

BAPTISMS

All Baptism inquiries must begin by filling out a Baptism form on our website at www.stmatthew.net/baptism. For more information, please contact Katie Ryzenga at 614-532-0620 or kryzenga@stmatthew.net.

MARRIAGE

Marriage preparation must begin at least 6 months before a desired wedding date. All inquiries begin on the Parish website at www.stmatthew.net/marriage or by contacting Julie Ratliff at jratliff@stmatthew.net.

ANOINTING & VISITATION OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office to schedule an anointing and/or to arrange a visit from our pastoral staff.

PARISH CLERGY – 614-471-0212

Fr. Theodore K. Sill, Pastor

Deacons: Rev. Mr. Joseph Meyer

Rev. Mr. Christopher Walsh

PARISH STAFF – 614-471-0212

Business Manager: Leo Grimes

Director of Music: Dawn Shiner

Facilities Superintendent:

George Harvey – gharvey@stmatthew.net

Office & Ministry Coordinator: Michelle Dougherty

Safe Environment: Michelle Lantz

Director of Family Life Ministries: Julie Ratliff

Catholic Inquiry/Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):

Jennifer Cabe

Religious Education Coordinator: Dorothy Allwein

Baptism Coordinator: Katie Ryzenga

Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Maggie Allwein

PARISH SCHOOL

cdstmatthew.org

Director Pre-K: Sr. Paulina Porczynska – 614-557-7571

Principal K-8: John Rathburn – 614-471-4930

CHARITABLE WORKS MINISTRY – 614-471-5320

Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon; Thursday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To register as a parish member, stop by the office or register online at www.stmatthew.net/online-parishioner-registration.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Announcements must be submitted to Hillarie Michaels by email to hmichaels@stmatthew.net by 12:00 noon on Monday.



ST. MATTHEW

THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

WORSHIP · SERVE · EVANGELIZE

807 Havens Corners Road

Gahanna, Ohio 43230

614-471-0212 • www.stmatthew.net

As a community of believers who know, love, and serve Jesus Christ, we celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, proclaim the saving message of Christ, and share the love of the Lord, especially with the least, the poor, and the suffering.

MASSES

Weekends

Saturday – 5:00 p.m. Vigil

Sunday – 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

Holy Days

Please consult the bulletin or website.

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday, 6:30 & 8:30 a.m.

Saturday – 8:30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 7:00-7:30 a.m.

Saturday 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Sunday 11:00-11:45 a.m.

Or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCRIPTURES**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18** – *Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25*

6:30 a.m. Carl & Robin Kegelmayer/Federer Family

8:30 a.m. Toni Barr/Joanne Mangia

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 – *Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25*

6:30 a.m. Mary Sue Malone/Friends & Family

8:30 a.m. Grace Santilli/Joanne Mangia

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – *Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38*

6:30 a.m. Mary & Jerry Ross/Friends & Family

8:30 a.m. Toni Barr/Frank & Judeen Hartge

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 – *Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45*

6:30 a.m. Bob Williams/Vicki Wengert

8:30 a.m. Sergio Torres/Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 – *1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56*

6:30 a.m. Mary Sue Malone/Friends & Family

8:30 a.m. Thomas D'Onofrio/Wife & Children

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 – *Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66*

8:30 a.m. Joseph Ky Pham/Hue Vu

5:00 p.m. Michael & Frances DiCarlo/Tom & Mickie Zaino

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – *2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38*8:00 a.m. For Saint Matthew Parishioners/
Fr. Theodore K. Sill

10:00 a.m. Mark Russell/Linda Russell

12:00 p.m. Thomas D'Onofrio/Wife & Children

CHRISTMAS EVE – *Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25*4:00 p.m. For Saint Matthew Parishioners/
Fr. Theodore K. Sill

7:00 p.m. Alex Gray/Ma'am

STEWARDSHIP

2023-2024 Through	December 10, 2023	Year to Date
Parish Budgeted Expenses	\$42,957.00	\$1,030,968.00
Contributions	\$63,571.04	\$1,024,359.20
Surplus (Shortage)	\$20,614.04	(\$6,608.80)

Note: St. Matthew's fiscal year is July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
Contributions include offertory and parish facilities fund donations.

