and reconnect with other alumni. Racing will run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.



#### 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.

ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

### **SUMMER CAMPS!**

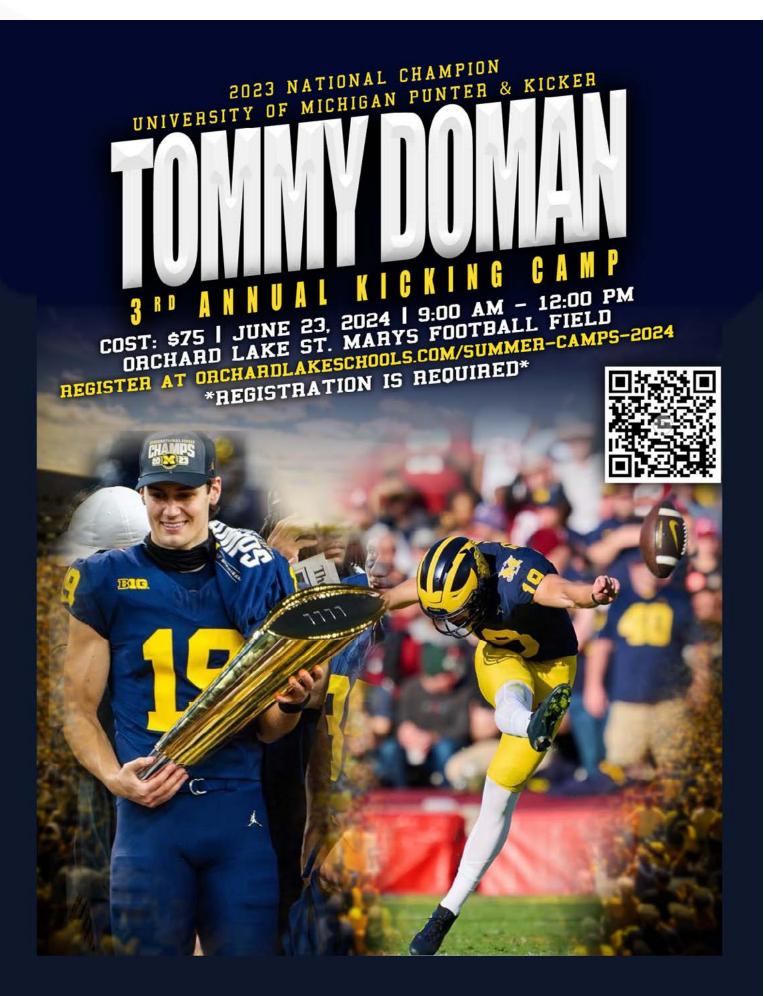
LACROSSE FOOTBALL BASKETBALL ROWING BASEBALL SOCCER VOLLEYBALL HOCKEY SCIENCE ART



FOR CAMP INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

SCAN QR CODE ON RIGHT OR VISIT

orchardlakeschools.com/summer-camps-2024





THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

### AMBASSADORS BALL

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Orchard Lake Schools Ambassadors Endowment

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

The Townsend Hotel • Birmingham, MI

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 \$5 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 2023-2024, you will receive a mailed invitation. To check on your Ambassador Membership status, contact Lisa Gray at (248) 392-9974.

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/WAYS-TO-GIVE AND SCROLL DOWN TO AMBASSADORS; OR CALL LISA GRAY AT (248) 392-9974.

#### THE AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT FUND

A great option for alumni, families, and friends to support the Orchard Lake Schools is to consider becoming a member of the Orchard Lake Schools Ambassadors and join us for the elegant Ambassadors Ball.

The Ambassadors Endowment Fund comprises individuals and organizations committed to the present and future of the Orchard Lake Schools. Think of it as a one-time or annual investment that will benefit the generations to come. Gifts to the AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT FUND are prudently invested, and annual earnings are used to support the core parts of OLS. Since 1974, the AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT has provided more than \$5 million to projects impacting education, our Catholic faith, and Polish heritage. They include capital improvements, technology upgrades, spiritual programming, and the maintenance of our historic campus. Membership in the OLS Ambassadors is highly regarded, as they have been a vital part of our past, present and future.

### WE INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER JOINING THE OLS AMBASSADORS ENDOWMENT GROUP TODAY!

This year, all new and current Ambassador members can join us as we renew the important tradition of the Ambassadors Ball on April 20<sup>th</sup> at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan. It's been since 2019 that we've been able to recognize and honor our esteemed group of Ambassadors that make a lasting impact at Orchard Lake.

Please see below for the various options to renew or create a membership:

#### EXTRAORDINARY AMBASSADOR

Any Ambassador member who has donated over \$20,000 to the endowment fund

#### PERPETUAL AMBASSADOR

Recognizes a one-time donation of \$10,000+ for a lifelong membership

#### ANNUAL AMBASSADOR

Recognizes a donation of \$1,000 or more annually

#### INTERMEDIATE ANNUAL

Recognizes a donation of \$500 (exclusive to young alumni and friends aged 45 and under)

Each current and new Ambassador receives two complimentary tickets to the elegant Ball at The Townsend Hotel.

