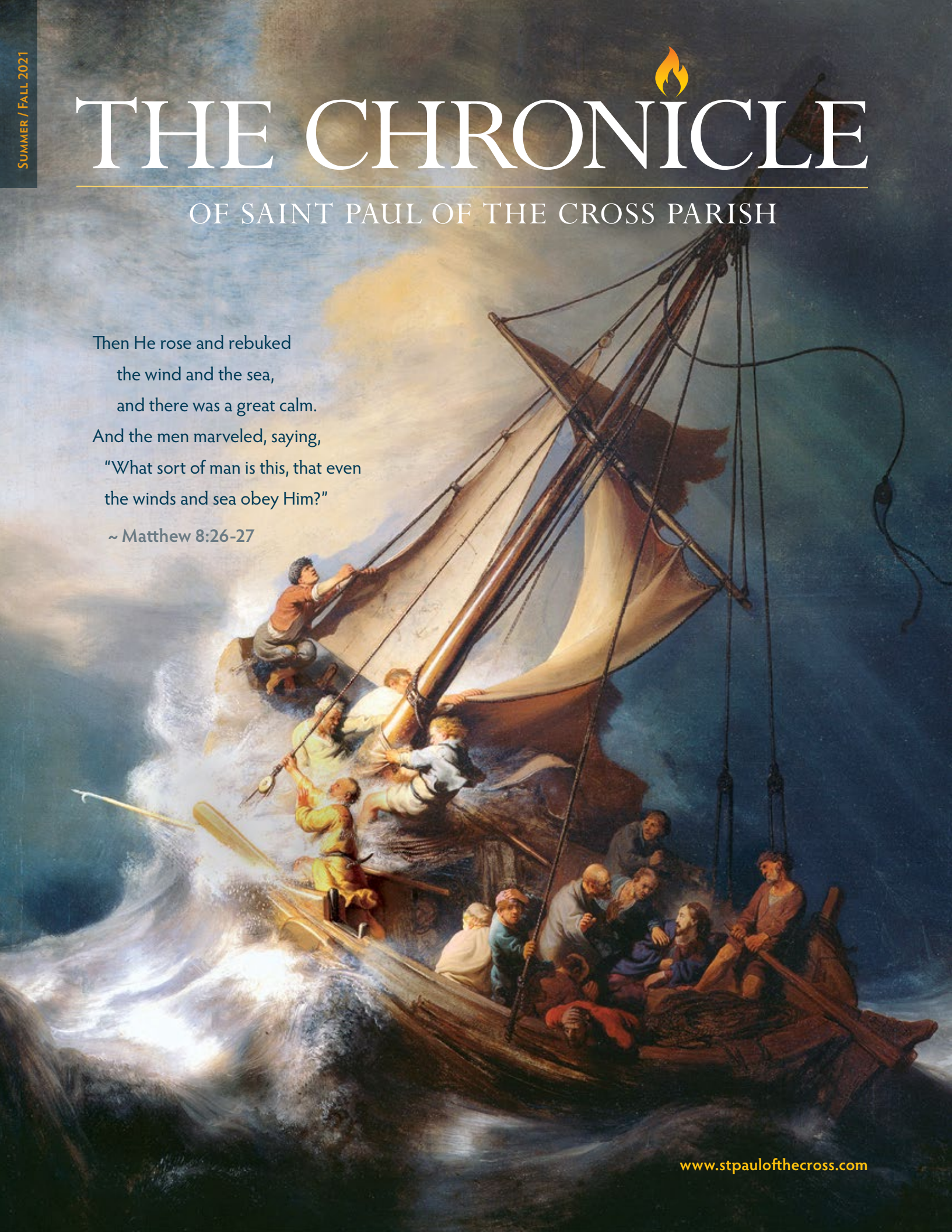


THE CHRONICLE

OF SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH

Then He rose and rebuked
the wind and the sea,
and there was a great calm.
And the men marveled, saying,
"What sort of man is this, that even
the winds and sea obey Him?"

~ Matthew 8:26-27





SOUTH HILLS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

South Hills Catholic Academy (SHCA) is a new, independent Catholic elementary school serving Preschool through 8th grade students, opening in Mt. Lebanon for the 2021-2022 academic year.

SHCA will prepare students for higher education through a curriculum built on the foundation of a Traditional education, with rich spiritual formation and a vibrant sacramental and devotional life.

WHAT IS A TRADITIONAL CURRICULUM?

A Traditional curriculum follows a three-step liberal arts approach known as a "trivium" consisting of grammar, logic and rhetoric.

The "grammar stage" concentrates on the building blocks for all other learning. Rules of phonics and spelling, grammar, poems, vocabulary of foreign languages, stories of history and literature, descriptions of plants, animals, the human body; the facts of mathematics.

In the "logic stage," students pay attention to cause and effect, relationships to different fields of knowledge and how they relate, and the way that facts fit together into a logical framework. They learn to apply their paragraph construction skills to supporting a thesis, as well as criticism and analysis of texts. They learn the facts of science, and apply the scientific method.

In the "rhetoric stage" students concentrate on acquiring wisdom and applying knowledge. They learn how to express themselves persuasively.

ABOUT SHCA

The mission of the South Hills Catholic Academy (SHCA) is to assist parents in the Christian spiritual, moral and intellectual formation of their children by ensuring the total development of each child – body, mind, and soul.

550 Sleepy Hollow Road,
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
SHCAcademy.com
info@shcacademy.com
412-631-3131



@ SouthCatholic

WE ARE THE SAINTS!

South Hills Catholic Academy (SHCA) participates in the Diocese of Pittsburgh athletic leagues which includes: Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Cheerleading, Little Dribblers, Spirit Squad, Football and Soccer.



SHCA also offers a variety of extracurricular opportunities including (but not limited to) P.J.A.S., Forensics, Newspaper, Band, Choir, Lectors, and Altar Servers.

Dear Parishioners & Friends...

The cover of this edition of *The Chronicle* was chosen with a bit more intentionality than usual. It depicts Rembrandt's famous work "Christ in the Storm," and is the artist's depiction of the compelling account we find in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 8:23-27.

In the story, Jesus and the Apostles are in a boat on the Sea of Galilee when, out of nowhere, a violent storm erupts with terrifying suddenness. Waves begin to break over the boat, filling it up with water and placing it in danger of sinking. The Apostles are terrified, but our Lord is asleep!

