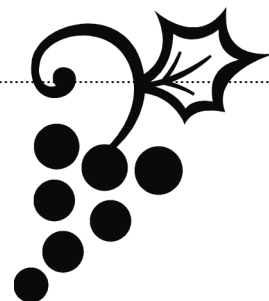


Tending the Master's Vineyard



I recently received an email from Archbishop Schnurr with a bit of an odd question. Here is a portion of that email: *"Yesterday Bishop Kevin Rhoades, the Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was the commencement speaker for graduation at the Athenaeum. He did a fantastic job. He asked about Piqua because the first bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend was born in Piqua. He asked whether the memory of Bishop Luers is alive in Piqua. I told him that I did not know, but I would ask the pastor. Thus, this e-mail."*

So I asked a dear friend to do some research for me and this is what we found about the first bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop John Henry Luers was born in Germany, near the city of Munster in 1819. His family moved to the United States of America in 1833, landing in New York on June 7th. The family then moved to Piqua and settled on a farm near the city. John found work as a clerk and assistant salesman in a store in Piqua. He was noted for strict integrity and attention to business.

Unfortunately, he began to neglect his spiritual life. The bishop later in his life recounted a story in which his father reminded him of the importance of faith. "The subsequent interview between my father and myself was of such a *striking* nature, that I received sufficient reasons to promise to relearn, what I had forgotten. It was a *sore* lesson, but one which I never forgot."

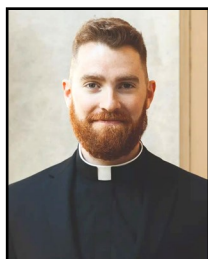
God placed a strong desire to be a priest upon his heart, but how could he acquire the necessary education required. God called him, and God would provide what was needed. It is related that when Archbishop Purcell was on his way to Piqua to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, he overtook John (Bishop Luers) walking in the same direction. The Archbishop invited him to mount and ride with the priest accompanying him. The Archbishop soon discovered what was the great desire of the boy's heart and encouraged him with the following words: "Fear not, my son; if God has destined you for the sanctuary and has given you a vocation, He will in His wisdom provide the means. But you must pray, that God's will may be done."



Bishop John Henry Luers

Clearly God did provide as the young John would not only be ordained as a priest but as a bishop and become the first bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Welcome . . . Fr. Isaiah Callan



Fr. Isaiah Callan

Following his ordination on May 20, 2023, Fr. Isaiah Callan was assigned as a Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Fatima Family of Parishes.

Introducing himself, Fr. Callan said, "I am originally from Vermont. My parents are still there with those of my 11 siblings who are not scattered across the U.S. The first inkling of my vocation to the priesthood came during middle school, was clarified in high school, but was unactionable until after college; then, I applied to Mount St. Mary's Seminary and found peace.

My godfather and Father McQuillen mentored me at different stages in my life: my godfather through high school and Father McQuillen through the first few years of seminary. I look forward to celebrating the sacraments and walking with God's people toward Christ. What more could one want than to see how God works miracles on a daily basis in people's souls? I enjoy reading, getting outside on a sunny day, and I have a particular love of St. Josemaria Escriva, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. John Bosco, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and Our Lady of Lourdes."

HERE'S ONE 'SISTER ACT' HARD TO FOLLOW



Ever since she stepped foot into the halls of Piqua Catholic Schools 30 years ago, **S. Mary Alice Haithcoat, S.C.**, has gained the respect and admiration of hundreds of students and their parents. Today, the 75-year-old nun is transitioning from a fulltime teaching career to one which still enables her to teach her favorite subject-religion and assist with lunch duty at both the Downing and North Street campuses.

Her decision to reduce her workload was not an easy one, she explains. "You know when the time comes (to retire). I had a teacher's aide who was so vibrant with so many creative ideas. Now was the time to let new people take over."

After discussing her plans with **Principal Brad Zimmerman**, S. Mary Alice agreed to remain and help prepare the forthcoming class of 32 second graders for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. The preparation itself is "near and dear" to the effervescent nun who first became a Sister of Charity in 1966 and has served as an educator for

over five decades including both Sidney Holy Angels and Greenville St. Mary's schools. In addition to teaching religion, S. Mary Alice will also help prepare students for baptism after school hours.

Anxious to stay involved in students' lives, S. Mary Alice says it "gives me pleasure to watch them grow into adulthood and bring their own children to church. It's been a blessing to see how they raise their children." She proudly admits to seeing three generations of her proteges pass through the ranks.

In looking back, the diminutive nun hopes she has been able to "pass along a love for life and love for God".

When not spending time in her classroom, S. Mary Alice and **S. Ginny Scherer, S.C.** enjoy weekend walks around Piqua. She's also a "mystery sleuth" and loves to read mystery novels and watch shows on the Hallmark channel. While indulging in mysteries is a passion, listening to the Cincinnati Reds simultaneously on the radio is not uncommon. Travels have taken her to the islands of Haiti and Dominica as well as family outings to Florida.

In summarizing her career, the smiling nun remarked "Education has been part of my life for so long that I cannot imagine not doing it. It's a gift from God."

As a recipient of the school's Hall of Fame, S. Mary Alice has received numerous accolades from her colleagues. Zimmerman noted "Sister is a person that walks the walk and talks the talk. In fact, she is known to many as a 'living saint' because of the way she exemplifies Jesus."

"Her love for our Lord and those she meets is beautiful and contagious. In the classroom, she is just, loving, gives hope, and is a true example of Jesus each and every day."

His comments were echoed by **Heather Ritts Smith**, a co-worker who used such words as "inspirational, supportive, compassionate, caring, patient, generous, trustworthy, understanding, humorous, a friend and unforgettable to describe the senior staff member."

Ritts Smith shared several anecdotes including episodes when S. Mary Alice reclaimed several articles thrown away "because she has a very hard time getting rid of things" or misplacing her keys and the mystery of re-finding them.

In her concluding remarks, Ritts Smith indicated Sister Mary Alice has "touched so many lives in her years as an educator. And, I think it goes without saying, you (Sister) have been an important part in my life for many years. I can always count on your support, your prayers, your friendship, and your love."