DISCIPLESHIP**How can I begin my Journey? It's as simple as 1-2-3:**

1. Participate *1 hour* per week in community prayer (Sunday Mass).
2. Devote *1 hour* per week volunteering in a parish ministry.
3. Contribute *1 hour* of weekly income (2.5%) for financial support.

WORSHIP + SERVE + EVANGELIZE**UPCOMING SPECIAL ENVELOPES**

Whether you donate through Online Giving or use envelopes, we are grateful for your support for the upcoming collections: St. Matthew School Support and Parish Facilities Fund. If you use Online Giving, simply log in to your account at <https://www.osvhub.com/stmatthew> and select the fund to which you'd like to donate. Thank you!

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 5:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 8:00 A.M.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 10:00 A.M.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 12:00 P.M.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	Max Maksimoski – rmaksimo@stmatthew.net – 614-607-4799 (<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors</i>); Vicki Wengert – vwengert@icloud.com – 614-270-2118 (<i>Sacristans</i>)			
	Max Maksimoski Erin McConnell Vicki Wengert Denise Maksimoski	Ted Deibel Mary Campanelli Kathy Arnold Alan Ratliff	Cheryl Harmon Jen Lawrence Michael Springer Olga M. Magyar	Gretchen Rivera Mary Thompson TBD Tim Bray
IN HOME	Angela McNair (2); Mike Huff (4); Mary Campanelli (5); Max Maksimoski (6); Greg Schmiedebusch (7)			
LECTORS	Rebecca Gebhart Max Maksimoski	Alan Ratliff Ezra Escudero	Michael Springer Heather Rush	Alysa Li Tim Bray
SACRISTANS	Mickey & Carmen DeArdo	Corinne Miller	Teresa Altman-Ozarak	Allison Cameron
SERVERS	MC – Luke Aaron Lucy Aaron Devin Canter Abe Porter Bobby Porter Owen Stowe	MC – Conner Norman Matthias Dienhart Gigi Grunder Mackenzie Norman	MC – Finn Shirey Samantha Bernard Josh Bernard Josie Divis Gabriel Ferguson Roman Rush	MC – Logan Geig John Kahwash Grant Warner

IN OUR PARISH

YOUTH CHOIR – All students of the parish in Grades 2-6 are invited to participate in the Parish Youth Choir. A schedule is available at <https://stmatthew.net/music-ministries> or by contacting Dawn Shining, Director of Music, at dshining@stmatthew.net.

HELP US GET THE CHURCH READY FOR CHRISTMAS! We'll be decorating the church for Christmas on **Friday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m.** and we need lots of help! We will have groups of people hanging up wreaths, setting up and fluffing trees, and stringing lights. We will break for a pizza lunch at 1:00 p.m. and then work until our church is ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior! (Feel free to come for only a part of that time if you can't stay for the whole time.) Families and children are welcome, but all children must be under direct adult supervision by a parent or responsible adult. Please RSVP at the link on our home page under Quick Links so we can get a headcount for food. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS to Tyson Hilkert, Elihu Romberg and Jennalee Straus who began their RCIA journey last May and will be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist today, **Sunday, December 17 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.** The waiting, preparation, and longing have come to an end and we rejoice with them at being invited to share at the table of the Lord. We also congratulate Aivaras Koskonas, Marius Svirinavicius, and Marie Templeton, as they complete their Catholic initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please add these men and women to your prayers and join us in welcoming them at the reception in the St. Anthony Room after Mass.