So they awaken Him and cry out, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And although Jesus initially seems to be immune to the fears the Apostles have succumbed to, He does arise at their beckoning and proceeds to rebuke the wind and sea, and they obey.

In a similar sense, over the past 18 months, we have all gone through and are finally emerging from a storm that was entirely unexpected, and likewise quickly consumed and overtook our way of life. And while the pandemic brought to the fore a range of emotions, to me it seems that the predominant one that took root was that of fear.

Further complicating the matter was the fact that for almost three months, churches were shuttered and exposure to the supernatural graces offered by God through the Sacraments severely curtailed, thus limiting our access to that which really had the power to keep us strong and calm: Jesus Christ.

But things are different now.

Thankfully, life is getting back to normal and its time for all of us to pick ourselves up, reawaken our faith by returning to Mass, and begin rebuilding our parish community and its organizations and ministries.

In this issue of *The Chronicle*, you'll find articles by Jim Hanna and Talia Caridi (my niece!) that speak to the necessity for us to boldly step up to the plate, embrace anew the basic principles that form the foundation of our Catholic Faith, and move forward together.

It is my hope that in some small way, the pages of this magazine will awaken within all of us the desire to seek Christ more intently in the life of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish!



Fr. Michael A. Caridi
Pastor

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Saint Paul of the Cross Parish

400 Hoodridge Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15234

www.stpaulofthecross.com

412-531-5964

The Chronicle of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish is published twice a year in the Summer and Winter.

Fr. Michael Caridi, Pastor
mcaridi@stpaulofthecross.com

Fr. Richard Infante, Senior Parochial Vicar
rinfante@stpaulofthecross.com

Deacon Victor DeFazio
vdefazio@stpaulofthecross.com

Deacon Joe Kosko
jkosko@stpaulofthecross.com



About the Cover

The Storm on the Sea of Galilee was painted in 1633 by Rembrandt. It is his only seascape and depicts the story of Jesus calming the storm which is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In 1990, the painting was stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, and remains missing to this day.

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- 7 Coming out of exile** – after 18 months of separation we are ready to assemble again as a church body and address the needs of our community.



- 8 South Hills Knights of Columbus Council 3084** supports many organizations, provides scholarships for Catholic school students, and much more.

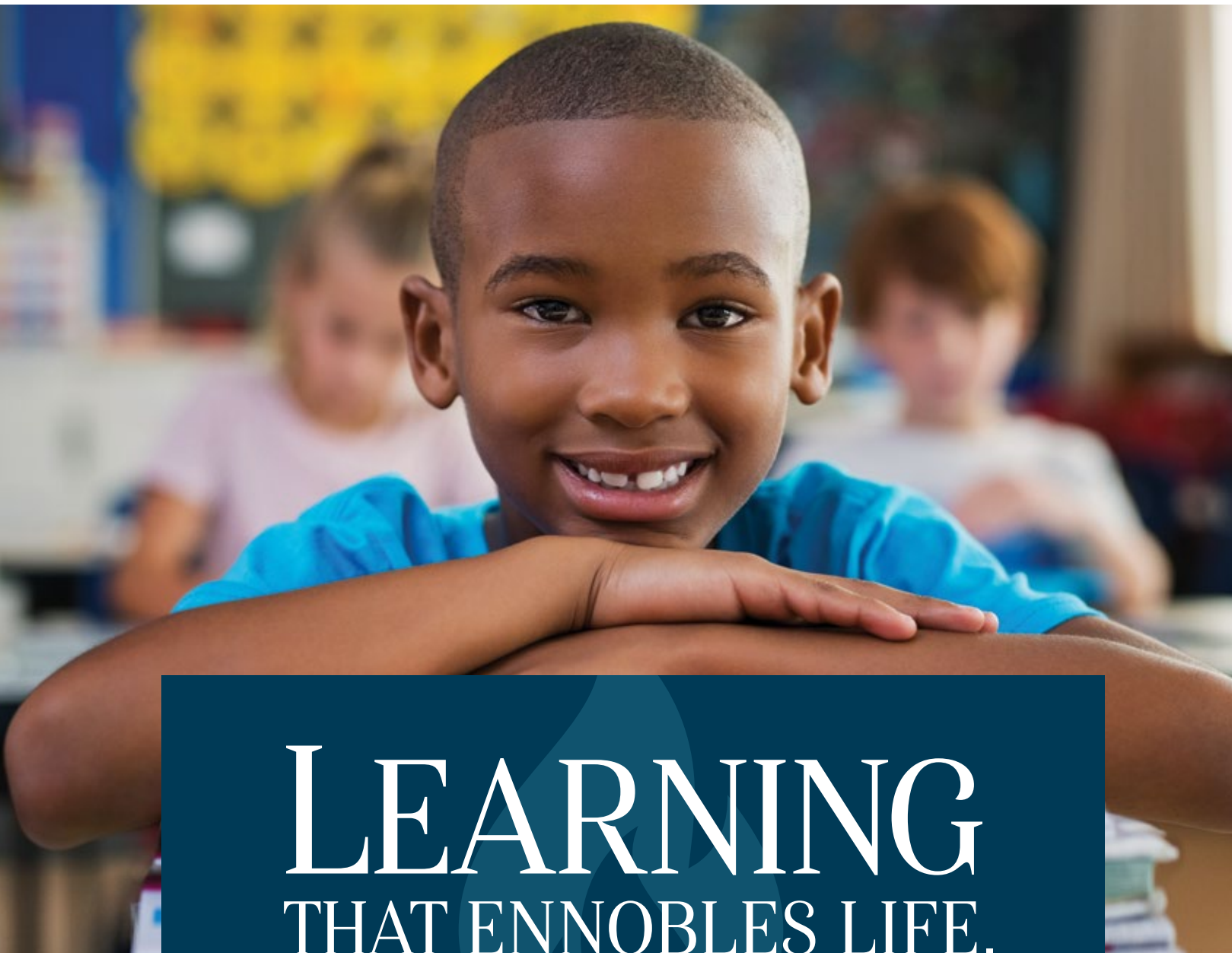


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LEARNING THAT ENNOBLES LIFE.

Article by Fr. Richard Infante

FOR THE PAST YEAR, SINCE BISHOP ZUBIK GAVE HIS BLESSING TO THE PROJECT, THE SOUTH HILLS CATHOLIC ACADEMY (SHCA) INITIATIVE HAS DEVELOPED AT A RATE EXCEEDING ALL EXPECTATIONS.