To renew or become a member of the Ambassadors Endowment Fund and join us at the Ambassadors Ball,

visit: www.orchardlakeschools.com/ambassadors-ball or contact Lisa Gray at:

Lgray@orchardlakeschools.com or (248) 392-9974

### AMBASSADORS BALL TO HONOR FIDELITAS MEDALISTS

This spring, we come together once again to renew the important tradition of the Ambassadors Ball returning to The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan, on Saturday, April 20, 2024. We are thrilled to bring back this in-person event and recognize and honor our Ambassadors, an esteemed group that has made a lasting impact on the Orchard Lake Schools, and the Fidelitas Medal tradition.

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 Orchard Lake Schools founder, Rev. Józef Dąbrowski, a Polish missionary priest, who established the original education institution in Detroit in 1885.



With great joy, we want to share the news of two distinguished 2024 Fidelitas Medalists:

MR. STEPHEN M. GROSS AND DR. STAN MAJEWSKI

who will be presented with their well-deserved honors at the Ambassadors Ball.

#### STEPHEN GROSS

Stephen Gross' sense of faith and love for the mission of the Orchard Lake Schools called him to serve Orchard Lake, build upon its traditions and help create a future filled with opportunity.

"As a Catholic American, loving husband and father of three St. Mary's Preparatory alumni, former Chairman of the Board of Regents, and current board member, I truly feel God has guided me as his instrument to help lead the Orchard Lake Schools and build upon the foundation of Fr. Dąbrowski's mission and vision," said Steve Gross. "I am humbled to receive the Fidelitas Medal and so grateful for all those whose collaborative efforts contribute to the 139-year history of the Orchard Lake Schools."



Upon receiving his B.A. from the University of Michigan, Gross earned a J.D. from Wayne State University. He began practicing law and was the managing partner and founder of Lindahl Gross Lievois. He then became the original managing partner of the McDonald Hopkins Detroit office, served on the Board of Directors, and is currently chair of the firm's Strategic Advisory and Business Restructuring Department and Chair of the Automotive Practice Group. For over 40 years, he has been extensively involved in assisting clients address complex business issues, including creative strategic solutions to restructuring, acquisitions or divestitures.

"As a member and former Chairman of the Board of Regents at Orchard Lake, a lot of what we've had to do is controversial but consistent with Fr. Dąbrowski's ideals and his mission," added Gross. "His mission and vision of faith, education, and the celebration of Polish culture and tradition required financial stability, and are fostered by the addition of the Girls Division at St. Mary's Preparatory as well as

improved relations with the cultural aspects of the Orchard Lake Schools, including the formation of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research and the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center."

Gross and his family are deeply rooted in the Orchard Lake Schools community. His wife, Maureen, is the catalyst of The Mary Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the beautification of the Marian Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, and host of the annual Advent by Candlelight Mass and Dinner. "The Orchard Lake Schools community means a great deal to my family and I, and we will continue to support and collaborate with this extended community to build upon its origins in faith, education, culture, and tradition to help perpetuate this foundation."

#### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

- University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Wayne State University Detroit, Michigan

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

#### Admissions – Court

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

#### Admissions - State

Michigan

#### PRACTICE:

- Lindahl Gross Lievois
- McDonald Hopkins

#### **PRACTICE FOCUS:**

- Strategic advisory and restructuring
- Franchise restructuring
- Distressed M&A
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Automotive
- Automotive restructuring

#### **INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE:**

### Gross has represented clients and a variety of industries, including:

- Automotive
- Aerospace
- Manufacturing
- Steel Industry
- Franchising
- Wholesale Pharmaceuticals and Retail Drugstores
- Trucking and Logistics

#### **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

- Lawdragon 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers (2020, 2022)
- Designated "Lawyer of the Year" in Detroit for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law by *Best Lawyers in America* (2017)
- TMA Chicago/Midwest Small Transaction of the Year for Lee Steel restructuring and sale (2016)
- AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected for inclusion in *Michigan Super Lawyers* (2006-2022)
- Named one of the Best Lawyers in America (2011-2023)
- Honored by Best Lawyers as a Lawyer of the Year for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization (2020)
- Winner of *Crain's Detroit Business* 2013 "Best Deal of the Year under \$100 Million" Award for restructuring and sale of Kazi Foods
- Named DBusiness Top Lawyer (2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

#### **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:**

- Former Chairman of the Board of Regents, Orchard Lake Schools
- Regent of the Orchard Lake Schools
- Board of Trustees, St. Mary's Preparatory
- President of St. Mary's Preparatory Moms and Dads Club (Steve and Maureen Gross)
- Jr. Varsity Football Coach, St. Mary's Preparatory (2007-2027)

#### DR. STAN MAJEWSKI

"Having attended St. Mary's Preparatory, served as a Chairman of the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees, and as a Trustee of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, my religious, educational, and cultural values are deep rooted," said Detroit native, Dr. Stan Majewski. "To be honored with the Fidelitas Medal by the Orchard Lake Schools is the utmost honor for me."