That's one class act hard to follow!

Feature Story By Sharon Semanie

Parish Activities

St. Mary Altar Society:

St. Mary Altar Society hosted the Annual Combination Dinner for the ladies of St. Boniface and St. Mary Parishes on April 20. They enjoyed a carry-in dinner followed by live musical entertainment provided by Danny Schneible. Our members also manned a very successful cake booth at the St. Mary Parish Festival on June 2 & 3. Monthly meetings will resume in the Fall. Watch the bulletin for further details.

St. Clara's Ladies Society:

The St. Clara's Ladies Society purchased the new funeral chasuble, and an anonymous donor purchased the matching pall; they are beautiful. We will once again be selling jewelry and purses at the Mission Committee Rummage Sale July 8 and 9. Any donations may be dropped off at the parish offices or call Bonne at 937-214-9092 for pickup. St. Clara's Ladies Society meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 o'clock in the Caserta Center cafeteria with no meetings during the Summer; meetings will resume in September.

Welcome to Christ Renews His Parish:

Women's Team 8 now meeting in Formation. Patty Murphy, Cathy Oda, and Cindy Zimmerman are Formation leaders with Fr. Jim Duell as the Spiritual Advisor. Date for a one day fall retreat is to be determined.



Adult Faith Formation:

The Family Cookout and Ice Cream Social was held on Sunday, June 25, at the St. Teresa shelter house from 5-8pm. All members of the Our Lady of Fatima Family of Parishes were invited. The St. Teresa K of C provided the grilled meats, and St. Boniface/St. Mary Family Life provided the ice cream. Bill Hogston spoke on the Eucharist.

Men Forged in Faith: Open to all men in our parishes, this group meets monthly for prayer and scripture sharing. It is led by Matt Scheiltz, Mike Epperly, and Keith Zimmerman.



EXPERIENCE THE REAL PRESENCE OF OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD IN ST. CLARE CHAPEL

St. Clare Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is currently open from Saturday 6am throughout the nights until Thursday 9pm and also on Friday from 6am-9pm. **We are well short of guardians to keep the chapel operating perpetually since its opening in 1990. We are currently in danger of closing more hours over Saturday night into the Lord's Day each week.** Guardians (young adults to elderly) are needed on a regular basis or as occasional substitutes. Current hours needing a regular guardian on a weekly or bi-weekly basis include: *Sun* 12midnight, 2am (every other week), 3am, 5pm (weeks 1,3); *Thurs* 2am, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm; *Fri* 12midnight, 1am, 2am, 3am, 4am, 5am, 1pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm, 7pm (every other week); *Sat* 11am (weeks 1,2), 1pm, 8pm (every other week). **Feel Jesus' love and mercy present in the Holy Eucharist and allow him to heal and renew your soul. To inquire about chapel, please contact Mike Epperly (937) 622-0112 or Mary Jane Karn (937) 778-0496.**

Parish Activities Continued

St. Boniface Family Life:



The 2023 Oktoberfest Quilt Raffle features a full-size “Wedding Ring” quilt top donated by Donita Gast and currently being hand-quilted.

The St. B. Stitchers are continuing to meet on Wednesdays, 1-3pm, in the Caserta Activity Center. Anyone interested in working on future quilts, please contact Rose Hemm, text or call 937-778-8642 or email jnrhemm@yahoo.com.

After a 3-year absence, the annual *Easter Egg Hunt/Scramble* was held again after the 11am Mass on Easter Sunday in the Caserta Activity Center. Winning prizes for finding the most eggs were: Pre-K: (1) Emma Evans, (2) Emmett Roberts, (3) Owen Roberts; K-3rd Grade: (1) Mason Jensen, (2) Alana Rank, (3) Allen Roberts. Many thanks to Jeff & Donna Peltier, chairpersons. Also, thanks to the following who helped distribute the “Jelly Bean Baskets” after the Easter Mass: Bonne Decknadel, Donna Johnson, Bonnie Josefovsky, Doug & Dolores Latham, & Karen Warner.



Respect Life Committee:

We are so grateful that Roe vs Wade has been overturned for a year. We looked forward to that day, and we are thankful for it every day. The pro-abortion people are trying very hard to reverse this decision in their direction. It will take all of us to keep that from happening. On August 8, there will be a **SPECIAL** election. It is very important for us to vote. This election will raise the requirements to add an amendment to the Ohio constitution. It will be raised from 50 to 60 percent. This is important because pro-abortion people are trying to add an amendment. This amendment will take away your authority to oversee your children's decisions, including the decision to have an abortion or to have a sex change. It will restrict your parental rights. Abortion will be legal for all nine months of pregnancy. There will be no regulations on those performing abortions or sex changes. So the thing to keep in mind, first, is to vote **YES** on Issue #1 at the August 8th election.

Piqua Ultreya:

Ultreya is a Spanish word that means onward. So the Ultreya is a support group for anyone who is on a journey to grow closer to God. We come together to share our life of prayer, study and action in our spiritual life. We invite all cursillistas and anyone on a journey to know God better, to join us and share this journey. We support each other and in sharing our way, we can give others ideas as they journey. We meet at the Caserta Center at 9:15am. Our upcoming dates are June 24 and July 22. Hope to see you there.

KEY DATES

FOR AN AUGUST 8TH ELECTION

JULY 10: VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

JULY 11: EARLY VOTING BEGINS

AUGUST 1: ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE

AUGUST 8: ELECTION DAY

Parish Activities Continued

St. Mary Festival - 23



A HUGE thanks to each of the festival chairpersons, volunteers, and all of you who purchased tickets and donated items for the festival. We had a successful festival because of each of you. Parish bakers were extra busy and kept the cake booth supplied with baked goodies along with so many others who contributed their time and energy. THANKS for making the St. Mary's Festival a great success!