ADORERS NEEDED OVER CHRISTMAS – What present will you give Jesus this year? Consider an hour of Adoration over Christmas Eve or Christmas Day as a gift to our Lord. We need your help to stay perpetual over these two days. Sign-ups are in the Gathering Space and by the Chapel sign-in desk. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION DURING CHRISTMAS – It has been the custom for many years at St. Matthew to take up a second collection at Christmas as a sacrificial offering for the birth of our Savior. This year's collection will go toward the **Parish Facilities Fund** to assist in making continued improvements to our parish. Please consider going online to make that extra offering, or drop it in the offertory basket. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFICE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS – The Parish Office will be closed **December 25-January 1.** We will reopen on **Tuesday, January 2**, with our regular hours of 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CONFESSION TIMES during Advent are: Wednesdays, 7:00-7:30 a.m.; Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.; Sundays, 9:00-9:45 a.m. and 11:00-11:45 a.m. and Parish Confessions on **Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

MARY GARDEN PAVERS – Purchasing an engraved paver in our St. Matthew Mary Garden is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas season. If interested in this permanent remembrance, please pick up a brochure with ordering instructions in the Gathering Space or Parish Office. Brochures and donations may be returned to the Parish Office. Orders will be submitted monthly. Thank you ~ The Mary Garden Committee.

WOMEN OF ST. MATTHEW! We hope you will join us for the first weekend of January's **Be Loved** retreat being held at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford, OH. Our daily frustrations and fears point to deeper things happening inside us. Step back from your daily grind and give yourself space to heal. Join us in a safe space with other women where you can listen to God. It's time to let go of what holds you back. He does amazing things when you're fully present to Him! This Christmas, why not give yourself the gift of time with Jesus and start the year with an extra shot of grace. The cost of the weekend is \$332.00, but we want to make this retreat possible for any woman from our parish who would like to attend. If you need financial assistance or have any other questions, please reach out to Julie Ratliff at jratliff@stmatthew.net. More information is on our website at <https://stmatthew.net/womensretreat>.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

On the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Dec. 7), Bishop Fernandes published a letter announcing several pro-life initiatives. The full letter can be viewed at <https://catholictimescolumbus.org/>. In this letter, the bishop stated that "Although many in our Diocese were discouraged by the vote this past November, our commitment to accompanying women and their children continues... With renewed effort, we need to make abortion unthinkable, and the birth of a child not to be seen as a burden but a blessing." As a sidenote, preliminary polling indicates that of the Catholics who voted on November 7, 50% of them voted Yes, and Evangelicals did not fare much better. These grim statistics bolster Archbishop Schnurr's (Cincinnati) observation "that the result was a sign that our society needed deeper conversion."

With that in mind, Bishop Fernandes shared his thoughts on what the Diocese of Columbus could do to continue our efforts to build a culture of life. The highlights of his initiatives are:

- To encourage the faithful to a deeper life of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
- To financially support organizations who are on the frontline supporting women with distressed pregnancies and their children (i.e. Women's Care Center, Birthright).
- To continue integrating into our Catholic school curriculum the truths of our faith such as an appreciation for the gift of life at conception.
- To organize a pilgrimage to the annual March for Life with a focus on high school student attendance.

We will determine over the next several months how to implement some of Bishop Fernandes' more detailed suggestions. While it remains to be seen which laws Ohio currently has in place to protect unborn children will be overruled based on Issue 1, we can continue to build a culture of life regardless of that outcome. As Bishop Fernandes concluded, the "Law may refuse to recognize the dignity and right to life of the child in the womb, but we cannot be indifferent to this reality... May we rise to meet our responsibility, grateful for the gift of life we have received."

If you are interested in learning more about St. Matthew's Pro-Life group, please contact Jeff Solinger at jksolinger@aol.com or (614) 506-2382.

PARISH PROJECTS

Given the generosity of our parishioners, the Facilities Team is pleased to provide updates on St. Matthew campus projects, repairs, improvements, and ongoing initiatives to provide a safe, healthy, and prayerful environment for you and our children.