Majewski recalls his faith-based high school years at the Prep with great admiration. "I was profoundly influenced by the priests and teachers, including Msgr. Milewski, Fr. Ziemba, Msgr. Koper and many others," he adds. "They became great friends of mine, sharing conversations about family, faith, and culture. I credit them, along with my wife, Alice, and children, Sue and Michael, plus the brotherhood that is St. Mary's for supporting me in my service to God, country, and the Orchard Lake Schools. My daughter, Sue, earned her PhD in Economics and resides in Washington, D.C. where she works for the Justice Department in the Antitrust division. My son, Michael, passed away in 2020 at the age of 45."

After high school, Majewski earned his B.S. at the University of Michigan followed by dental school at the University of Detroit where he also completed his residency in Orthodontics and earned a M.S. in Dentistry. His Post Graduate training in Prosthodontics at the University of Southern California was followed by specialty training at the United States Naval Hospital in San Diego. He always had a passion for caring for others and donated his dental services to the Children's Hospital to assist with patient needs and help teach and perform craniofacial techniques for those in need around the world.

"I missed Orchard Lake and Michigan," said Majewski. "Fr. Len Chrobot, my classmate who became a seminary faculty member, and Fr. Ziemba convinced me to join the board here on campus. The love I had for this campus deepened even more when I became a board member and helped start the Polish Mission where I served as Chairman and a board member." To this day, Majewski loves returning to campus. "I'm thrilled to serve as a member of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research's Board of Trustees," he added. "I voted in favor of adding the Girls Division of St. Mary's Preparatory and am very proud of the administration for making this happen. I encourage the girls to put their own stamp on OLSM. You will achieve fabulous goals!"

#### **ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:**

- University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan
- University of Detroit
- University of Southern California
- United States Naval Hospital

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Children's Hospital of Michigan
  - Staff Attending Physician, Dept. Of Pediatric Dentistry
  - Director of Clinical Orthodontics and Craniofacial Disorders team
  - Member of the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Disorders team
  - Clinical Instructor, Pediatric, Orthodontic, Oral Surgery Residents
- University of Detroit, School of Dentistry, Part-time Instructor
- Private Practice, Birmingham, MI; Owosso, MI
- Lecturer, Professional Organizations
- Member of many professional organizations, including ADA, AAO, MDA, OCDS, MAO, ACLP, IFO
- Member of the National Medical Association
- Member of the Detroit Medical-Dental Arts Association, Past President

#### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:

- Regent of the Orchard Lake Schools
- Former Chairman of the Board of Regents
- Chairman of the Board, The Polish Mission of Orchard Lake
- Trustee, Board Member, St. Mary's Preparatory
- Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees

#### **CIVIC ACTIVITY:**

- Lt. Commander, United States Navy, Dental Corps
- Member of the VFW, American Legion
- Alumni Associations, UM, UDM, OLSM
- Former member of UM Alumni Association, Family Camps Board of Control
- Former member of the Parents Board of Sacred Heart School

#### **RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY:**

- Knight Commander, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem
- Member, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Troy, MI; former member of Council, choir, Lector
- Member, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Stuart, FL; Eucharistic Minister

### **EVER FORWARD!**

#### ZAWSZE DO PRZODU!

STRATEGIC MASTER PLANNING PROJECT

www.orchardlakeschools.com/forward



FOR UPDATES FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, VISIT www.orchardlakeschools.com/everforward

### ZAPRASZAMY

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

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

### Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> • 1:00 PM

- There will be a Polish Dinner after the Mass \$20 per person
- Please RSVP for the dinner by Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com



#### ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER UPDATE

"The mystery of God's merciful love was at the centre of the pontificate of my venerated predecessor." This is the statement of Pope Benedict XVI during his Regina Caeli address, April 23, 2006. Indeed, St. John Paul II himself spoke about his special attachment to the Divine Mercy during his visit in 1997 to the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Poland:

"The message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me. It is as if history had inscribed it in the tragic experience of the Second World War. In those difficult years it was a particular support and an inexhaustible source of hope, not only for the people of Krakow but for the entire nation. This was also my personal experience, which I took with me to the See of Peter and which it in a sense forms the image of this Pontificate."