-- Nick & Michelle Cox,
Chairpersons



Parish Activities Continued

St. Mary/St. Boniface Mission Committee:



July 8 & 9, 2023

Hi Everyone. The Mission Committee is getting ready for our 10th Annual Rummage Sale. It's just a few short weeks away. If you have anything to donate, please get it to us soon. We will need help at the rummage sale to move items from the warehouse to the Caserta Center and to set up on July 6, 2023. And, still need help on July 7, 2023 to set up. Then on July 8 & 9, we will be selling and on July 9, 2023, we will need help to load the truck with what's left. Please show up, and we will put you to work. Hope to see you there!!

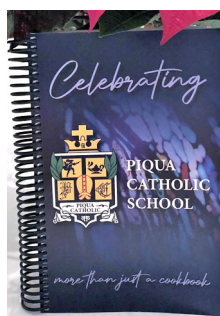
Who We Support

- ★ Twinning Partnership
St. John/St. Lewis Parish
Dominica
- ★ Ted & Maruja Gonzalez-Guttman
Vilches Ecology Center, Chile
- ★ Sister Sarah Mulligan
Daniel Comboni Community Clinic

The Inspiration Booth was a success at the St. Mary Festival. Now, after the rummage sale, we wait for the St. Boniface Festival where we will have our Inspiration Booth again. After that we look forward to our 50/50 Drawing in October and our Giving Trees at Christmas. May God bless all of you!

Dollars For Our Scholars:

Dollars For Our Scholars will be the first three Wednesdays in September, the 6th, 13th, and 20th at the Piqua Center (Miami Valley Center Mall) starting at noon. Watch for details on purchasing tickets



Piqua Catholic Cookbook: More cookbooks have arrived! The cookbook has 20+ pages of school/cafeteria history; over 75 photos; and more than 400 recipes. The cost of the cookbook is \$20 with the proceeds benefiting the school's cafeterias. Cookbooks can be purchased at Piqua Catholic School, 503 W. North; the Piqua Parishes' Offices, 310 S. Downing; or at Readmore Hallmark, 430 N. Main. Your support of this fundraiser is greatly appreciated!

More Than Just A Cookbook

St. Mary Lenten Raffle Winners

\$500—Alan Kaiser
\$200—Matt Davey
\$100—Tom & Ann Comer

\$50— Marlene Henry, Mary Jane Bachman, Amelia Caserta Gillis
Clint Stover, Tony Paulus, George & Susie Staley, Sue Monroe
& Tony Wendeln (Highest Ticket Seller)



Congratulations to all & thank you for your support! The profit was \$3,979.52. A special thank you to Tony Wendeln and the St. Mary Finance Commission for organizing this fundraiser!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 17-21, MORNINGS
CASERTA CENTER IN PIQUA
SERVING AGES 4 TO 11
TEENS NEEDED AS LEADERS, TOO!
SEE PIQUA PARISHES WEBSITE
FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION
IT WILL BE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Currently Enrolling for the 2023-2024 School Year

CFEL

Jacqui Hoffman, Director

937-773-3876

hoffmanj@piquacatholic.org

PCS

Brad Zimmerman, Principal

937-773-1564

zimmermanb@piquacatholic.org

LCHS

Veronica Gaier, Principal

937-498-1161 or 937-773-8747

v.gaier@lehmancatholic.com

Parish Activities Continued

An Afternoon of Praise—Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Kudos to Judy Lohnes, music director, and the members of our various choirs for a wonderful spring concert on Sunday, May 21.

Solos:

You Are Near—Karen Warner, *The Summons*—Gina Hoffman
Easter Hallelujah—Linda Barton,
Amazing Grace—My Chains Are Gone—Jon Bollinger
Refiner's Fire—Angie Cecil, *Gratitude*—Kristyn Lee
You Are the Light I Seek—Brenda Gallagher (Angie Cecil, flute)
Panis Angelicus—Pat Jacomet
Taps—Robbie Webb

Duets:

O Come to the Altar, Christina & Brad Zimmerman
God is Wisdom, Love, Carol Popp & Linda Larger

The Adult Handbell Choir performed *Be Thou My Vision & Thaxted*.

Members include: Linda Barton, Marianne Bolton, Betty Elliott, Michael Epperly, Julia Galbreath, Becky Hewitt, Elizabeth Horner, Julia Karn, Mary Jane Karn, Shani Karn, Jim Linthicum, Melissa McEldowney, Beverly Mikolajewski, Karen Wendeln & Carey Yant.

The Children's Handchime Choir performed *Morning Has Broken*. Its members include Jackson Baker, Leander Knapke, Vivian Mikolajewski, Alana Rank, Holly Sherman, Arianna Wale, Gabriel Werling, Amelia Zimmerman (pictured above), & Charlie Zimmerman.

As I Kneel & Lead Me, Lord were presented by the Adult Choir; the Children's Choir, *Bless These Walls & Lord, I Need You*. Adult Choir members are: Angie Cecil, Ron Curtis, Brenda Gallagher, Dan Huffman, Gina Huffman, Pat Jacomet, Mary Jane Karn, Linda Larger, Helen Paulus, Carol Popp, & Dave Siefring.

Children's Choir Members: Addy Adams, Charlie Allen, Jackson Baker, Ellesandra Carey, Frankie Drapp, Dawson Friend, Arabella Fox, Addy Gallagher, Evelyn Henman, Henderson Karn, Isabella Karn, Leander Knapke, Kassidy Macan, Raelynn Macan, Vivian Mikolajewski, Sophia Monnier, Alana Rank, Holly Sherman, Jamisen Smith, Genevieve Underwood, Ezra Vernon, Arianna Wale, Anderson Yant, Elizabeth Yant, Amelia Zimmerman, Charlie Zimmerman, & George Zimmerman.



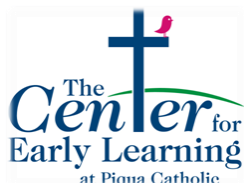
Memorial Day Mass At Forest Hill Cemetery

The Memorial Day Mass at Forest Hill Cemetery, concelebrated by Fr. Eric Bowman & Fr. Jeff Stephens, was well attended. Many thanks to Jamieson & Yannucci Funeral Home for its continued coordination of this annual event.