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 WITH THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR, SHCA WILL TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE FORMER ST. WINIFRED SCHOOL BUILDING, WHILE ATHLETIC EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE FORMER ST. ANNE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.

With a few months before the school year begins, registration has nearly doubled initial estimates and is at 260 students. Since the open houses in January, hundreds of families have toured the new school, received orientation and entrusted their elementary school-aged children to the exciting prospects of this Catholic educational venture. Additionally, Mrs. Harmony Stewart, Head of School, has been interviewing and contracting new faculty members with the assistance of some of the board members. The hundreds of teachers who applied further attests to the popularity of the traditional Catholic curriculum that will be offered at the South Hills Catholic Academy.

While Catholic families have been faced with various challenges over the past year, the disruption of their children's classroom instruction in many local public schools, and the mergers of some Catholic schools in the South Hills, SHCA has emerged as a fresh educational alternative. The independent SHCA is distinctive and yet complementary to the Diocese of Pittsburgh's elementary schools. SHCA will offer a unique educational and spiritual foundation for students in Preschool through Eighth Grade. SHCA is committed to assist parents in the development of each child — body, mind, and soul. During these past several months, students have been registered from

SHCA'S TRADITIONAL, CATHOLIC CURRICULUM IS LANGUAGE-FOCUSED WITH LEARNING ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH WORDS, WRITTEN AND SPOKEN, RATHER THAN IMAGES ON A SCREEN.



a variety of backgrounds including suburban communities, urban neighborhoods in South Pittsburgh, homeschool families, various immigrant communities and former public school families who are intrigued by the classical curriculum offered at SHCA.



A way of learning that has produced some of the world's greatest thinkers

SHCA's traditional, Catholic curriculum is language-focused with learning accomplished through words, written and spoken, rather than images on a screen. A traditional curriculum follows a three-step liberal arts approach known as "trivium," which consists of grammar, logic, and rhetoric incorporated into each academic discipline of the school's integrated curriculum, emphasizing the basics: *how to read, how to think, how to speak.*

The three steps of the trivium explained:

The "grammar stage" concentrates on the rules of phonics, spelling, and grammar, and includes poems, vocabulary of foreign languages, stories from history and literature, descriptions of plants, animals, the human body, and the facts of mathematics.

The "logic stage" emphasizes cause and effect, the relationships of different fields of knowledge, and the way that facts fit together in a logical framework. In this stage, students learn to construct paragraphs that support a thesis, demonstrate critical thinking, and analyze texts.

The "rhetoric stage" prepares students to express themselves persuasively, both orally and in writing, based on the knowledge and wisdom they have learned.

SHCA's traditional, Catholic education utilizes a classical curriculum that teaches each student to discern and realize how to use what he or she has learned for the greater glory of God. >>>

“Learning” Continued from Page 5

Trusted leadership

Bishop Zubik has appointed Fr. Michael Caridi, Pastor of our parish, and Fr. Richard Infante, our Senior Parochial Vicar, to oversee the pastoral care of the new school. They will provide a vibrant sacramental and devotional life for the students, faculty and administration. This includes celebrating Holy Mass for the school during the week, offering the opportunity for regular Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and other popular Catholic devotions to assist in the spiritual development of young Christian boys and girls.

In July of 2020, the Pittsburgh Independent Catholic Academy Foundation hired Mrs. Harmony Stewart as the Head of School. She has established SHCA’s distinctive classical curriculum, recruited and formed the new faculty, and is in the process of preparing the school’s facilities.

“There is a need for Catholic classical education for children in the southern city neighborhoods and the South Hills,” Mrs. Stewart said. “We will be working to form both hearts and minds with a solid curriculum grounded in faith and values.”

Mrs. Stewart and her team have joined forces with the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, a nationally renowned organization with vast experience in equipping Catholic educators and providing site visits, teacher

training and consultation to traditional independent Catholic schools.

Mrs. Stewart has 20 years of experience in the field of primary education. Most recently she served as Principal of Saint Anne School where she implemented an ambitious 5-year school improvement plan that included renovating every classroom and resulted in a dramatic increase in enrollment. In her last year at St. Anne’s, Mrs. Stewart was awarded the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit’s Non-Public Schools Principal Award in recognition of her accomplishments in providing for students in need.

She is well known for the individual attention and time she gives to students and excels in serving children from diverse demographic backgrounds.

Inspired advisors

The Pittsburgh Independent Catholic Academy Foundation has been working diligently to insure the establishment and success of the SHCA. The board has been in negotiations with the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Saint Paul

of the Cross Parish, legal representatives, accounting experts and contractors to navigate the complexities of instituting the Academy. The board is comprised of both laity and clergy committed to making SHCA available to students in South Pittsburgh and the South Hills whatever their financial means.




The Board of Directors includes distinguished local leaders in the fields of education, religion and business: John Hans, Chairman, Fr. Michael Caridi, Fr. Jason Charron, Fr. Joseph Sioli, Harmony Stewart, Kirk Burkley, Keith Creehan, Sean Creehan, Gloria Hudok, Chris McMahon, Paul Rossi, Judge William Stickman, Brian Tarquinio, Brian Walsh, and Greg Weimer.

Chairman John Hans explains the mission of SHCA: “We are proud to be working towards our purpose of providing children a traditional curriculum that prepares them for the next level of education, ensuring them rich spiritual formation for life, and making it affordable for families.” 🔥



For more information, contact Head of School, Mrs. Harmony Stewart at (412) 631-3131 or by email hstewart@shcacademy.com.

You may also visit their website at SHCAcademy.com, or connect via social media:

 @southcatholic  @southcatholic  @southcatholicpa

“WHAT HAS BEEN IS WHAT WILL BE,
AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE
IS WHAT WILL BE DONE;
THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.”

~ ECCLESIASTES 1:9

COMING OUT OF EXILE.

Article by James K. Hanna

Photo by Edward Macko

These last eighteen months have tested us and we have tales to tell. We should put our memories of the pandemic in writing for our children and grandchildren. They will read some astonishing stories and be inspired by how we responded to the many challenges.

Holy Scripture often presents us with much the same: astonishing stories meant to inspire us.

While we have dealt courageously throughout the darkness of the pandemic, recall this wisdom from the Old Testament: “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

The point is that, individually and as a people, we have faced trials throughout time immemorial, and while we continue to deal valiantly with the fallout of the pandemic, more challenges lie ahead; among them: how to re-engage with our faith, our fellow parishioners, and strengthen our identity as a parish and as Catholics.