We can illustrate it with some facts. Karol Wojtyla the first time heard about the revelations of Divine Mercy to Sr. Faustina Kowalska already in 1940, at the time when he was studying for the priesthood secretly, in a seminary in Krakow. As Archbishop of Krakow, he introduced Sr. Faustina's name to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints for beatification. He also defended her credibility when the message of Divine Mercy was questioned in Rome. This came about due to a faulty translation in Italian of her diary, which was sent to the Congregation for the Protection of the Faith. As Pope John Paul II, he wrote his second encyclical letter on the Mercy of God (Dives in Misericordia). On April 18, 1993, which was the Second Sunday of Easter, in St. Peter's Square he proclaimed her beatified. On April 30, 2000, which again was the Second Sunday of Easter, he canonized her and on the same occasion surprised the entire world by establishing the Second Sunday of Easter as the feast day of Divine Mercy for the entire Church.

You are welcome to read some excerpts below from his homily during Sr. Faustina's canonization.

Fr. Bernard Witek

Director, St. John Paul II Liturgical Center

#### IN THE WORDS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II:

Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the Heart of Christ crucified: "My daughter, say that I am love and mercy personified", Jesus will ask Sr. Faustina (Diary, p. 374). Christ pours out this mercy on humanity though the sending of the Spirit who, in the Trinity, is the Person-Love. And is not mercy love's "second name" (cf. Dives in misericordia, n. 7), understood in its deepest and most tender aspect, in its ability to take upon itself the burden of any need and, especially, in its immense capacity for forgiveness?

Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina Kowalska to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time. By divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the 20th century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted His message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people, know well how necessary was the message of mercy.

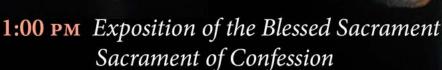
Jesus told Sr. Faustina: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy" (Diary, p. 132). Through the work of the Polish religious, this message has become linked forever to the 20th century, the last of the second millennium and the bridge to the third. It is not a new message but can be considered a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time.

And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: Christ Jesus, I trust in you! Jezu, ufam tobie!

# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY NIEDZIELA MIŁOSIERDZIA BOŻEGO

AT THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS





**2:00 PM** Holy Mass • celebrated by Fr. Bernard Witek, SDS Mass Music by the Filarets choir

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Novena



Po Mszy będzie obiad. Chętnych na obiad prosimy o zgłaszanie się do 3 kwietnia (248) 602-7579 lub bernardwitek@yahoo.com; cena \$20.

There will be a luncheon after the Mass. Those wishing to attend the luncheon, please RSVP by April 3 • (248) 602 7579 or email bernardwitek@yahoo.com; Price \$20.

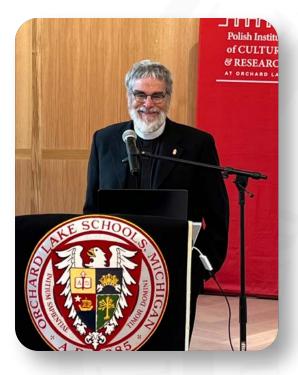
# SUNDAY, APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>

ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

#### PETERSTANCE OF ELISTANCE

#### **POLISH INSTITUTE UPDATE**

#### THE VATICAN ASTRONOMER VISIT TO OLSM



On Monday, March 18th we were honored to welcome Brother Guy Consolmagno, the esteemed "Pope's Astronomer" from the Vatican Observatory, to Orchard Lake St. Mary's for a truly inspiring lecture to students and then later to our community at large. Brother Guy's visit was made possible through the efforts of our Institute.

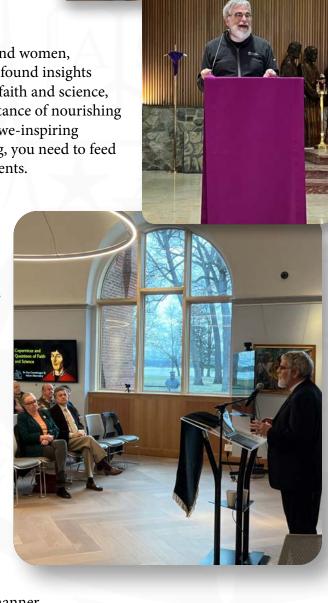
Addressing a gathering of 400 upperclassmen and women,
Brother Guy shared profound insights into the intersection of faith and science, emphasizing the importance of nourishing our souls through the awe-inspiring

wonders of the cosmos. His message, "When you're a human being, you need to feed your soul - in the stars and sky," left a deep impression on the students.

Brother Guy's lecture was enriched with personal stories, sparking many laughs and engaging feedback from the students, making the complex subject matter completely accessible and relatable. Through his journey and engaging discourse, Brother Guy illustrated the beauty of encountering God in the marvels of creation, from the simple joy of stargazing to the complex patterns in the universe. His reflections on the joyous presence of God in our explorations and the creative power of a God who wills the cosmos into being were especially moving.