Please Save the Date
 Fatima Street Corner Rosary
 Piqua, Ohio
 October 14, 2023
 12:00 Noon
 More Information Coming Later



School News—CFEL, PCS, LCHS



Piqua Catholic Preschool ended the school year with many activities. We honored Mary during the month of May, participated in the school Walkathon, enjoyed Teacher Appreciation Week, and sent off our Pre-K students to Kindergarten at the Graduation Ceremony. We are currently enrolling for next school year. Registration can be found on the school website or picked up at the preschool office.

Summer Camp officially started June 5th with Multicultural camp. There are a few spots available for upcoming camps such as, Art, Science & Nature, Fitness, Music, and Cooking camp along with Vacation Bible School.

Big changes are occurring at the Downing Street Campus. We are presently relocating some classrooms to make room for the First Grade classes who will be joining us in our building. Having the Kindergarten children with us last year was really exciting. We are looking forward to having them stick around for another year as first graders, along with having the first grade teachers join us. We have two new staff members starting this coming August. Emily Cheek will be a new Pre-K teacher and Melissa Brinkman as a preschool aide. Welcome!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the families and staff for their support and warmth I received throughout the year. I am already looking forward to next school year and all the new faces and experiences that will come with it. I'm very blessed, *Jacqui Hoffman*

Piqua Catholic School: Another joyful and positive school year is in the books here at Piqua Catholic School! Here are our highlights from the last couple of months of school:

S. Mary Alice Haithcoat: S. Mary Alice celebrated her 30th year with Piqua Catholic School! She has dedicated her life to Jesus and the mission of the Sisters of Charity, which states the following:

Urged by the love of Christ and in the spirit of our founder, Elizabeth Ann Seton, we Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati strive to live Gospel values. We choose to act justly, to build loving relationships, to share our resources with those in need, and to care for all creation.



If this isn't a perfect description of S. Mary Alice, I don't know what is! Thank you for your dedication, care, love, and selfless service to our parishes and schools. Also, it was our honor and pleasure to induct S. Mary Alice into the Piqua Catholic School Hall of Fame. Congratulations, S. Mary Alice! I can't think of a person who's more deserving of this award than you! We love you, Sister! Thank you so much for everything you've done and the hundreds of lives you've impacted for the better.

Scholarship Awards 2023

Grade 1	Fr. Angelo Caserta Scholarship	\$500 Virtuous Living	Jackson Baker, Bexley Mikolajewski
Grade 2	Jacomel Family Scholarship	\$500 Virtuous Living	Elliott Johnson, Julianna Sherry
Grade 3	William & Theresa Mikolajewski	\$500 Outstanding Improvement	Jaxon Scott, Holly Sherman
Grade 4	Julie Eckstein Scholarship	\$500 Highest Reading Score	Charlie Zimmerman, Avery DiPace
Grade 5	Fr. Grilliot Scholarship	\$500 Highest Math Score	Griffin O'Leary, Dana Johnston
Grade 6	Kathy Henne Grant	\$500 Highest Science Score	John Verrill, Makenzie Ford
Grade 7	Sister Joan Clare Grant	\$500 Highest Religion Score	Finian O'Leary, Carey Yant
Grade 8	Knights of Columbus Scholarship	\$500	Benton Verrill, Lilly Graham
Grade 8	Tom & Marilyn Jordan/Paul Bates Scholarship	\$1000 x 4 Years	Olivia Hudgel
Grade 8	Lehman Alumni Scholarship	\$750	Olivia Hudgel, Madison Rank
Grade 8	Joyce Thornberry Scholarship	\$500	Olivia Hudgel

School News Continued

Mr. C: Mr. John Cianciolo has retired from Catholic School education after serving for over 30 years in our schools. He has been a great example of a servant leader and motivator for our faith, athletics, and our people. Thank you, Mr. C! You've made a tremendous impact on all of us. You will be missed!

New Faculty Members: I am happy to officially introduce to you our two new 2nd grade teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. They're going to be an incredible team bringing a combined 25 years of teaching experience to us. Meet Stephanie Friend and Amanda Manson! Here is a short bio of both:

Stephanie: *"I was born and raised in Northwest Ohio where I attended Elmwood Local Schools. I graduated with my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Hawai'i West Oahu in 2010 specializing in grades K-6 with a Reading Endorsement. I have been married for 18 years this summer to my husband Jeb (a Piqua native). We have four children Olivia(16), Fallon (11), Dawson (6), and Jett (4). In our free time our family enjoys traveling, volunteering, and exploring new adventures. Prior to coming to Piqua Catholic, I taught 8 years as a First Grade teacher at Springcreek Primary School in Piqua. My family and I are parishioners of St. Boniface Parish. I am dedicated to providing an authentic and productive Catholic education to each student that joins our community and am excited to be a part of the Piqua Catholic Family!"*

Amanda: *"I am a Piqua native. I received my education degrees at Ohio University and the University of Dayton. I have 3 children, Lorelai(14), Cohen(13), and Teaghan(9). I've taught at Piqua City Schools for the past 17 years- 15 in 3rd grade and 2 in second grade. I enjoy traveling, hiking, reading, and yoga. I have a dog and 3 cats. I lead a weekly women's Bible study and looking forward to helping students reach their greatest potential as students, community citizens, and disciples of Jesus."*

Welcome to the Church: We are thrilled to welcome the following students into the Catholic Church, amongst many others of the parish: Fallon Friend, Declynn Johnston, Delaney Johnston, Dana Johnston, and Dominic Johnston. At the Easter vigil, they received their Baptism and First Communion. Thank you to the RCIA team for preparing them. Praise God!

First Communion: Students of Piqua Catholic and the Piqua Parishes were blessed to receive the Sacrament of First Communion! It's truly an unbelievable and strengthening sight to see these young boys and girls have so much excitement for the Eucharist. S. Mary Alice has been preparing our Piqua Catholic 2nd graders all year long for this time, sharing her love and connection with Jesus in the Eucharist and explaining to them that it's really Jesus! Please continue to pray for our First Communicants and their families, that they continue to put Jesus first in their homes and are great models for our young children during their faith journey.

May Crowning: We had a beautiful crowning ceremony for Mary during our school mass. Our students each brought flowers from home to lay at her feet, and our 8th graders each brought a carnation in to put in the vases next to her. Audrey Hess (8th) crowned Mary and Declan Johnston (2nd) was her attendant.