If there is “nothing new under the sun” where might we find historical encouragement for the tasks at hand? Take a look at the Old Testament again and the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Here we find the Hebrews coming out of their exile where the task of the faithful was to reassemble, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, reestablish their

Temple, their way of life, and their identity as a People of God. This is known as the period of the Restoration.

Today we are coming out of exile, COVID-exile, and entering our own period of restoration: returning to in-person worship in the Mass with our fellow parishioners, once again sharing our talents through parish ministries, and together fostering our identity as a Catholic community. This is an exciting time in the life of our parish!

So let us come out of our dark exile, reassemble, joyfully embrace the return to all that makes us a parish and invite others to join us, for the future is bright! 🔥



 THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
SOUTH HILLS COUNCIL 3084

NOT ALL KNIGHTS WEAR ARMOR.

Article by Chris Reibold



Photo by Edward Macko

South Hills Council 3084 meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month in Harkins Hall at St. Anne's Church. If you would like to know more about our council or to inquire about joining, please visit our web page at www.southhillsknights.com or contact Matthew Hoffman, Grand Knight – at matthewhoffman421@gmail.com.

The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic fraternal service organization founded by Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney in New Haven, CT in 1882.

Today, the Knights of Columbus have approximately two million members worldwide. We are involved in charitable giving, service work, disaster relief, Catholic education, pro-life activities, faith formation, and evangelization.

We operate a wholly-owned life insurance company for the benefit of our members, that has more than \$100 billion of life insurance in force.

In 2018, the Knights of Columbus gave \$185 million to charity, and performed more than 76 million hours of volunteer work in support of our parishes, schools, and communities.

Why are the Knights of Columbus called knights?

In the medieval period, various orders of knights were organized to escort pilgrims to the holy land, to fight in the crusades, and to defend church property. With the passage of time, some of these orders evolved into fraternal organizations that focused on charitable work and the ongoing

spiritual formation of their members. While the mission changed, these organizations nevertheless retained their religious character, ceremonies, and organizational structure. Some of these knightly orders, such as the Teutonic Knights, and the Knights of Malta, still exist today. Fr. McGivney looked to these knightly orders as the model for his new organization.

Why are the Knights of Columbus named for Christopher Columbus?

In the 19th Century, large scale immigration from Catholic countries, particularly Ireland and Italy, provoked significant anti-Catholic backlash in this country.

Additionally, parishes of the day were largely segregated by ethnicity. There were Irish parishes, Italian parishes, etc., but not much interaction between the various ethnic groups.

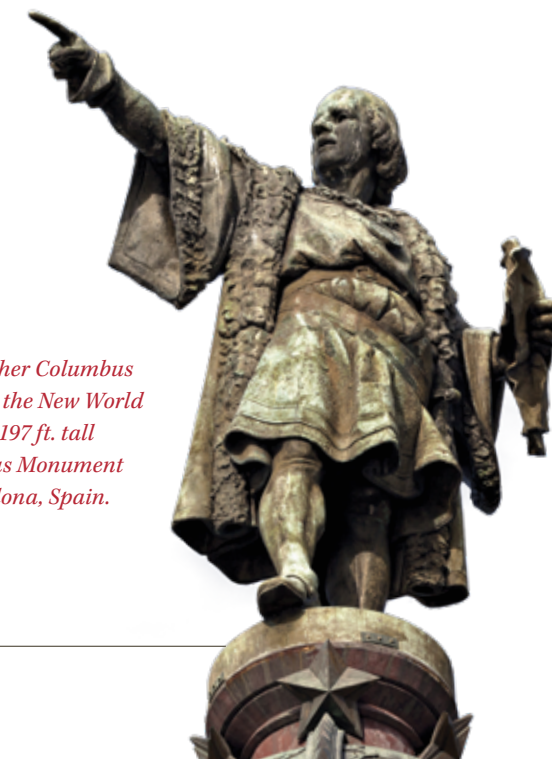
For reasons that are beyond the scope of this article, Christopher Columbus came to be an important symbol of the Catholic contribution to America, and a unifying figure among American Catholics. Fr. McGivney chose Christopher

Columbus as the namesake for his new organization as a way of saying that Catholics make good Americans, and to emphasize that the Knights of Columbus would be a Catholic organization, not an Irish organization, or an Italian organization, etc. 🔥

South Hills Council 3084 is the Knights of Columbus council that serves the parishes of St. Paul of the Cross, St. Catherine Laboure, Resurrection, and Our Lady of Hope.

Our council is large and active. We support various pro-life organizations and activities, provide scholarships for Catholic school students and seminarians, host memorial masses and holy hours, and help with the St. Winifred food pantry,

We also provide financial, material, and service support to the parishes in our footprint — activities that range from helping make needed repairs, to pulling weeds and cleaning up prayer gardens, to sponsoring educational and social events, including an annual family picnic.



Christopher Columbus points to the New World atop the 197 ft. tall Columbus Monument in Barcelona, Spain.

Story by Meghan Cox

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

The Hughes Family

“Hughes boys, assemble!”

You may hear, at a sports practice, after Mass or at Ave Maria Academy. It is just Brynn Hughes, tapping into the style of the Marvel superheroes to summon her three sons; Cadman, 12; Evan, 9; Jason Jr. “JC”, 7.

While technically, The Hughes family is new to the Catholic faith, its teachings and education have been part of their life for some time, bringing comfort as they navigate life after the passing of Jason Hughes, husband to Brynn and father to the three boys.

It was the military that brought Brynn and her late husband together. A phone call from a friend promising sunshine and fun brought her to Tampa, Florida for a visit where she met Jason, finishing his time in the Marine Corps on assignment at McDill Air Force Base.

The couple hit it off immediately. Within months, he concluded his military service and the two were married. They relocated to Brynn’s hometown of Olympia, Washington, later welcoming their first son, Cadman. Eying a change, they looked to the Pittsburgh area, for Jason to pursue his studies at Robert Morris University and later Carlow College. Together with their young son, they moved to Castle Shannon, in time welcoming two more children, Evan and JC.