In the evening, the subject matter grew more serious but Brother Guy still lectured with the same enthusiasm and passion as he did to the students. In the evening he turned his attention to the Polish visionary and work of the Vatican Observatory in a video and lecture titled, "Copernicus and Questions of Faith and Science". The lecture was open to the public and was held in the newly renovated Galeria.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Brother Guy Consolmagno for sharing his wisdom and to all who joined us in this enlightening experience. It was a day filled with learning, reflection, and a deeper appreciation for the harmony between science and faith, all delivered in an approachable and enjoyable manner.



### NEWLY RENOVATED GALERIA "BLOOMS" WITH

**TRADITION** 

It was an evening many had long been waiting for: the official opening of the renovated Galeria at the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools. A very successful "soft opening" with a ticketed event, "Blooms of Tradition" packed the Galeria with a impressive crowd, most of whom were women, who came to view a folk-inspired fashion show, sip wine, enjoy socializing, partake in a variety of appetizers and do some shopping at a pop-up store brought to the Galeria by "Recultured Designs."

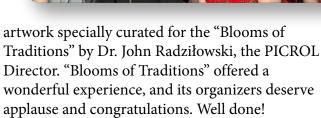
The evening clearly belonged to Oleńka Lisiecki, a
Michigan-born fashion entrepreneur and the owner of the
"Recultured Designs" brand, and Ania Bieciuk, Associate
Director for Polonia Affairs at the Polish Institute of
Culture and Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL), who together organized this striking event.

The 20 young women who modeled eye-catching, colorful dresses, tops and shirts, were students from Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep, members of local dance groups as well as the Polish scouting organization. They represented very fittingly what Ania Bieciuk referred to in her opening remarks as the "future of Polonia": youth, accomplishments, involvement in Polonia and beauty: a very encouraging future indeed!

Another highlight of the event was an official announcement of the results of the fundraising campaign for The Ukrainian Relief Fund, which PICROL started in 2022. The campaign brought in the impressive amount of \$108,466 which was given to six Ukrainian and Polish charitable organizations who help Ukrainian refugees.

It was the first time the attendees were able to see the renovated Galeria, which during this evening had on display Polish





Text and photos by Alina Klin, Polish Media Center Selected photos from Detroit Catholic



### UKRAINIAN RELIEF FUND EXCEEDS GOALS, HELPING REFUGEES IN POLAND

Since 2022, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research has helped make a tremendous difference for Ukrainian refugees in Poland through the initiation of its Polish Mission Ukrainian Relief Fund.

"When our organization began planning its reintroduction into Polonia, we were touched by an international crisis," said Ania Bieciuk, Administrator for Polonia Affairs, "and we knew we could help make a difference for Ukrainian refugees seeking safety in Poland from the Russian conflict".

The Polish Institute created the Polish Mission Ukrainian Relief Fund to help agencies in Poland (*listed below*) with much needed funds for food,



clothing and shelter, and placing these refugees with Polish households. This fund evolved from the efforts of so many within our campus community. Donations to it have been shared with the charitable organizations in Poland (listed in this feature).

Initially, the Polish Institute introduced this fund at a Benefit Concert for Ukrainian Refugees on Sunday, April 3, 2022. "We hosted the Lira Singers Quartet of the Lira Ensemble of Chicago, Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University, who performed a classical folk music program narrated by Lucyna Migala, Founder and Artistic Director," said Bieciuk. "We are so blessed to have such incredible support for the Polish Mission Ukrainian Relief Fund!"

Efforts to help support this fund have been ongoing throughout almost the last two years, and the Polish Institute wishes to share that it will close the fund on April 5, 2024. On Saturday, March 9, 2024, a very special announcement was made at the Blooms of Tradition Fashion Show in the Galeria on campus.



The show highlighted Recultured Designs, a San Francisco line established by Detroit native Alexandra Lisiecki who, deeply influenced by her Polish heritage, repurposes cultural garments with a contemporary twist. "Each garment is crafted by internally displaced Ukrainian war refugees, providing them with a means of income and a chance to rebuild their lives," added Bieciuk. "The show featured models from the St. Mary's Prep Girls Division, some of the same students that helped contribute their efforts to raise money for the Ukrainian

Relief Fund upon its onset. On behalf of the Polish Institute, I'm honored to share that to date, the Polish Mission Ukrainian Relief Fund has raised \$108,516.00, far exceeding its initial goal!"

Special thanks to the very generous supporters of this fund that is making a difference in the lives of so many.



