

FRIDAY CRUSADER

WEEK OF OCTOBER 12-16th, 2026

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Virtue. Striving for Excellence.

SFX PARENT HUB **QUICK LINKS** | *EVERYTHING YOU NEED ALL IN ONE PLACE*

CHURCH BULLETIN | SCHOOL WEBSITE | SCHOOL CALENDAR

HOT LUNCH MENU | FACTS PARENT PORTAL | BUY A RAFFLE TICKET ONLINE

IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, October 18th - 7th Grade Pancake Breakfast & Youth Mass

Sunday, October 18th - $500 Early Bird Raffle Drawing; BUY ONLINE today!

Tuesday, October 20th - 8th Grade Washington DC Meeting at 6pm

Thursday, October 29th - 1st Grade Raffle & School Non-Uniform Day

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Just in case you missed it....please read Father Peter's message in the church bulletin from October 4th.



Catholic School and Catholic Mass: At the Heart of Parish Ministry

A Catholic school is more than a place where children receive an excellent academic education. It is one of the important ministries of the parish and an essential part of the Church's mission to form young people in faith, character, virtue, and discipleship. In many parishes, the school is the largest ministry of the parish, touching the lives not only of students and teachers, but also of families and the wider parish community.

The relationship between the parish and the school must therefore be one of partnership. The parish and school should not function as separate institutions with different goals. We share one mission: to lead our children and families to Jesus Christ. Parents are the first and primary educators of their children in the faith. The Catholic school supports and strengthens what parents teach at home, while the parish provides the sacramental and spiritual life in which faith grows. Parents cannot simply delegate the religious formation of their children to the school. What children learn at school must be lived at home. They should see their parents praying, attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, serving others, and living their Catholic faith.

The pastor and parish administration have the responsibility to provide leadership, support, resources, and accountability while protecting the Catholic identity and mission of the school. The school administrator and teachers are responsible for creating an environment where faith and learning are integrated. Our children should not simply learn about Catholicism; they should encounter Jesus Christ and learn to live as His disciples.

The parish community also has a responsibility. Our children belong to all of us. They are not simply students in a school; they are members of the Body of Christ and the future of our parish and Church. We must pray for them, encourage them, welcome them, and give them opportunities to participate in the life of the parish.

All roads lead to Christ, and through Christ. Everything we do–education, athletics, service, religious formation, music, youth ministry, and family activities–should ultimately lead us to Jesus. Academic excellence is important, but a Catholic school must form the whole person: mind, heart, soul, and character. At the center of this mission is the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council teaches that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life." Everything in parish life flows from Christ and ultimately leads us back to Him. This is why the celebration of Mass must remain at the heart of our parish and school life.

For our children, Mass is not simply another activity or obligation. It is an encounter with Jesus Christ. At Mass, Christ gathers us, speaks to us through His Word, feeds us with His Body and Blood, and sends us forth to live the Gospel.

When the parish supports the school, parents live the faith at home, teachers witness to Christ, administrators protect the Catholic identity of the school, and the parish community embraces its young people, we become one community with one mission and one Lord.

Our Catholic school should lead children to Christ. Our homes should lead families to Christ. Our parish should lead people to Christ. And the Eucharist must remain the heart from which everything flows and to which everything returns.

Know that you are loved, Fr. Peter

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

PEACE

"she gives her battles to God and lives in peace" – Phil 4:6

"You will never enjoy peace if you are always disturbed by the faults of other."

— ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA

THE HOMILY AT HOME

Continuing the Conversation as a Family

WEDNESDAY • FRIDAY

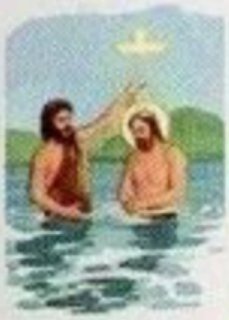
Walk in His light together.

Wednesday's Mass: Wednesday was the Memorial of St Callistus I, Pope & Martyr. He is the patron saint of cemetares - click here to learn more about this saint! Father Roman also talked about Halloween and reminded students of its Catholic

roots - "holy evening" in preparation for All Saints Day. Father Roman asked students to consider dressing up as saints for Halloween....after all, we all want to be a saint one day! REMINDER - Keep praying the Rosary! The Luminous Mysteries can be found below!

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

Thursdays



1. The Baptism in the Jordan

MEDITATION: Jesus descends into the water of the Jordan River and is baptized by John. The heavens open and the voice of the Father declares Him the beloved Son. The Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove and fills Him with God's mission to save humankind from sin.

Matthew 3:17



2. The Wedding at Cana

MEDITATION: Jesus changes water into wine at the request of Mary, who was first among believers. The disciples witness this miracle, their hearts open to the faith, and they begin to believe in Him.