When Evan was ready for Pre-K and Cadman, first grade, Brynn and Jason chose St. Anne School for their education. While neither parent was raised in the Catholic faith, they wanted a Christian education for their children, citing the shared values the school instilled in its students. Brynn, who was raised Mormon, always admired the Catholic religion, tuning into Midnight Mass growing up and finding it “beautiful.” When her son started at St. Anne School, she was introduced to a group of mothers who formed a prayer group. It served as an introduction to the rosary and a way for her to learn about the Catholic faith in a casual environment. The group’s regular meetings gave Brynn a connection to the rosary and a supportive group of friends.



At St. Anne School, the boys became involved in Boy Scouts, joining the parish’s Pack 350. They delighted in the campovers at South Park, games of Sponge Wars, Pinewood Derby and earning adventure loops. Brynn became involved as a Den Leader, after taking reins of the pack, serving in her present role as Committee Chair of the “small but mighty” pack.

After the closure of St. Anne School, the family enrolled in the “welcoming” Ave Maria Academy. The boys noticed their friends receiving Communion and saying prayers that were only said at school. While they could often be found in the rectory, or at parish events, many were surprised to learn that the family was not Catholic. As Brynn describes it, “I could always feel it, before articulating that I was ready.”

The Hughes family’s decision to enter the faith was made slowly over the course of 2020. In late summer, Jason Hughes passed away suddenly, leaving his family and loved ones in shock. He received a military burial at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, a spot that has come to provide comfort to his wife and sons through their regular visits. They often pick up his art supplies or Marine Corps dog tags to recall his memory. >>>

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“Family” Continued from Page 11



The family found support in the “amazing, kind and wonderful,” parish community. They have navigated difficult holidays and birthdays with the counsel and support of Fr. Mike as well as an outpouring of generosity from friends, parishioners and community members.

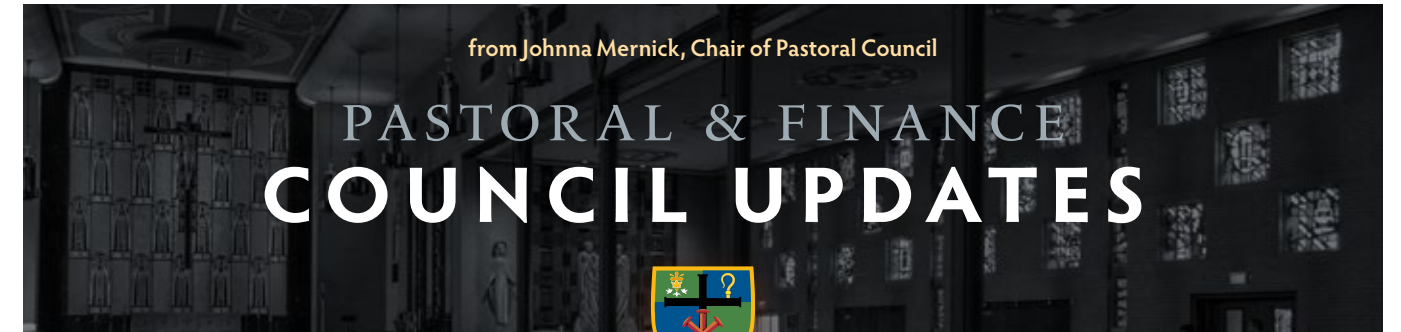
Brynn shares that her husband admired the well-rounded men their boys were becoming through their Catholic education. The goal-oriented Cadman has his sights set on continuing the Hughes tradition of military service and hopes to pursue a career as a biomedical engineer. Evan, known to keep the peace between his brothers, has interests that span from pig farming to serving the public as a police

officer. JC, the youngest of the three, fills his time with sports and friends. The brothers do share interests, sports, Marvel movies, Minecraft and Boy Scouts.

The boys admire their mom, who they describe as “wise” and “funny.” Together, they like camping and spending time with Pap, Jason’s father, at their shared home in Castle Shannon. A bearded dragon named Camo Chillax, two guinea pigs, Piggy Princess and Herbert, round out the mix. The family centers themselves on faith, using the book *Jesus Calling* for daily devotionals. They honor their late father’s memory through a memory shelf in their home, filled with photos that capture Jason’s life and cherished family moments.

In April 2021, the Hughes Family was received into the Catholic faith during the Easter Vigil, with family friends Jenn Frecker and Bob, Megan and Caleb Mita serving as sponsors. Brynn calls it a “beautiful moment” for the family, as they received the sacraments together. By being brought to ‘grade level,’ Cadman, Evan and JC will be able to prepare for their Confirmations and First Communions with their classmates.

In a time filled with uncertainty and grief, Brynn says she “has never once felt alone” during this process, leaning on her friends every day and praying the rosary often. She carries rosary beads in her purse and on her keys, saying it in times of challenge and grief, finding herself “recentered” in the chaos of the day. Through an understanding and trust in God’s plan, Brynn has learned to let things unfold as they should, moving forward and leading a family that is anchored in faith. 🔥



from Johnna Mernick, Chair of Pastoral Council

PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATES



The Pastoral Council has been hard at work on several important projects over the last six months, including:

Parish Mission Statement

After gathering feedback from the parish, we found that priorities of our new parish could be divided into three categories:

- > Faith Formation
- > Evangelization & Outreach
- > Accessibility

Knowing that all we do is guided by devotion to our faith, the Mass, and the Sacraments, we arrived at the following mission statement:

“Saint Paul of the Cross Parish is a Roman Catholic community pursuing Life in Christ through the celebration of the Sacraments, faith formation, service, and fellowship – accessible to all.”

Accessible Facilities

We continue to work with the Finance Council on what our new parish’s facility footprint should look like, with a focus on accessibility. We recently approved the development of a Master Plan to assess our current strengths and needs. Two of our members are serving on the newly formed Building Committee, and we look forward to continuing to providing input throughout this exciting process!

Evangelization & Outreach

As outdoor temperatures increase and pandemic-related restrictions decrease, we have begun discussing ideas for how to safely bring our community back together and welcome people back to church. Stay tuned for events and updates throughout the next few months!

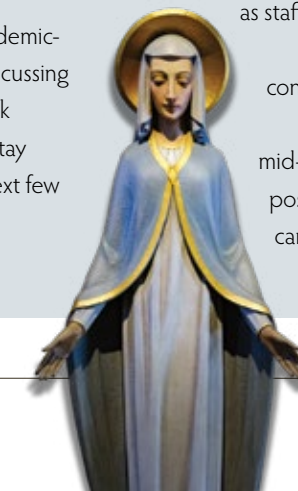
Facilities Update by Shaun Seydor, Finance Council Member and Building Committee Chair

In the last issue of *The Chronicle* we reported that the Finance Council worked to negotiate a partnership with the South Hills Catholic Academy for usage of our current facilities, allowing the parish to leverage real estate assets to a strong mission-aligned group, while reducing costs for the parish. With the successful completion of those discussions the Academy will open this Fall in the former St. Winifred School building with athletic events held at the former Saint Anne School building. Additionally, we have secured agreements of both facilities for continuing various parish functions.