#### **Polish Ukranian Relief Charities:**

Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej
(PCPM) (Polish Center for International Aid)
Polska Akcja Humanitarna (PAH) (Polish
Humanitarian Action)
Caritas Polska (Caritas)
Fundacja Ocalenie (Ocalenie Foundation)
olski Czerwony Krzyż (PCK) (Polish Red Cross

Polski Czerwony Krzyż (PCK) (Polish Red Cross) Polska Misja Medyczna (Polish Medical Mission) Felician Sisters Ukrainian Relief in Przemysl

### AN "EGG-CELLENT" PISANKI TRADITION

From Monroe to Ann Arbor, and from Flint to Port Huron, a remarkable group of 160 individuals gathered across three workshops on March 16<sup>th</sup>, showcasing an impressive enthusiasm for a cherished Polish tradition: Pisanki. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our instructor, Iwona Jedrzejczak, who not only guided us meticulously through the creation of these unique pieces but also dedicated one-on-one instruction for many of our participants.

This day was truly special for all of us at the Polish Institute and Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the parents, students, and all volunteers who contributed their time and effort to ensure a seamless experience.

Polish culture is vibrant, dynamic, and constantly evolving. We encourage you not to miss out on future events by subscribing to our Calendar of Events at <a href="https://www.picrol.org">www.picrol.org</a>.



#### ASK THE ALUMNI

This month, we're introducing a new monthly alumni feature called, "Ask the Alumni." Each month, we'll pose a question to alumni and ask them to send us a short response we'll feature in the subsequent month's *Campus Communicator*.

We reached out to alumni of our Prep faculty, staff, and Board of Regents and asked them this question: What advice would you give to the Class of 2024 about their next chapter in life?

"Be ambitious and on the hard days, trust God and trust yourself."

STEVE FACIONE (P'70; BOARD OF REGENTS)

"My advice would be to try to choose your friends wisely and try to surround yourself with people that align with your beliefs & values."

JEFF PETRUCCI (P'84; BOARD OF REGENTS)

"Some advice I would give the class of 2024 is to always pursue the right path over the easy one. Integrity will give you something that those who take shortcuts will never have: self-respect."

NICK GISCHIA (P'16; OLSM TEACHER)

GOD. FAMILY. ST MARY'S.

You have had the privilege of working with St. Mary's teachers and staff the past four years, but as you leave St. Mary's for new adventures and challenges, I encourage you all to remember three things. GOD is with you every step you take (no matter where you go), keep your FAMILY close by (no matter how far you may go) and know that ST. MARY'S will always be a foundation leading you to success in your next journey.

DOMINIC ZERKI (P'09; OLSM TEACHER)

I would remind them of what I taught them during their sophomore year in world history. That is to 'Be Here Now!' Being able to focus on the task at hand and clear your mind of all obstacles is what makes you a champion.

I would also reiterate the Thomas Macaulay quote that I have posted in my classroom: 'The measure of a person's real character is what they would do if they knew they would never be found out.' What this translates to is that it is easy to do the right thing when everyone is watching, but what you do when no one will see is what determines your true character.

I would also tell them to have a 401k work ethic. Very few retirement funds are built on one large sum investment. However, they are built by many small investments over time. This translates to working hard each day to improve yourself and making that small contribution to get better each day. Trust the Process! Invest in yourself each day.

MARK LENGEL (P'00; OLSM TEACHER & COACH)

#### NEXT MONTH'S "ASK THE ALUMNI" QUESTION:

What sports or extra-curriculars did you participate in and how did they impact your life?

ALUMNI, if you would like to have your answers published in next month's issue, please email them to: <a href="mailto:lhealy@orchardlakeschools.com">lhealy@orchardlakeschools.com</a>.

#### **DELONE DAWISHA (P'11): NO ORDINARY SUNDAY**

Delone Dawisha, a Prep Class of 2011 graduate, and his girlfriend, Rita Kassab, visit the Grotto from time to time. So when they arrived on campus on Sunday, March 10th, he suggested they pray at the Shrine Chapel because she had never seen it. When they arrived, both families were hiding out of sight. Amidst the planned decorations and pianist playing nearby, Delone proposed to Rita at the altar and she said "YES!" Their families joined them for photos before departing for an off-campus dinner celebration. The happy couple, who first met in January 2023, are planning a July 26, 2025 wedding.

Dawisha attended Wayne State University for both his undergraduate studies and law school. He has been practicing law since November 2018 and first worked as an associate at Honigman LLP in Detroit for three years before starting his own firm, Dawisha Law. The Troy, Michigan firm (200 E. Big Beaver) focuses on business (M&A, private equity, startups), real estate (primarily commercial real estate), and construction transactions.