Piqua Catholic School Board members: I'd like to give a great welcome to our newest Piqua Catholic School Board members and give our greatest appreciation to those that are stepping off of the board as of July 1, 2023.

Stepping off the board after 6 years of service to Piqua Catholic- George Atkinson, Patrick Galbreath, and Lynn Sever. They have been great mentors to me. They were also instrumental in creating our Business Partnership Program that has become an awesome support for our school. On behalf of Piqua Catholic, thank you, gentlemen, for all you've done. Joining the School Board starting July 1- Brittany Bates, Angie Ford, Michael Hess, John Kreitzer, and Don Smith. We look forward to their knowledge and support over the next 3 years to make Piqua Catholic School that much better.

Taste and See Spring Social: We are so grateful to all who came to our *Taste and See* Spring Social Fundraiser. It was great to see so many alum, past and current parents/grandparents, and friends of Piqua Catholic come together for one goal. I continue to see overwhelming love and support for this school, which reminds us of how big the PC family really is! This event was made possible by so many dedicated committee members, donors, and volunteers. Thank you to all of you! I want to give an extra special shout out to our core team who planned the entire event, They are: Stacey Earhart (Chair), Bonne Decknadel, Susan Haas, Jacqui Hoffman, Mary Jane Karn, Cori Knapke, Ruth Koon, Andy Monnin, Kara Mikolajewski, & Kate Tremblay

School News Continued

Pen Pals: Our 2nd graders got to spend the day with their Lehman Pen Pals. They toured Lehman, played games, and finished the day with a picnic! This has become a great tradition for our schools. Thank you, Lehman Catholic Cavaliers for a wonderful day!

Walkathon: The Lord blessed us with an amazing day for our Walkathon this year! Thank you to everyone who made this day so special for the students and staff, we couldn't do it without you! Thank you to all our business sponsors and especially VPP for creating the Fat Heads of S. Mary Alice in celebration of her 30th year of teaching!

Hair-Cut-A-Thon: Each year, students, staff, (and sometimes parents) donate their hair to turn it into wigs for those in need. This year, 5 people donated their hair. We also had a guest speaker, Michelle Schneible, come and speak to us about Alopecia Areata, a condition that causes hair loss that she's had since she was young. She explained how impactful it is to have the option of purchasing nice wigs that are made with the hair that is donated. She also encouraged students and adults with hair loss to be courageous.

Bike Safety: Our 3rd and 4th graders brought their bikes to school for a safety lesson provided by Jim Hemmert and Paul Sullenberger. Thank you to these two men who give their time and care to ensure our students know the rules of the road to keep them safe.

Volunteer Mass and Celebration: We thank our volunteers that have done so much for our school to keep it running! We invited them to our school mass and then breakfast to follow. Thank you for giving so much of yourself to help the school! We couldn't do it without you!!

Volleyball game: The annual Piqua Catholic Staff vs. 8th Grade Students volleyball game was a bit lopsided this year and it showed! I sadly must announce that the 8th grade team dominated us (staff) this year. This is the first year (of my 6 years) that the 8th graders defeated us. We applaud them for their game strategy and talent. The staff has some work to do next year! Congratulations, 8th graders!

8th Grade "Clap Out" and Graduation: Congratulations to our 8th graders! They were the very first Preschool class here at Piqua Catholic, making this an even more special graduation. Ten of the eleven are headed to Lehman Catholic High School to continue their Catholic School education. Please join us in saying a special prayer for them as they continue their faith journey into high school.



New Phone system: Through the leadership of our IT Director, Mark Garman, we will be partnering with VerCom Systems Inc. to install a brand-new phone system at both of our campuses. These will be a big upgrade to our current system, giving us advanced safety and security features to be more effective in any situation, especially in an emergency. These phone systems will tie into our PA system as well, giving us the flexibility to make an announcement from any station in the building, as well as the ability to make announcements to both buildings at the same time. Low Voltage Solutions (Sidney) has already run the network lines for these phones, and VerCom plans to complete the project with the new phones this summer.



Thank you for your prayers and support of Piqua Catholic School! It's all working. We have a very busy summer ahead of us with the many projects going on at both campuses. We are making many security upgrades, including additional cameras at both locations, privacy and security film installed on windows and doors, and more.

Our offices are open from 9:00a-3:00p, M-F in June; and 9:00a-12:00p, T-TH in July. Please give us a call or send a message if you need anything. May God bless you and your summer! *For Jesus, Brad Zimmerman, Principal*

School News— Continued

From the Desk of Stacey Earhart, Advancement Director:

Advancing Our Mission - It was a great school year and Piqua Catholic is blessed with a generous and supportive community. Thank you to everyone who gave to help further our mission “to be an example of Jesus’ love”!

Annual Newsletter - Join the mailing list to receive the Piqua Catholic Annual Newsletter where we highlight school events from the year and recap our giving programs including recognizing individuals and organizations who have donated to support our mission this year. Email cavalier@piquacatholic.org with your mailing address to receive the upcoming July publication.

Taste & See Spring Social 2023 - What a night! Thank you to everyone who came out to “taste & see” at our spring social fundraiser on April 29th. The bourbon, beer & wine tasting event was a sellout and it was great to see so many from our school and parish community come together for a fun night in support of the school. Together we were able to raise \$25,000! We had so many people tell us “you have to do this again next year”, so we will! **Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, for Spring Social 2024!**



Thank you to the Spring Social 2023 planning committee, volunteers, donors and sponsors who made this event possible. **Lead Sponsors** ~ American Trademark Construction Services (ATCS) and Sherry Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge & RAM; **Bar Sponsors** ~ Apex Aluminum, Richpak Performance Packaging Solutions, Premier Health, The Yannucci Family, Crooked Handle Brewery; **Ticket & Signage Sponsor** ~ VPP Industries; **Food & Entertainment Sponsors** ~ Bur Oak Tree Service, CINTAS, Eagle Bridge Co, Park National Bank; **Supporting Sponsors** ~ Patty Murphy, Keller Williams Hometown Realty, Atlantis Sportswear; **Raffle & Prize Sponsors** ~ Hartzell Propeller, Galbreath Realtors, Life & Style Designs, ReMax Finest, Kathy Henne Team; **Electrical Services** ~ Rayner Electric; **Chocolates donated by** ~ Winans; **Musical Entertainment** ~ Steven “Crash” Worley; Also thank you to Jody Malone and The Knights of Columbus.