Earlier this year Fr. Mike introduced the formation of a Building Committee to address the status of our remaining facilities and assess current and future needs. The committee has made significant progress over the past months, including the engagement of DLA Architecture to develop a Master Plan.

The Committee is progressing through the process with notable milestones including:

- > Full mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural evaluation of the three current buildings (church, rectory/office, convent) on Saint Anne Campus.
- > Visioning, goal setting, and space requirement analysis with various ministries, groups of the parish community, as well as staff and clergy.
- > Programming for potential new construction configurations, as well as campus site plan analysis.
- > Completion of the Master Plan is expected by mid-summer, leading us to assure that our facilities are best positioned to meet the needs of our community and to carry out the mission of our parish.



IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK

A YOUNG WOMAN REFLECTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RETURNING TO MASS

Story by Talia Caridi

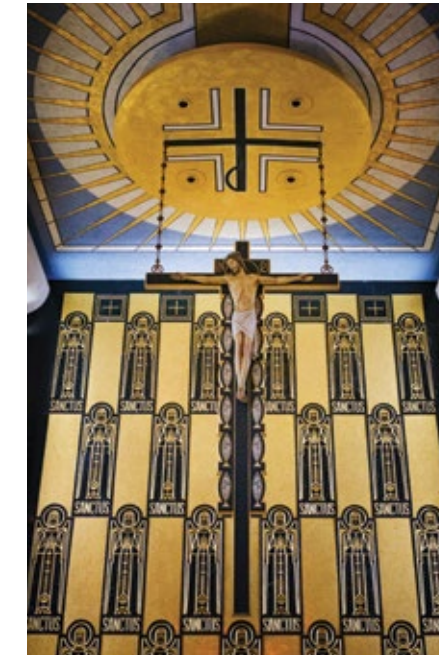
Photos by Edward Macko

Since I was a young girl I have always loved going to church. From Stations of the Cross in middle school to Youth Group in high school, I've been involved in the life of my local parish. In college, at the University of Notre Dame, I studied the life of the Church with a second major in Theology, and kept myself busy with the university pro-life group, campus ministry, and the RCIA training team.

In March 2020, however, all of this came to a screeching halt!

With the onset of COVID-19 and the subsequent announcement that local Catholic churches would be closing, I lost access to the central and sustaining reality of my life: the Eucharist. Instead of attending 8am daily Mass at the Engineering Building, spending time in one of the 57 chapels on campus, and participating in young adult Eucharistic Holy Hours on campus, I was now forced to settle for more isolated devotional practices such as silent prayer alone in my dorm room.

Even this was short-lived as Notre dame President Fr. Jenkins announced that students would be returning home for online classes due to the pandemic. The departure from campus, with its beautiful Marian Grotto and Basilica and the transition to a new sphere



in which no public celebration of the Eucharist was permitted, pierced a sword into my heart with its desire for Communion.

Now, as we emerge from the pandemic I look back on the many difficulties that I and so many others



THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO GATHER ONCE MORE TO CELEBRATE LITURGY TOGETHER. SO MANY OF US HAVE BEEN CUT OFF FROM OUR LIFE-SUSTAINING CIRCLES FOR MUCH TOO LONG.

endured over the past year: loneliness, isolation and at times, even despair. On the other hand, I'm excited — even joyful — over the gradual reopening of schools and buildings, and the rescheduling of social events as we all become comfortable interacting again.

Reflecting on the mini “deaths” we've all gone through, as well as the “resurrection” we appear to be experiencing seems to me to mirror the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord that we celebrate in the Lenten and Easter seasons, when Christ is manifested forever as man in human flesh that is ultimately glorified.

The birth of Jesus as a baby, the loving sacrifice of His Body on Calvary, and the further penetration of matter by grace in the Resurrection are the foundational events that frame Christianity and likewise the whole relationship between God and man. More commonly, these are referred to as the events of the Incarnation, and by them God demonstrates the goodness of human nature and its potential for elevation to glory through what is

called the Incarnational Principle — the principle that forms the foundation of the Christian life and is fundamental to understanding our lives in God.

I see this Incarnational Principle at work so much in my own family. >>>

Continued on Page 16

“Back” Continued from Page 15

As I write, my 10-month-old baby sister Giovanna rolls playfully across the bedroom floor, chewing a toy and spending all her energy before naptime. As the eldest of nine children — 5 boys and 4 girls — I am responsible to facilitate rides to basketball games, the completion of homework assignments, and sharing family meals together. I am also called on for help when there is a death in the family, a change of status or job, or a new birth.

In a similar spirit of good fortune, I’ve also had the blessing of belonging to a second family, the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame! Throughout my four years at the university I experienced firsthand the Incarnational Principle through the unity of the community that transcended race, economics, and gender. I attended over 40 classes, co-led the pro-life club, and was the RA for 270 women in my residence hall. This involvement and the friendships I formed taught me about the trials and triumphs of everyday life — the dyings and risings that all people go through.

In both families I have witnessed the beautiful unfolding of the Incarnational Principle. Through my younger siblings I have seen a unique microcosm of the Incarnation — God becoming human in the form of a child. At Notre Dame, I not only learned theological principles of the Incarnation but experienced them up close as students gathered to pray, learn, and praise in the classrooms and at campus liturgies. In both of these Christian communities, I have partaken in a unified body centered on the person of



Jesus Christ and intent upon a spirit of love. Lastly, in both of these families, I have found strength to tackle both the challenges and joys of daily life.

Nevertheless, as powerful as my two experiences of “family” have been, nowhere do I see the Incarnational Principle at play and the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus more fully manifested than during the celebration of Holy Mass.

As a human being and embodied creature, I was created to engage in the world of the senses — including sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell — all these senses are engaged during our celebration of Holy Mass: our eyes through the altar, crucifix and garments we gaze upon; our smell through the candles and incense that burn, and our taste through the species of bread and wine under which the Holy Eucharist is received. This engagement of the senses resonates with our nature as human beings and offers strong incentive for returning to church in person.

