

ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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

DECEMBER 2024

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'" ~ Luke 2:10



"Jingle All the Way," our 36th annual Christmas tree lighting, brought hundreds of alumni, family and friends of the Orchard Lake Schools to campus on Sunday, November 24, 2024. This time-honored tradition started with Robin Goddard and student volunteers. Each year, they string some 50,000+ lights, prepare so many other details that light up the event, and treat guests to festive new surprises. In 2023, the Christmas Market was first introduced and continues to offer holiday gift shopping. This year, the children's train, new decorations, and some very special animal friends came to visit!

JINGLING ALL THE WAY!



Oh, what a night to light the Christmas tree in the Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad! Musical entertainers Mike Ward (OLSM Parent Alumni) and Bill Arnold sang a variety of Christmas songs, including some of their originals, to kick off the event-filled evening. Our Christmas tree was surrounded by hundreds of alumni, family and friends of all ages singing Christmas Carols led by vocalist Aaron Caruso before Fr. Witek led the blessing. The Gross family, our major event sponsor, and Santa arrived by train to light the Christmas tree!



The Orchard Lake Schools celebrates 140 years this year, and the Jingle All the Way Christmas Tree Lighting was an extra special night to celebrate our campus's legacy of faith, education, culture and tradition. And what would celebrating 140 years be without one very fabulous cake for all from several alumni generations of the Smerecki family! "Jingle All the Way" Sponsor Steve Gross is pictured here participating in the ceremonial cake cutting for this historic anniversary.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We want to extend a hearty "Thank you!" for an amazing event to all our many tree lighting financial supporters and sponsors! Please stay tuned for the next issue when we will list each of our donors and thank them more specifically. It was truly a wonderful night and could not have been possible without your generous help!



We're excited to share that the Board of Regents approved the "Ever Forward" Strategic Plan earlier this summer! Many thanks to committee members and the countless other parents, alumni, students, faculty, staff, benefactors, and community members who all had input into this. This is a clear sign that the Orchard Lake Schools is moving forward – Ever Forward! Special thanks to the Richard & Mary Trzcinski Foundation for funding this important endeavor.

This strategic plan 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.

A TASTE OF FRANCE



Michael Pettit and Ashley Yenor, our French teachers, took their French 2 classes to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) for a guided tour in late October after finishing a lesson on French art, including art vocabulary, critiquing works, French artists, and the influential movements that happened in France. The small group tours culminated in a goose chase (scavenger hunt) to find the masterpieces of the French artists our students studied. The group also experienced a three-course French lunch at Cuisine,

a fine-dining restaurant in Detroit, where Chef Paul Grosz presented lobster bisque, beef bourguignon, sea bass, mushroom risotto, and a tarte au citron. Tres manifique!

PREP LANGUAGE TEACHER MICHAEL PETTIT: SHARING FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

I recently presented at the Michigan World Language Association conference in Lansing on the topic of how to create a strong classroom community, one that provides students with a sense of belonging, and a shared commitment to succeeding in the class. In world language classes, this has the added benefit of allowing students to comfortably and voluntarily try using the target language (French). I then talked about specific strategies used to create and strengthen classroom community, including using surveys to get student input, in-class interviews (in the target language) to have students and teachers get to know each other, routines to create a bond, and reading together as a class.



LOOKING AHEAD

National Signing Day on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, in the Dombrowski Fieldhouse was a great day to celebrate our student athletes who signed their National Letter of Intent (NLI) committing to play a sport at the collegiate level and to see so many families and friends there to be part of this experience.

BOYS DIVISION: (Pictured left to right)

TREY MCKENNEY • Basketball, University of Michigan
TIM HUMES JR. • Golf, Adrian College
ETHAN MUKHTAR • Golf, Wayne State University
COLIN IGNASIAK • Baseball, Davenport University
PAUL TOOVALIAN • Baseball, Lenoir-Rhyne NC
HUNTER RADZE • Baseball, Alma College
SHAROD BARNES • Basketball, Western Michigan University



GIRLS DIVISION: (Pictured left to right)

PAIGE BASHAWATY • Softball, Ohio Northern University
KADIE TARASIEWICZ • Volleyball, Maryville University
MEA D'AGOSTINO • Cross Country & Track, Grand Valley State
HARPER NATINSKY • Soccer, Virginia Military Institute
MIA TRIBUL • Softball, James Madison University
CAROLINE KOPMEYER • Soccer, Ohio Northern University
KIRA HOWCROFT • Soccer, University of Pittsburg at Greensburg
MADISON ANSON • Softball, University of Kentucky

GO, EAGLETS!