As school winds down to the Christmas break, the Facilities Team is winding up the year with a few significant projects. Preparations are being made for Christmas decorating, some major electrical upgrades are planned in the school, and we are working on the replacement of the large school cafeteria HVAC roof top unit. After several large events this weekend in the church and school, there will be a dedicated cleaning crew in the church through Christmas to support the additional traffic.

Don't miss out on helping us decorate the church for Christmas on **Friday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m.** We will have groups of people hanging up wreaths, setting up and fluffing trees, and stringing lights. We will break for a pizza lunch at 1:00 p.m. and then work until our church is ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior! There is a SignUpGenius link on our home page for our lunch count. Facilities Team members will be assisting in each area with everything needed to keep us all busy.

Want to learn a new skill? We could really use some volunteers at each Mass to watch over the sound system and to help stream on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. No experience is needed. Training is available at your convenience on weekdays and on-the-job training during the weekends. Other Parishes our size have as many as three volunteers working each Mass on sound, video, and graphics. Our goal is at least one person per Mass with a backup. Parent/student teams work great. It is interesting and a very important ministry. Thank you.

Suggestions on how we can better serve you and the parish are always welcome. Send requests and suggestions to gharvey@stmatthew.net. Be safe, stay healthy, and God Bless.

THE NATIVITY AT CATHEDRAL SQUARE – The Nativity display outside the Catholic Museum in downtown Columbus is beautiful! Make some time to see it this Advent. If you can go on **December 22**, you'll have the added bonus of hearing the St. Matthew Music Ministry sing! They'll be providing music at **6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m.**, for about 30 minutes each hour. For more information, please visit <https://www.catholicmuseum.org/>.

ST. MATTHEW BOOK CLUB – There will be no Book Club meeting in December. The next Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m.** in the St. Michael Room. We will be discussing the book, *The Rocking Chair Prophet* by Matthew Kelly. All are welcome.

REDUCE YOUR OHIO INCOME TAXES and help make an authentic Catholic education affordable and accessible for all! It's true! As an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, you could receive a dollar-for-dollar credit* against your state income tax liability while creating scholarship dollars for students to attend our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Columbus. Even with the recent expansion to Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship program, financial need still exists for many families. Your gift helps bridge the gap between state scholarships and the cost to educate a child while reducing your Ohio tax burden. For more information and to donate, go to <https://emmausroad.org/>.

DIVINE MERCY PERPETUAL ADORATION – "My sweetest Joy is to be in the presence of Jesus in the Holy Sacrament." St. Katharine Drexel. Learn more about our Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel online at <https://stmatthew.net/dmc>.

FAMILY ROSARY GROUP – All are invited to join other families in praying the Rosary at **4:00 p.m.** on Saturdays downstairs in the parish nursery. Little ones are welcome to play as we pray. Parents will have the opportunity to go upstairs for Confession after the Rosary before 5:00 p.m. Mass begins. All are welcome, even if you don't have children.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING 101 – Join Jim Gernetzke, a long-time parishioner, in an ongoing small group study of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Beginning on **January 8, 2024** – the group will meet every Monday from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the St. Raphael Room to read and discuss the Church's foundational documents of CST. We will begin with *Rerum Novarum* (On the Condition of Labor) – Pope Leo XIII, 1891. For more information and to reserve your spot in the group, email Jim at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com. Seating is limited.

SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW & LOWER YOUR TAXES – St. Matthew has an endowment fund that The Catholic Foundation manages. This fund is a longer-term, sustained investment designed to provide a perpetual source of income to our parish. Contributing cash, appreciated stocks, IRA rollovers, and other forms of assets to the Fund can lower your tax exposure and provide a lasting impact on St. Matthew and the future of our Catholic faith. For more information on end-of-the-year giving to benefit St. Matthew, please contact Jim Hahn at jhahn@catholic-foundation.org or 614-443-8893, ext. 112.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S & MEN'S CONFERENCES BEING HELD FEBRUARY 17 & 24 – This year, both Conferences are dedicated to the Glory and Beauty of the Eucharist. The Women's Conference features a day of inspired speakers like Heather Khym, Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Father John Burns, Claire Dwyer, and Father Timothy Anastos. The Men's Conference features speakers Chris Stefanick, John Edwards, and Father Burke Masters (Chaplain for the Chicago Cubs). Both events will include Mass by Bishop Fernandes, religious organizations, Adoration, and plenty of food and fellowship. You truly don't want to miss this incredible opportunity, guaranteed to ignite your faith and take you even further along your personal journey with Christ. Please visit <https://stmatthew.net/conferences> for more information and to register.

SUNDAY MASS READINGS EXPLAINED – NOW AVAILABLE BOTH MORNING & EVENING – Looking for a place to understand the Sunday readings based on the Church's teachings and the mindset of a first century Jew hearing the Word preached for the first time? Join us as we dive deeper into the study of the Word every Thursday morning in the Church library at **9:15 a.m.** and Thursday evening at **6:30 p.m.** Our lesson presenter, Dr. Brant Pitre, is noted for his scholarship on connecting the Old and the New Testament scriptures in such works as *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*, *Jesus and the Last Supper* and others that are in our library. The sessions are free and materials will be provided for you. If you are new to reading the Scriptures, these sessions will encourage you to read them with more understanding. Questions? Please contact Lorraine Curtin at lorraine.curtin@icloud.com.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR FAMILY OF FAITH the following child who was Baptized on Saturday, December 9: Hannah Catherine Mathis.

CHRISTMAS

Mass Times

4th Sunday of Advent Masses (December 23/24)

Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am,
10:00 am, 12 noon

Christmas Eve Masses (December 24)

4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass 10 am

Waiting with Mary

An Advent Prayer Service

Join us for an evening of
reflection on the great gift
God has given us by sending
His Son through Mary.

Our parish music ministry will present musical selections followed by brief meditations on the O Antiphons and on the Magnificat, Mary's canticle of praise.

Sunday, December 17, 7:30 pm
St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Parish

Turn Your Tax Dollars into Scholarships for Our Catholic Schools...

...and help make an authentic Catholic
education affordable and accessible for all!



Thanks to a law passed by the Ohio Legislature in late 2021, as an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the **Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund**, you receive a dollar-for-dollar credit* on your state income tax liability while creating much-needed scholarship dollars for **Our Catholic Schools** in the Diocese of Columbus.

Visit our web site or scan the QR code to learn more!

*Ohio tax credit is limited up to \$750 per person, or \$1,500 if married filing jointly. Consult your tax advisor for guidance. The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund is a certified scholarship granting organization in the state of Ohio.



www.emmausroadscholarship.org

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR A WOUNDED WORLD – The way of the cross, “Via Dolorosa” in Jerusalem, is God’s Passion, His walk to the Crucifixion. It is commonly used during the Lenten season, however, walking once a month throughout the year is one of the most beautiful prayers to our Maker next to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Join the growing crowd on the **4th Wednesday** of the month to experience, sense, and even become emotional for God’s Passion. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 27 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church.

CHILDREN’S BULLETINS are available in the Gathering Space. These activity pages for Catholic kids are published weekly and they correspond with each Sunday’s readings. Pick one up to help your child participate more fully in the liturgy.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: August John Stacklin, father of Bob Stacklin.



HOLY HOUR FOR REPARATION, PURIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH –

Please join our clergy and fellow parishioners in the church on the Fourth Friday of the month for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an hour of prayer for the universal Church. The next Holy

Hour will be held this **Friday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Adoration Chapel**. Everyone is welcome.