Further, at Mass, God engages my sense of hearing and lifts my soul when my favorite hymns are sung and through the priest or deacon’s homilies, as they communicate the Word to me live and in person, sometimes employing a personal story or funny joke to pull me in.

And finally, when I go to church, the Incarnational Principle is at work through the unity and oneness of the Christian community: we gather together to support each other as we pursue Jesus Christ. To simply see the young family bringing their newborn child to Mass for the first time, or the recently widowed elderly woman who buried her husband a few days before, I am visibly reminded of the crucial role that God plays at every stage of our lives.

The time has arrived for God’s people to gather once more to celebrate Liturgy together. So many of us have been cut off from our life-sustaining circles for much too long. And while Catholic parishes have stepped in to fill the void and offered Zoom Masses as a temporary alternative, this new experience of “church” will ultimately leave many feeling alone, forgotten, or out of touch with one another and, more importantly, with God.

As the assembly of the faithful and the People of God, we see in each other the face of God, and only by gathering together again for Mass will we really feel His glory penetrating our lives and be able to touch the Incarnate Word, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! 🔥

ADULT & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



by Don Fontana, Director of Adult and Youth Faith Formation

“CHRIST IS RISEN!”

It was a privilege to be with you at the Easter Vigil where we welcomed nine new Catholics into the Church. Their entrance continued the sacred work begun by my predecessor, Matt Scruggs, and progressed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the dedicated efforts of our RCIA Team: Tom Smith, Mary Ann Lecci, and Bill Dotson.

Time has moved very quickly since December when I was blessed with the unexpected opportunity to continue to serve Christ and His Church here at St. Paul of the Cross Parish. I had worked previously as the Director of Religious Education/Safe Environment Coordinator at Our Lady of Grace Parish for 17 years. I taught 9th and 10th grade Theology at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart HS last year while also serving as part-time Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of the Angels and St. Maria Goretti parishes in the Lawrenceville/Bloomfield/Garfield grouping of our Diocese.

RCIA, Baptism Prep, and Pre-Cana have been my primary focus in my short time here along

with teaching two classes of 11th grade Morality at Seton LaSalle HS. As we approach summer, we’ll be looking to bringing our teenagers back together for opportunities to learn, love, and serve Christ. I’m hopeful that we will be able to resume a more regular schedule of activities for our youth and young adults as we get nearer to the fall.

I’m excited to use the FORMED website for our future Adult Education Offerings. Beautifully written and produced, FORMED offers a wide range of opportunities for personal and parish wide spiritual growth. I look forward to meeting you and your families and helping each other grow closer to Christ. 🔥



“INDEED, HE IS RISEN!”

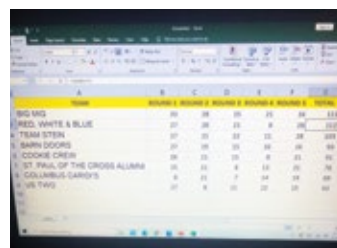
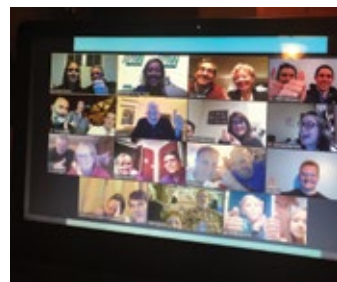


CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP "DECKS THE HALLS" FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT SAINT ANNE'S

Saint Anne's Christmas decorations are spectacular. A dozen men came out early on December 12, 2020 to set up the manger, string lights and hang garland on the exterior, and then moved to the inside to help welcome in the blessed season.

ZOOM TRIVIA

During the COVID-19 restrictions on in-person gatherings, Pastoral Council's social committee, led by Jim Stein, organized a creative way to foster fellowship: two Zoom Trivia Nights through Buzz Worthy Pub Trivia was open to all parishioners. A fun time was had by all who participated!



FIRST COMMUNION ~ May 2, 2021

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Addilyn Beck | Leo Nicolotti |
| William Beker | Alayna Purcell-Butchko |
| Charlotte Brine | Noah Renziehausen |
| Andrew Burich | Stephen Roman |
| Ryann Craig | Adrian Rowles |
| Bayla Dahle | Sarah Seydor |
| Carolyn Davies | Ava Slagle |
| Michael Elphinstone | Matthew Smart |
| Austin Filsinger | Austin Tague |
| James Filsinger | Alexander Varholla |
| Mark Folino-Barczyk | Lucy Vignovich |
| Nicholas Gaetano | Lena Warhola |
| Caroline Gallagher | Liam Warhola |
| Zachary Hornicak | Ella Watson |
| Anthony Jackovic | Charlotte Vignovich |
| Claire Junker | Anne Worthy |
| Evangeline Mago | Avery Wriede |
| Sawyer McKown | |

NEWLY CONFIRMED

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Devin Alexander Bianchi | Griffin Morgan Lane |
| Nicole Mae Hegarty | Brent Arthur Ritterbeck |
| Brynn Kola Hughes | James Michael Zamaris |
| Kenneth James Lane | Brittany Lauren Zamaris |

NEW PARISHIONERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. Tom Barr | Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Koenig | Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Sacunas & family |
| Mr. & Mrs. Bianco & family | Mr. & Mrs. Lai & family | Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore & family |
| Mr. & Mrs. Denny Costello | Mr. Kevin Marculaitis | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Samolovitch & family |
| Ms. Martha Davis | Mr. & Mrs. McDonnell | Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Scheerer |
| Ms. Norma Dawson | Mr. & Mrs. Migliaro-Collins | Mr. & Mrs. James Schlenker & family |
| Mr. Jordan DeBona | Mr. Robert Mitchell | Mr. Alec Searles |
| Mr. & Mrs. DiGiacomo | Ms. Darlene Monlish | Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Seech |
| Ms. Courtney DiPippa & family | Ms. Theresa Nee | Ms. Molly Skubak |
| Mr. Billy Dotson | Ms. Karen O'Keefe | Mr. & Mrs. Stewart & family |
| Mr. & Mrs. William Grant | Mr. Stephen Pacacha | Mr. & Mrs. Barry Stoltz |
| Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hahn | Mr. Jessie Pellow | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tallon |
| Ms. Briana Houlihan | Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Rauch | Ms. Melissa Townsend & family |
| Ms. Christine Jackson & family | Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Rauch | Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Ward |
| Ms. Anne Koenig | Mr. & Mrs. Nestor Ravelo | Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson |
| | Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Ryan | |