Congratulations, varsity football, on winning both the MHSAA District and Regional Championships. The Eagles secured their first regional title and semifinal appearance since 2016 under the leadership of head coach Jermaine Gonzales (P'00). The Eagles won with a 27-3 final score over Gibraltar Carlson for the Division 2 title and moved on to the Semifinals on Saturday, November 23, where they defeated Birmingham Groves at West Bloomfield HS to advance to the State Championships at Ford Field on November 29 to take on Byron Center.



Great work, D2 All-Region 2024 football honorees: **RYAN HARRINGTON**, **ANTONIO JOHNSON**, **REECE HURST**, and **BRYSON WILLIAMS**.

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE



ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

CHANCELLOR'S SENATE

A MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

THAT IS AN EMBODIMENT OF AN "INNER CIRCLE,"
THAT SUPPORTS THE **HEART** OF THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

MEMBERS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SENATE ARE
DIFFERENCE MAKERS,
FUTURE THINKERS,
AND COMMUNITY BUILDERS . . .

TAKE-CHARGERS WHO HELP US MAP OUT HOW WE MOVE FORWARD
BY ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION.

Support the **HEART** of Orchard Lake.
BECOME A SENATE MEMBER.

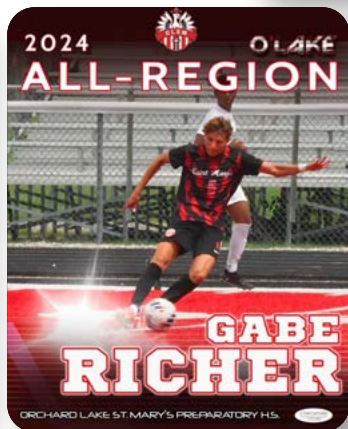
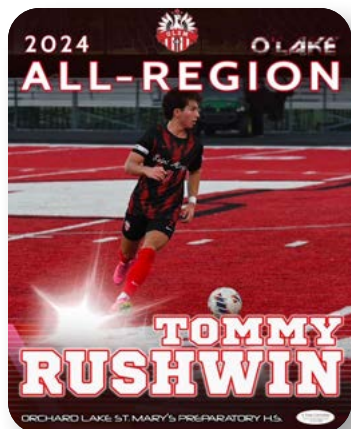
*If you would like to join the Chancellor's Senate, scan code now or
contact Lisa Gray at (248) 392-9974 or lgray@orchardlakeschools.com*



**THOSE WHO ENROLL NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 4, 2024 WILL RECEIVE
AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S SENATE DINNER.**

CHANCELLOR'S SENATE RECOGNITION DINNER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th • 6:00 PM
WABEEK COUNTRY CLUB • BLOOMFIELD TWP, MI

► Congratulations to our Girls varsity volleyball team on their MHSAA District Championship and to Head Coach Allie Winiarski for winning Coach of the Year!



◀ We're excited to share that varsity soccer team member, **GABE RICHER**, was selected to the 2024 All-State 2nd Team! This is his second consecutive year being selected to this team. And congratulations to **TOMMY RUSHWIN** and **GABE RICHER** on their 2024 All-Region awards.

GIVING BACK

► Prep students welcomed prospective future Eaglets on Sunday, November 10th at the Extracurricular & Athletics Open House. It was a great day for visitors to see all the amazing possibilities, from clubs to athletic teams, we have to offer.



◀ In honor of Veterans Day on November 11, 2024, students had a dress down day wearing red, white, and blue USA attire. Mr. Matyus provided hot dogs and other quick snack items in the Quad behind the Prep Building during 4th hour seminar for all students.



► Our tree lighting tradition includes a lot of student elves filling stockings with crafts and goodies for the children's activity tables. Many of these students also volunteer the night of the event, assisting at the craft and treat tables, welcoming our campus community, directing guests around event attractions, and assisting Santa Claus!





◀ The OLSM Band had a great time supporting the OLSM football team at home games this season.



▶ The OLSM choir has been singing at Girl's Masses every week! After all, singing is praying twice.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY PERFORMER ISAAC BOJI



Sophomore, **ISAAC BOJI** (Tuba) was selected to participate in the 2024 Oakland University Honors Band. Congratulations on a fantastic performance!