CHARITABLE WORKS MINISTRY NEWS

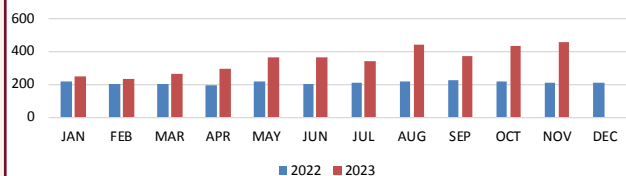
~ **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!** We are truly blessed to have such a generous and kind community here at St. Matthew Parish. We exceeded our Matching Collection goal of \$52,000.00 and received donations of over \$62,000.00 during November. Thanks to all who donated and also to those who prayed for our campaign. May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless all of you!!!

Recap of November 2023 – Another record month for CWM.

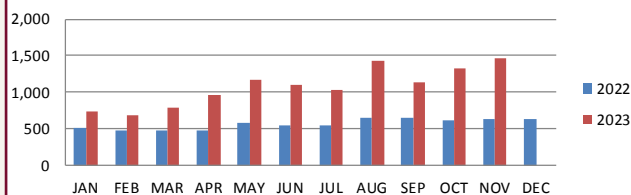
- 461 families served (more than double what we did in November 2022)
- 1,468 individuals served in those families
- 3,818 families served to date in 2023 (on track to exceed 4,000 for all of 2023)

We continue to strive to control food costs, but with the effect of inflation and less free/low cost food from Mid-Ohio Food Bank, this is an ongoing challenge. The graphs below provide a view of the trends and increases dating back to January 2022. Thank you for your continued support to those families who are experiencing difficult times through your financial support and volunteer efforts.

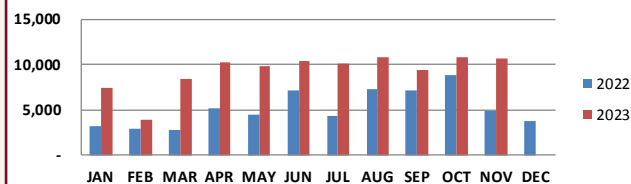
Families Served



Individuals Served



Food Cost



Our normal hours of operation are from **10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Monday-Friday** and **6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday**. We are located within the PSR building (the old convent). All are welcome to visit the location to observe what we do and, if the Spirit moves you, become a part of our Ministry. You can sign up to volunteer through the first half of 2024 (UPDATED) at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040945aeaa2aa5f94-charitable>.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. JUDE COUNCIL 5801

Knights are the right arm of the Church and involved in charitable works in our Parish.

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP – The Knights will hold the 2024 Free Throw Championship on **Saturday, January 20** from **5:00-8:00 p.m.** in the St. Matthew PAC. Reservations are not required. The event is **FREE** and is both fun and challenging for boys and girls. Free Throw contestants, ages 9-14, will compete against other contestants their own age. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of January 1. Winners go on to district, region and state competition and can earn trophies and other recognition from the Knights. Look for additional information after the holidays.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2024 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the Diocese of Columbus 2024 Catholic Man of the Year. The annual award will be presented by Bishop Earl Fernandes on **Friday, February 2, 2024**, at the Men's Luncheon held at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. The Catholic Man of the Year is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through **Sunday, December 31**. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholicmanoftheyear>. Submit your nomination and let us know why your parishioner, husband, father, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the Catholic Man of the Year!

LITERATURE PROFESSOR OPENING AT THE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum seminary is seeking to hire a full-time Assistant Professor of Literature in the College of Liberal Arts (rank negotiable), beginning in fall 2024. An ideal candidate will possess a completed doctorate (PhD) in literature or an associated area and exhibit a strong commitment to Catholic higher education and to the mission of the Josephinum to form men for the ordained priesthood. Read more about the position and its necessary qualifications at www.pcj.edu/jobopportunity.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT! Give the gift of time to each other next year. Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Make 2024 the best year of your marriage by applying today! The next weekend is **February 9-11** in the Central Ohio area. For more information or to apply, visit our website at WWMEcolumbus.org. Early registration is highly recommended.