Thank you to our 2022-2023 Business Partners!



Business Partnership Program

PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS

Buecker, Davis & Gunter Co., LPA



School News Continued

Grant Awards - Piqua Catholic and the Center for Early Learning are blessed to have recently been awarded grants from the Miami County Foundation to fund the purchase of new window coverings for the STEM classroom, a new volleyball net, cart and balls for the athletic program/gym classes and a new washer and dryer for the preschool.

We also received a joint grant from the Miami County Foundation and Piqua Community Foundation to fund the replacement of restroom stalls at the Downing Street campus for our girls' restroom. Thank you to these generous organizations who make a difference at Piqua Catholic School!



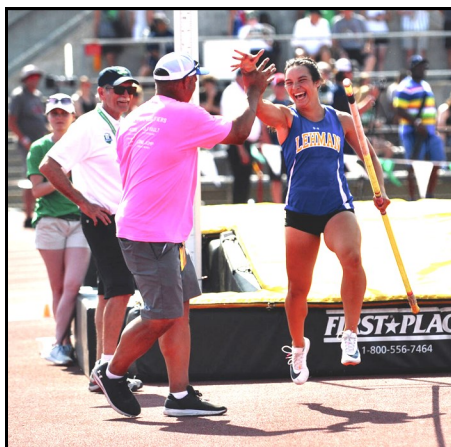
Lehman Catholic High School:

Lehman Catholic High School biggest news is the announcement of the school's new President, Mr. Chris Knight. *(For additional info—Page 15)*

Spring sports are now history. Some of the highlights and awards for members of Piqua Parishes are as follows.

Baseball: Had a very successful season and won their first Tournament Game.
Awards: Hayden Sever: Second Team All League; Second Team District

Softball: Also had a good season and won their first Tournament Game.
Awards: Miley Heffelfinger: Honorable Mention All League;
Bailey Cooper: Most Improved; Callie Giguere: Leadership



Katie McFarland high-fives dad, Ed McFarland, after winning the D-III State Pole Vault Championship

Girls' Track & Field: Had an outstanding season!

Congratulations to the following Cavaliers that advanced to the 2023 Track & Field State Championships:

Student	Event	Regional	State
Katie McFarland	Pole Vault	1st—12.7'	1st—12.8'
Caroline Wesner (Troy)	Long Jump	2nd-17'-6.75"	9th-17'-0.25"
Katie McFarland, Caroline Wesner, Kailee Rank, Mara O'Leary	4x100 Relay Team	3rd	13th

YOU DID IT!
Congratulations

Sports Camps still to be held are: Volleyball: July 17-18; Golf: July 17-20; Football: July 24-25; and Lime-lighters: August 14-18. Contact the school office for details: 937. 773.8747 or 937. 498.1161.

SUMMER SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS ARE: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 9:00 am – 2pm; Monday and Friday by appointment.

School News Continued



Lehman longtime teacher, Ms. Pam Wendel, has retired from Lehman. Pam taught for 45 years, all at Lehman. A surprise celebration for Pam was held on Friday, May 26. She was given a "card shower" from former colleagues and students. Ms. Melissa Safreed presented a power point of scenes from the 45 years. Some remarks by students and colleagues to describe Pam were hard worker, dedicated to Catholic education, she cares about each student, helpful, responsible, always ready to volunteer for whatever needs to be done, supportive of all Lehman activities and sports. Congratulations, Pam! Enjoy your retirement and your twin granddaughters!

Thank You

The class of 2023 has graduated with many activities. First was Senior Awards night where scholarships and future plans of each grad were announced; then Baccalaureate Mass at St. Patrick Church; and finally Commencement on Sunday, May 28, 2023, at Lehman Catholic High School. 42 seniors graduated.

The entire class was **offered \$3,980,942 in scholarships and accepted \$1,509,832!** Piqua Parishes' members are: *Aiden Burns*: University of Cincinnati Business; *Wyatt Earhart*: University of Cincinnati Criminal Justice/ROTC; *Matthew Galbreath*: University of Cincinnati Communication Design; *James Larger*: University of Dayton Communications; *A J Newson*: University of Cincinnati Nursing; *Genevieve O'Leary*: Edison State Community College Graphic Design; *Hayden Sever*: The Ohio State University Civil Engineering; *Evan Trevino* The Ohio State University Computer and Information Sciences. These eight students were **offered \$397,500 in scholarships and \$185,500 accepted. Congratulations.**

Registration for the 2023 -2024 school year is open and many scholarships are still available. Call the school office for more information. 937.773.8747 or 937.498.1161

Have a very Blessed Summer and thank you one and all for your prayers and support of Catholic Education and in particular Lehman Catholic High.

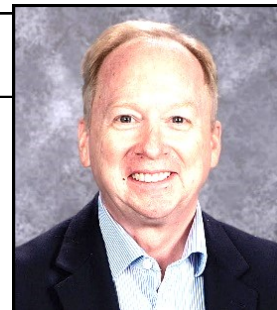


Congrats To The 2023 Grads!

School News Continued



LEHMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NAMES CHRIS KNIGHT AS NEW PRESIDENT



Chris Knight was selected following a rigorous nationwide search led by a diverse committee consisting of members of the Lehman Catholic Board of Limited Jurisdiction, staff from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Lehman Catholic faculty, and partner school parents from Holy Angels Catholic School in Sidney, Piqua Catholic School, and St. Patrick Catholic School in Troy. The committee's selection was approved by the Archbishop of Cincinnati, Dennis M. Schnurr, earlier this week.

As president and chief fundraiser, Chris will oversee the administration, strategy, business, and financial aspects of the school. The president also serves as the lead communicator with clergy, partner school principals, and community leaders. Chris assumes his new position on June 1, 2023.