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

St. Louis DeMontfort



THE MARY PROJECT
AT ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS



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.



ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER UPDATE

In December, we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, Christmas is preceded by another important solemnity, that of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on December 8th. This year, it is the 170th anniversary of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary proclaimed on December 8th, 1854, by Pope Pius IX. Let us read some excerpts from the St. John Paul II homily delivered 20 years ago (Dec. 8th, 2004):

How great is the mystery of the Immaculate Conception that the Liturgy presents to us today! A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians. The theme of the Congress that has just been mentioned: "Mary of Nazareth welcomes the Son of God into history", has fostered a deep examination of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a presupposition for receiving in her virginal womb the Word of God Incarnate, the Saviour of the human race.

"Full of grace", "κεχαριτωμενη": in the original Greek of Luke's Gospel, the Angel greets Mary with this title. It is the name that God, through his messenger, chose to use to describe the Virgin. This is how he had always seen and thought of her, ab aeterno (from all eternity).

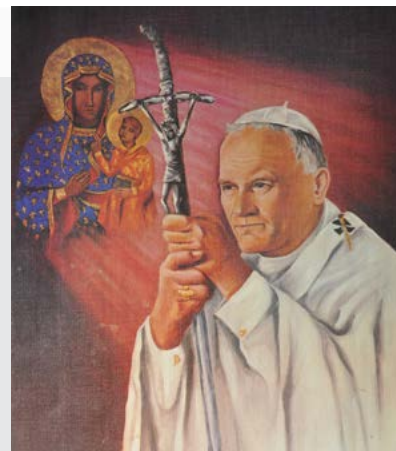
In the hymn of the Letter to the Ephesians just now proclaimed, the Apostle praises God the Father "who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (1:3). What a special blessing God addressed to Mary from the beginning of time! Mary was truly blessed among women (cf. Lk 1:42)!

The Father chose her in Christ before the creation of the world, so that she might be holy and immaculate before him in love, preordaining her as the first fruits of filial adoption through the work of Jesus Christ (cf. Eph 1:4-5).

The predestination of Mary, like that of each one of us, is linked to the predestination of the Son. Christ is that "seed" that was "to bruise the head" of the ancient serpent, according to the Book of Genesis (cf. Gn 3:15); he is the Lamb "without blemish" (cf. Ex 12:5; I Pt 1:19), immolated to redeem humanity from sin.

With a view to the saving death of the Son, Mary, his Mother, was preserved free from original sin and from every other sin. The victory of the new Adam also includes that of the new Eve, Mother of the redeemed. The Immaculate Virgin is thus a sign of hope for all the living who have triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb (cf. Rv 12:11).

Today let us contemplate the humble young girl of Nazareth, holy and blameless before God in love (cf. Eph 1: 4), in that "love" whose original source is God himself, one and triune.



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, January 5th • 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, January 1st.
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com.



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

THE GREATEST GALA ON EARTH

SAINT MARY'S PREP

AUCTION GALA

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SATURDAY
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OLSM.MAESTROWEB.COM

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POLISH INSTITUTE UPDATE

November was a time of reflection and reverence, as we honored the rich heritage of our Polish culture through history, faith, and community. From All Saints and All Souls Days to Poland's 106th Independence Day, the month offered opportunities to remember the sacrifices of our ancestors and celebrate the legacy they entrusted to us.

A standout moment was our Day of Service, a collaboration between the Polish Institute, Orchard Lake Schools, and St. Mary's Prep. Together with Headmaster Leonard Karschnia, Regent Joseph Majcher, teachers, parents, and staff, we visited Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. There, we honored the graves of General Józef Haller's Blue Army veterans and members of the Orchard Lake community by cleaning headstones, lighting votives, and sharing the significance of their sacrifices. It was a meaningful gathering of reverence and fellowship.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Irena's Pastry & Bistro for providing a wonderful lunch that allowed everyone to continue this important work.

Another highlight was our Benefit Dinner for Poland Flood Victims. Your generosity and support helped raise crucial funds for this cause. Thank you to everyone who joined us or contributed to make the evening a resounding success.

This November, we were also proud to celebrate Polish art and culture through our collaboration with Friends of Polish Art. The joint exhibition is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit, while our inaugural Galeria exhibit, Sacred Images, Holy Spaces: Art & Faith in Poland and Italy, remains open through January.