NEWLY MARRIED

November 1, 2020 - June 15, 2021



- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| November 14, 2020 | Robert Topoleski married Catherine Donna Hammill |
| January 30, 2021 | John Lloyd Hunter married Laura Frances Klein |
| March 19, 2021 | James Michael Zamaris, Sr. married Brittany Lauren Gawronski |
| May 8, 2021 | Richard Joseph Mary married Rachael Katherine Petrelli |
| June 2, 2021 | Karl Edden Frankenstein married Annamarie Roseann Teolis |
| June 8, 2021 | Marcus Andrew Del Raso married Saralynne Wells |

NEWLY BAPTIZED

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| James Francis Boyco | November 1, 2020 |
| Emmaline Mae Benson | November 8, 2020 |
| Lia Alexandria Warren | November 7, 2020 |
| Bryson Webb Feeney | November 14, 2020 |
| Reece Nathanael Maier | November 15, 2020 |
| Josephine Regina Schultz | November 29, 2020 |
| Winchester Romeo Wabe Salazar | December 31, 2020 |
| Michael Frederick Brinton | January 3, 2021 |
| Rory Swisher Phoenix | January 10, 2021 |
| Greyson Robert Britton | February 14, 2021 |
| Ellie Amanda Beu | February 21, 2021 |
| Jayda Rose Lindahl | March 21, 2021 |
| Dominik Schlenker | March 27, 2021 |
| Brent Arthur Ritterbeck | April 3, 2021 |
| Kenneth James Lane | April 3, 2021 |
| Griffin Morgan Lane | April 3, 2021 |
| Carter Timothy Fusco | April 10, 2021 |
| Mia Magnolia Bianco | April 18, 2021 |
| Patrick McNamara Lawrence | April 24, 2021 |
| Gianna Isabella Grant | April 25, 2021 |
| Anthony Michael Derkach | May 9, 2021 |
| Anne Marie Reilly | May 16, 2021 |
| Angela Nancy Rydze | June 6, 2021 |
| Carlotta Marie Wagner | June 10, 2021 |
| Kannon Sascha Craig | June 13, 2021 |
| Amelia Grace Beemsterboer | June 13, 2021 |

On April 3, 2021 candidates from our RCIA program completed the Sacraments of Initiation and were welcomed as full members of the Catholic Church.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Brynn Kola Hughes | Kenneth James Lane |
| Caden Gabriel Hughes | Brent Arthur Ritterbeck |
| Even Michael Hughes | Brittany Lauren Zamaris |
| Jason Allen Hughes, Jr. | James Michael Zamaris |
| Griffin Morgan Lane | |



St. Michael Statue

We say the prayer at the conclusion of every Mass, "St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle..." Well, he's here. 650 lbs of carved white marble, 60" tall, imported from Columbia, S.A. and soon to be installed on our parish grounds. **Installation date TBD, stay tuned!**



July 18 - 26
Annual Saint Anne Novena led by Fr. Brendan Dawson

As Pope Francis has designated 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph, this year's Novena will turn to Saint Joseph for us to witness how he models the many virtues we need to be authentic followers of Jesus Christ.



The theme for the Novena is, "Saint Joseph – Man of Virtue: Let Us Count Together the Ways."

On each the nine days we will explore one virtue of Saint Joseph's life and ask his intercession to help us incorporate that virtue into our own lives. **See the Bulletin in the upcoming weeks for a complete schedule.**

September 23 - 25
CMF Ave Maria Retreat

For the past few years, a small group of men from the Christian Men's Fellowship have been gathering in the mountains of South Central PA for a relaxing and reverential spiritual weekend.

Contact CMF if you are interested in joining us this fall.



K-8 FAITH FORMATION
A New Partnership to Enrichen the Faith Journey of Our Children

Saint Paul of the Cross Parish is partnering with the newly established South Hills Catholic Academy to provide our Faith Formation (CCD) classes for grades K-8, in order to bring stability to the Faith Formation program beginning with the Fall 2021 semester.

The primary catechists will be the teachers of South Hills Catholic Academy, who are professionally trained and certified Catholic educators. Our qualified parish volunteers will work hand in hand with them to provide an engaging journey through our faith. The program will adopt a new curriculum called Spirit of Truth by Sophia Institute Press, that emphasizes the importance of each child's personal spiritual journey and covers the breadth of the Catechism in a rich and age-appropriate way.

Classes will continue to take place in the school building on the Saint Winifred campus with Monday evening and home school options. In person classes will have the opportunity to use the newly renovated spaces and materials, as the entire building is being upgraded during the summer break.

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now available online at <https://www.stpaulofthecross.com/faitH-formation> or by calling the SHCA school office at (412) 631-3131.

For more information, visit our website or email the Head of School, Mrs. Harmony Stewart at hstewart@shcademy.com.

WE'RE PLANNING SOMETHING BIG THIS FALL!

On Sunday, September 26th Saint Paul of the Cross Parish is planning a Parish Ministry Fair on the Saint Anne campus from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Fair promises to be fabulous, fun, and informative for people of all ages! Consider worshipping at the 10:00 a.m. Mass and then enjoying food and fellowship immediately afterwards at the Fair. Food trucks, numerous fun activities for the kids, and a showcase of the many wonderful ministries and organizations of the Saint Paul of the Cross Parish will be showcased at the Fair.

Our hope is to provide, in addition to a lot of fun, the opportunity for everyone to become more familiar with the ways in which we are called to discipleship through contributing to our community, and by providing ways for everyone to grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ and our neighbors.

Food and face painting

What is a fall festival without food? Several Pittsburgh area food trucks are scheduled to be there, including: Hibachi Lou's, Pittsburgh

Hummus, Rescue Dogs, and Sunny's Shaved Ice and Homemade Pierogies.

Among the activities currently being considered for the children include having a balloon artist on hand and face painting. All children's activities will be free of charge.

So, invite a friend, and plan on spending some much needed time catching up with old friends and perhaps even making new ones! Pray that the weather will cooperate and that we will be blessed with a beautiful fall afternoon!



! For more information, please call the Parish office at (412) 531-5964 and ask for our Social Minister, Joan Kilgore.





SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH

400 Hoodridge Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
(412) 531-5964

www.stpaulofthecross.com

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Photo by Edward Macko