"I am honored to be appointed to serve as the next president of Lehman Catholic High School. Lehman is known for its strong Catholic identity, community support, and all-around excellence and for the many outstanding young men and women who have graduated and gone on to make significant contributions in their communities," said Chris Knight, the newly appointed president of Lehman Catholic High School. "I am looking forward to joining the great team already in place at Lehman and my wife, Brenda, and I are excited to join the Cavalier community."

Most recently serving as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Chris grew up in Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral Parish, and attended Saint John's Jesuit High School, the University of Toledo, and the University of Dayton.

Chris began his teaching career in the diocese in 1994 at Sylvania's Saint Joseph's School serving as an 8th grade teacher. He served as principal of Holy Trinity School in Swanton for seven years and became the founding principal of the Saint John Jesuit Academy in 2004. In 2010, Chris became the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Toledo Diocese, and in 2016, he was named the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Cleveland Diocese.

Among his community service, Chris has served as Vice President of Partners in Education, as a member of the Catholic Youth Organization Advisory Committee, a board member of Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity, a foster parent for Lucas County Children's Services, Lenawee County Family Services, president of the Holy Trinity St. Vincent De Paul Society, and was named an Urban All American in 2003 by the Central City Ministry of Toledo.

Chris and his wife, Brenda, have two sons who reside in Lima and Cincinnati and are members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Swanton where Chris serves on the Pastoral Council and Brenda serves on the retreat and Night of Worship ministry teams.

"We are excited to welcome Mr. Knight to the Lehman community," said Randy Sever, Chairman of the Lehman Board of Limited Jurisdiction. "Chris has more than two decades of experience and proven leadership in Catholic education. Together with our dedicated faculty, staff, coaches, and administrators, he will propel Lehman forward for years to come."

Parish Notes

Baptisms:

St. M.

Dana Rebecca Johnston
 Delaney Marie Johnston
 Dominic Michael Johnston
 Declynn Renee Johnston
 Children of Nicholas & Melissa Johnston
 (04/08/23)



Evangeline Scarlett Staley
 Daughter of Derek & Sara Staley
 (04/08/23)

Kristie Rachel Bradford (Adult)
 (04/08/23)

Dylan Randall Johnston (Adult)
 (04/08/23)

Ann Rose Staudt
 Daughter of Joseph & Ashley Staudt
 (04/30/23)

Falcon Ezra Pence
 Son of Elizabeth Pence
 (05/28/23)



St. B.

Nova Michael Maurer
 Daughter of Nolan Maurer & Cheyanne Lumpkin
 (04/30/23)

Isaac Lee & John Alexander Fox
 Sons of Bryant & Kendra (McCallister) Fox
 (05/13/23)

Alastor Joseph Henry
 Son of T.J. Rucker & Bethany Henry
 (05/14/23)

Savannah Faith Staley
 Daughter of Derek & Sara Jane (Eichler) Staley
 (06/10/23)

Jacob (Jake) Steven Davis
 Son of Michael & Laura (Ratermann) Davis
 (06/15/23)

Deaths: "Our sympathy to the family members of these parishioners who have been called to their eternal reward."

St. B.

Nancy L. Christian (05/13/23)
 Dora Jane Toopes (05/15/23)
 Mary Danes (06/09/23)

St. M.

John Thomas Jones (04/24/23)
 Bernice Lewis (06/19/23)

Confirmation: (04/08/23)

Dominic Michael Johnston, Kristi Rachel Bradford,
 Dylan Randall Johnston

Received Into Full Communion: (04/08/23)

Jeb David Friend, Olivia Mae Friend,
 Glenna L. Fulks, Lottie Kay Grise,
 Cortney LeeAnn Henry, Kylee Mikelle Mann

New Members: "Our parish family welcomes / welcomes back..."

St. M.:

Kristi Bradford
 William & Karen Chomic
 Brittany Dyas & Jakob Gamble
 Nicholas Dyas
 Glenna Fulks
 Daniel & Courtney Henry and
 Children: Rowynn, Easton, & Eric
 Bethany Hershey
 Tyler & Kylee Mann and Children: Kade, Klay, & Krew

Welcome!

St. B.:

Ellean Davis and Children:
 Christopher, Johnathan, Sebastian, Skylar
 Lucinda Loy
 Cheyanne Lumpkin & Nolan Maurer
 and Daughter Nova Maurer
 Elvin & Jacqueline Velez-Burgos & Children:
 Joelis, Janielys, Paola, & Jaynelis
 Kerri White & Children: Kalia, Jared, Ivy

Weddings: None

Spring Newsletter Assemblers:

Betty Elliott, Rich & Pat Knab, Barb Kohl, Doug & Dolores Latham, Karen Magoteaux,
 Sharon Morelock, Cindy & Dave Nelson, John & Barb Vavroch

Thanks

Parish Notes Continued

First Communion - May 6, 2023



Front Row: Madi Kemmer, Julianna Sherry, Emma Carter, Brysan Johns, Arabella Fox,

Second Row: Declynn Johnston, Adalynn Gallagher, AJ Ball, Carter Woehrmyer, Isaac Hemm, Matthew Swartz, Jacob Swartz, Lucas Schieltz

Third Row: Emarose Mertz, Parker Bates, Cade Hare, Vivian Mikolajewski, S. Mary Alice Haithcoat, Harper Burnside, Amelia Zimmerman, Jamison Smith, Henderson Karn, Lambert Warren

Fourth Row: Fr. Jim Duell, Diane Mengos, Kelly Jo Mertz, Brad Zimmerman, Fr. Eric Bowman, Deacon Jim Niswonger Not Pictured: Ivy Underwood

IN RETROSPECT — Thanks, so much, to our contributors:

Adult Faith Formation/Welcome to Christ Renews His Parish/Men Forged in Faith, **Barb Kohl**
 Bethany Center, **Cathy Large, Shawn Rickert**; Center for Early Learning at Piqua Catholic, **Jacqueline Hoffman**
 Catholic Social Services, **Elaine Schweller-Snyder**
 Dollars for Our Scholars/St. Clara's Ladies Society, **Bonne Decknadel**
 Fatima Street Corner Rosary, **Barbara O'Leary-Vavroch**; Feature Story—S. Mary Alice—**Sharon Semanie**
 Graces From Above, **Fr. Eric**; Parish Notes/Dates, **Theresa Henderson, Linda Richard, Judy Lohnes**
 Lehman Catholic High School, **S. Ginny Scherer**
 Piqua Catholic School, **Brad Zimmerman, Stacy Earhart**
 Piqua Ultreya/Respect Life, **Greg & Donna Johnson**
 St. Boniface/St. Mary Mission Committee, **Don Stonerock**; St. Boniface Family Life, **Rose Hemm**
 St. Clare Adoration Chapel, **Mike Epperly**; St. Mary Altar Society, **Janet Poling**
 Vacation Bible School, **Diane Mengos**

We'd love to hear from you. Please submit items for ongoing features or send us your ideas and suggestions. Thank you—Renee Hemm (778-1612/rhemm1@woh.rr.com)

& Rose Hemm (778-8642/jnrhemm@yahoo.com).

The Deadline for the Fall Issue is September 11.

thank you 😊



**Catholic
Social Services**
OF THE MIAMI VALLEY



YOU ARE INVITED

TO A CASUAL PICNIC-THEMED EVENT!

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 11, 2023**

THE ROUND BARN AT ORRMONT FARM
150 FOX DRIVE, PIQUA, OHIO

6:00-10:30 P.M.

**Entertainment
back by popular demand:**

**Dueling Pianos
International!!**

\$50 per person

Includes complimentary beer & wine
hog roast dinner catered by Mrs. B's,
silent auction, and raffle items

Sponsorship opportunities available

To buy tickets visit,
CSSMV.ORG/EVENTS/CELEBRATION OF CARING

Join us to support the life-changing services of CSSMV in the Northern Miami Valley!



BETHANY CENTER CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER

(PRE-SALE ONLY)

AUGUST 13, 2023

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

COST: \$9.00

DINNER (CARRY-OUT ONLY) INCLUDES:

**1/2 CHICKEN, ROLL & BUTTER,
CHIPS, APPLESAUCE AND
BAKED BEANS**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT PARISH OFFICE OR AT BETHANY CENTER
ORDER TICKETS BY WED AUGUST 2ND**



937-615-9762

**Goodbye
Diane
Mengos**

*You're Off To Do
New Fabulous Stuff!*

**You'll Be
Sooo
Missed!**



*Director
Religion Education
& Youth Ministry
2015-2023*

Paperless Newsletter

We hope you have given some consideration to signing-up to receive a paperless newsletter. Doing so will reduce the costs/time involved in assembling/mailling this quarterly publication. Also, you will be able to print the newsletter in color; forward it to relatives/friends.

To sign-up for paperless newsletters, please send an email to piqua-parishesnewsletter@gmail.com. Include additional email addresses. More than one may be submitted.

Thank You, Renee & Rose



Our Lady of Fatima Family Of Parishes Pictorial Directory:

FYI: St. Boniface Photography Sessions are August 15-19 and August 24-26. Weekday sessions begin at 2:00 or 3:00pm; Saturday sessions at 10:30am.

It's very easy to schedule your photo:

- (1) Log on to www.ucdir.com and follow the prompts (St. B. code is oh2677b; Password is photos)
- (2) Call 937-778-8642
- (3) Sign-up after Masses on July 1 & 2, August 5 & 6, August 12 & 13, & August 19 & 20.

There is no cost; everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10" portrait and a directory. PLEASE sign-up soon, the timeslots are filling up.

***Our Lady of Fatima
Pictorial Directory
will not be complete
without you!***



St. Mary Catholic Church
528 Broadway
Piqua, Ohio 45356

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St. Boniface Catholic Church
310 S. Downing, Piqua, Ohio 45356
937-773-1656
Email: stboniface@piquaparishes.org

Masses:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8:30am
Saturday, 3:30pm
Sunday, 11:00am

Pastoral Council President:
Bill Hogston

St. Mary Catholic Church
528 Broadway, Piqua, Ohio 45356
937-773-1327
Email: stmary@piquaparishes.org

Masses:

Wednesday, Friday, 8:30am
Saturday, 8:30am, 5:00pm
Sunday, 9:00am

Pastoral Council President:
Karen Magoteaux

Parish Offices
310 S. Downing, Piqua, Ohio 45356
Website: piquaparishes.org

Pastor: Rev. Eric Bowman

Parochial Vicars:
Rev. Isaiah Callan
Rev. James Duell
Rev. Steven Shoup

Upcoming Parish Dates (Watch the bulletin for more information.)

July:

4: Independence Day
8-9: Annual Mission Rummage Sale
10: Charismatic Mass—SB—7:30pm
17-21: Vacation Bible School
18: Men Forged in Faith, Knights of St. John, 7pm
22: Ultreya Meeting—Caserta Center, 9:15am



August:

7: Charismatic Mass—SB—7:30pm
11: Catholic Social Services, Celebration of Caring
15: Feast of the Assumption, Holy Day of Obligation
22: First Day of School—PCS & LCHS
26: Ultreya Meeting—Caserta Center, 9:15am
28: First Day of School—CFEL



September:

4: Labor Day
11: Charismatic Mass—SB—7:30pm
22-23 St. Boniface Oktoberfest (Tentative)
30: Ultreya Meeting—Caserta Center, 9:15am

COMING IN OCTOBER:

- * October 14 — Fatima Street Corner Rosary Rally
- * St. Boniface Family Life Cabbage Roll & Heritage Bread Sale

Watch The Bulletin For More Info

St. B. Bingo
Monday
& Wednesday
Doors Open 5pm
Caserta Center



BUY SCRIP

Our parishes have a
PRAYER CHAIN
To receive requests or make a
request, please contact
Gretchen at 937-778-0325
or gngroeth4266@gmail.com

For **RCIA** Information,
Contact
Bill Hogston
937-418-4323

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Piqua, Ohio 45356

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or gngroeth4266@gmail.com

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