These exhibitions are a testament to the beauty of our shared heritage—don't miss them!

Looking ahead, we invite you to mark your calendars for December 5 for a special lecture and December 7 for a historical tour of Grand Rapids Polonia. These events are part of our continuing effort to preserve and celebrate the story of Polonia.

As we enter December, we express our deepest gratitude to all who supported us throughout the year. Whether you volunteered, attended an event, shared a post, donated, or encouraged our mission in other ways, you have made a meaningful impact. Your dedication allows us to preserve Polish culture, honor Orchard Lake's legacy, and deliver quality programming for generations to come.

On Giving Tuesday and throughout the holiday season, we invite you to consider making a year-end gift. Every contribution, no matter the size, strengthens our efforts. Donations can be made online or sent by check—your generosity helps ensure that our work continues.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, may the season of Advent bring joy, peace, and blessings to you and your loved ones. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Sincerely,

ANIA BIECIUK

Associate Director for Polonia Affairs



THE TRADITION OF POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE

BY SIENNA SMITH, OLSM CLASS OF 2026

Christmas traditions in Poland are full of magic and meaning. The customs have been passed down through the centuries and are deeply rooted in religion, family, and nature.

Christmas Eve is one of the most celebrated holidays in Poland and it comes with many traditions and folk tales. Wigilia (Christmas Eve) is a lavish, full feast that ends the Advent season and must start after spotting the first Christmas star. The dining table traditionally has an extra seat for the unexpected visitor and the feast ends with Pasterka (Midnight Mass) which is attended by the whole family regardless of age.



In addition to these traditions, Wigilia is also known for its 12 meatless dishes. Why 12? It is because the 12 dishes represent the 12 apostles of Jesus and the 12 months of the year. Since meat is not allowed prior to midnight on Christmas Eve, another strict tradition in Poland, all 12 dishes are a feast for vegetarians and fish loving Poles. Trying all 12 dishes is considered good luck and assurance that nobody will run out of food the following year.

The dishes are spectacular and prepared with the finest ingredients and extra love. Must-have dishes include: Pierniki (Polish gingerbread cookies), czerwony barszcz (red borscht), zupa grzybowa (mushroom soup), kapusta z grochem (cabbage with peas), sałatka (potato salad), karp (carp fish), sledzie (herring), pierogi (Polish dumplings), sernik (Polish cheesecake), kutia (wheat and honey dessert), makowiec (poppy seed cake) and kompot (cooked fruit punch).

Sharing opłatek (Polish wafer for Christmas) is another must. It is time for good wishes, hugs, and kisses from loved ones. Caroling is also a great tradition in Poland and makes the evening even more festive. The opening of Christmas gifts usually starts after supper and is one of the most anticipated events for the little ones on Christmas Eve.

It has been said that how one spends Christmas Eve is how one's entire year will be. So, it is customary to be calm, relaxed, and genuinely nice to be around.

Wesołych Świąt !!!!





MMODD OPENING RECEPTION

Thank you to all who attended the opening of the International Design Exhibition and Marketplace at the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit (MM-o-DD) on November 8th for an exciting evening full of inspiring art, lively conversation, beautiful music, and tasty treats. The Polish Institute of Culture & Research (PICR) was proud to represent Poland alongside our colleagues at the Friends of Polish Art (FPA); art and design from Finland and Italy are also included in the exhibit.



Together, PICR

and FPA identified artists of Polish descent to consider, from which Leslie Ann Pilling, President of MM-o-DD curated the final exhibition, which included: James Kaye, Mark Lewanski, Dennis Orlowski, Martin Zane Skalski, and Andrea Słomczenski. From glass to ceramics to metal work to painting, each of these artists' unique projects uniquely express personal interpretations of Polish heritage. Featured artworks by these contemporary artists are available for purchase - just in time for the holidays!



The exhibition continues with a selection of historical objects which further contextualize and demonstrate the richness of Polish culture: paintings by Julian Fałat and Juliusz Kossak loaned from the PICR collection and

glass art, traditional folk costumes, and an award-winning szopka loaned from supporters of FPA. This multi-faced international exploration of creative traditions is not to be missed!



Visits to the exhibition are open to the public Wednesday-Saturday from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM free of charge until the exhibit closes on December 23, 2024.