#### TAKE ME OUT TO THE **BALL GAME!**

Join us for OLSM V Baseball's Doubleheader vs. U of D

We'll also honor alumni of our 1984 Baseball State Championship Runner-Up Team

**SATURDAY, MAY 4 GAME #1 @ 11:00 AM** 

(Due to other campus events, please enter campus at Seminary Road)

### obchody konstytucji trzeciego maja 1791 r. Niedziela, 5 maja 2024 r.



#### 1:00 PM

- Polska Msza Św. w Sanktuarium św. JP II-go
- Program patriotyczny; wystawy patriotyczne

#### 2:30 PM

- Obiad
- Prosimy o rezerwację: \$20 dla dorosłych, dzieci za darmo

Można się zgłosić telefonicznie lub przez email: (248)602-7579 lub bernardwitek@yahoo.com

#### Z udziałem:

Polskiego Instytutu, Centrum Liturgicznego • Chóru Filaretów młodzieży szkół polskich, członków harcerstwa • weteranów, organizacji polonijnych

#### SPONSORZY:







ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II
3535 COMMERCE RD • ORCHARD LAKE, MI 48324



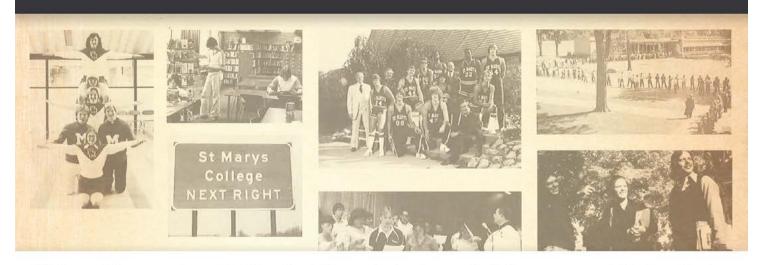
Special thanks to all who supported the 2nd Annual "Pink in the Rink" event!

We will donate \$66,000 in support of
pediatric cancer charities, Karmanos and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society!





# ALUMNI REUNION



It's been 20 years since St. Mary's College students strolled the campus at Orchard Lake.

All former St. Mary's College students and alumni are invited to COME BACK HOME to Orchard Lake this summer!

Celebrate, reconnect with fellow alumni, and enjoy a great BBQ dinner on the campus of your alma mater!



BBQ DINNER • BEER & WINE • \$45 PER PERSON

JULY 13, 2024 • 5:00-9:00 PM OLS CAMPUS QUAD & OLD GYM

### SAVETHE DATES!



C E L E B R A T I O N

Saturday & Monday • June 1&3

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 1 • FOUNDER'S DAY ON CAMPUS

#### **ALUMNI GAMES & EVENTS**

#### FOOD & MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S ATHLETIC COMPLEX

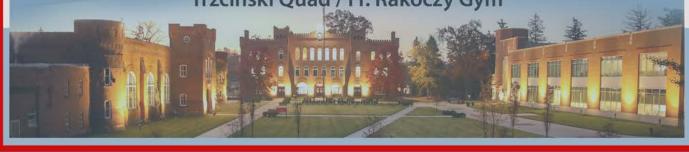
Alumni Games, Food, Music, and more!

#### FOUNDER'S DAY CAMPUS CELEBRATION

4:30 PM • Holy Mass at the Grotto

5:30-10:30 PM • Founder's, Alumni & Friends Dinner

Polish & American Food & Entertainment · Fun and Friends in the Trzcinski Quad / Fr. Rakoczy Gym



#### MONDAY, JUNE 3 • FOUNDER'S DAY GOLF OUTING

#### HISTORIC ORCHARD LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

10:30 AM Registration • Driving Range • Lunch

12:30 PM Shotgun Start • Scramble Format • Prizes & Contests

**5:30** PM Cocktail Reception • Strolling Dinner overlooking beautiful Orchard Lake

#### **MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**

## **CALL TO ARTISTS**

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH is looking for artistic vendors:

### **ARTISTS, ARTISANS, & PERFORMERS**

to share and present their work at the 3rd annual



FINE ART SHOW

Saturday & Sunday • September 28 & 29, 2024

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS CAMPUS - 3535 COMMERCE ROAD - ORCHARD LAKE, MI



Upon approval, you will receive an informational packet. Booth size is 10'x10'. You must provide your own tent, table, and chairs. You may request additional booths available if necessary (\$50 for both days).

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 30th, 2024** 

visit: www.picrol.org/art-on-the-lake for more information and to register

#### **Upcoming Event Highlights • APRIL 2024**

- 1 April Fools' Day
- 3 Softball vs. Troy Athens @ 4:30 PM
- 5 Softball vs. North Branch -- DH
- 7 Divine Mercy Sunday Mass @ 2:00 PM & Polish Luncheon
- 8 Classes Resume
- 10 Baseball vs. Liggett @ 4:30 PM
- 13 Softball vs. Stoney Creek @ TBD
- 16 Girls Tennis vs. Gabriel Richard @ Sports Club WB @ 3:00 PM
- 17 Boys Golf Red Run Invitational 12:00 PM
  Boys Varsity Track vs. Catholic Central @ 4:00 PM
- 18 Softball vs. St. Catherine DH @ 4:30 PM
- 19 Baseball vs. Toledo C.C. @ 5:00 PM Boys Golf vs. De La Salle @ Wabeek @ 3:30 PM