ST. CHARLES HOSTING WOMEN'S AUDITIONS FOR THE "LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL" PRODUCTION

The St. Charles Preparatory School Drama Department will hold women's auditions for *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* on Wednesday & Thursday, **January 3 & 4** at **4:00 p.m.** at the St. Charles Campus Theater, 2010 East Broad Street (You need only attend one of the two days.) Auditions are open to all area high school women in Central Ohio. Production Dates: February 29-March 3. If you would like additional information, please email Doug Montgomery, at dmontgomery@scprep.org.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

The Year of Parish Revival
2023-24

Know Your Gestures and Postures during Mass – a Quiz

As St. Paul writes, “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”¹ When it comes to our prayer lives and relationship with each other and within the Church, though, do we know when we should pray as the many parts and when we are to pray as one body? We are blessed as the People of God with many charisms, devotions, and private prayer opportunities to grow in relationship with God our Creator. However, when it comes to the Mass, we are not individuals but Christ’s bride, the Church, praying universally (literally) as one body.

The Mass is the prayer par excellence instituted by Christ at the Last Supper. It is Christ’s sacrifice offered to God the Father, even as we gather together to celebrate a meal. Given this context, do we as the Lay Faithful know what to do in our unity of worship during the Mass? How do we know? From our parents? As students in Catholic school? From those around us in the pews? Hopefully, our answer is ‘yes’ to some or all of these instances, but it is first and foremost from the Church Herself, who gives us the best way to express our oneness in the Mass. Let us, therefore, consider what we know from our social interactions and from the Church Herself.

Ponder the situations below and your experience with them. (Individual answers will not be tallied nor collected.) Note: Posture = a position with our whole body; Gesture = a temporary position or movement of some part of our body.

1. During the proclamation of the Holy Gospel, what is the posture of the Lay Faithful, i.e. the congregation?
 - a. Sit
 - b. Stand
 - c. Kneel

2. In those Masses when incense is used, the priest celebrant incenses the altar and gifts at the Offertory, then the assisting minister incenses the priest before coming forward to incense the congregation. What is the congregation’s posture and gesture in response to incensing from the assisting minister?
 - a. Standing, then bow from head or waist
 - b. Standing, then make the sign of the cross
 - c. Both a. and b.
 - d. Standing, but do nothing (just remain standing)

3. During the Lord's Prayer, what should the gestures of the congregation be?
 - a. Hold hands with others
 - b. Imitate the priest celebrant with the Orans hand position (arms extended with palms turned upward and open)
 - c. Put hands together in prayer, palm-to-palm, in imitation of the deacon (when he is present at the altar)
4. When offering each other the Sign of the Peace, what gestures can the Faithful use?
 - a. Shake hands with immediate pew neighbors
 - b. Nod head and/or wave hand toward individuals while making eye contact
 - c. Blow kisses to immediate pew neighbors
 - d. Any of the above
5. When receiving Holy Communion, what is the posture of each communicant, in terms of our unity of worship?
 - a. Standing, with reverent bow from waist before receiving Jesus
 - b. Standing, but genuflecting on one knee before receiving Jesus
 - c. Kneeling while receiving Jesus

Under the leadership of our bishops, we are now in a multi-year season of Eucharistic Revival in the United States. As the new liturgical year begins this Advent, bringing in the calendar year 2024, we focus on the Year of Parish Revival as we receive, review, and reboot our hearts to grow in love with the Lord Jesus in His Real Presence in the Eucharist. And so, we begin with what we Catholics do at Mass, with more catechesis to come throughout the year. The answers to each scenario above that fully express our unity in worship will be provided in the coming weeks.

¹ Quoted from 1 Corinthians 12:12-13a. For more context, continue with verses 13b-27, NAB version.

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