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION SEMINAR: OBTAINING POLISH CITIZENSHIP

The Polish Institute of Culture & Research was proud to host the Kosciuszko Foundation Michigan Chapter's "Obtaining Polish Citizenship Seminar" at our Galeria. We were thrilled to see such a great turnout, with dozens of guests eager to explore the path to Polish citizenship.

Hon. Richard Walawender, Consul of the Republic of Poland in Detroit, and Dr. Andrzej Kiedrzyn, senior consul at Miller

Canfield (joining via Zoom from Warsaw), provided invaluable guidance on eligibility and the application process, including pathways through descent, naturalization, and marriage.

Thank you to Mr. Walawender and Dr. Kiedrzyn for sharing their expertise and to all our guests for making this event such a success.

We look forward to collaborating with the Kosciuszko Foundation again and hosting more enriching events at the Galeria. Start your journey today and make your Polish heritage official!



POLISH BAROQUE MUSIC LECTURE AT GALERIA

Out of the Shadows

INTRODUCING THE MUSIC OF THE POLISH BAROQUE
A LECTURE BY PROFESSOR PAUL RADZILOWSKI, PH.D.

Paul Radzilowski, Ph.D., is a cultural and church historian who has taught History, Religious Studies, and Humanities at Madonna University, St. Mary's College, and the University of Michigan Dearborn. He has published articles in recent years on the Hagiographical works of Jan Długosz, as well as on Bl. Ladislaus of Gielniów, including translations of his hymns and poems. His interests include the relationship of music and other arts to religion and general culture, especially in the pre-modern era. He serves as cantor for his secular Carmelite group.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th • 6:00PM • GALERIA AT ORCHARD LAKE

Free and Open to the Public! Get more information at www.picrol.org or call (248) 836-1284

SUPPORT POLISH HERITAGE THIS GIVING TUESDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2024

Join us in preserving and promoting Polish culture and history! Your support for the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake ensures the continuation of educational programs, cultural events, and research celebrating our rich heritage.



EVERY CONTRIBUTION—BIG OR SMALL—MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Together, we can keep Polish traditions alive for future generations.

Donate online today at picrol.org/donate and select the “Polish Institute of Culture & Research” Fund.

For additional ways to contribute, call Ania Bieciuk at (248) 836-1284 or mail a check to:

Polish Institute of Culture & Research
3535 Commerce Rd.
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dziękujemy!

[As part of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, your donation ensures the preservation of Polish heritage. Consult your advisor for tax guidance.]

HISTORICAL TOUR OF GRAND RAPIDS POLONIA

Polish Institute
of CULTURE
& RESEARCH
AT ORCHARD LAKE

sponsored by:

*Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids,
and the Polish Institute of Culture & Research*



Galeria will be open at 8:30 AM for visitors, and we will depart at 9:00 AM by motor coach from the Orchard Lake Campus to visit these sites in Grand Rapids:

*Holy Cross Cemetery • Lunch at PNA Society's Jackson Street Hall
St. Isidore's Catholic Church • Shopping at downtown Christkindl Markt*

SATURDAY, DEC 7th

*RSVP by Dec 2 • Contact Ania at (248) 836-1284 or visit:
www.picrol.org • info@picrol.org*



A YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

Orchard Lake Schools alumni are the heart and soul of our campus history, making differences that move our campus ever forward. We appreciate you and are continuously striving to share your news, experiences, and support with the campus community at large, wherever you are around the world!



Founder's Day Golf Outing



St. Mary's College Reunion



Alumni Scholarship Event



Football Fridays Alumni Tent



Alumni Awards

As we celebrate the Orchard Lake Schools 140th year, we're excited to look back on some of the many 2024 experiences, initiatives, and events that highlight ways our alumni continue to shape the future of our faith, education, culture and tradition!