- 20 Baseball vs. Brother Rice @ 11:00 AM
  Boys Golf vs. U of D @ Wabeek @ 3:30 PM
  Ambassadors Ball @ The Townsend Hotel
- 22 Crew @ Mitten Racing Series #1 @ Kensington MP Softball vs. Midland – DH @ 11 AM Boys Golf @ The Fortress Invitational @ TBD
- 24 Baseball vs. De La Salle @ 4:30 pm Boys Golf @ Indianwood Invitational @ 12:00 pm Boys Varsity Track vs. Divine Child @ 4:00 pm
- 25 Girls Tennis vs. Divine Child @ Sports Club WB @ 3:00 PM Boys Golf vs. Divine Child @ Dearborn CC @ 3:30 PM Softball vs. Regina DH @ 4:30 PM
- 26 Honors Convocation
  Boys Golf vs. Brother Rice @ Wabeek @ 3:30 PM
- 29 Crew @ Mitten Racing Series #2 @ Kensington MP Boys Golf @ Huron Meadows Invit. @ 8:30 AM
- **30** Girls Tennis vs. Shrine @ Sports Club WB @ 3:00 PM

#### MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS

Throughout the year, donors to the Orchard Lake Schools enroll their loved ones in the "Friends of the Orchard Lake Schools" Enrollment. These names are those that have been added from the month of February. Prayers are offered at every mass at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II for those names enrolled. For more enrollment information, please contact Lisa Gray at <a href="mailto:lgray@orchardlakeschools.com">lgray@orchardlakeschools.com</a>.

NORMA ABRAM DELORES M. MARROLETTI MARGARET MARY FORGACH **GEORGE ALASKA** CLYDE C. GOODWIN, JR. **JACK MEYERS** ANTHONY ASCHETTINO PATRICIA MARY KOLAR PERLITA DE LA PENA CADAY LORRAINE LAFFERTY LOREN RISTOVSKI **JOSEPH BETZ** PATRICIA ANN ROWLAND MANOLO BUMANLAG **DENNIS LAURENCE** RAMONA CASTLE CHRISTOPHER LEHMAN **GARY SACHAU KELLY DOHERTY** KAREN LISOWICZ **RITA SHONK** THOMAS MACINNES **SONNY DONDA JOE SYLER** MICHAEL V. DORIAN, JR. **DENNIS MAHER** RITA WOLFF



#### **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

#### **APRIL 2024**





#### SUNDAY, APRIL 7 • DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

<b>9:00</b> AM	Fr. WITEK • POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
<b>9:00</b> AM	Msgr. Browne • Latin	St. John Paul II Shrine
<b>11:00</b> AM	Fr. WITEK • ENGLISH	St. John Paul II Shrine
2:00 PM	Fr. Witek • Polish* Polish Dinner After Mass	St. John Paul II Shrine

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

<b>9:00</b> AM	Fr. Witek • Polish*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
<b>9:00</b> AM	Fr. Whitaker • Latin	St. John Paul II Shrine
11:00 AM	Fr. WITEK • ENGLISH	St. John Paul II Shrine

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

<b>9:00</b> AM	Fr. WITEK • POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
<b>9:00</b> AM	Msgr. Browne • Latin	St. John Paul II Shrine
<b>11:00</b> AM	Fr. WITEK • ENGLISH	St. John Paul II Shrine

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

<b>9:00</b> AM	Fr. WITEK • POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
<b>9:00</b> AM	Fr. Ward • Latin	St. John Paul II Shrine
11:00 AM	Fr. Witek • English	St. John Paul II Shrine

<sup>\*</sup> Feed for the Live stream of the Polish Masses: <u>www.facebook.com/olsnews</u>

#### **EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS**

1 <sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY 4/4	Mass at 7:00 pm then Devotions • Fr. Witek	St. John Paul II Shrine
1 <sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY 4/5	Mass at 7:00 pm then Devotions • Fr. Witek	St. John Paul II Shrine
1 <sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY 4/6	Mass at 9:00 am then Devotions • Fr. Witek	St. John Paul II Shrine
THURSDAY 4/18	BIBLE STUDY AFTER MASS AT 7:45 PM	SEMINARY CHAPEL
FRIDAY 4/19	DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS AT 7:45 PM	St. John Paul II Shrine
	Krąg Biblijny at 8:00 pm	SEMINARY CHAPEL

#### **CONFESSIONS**

<b>MONDAY-THURSDAY</b>	6:00 рм - 6:55 рм	St. John Paul II Shrine
FRIDAYS	5:30 рм - 6:25 рм	St. John Paul II Shrine
SATURDAYS	8:00 am - 8:55 am	St. John Paul II Shrine



Looking for impactful campus dedication/ naming opportunities that leave a lasting campus impression for generations to enjoy?

#### CONTACT **Chris Czarnik**

cczarnik@orchardlakeschools.com