1994 State Champs Football Team Honored



Founder's Alumni & Friends Celebration



Alumni Golf Outing



Alumni & OLSM Seniors' Brunch



Ambassador's Dinner



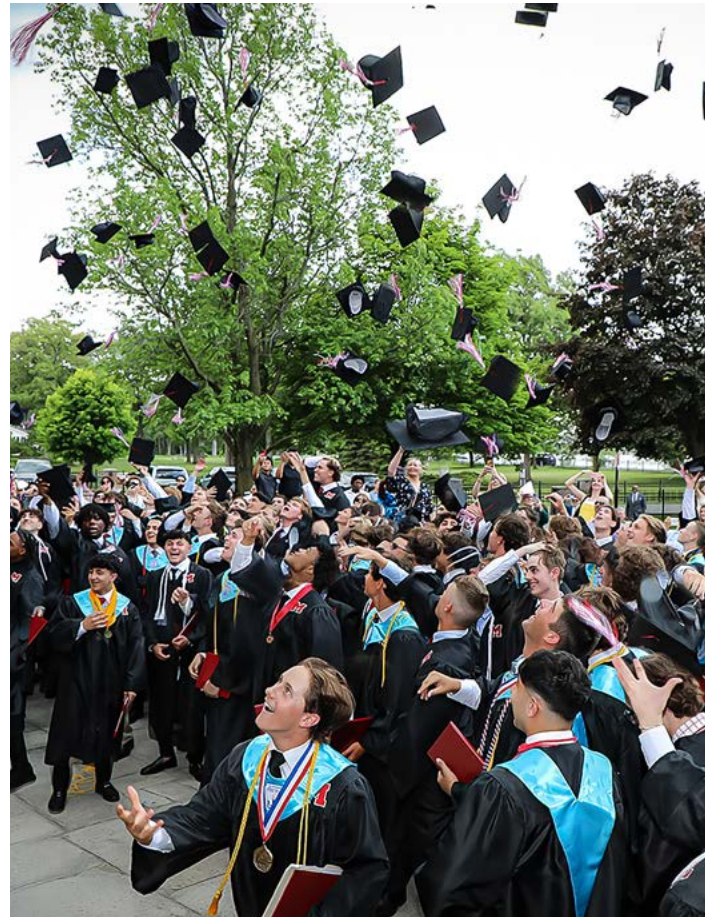
Class of 1994 - Founder's Alumni & Friends Celebration



Alumni Hockey Game vs. Red Wings



Founder's Day Golf Outing



Cap Toss, Class of 2024



Christmas Tree Lighting



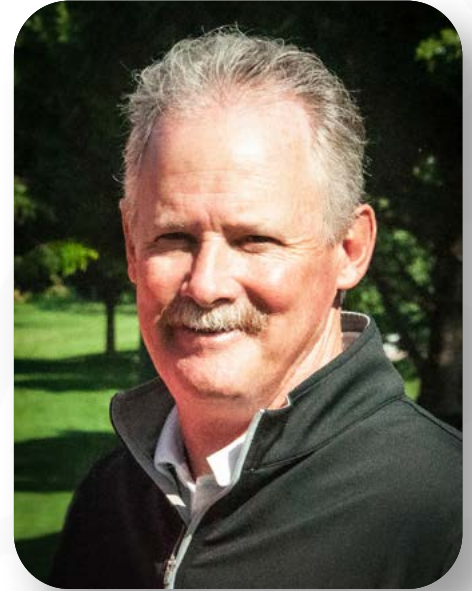


UNWAVERING DEDICATION OF OUR ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICERS

Don Buchanan's longtime service and love of Orchard Lake have grown our Alumni Association. He served as the Orchard Lake Schools Director of Alumni Relations for over seven years (2016 – 2023) before returning to the classroom to teach health and serve Prep athletics in an increased role, including assistant coach of the Boys Division golf team that won its very first MHSAA Golf State Championship (June 2024), and this year became the new Girls Division Athletic Director. Amidst these changes, he continues to serve as an Orchard Lake Schools Alumni Relations Officer, focusing on the Annual Alumni Scholarship Awards and the Homecoming

Golf Outing. "I want the Alumni Association to be the best it can be and will continue to embrace this challenge," adds Buchanan.

With over three decades of dedicated service to St. Mary's Preparatory, new Alumni Relations Officer Robert Mazur (father of Luke, P'06) brings a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to fostering its legacy and future endeavors. Originally from Poland, he commenced his journey at Orchard Lake in 1990, embarking on a trajectory that has seen him assume various roles pivotal to the school's operations and community engagement. "My unwavering dedication to St. Mary's and its students is matched only by my vision for a vibrant and interconnected alumni community poised to uphold the campus's traditions and propel its future endeavors to new heights," adds Mazur.



www.orchardlakeschools.com/alumni-relations

CREATING NEW JOBS MARKETPLACE FOR ST. MARY'S ALUMNI

"We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Alumni-4-Alumni jobs marketplace exclusively for St. Mary's High School alumni and current students! Whether you are looking for your next career opportunity or have a job opening to fill, this is the place to connect and grow within our incredible community!"

www.orchardlakeschools.com/alumni-for-alumni





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 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 AUGUST 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

HONORING OUR ALUMNI AT FOUNDER'S DAY ALUMNI AWARDS

We are proud to honor our Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Alumni, and Honorary Alumni each year at a very special Founder's, Alumni & Friends Dinner on campus during our Reunion Weekend.

This year's event took place in the Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad and Fr. Rakoczy Gym ("Old Gym").



www.orchardlakeschools.com/alumni-awards

BRINGING BACK ST. MARY'S COLLEGE ALUMNI

What a blast from the past it was when our St. Mary's College alumni gathered in July for a fabulous barbeque on the terrace of the Burkacki Academic Center (BAC). It was a glorious, sunset evening to gather this large group and hear so many heartwarming recollections of SMC days!

www.orchardlakeschools.com/stm-college-reunion-photos



For more information or questions about the Alumni Association, contact Robert Mazur at rmazur@orchardlakeschools.com or call (248) 830-9711

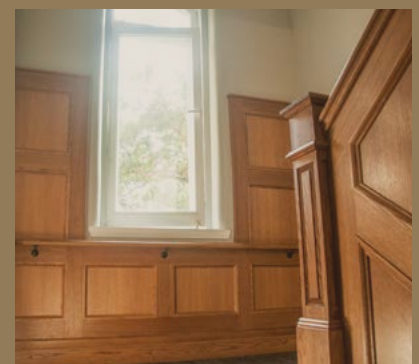


Looking for impactful campus dedication/naming opportunities that leave a lasting campus impression for generations to enjoy?

CONTACT:

Chris Czarnik

cczarnik@orchardlakeschools.com



Upcoming Event Highlights

DECEMBER 2024

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Polish 1st Sunday Mass @ 1:00 PM
2 Classes Resume
3 Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Avondale @ 7:00 PM
5 Advent by Candlelight
Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Marian @ 7:00 PM
6 St. Nicolas Day
Girls Division Winter Formal
7 Wigilia Mass & Dinner
10 Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Walled Lake
Central @ 7:00 PM | 12 Chancellor's Senate Recognition Dinner
13 Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Divine Child @ 7:00 PM
16 Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Livonia Stevenson @ 7:00 PM
16-19 Midterm Exams
20 Varsity Basketball vs. De La Salle @ 7:00 PM
20-1/5 Christmas Recess
24 Christmas Eve Vigil
25 Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve |
|--|---|

*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" Enrollment. These names are those that have been added from the month of October. 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 lgray@orchardlakeschools.com.

RAYMOND ASHE, JR.

FR. NICHOLAS COFFARO

GARY MICHAEL DAREL

CAROL FALLS

MARY GARRETT

LESLIE LEHMKUHL

JOSEPH P. MULLANEY

LINDA REGAN

GARY WITALEC

EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS

1ST THURSDAY 12/5 MASS AT 7:00 PM THEN DEVOTIONS • FR. WITEK

1ST FRIDAY 12/6 MASS AT 7:00 PM THEN DEVOTIONS • FR. WITEK

1ST SATURDAY 12/7 MASS AT 9:00 AM THEN DEVOTIONS • FR. WITEK

THURSDAY 12/19 *BIBLE STUDY* AFTER MASS AT 7:45 PM

FRIDAY 12/20 *DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS* AT 7:45 PM

KRAK BIBLIJNY AT 8:00 PM

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SEMINARY CHAPEL

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SEMINARY CHAPEL

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY-FRIDAY 6:00 PM - 6:55 PM

SATURDAYS 8:00 AM - 8:55 AM

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

DECEMBER 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 • *FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

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* • <i>POLISH 1st SUNDAY</i>	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • *SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 • *FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION*

11:15 AM	FR. WITEK • ENGLISH	SEMINARY CHAPEL
5:30 PM	FR. WITEK • POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
7:00 PM	FR. WITEK • ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 • *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 • *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 • *VIGIL FOR CHRISTMAS EVE*

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK • DAILY MASS	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
10:30 PM	FR. WITEK • POLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
MIDNIGHT	FR. WITEK • ENGLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 • *CHRISTMAS DAY*

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, DECEMBER 29 • *FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY*

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 • *VIGIL FOR MARIAN FEAST*

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK • DAILY MASS	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
MIDNIGHT	FR. WITEK • ENGLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS

(please see previous page)

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