John 2:1-12



3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

MEDITATION: Jesus preaches the Gospel in Galilee. He proclaims that this is the time of fulfillment, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. He asks all to repent and forgives the sins of those who believe in Him.

Mark 1:15



4. The Transfiguration

MEDITATION: On Mount Tabor, the Apostles see the glory of God shining forth from the face of Jesus. The voice of the Father, coming from a cloud, says, "This is my chosen Son, listen to Him."

Luke 9:35



5. The Institution of the Eucharist

MEDITATION: At the Last Supper, Jesus offers His body and blood, under the signs of bread and wine, and washes the feet of the Apostles. He knows that Judas has betrayed Him and His hour has come. Jesus testifies to His everlasting love for each one of us by sharing the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

John 13:1

PTO CORNER

Connect • Volunteer • Support

Many hands make a strong school community.

SFX PTO Expense & Impact Recap

Putting PTO dollars to work for our school community!

Our PTO is committed to making thoughtful investments that support our students, teachers, staff, and school families. We want our families to see how PTO funds are being used to meet everyday needs, enhance student experiences, and strengthen our school community.

Here's a look at what we've funded and accomplished so far!

Playground & Student Recreation

We purchased new playground equipment to encourage active play, teamwork, and outdoor fun, including:

- Footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, and volleyballs
- Hula hoops and Spikeball
- Sidewalk chalk and ball pumps



Fall Fun Run



Thanks to the incredible support of our SFX families and community, our Fall Fun Run has brought in **over $12,000 — our largest total in years!**

We are so grateful to everyone who participated, donated, volunteered, and helped make this event such a success!

Once all expenses are finalized, we'll share an updated grand total so our families can see the full impact of their support.

PTO helped make our Fall Fun Run extra fun with:

- An industrial bubble machine
- Plastic bracelets, balloons, and cups

School Events & Student Experiences

PTO provided funding and supplies for:



- Bus transportation for the Homecoming stadium trip
- The upcoming Eagle Assembly on November 6
- New bingo daubers for Turkey Bingo on November 13

Educational Resources & Technology

We invested in tools that support student learning and school communication, including:

- Renewal of our online school directory subscription
- Raz-Kids subscription for first grade
- Keyboarding program for technology education
- A large art supply order for Mrs. B.



Office & Classroom Support

PTO purchased four new chairs for the school office and stocked a dedicated teacher and staff supply closet with essential items to help replenish classroom supplies and meet teachers' needs throughout the year.

Student Health & Hygiene

We purchased hygiene products to stock school bathrooms, helping ensure students have access to essential personal-care items when needed.





Spirit Wear Fundraiser & 8th Grade Partnership

This year, PTO took the lead on the Spirit Wear fundraiser, purchasing surplus Spirit Wear inventory to sell at SFX events throughout the school year.

We're excited that this initiative benefits both PTO and our 8th grade class! Proceeds from these sales will be shared with the 8th grade, helping support their fundraising efforts while allowing PTO to offer SFX gear to families at school events.

We're proud to create fundraising opportunities that support our entire school community while continuing to partner with our 8th grade students.

$ Every Dollar Makes a Difference $

From playground equipment and classroom essentials to educational resources, school events, and opportunities for our 8th grade class, PTO is working to make a meaningful impact across SFX.

Thank you to our families, teachers, staff, and supporters who make these efforts possible.

Your support helps us turn PTO fundraising dollars into real resources and memorable experiences for our school community!



Our volunteer coordinator is currently working on our new Volunteer App. Once this is done, it will be sent out to all parents and signing up for things will be very simple! Stay tuned for more information.

The Early Bird Raffle Drawing is on SUNDAY! Good luck!!



The Fun Run made over $12k....WOW! Thank you for your donations.



Thank you to everyone for going to Culvers on Wednesday to support the 8th grade trip! They are excited to go to Washington DC in the spring. Head to the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday if you'd like to continue your support!





The Middle School Volleyball team had a great season!

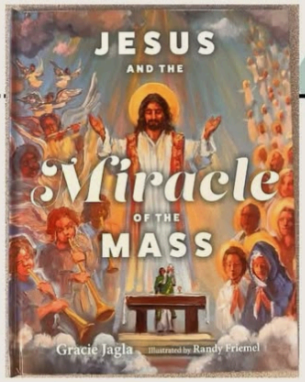


This week in DK:

LITTLE HEARTS GROWING IN FAITH



Today, our DK class read:
JESUS AND THE MIRACLE OF THE MASS
Written By: Gracie Jagla







Finding God's love in every sacred detail



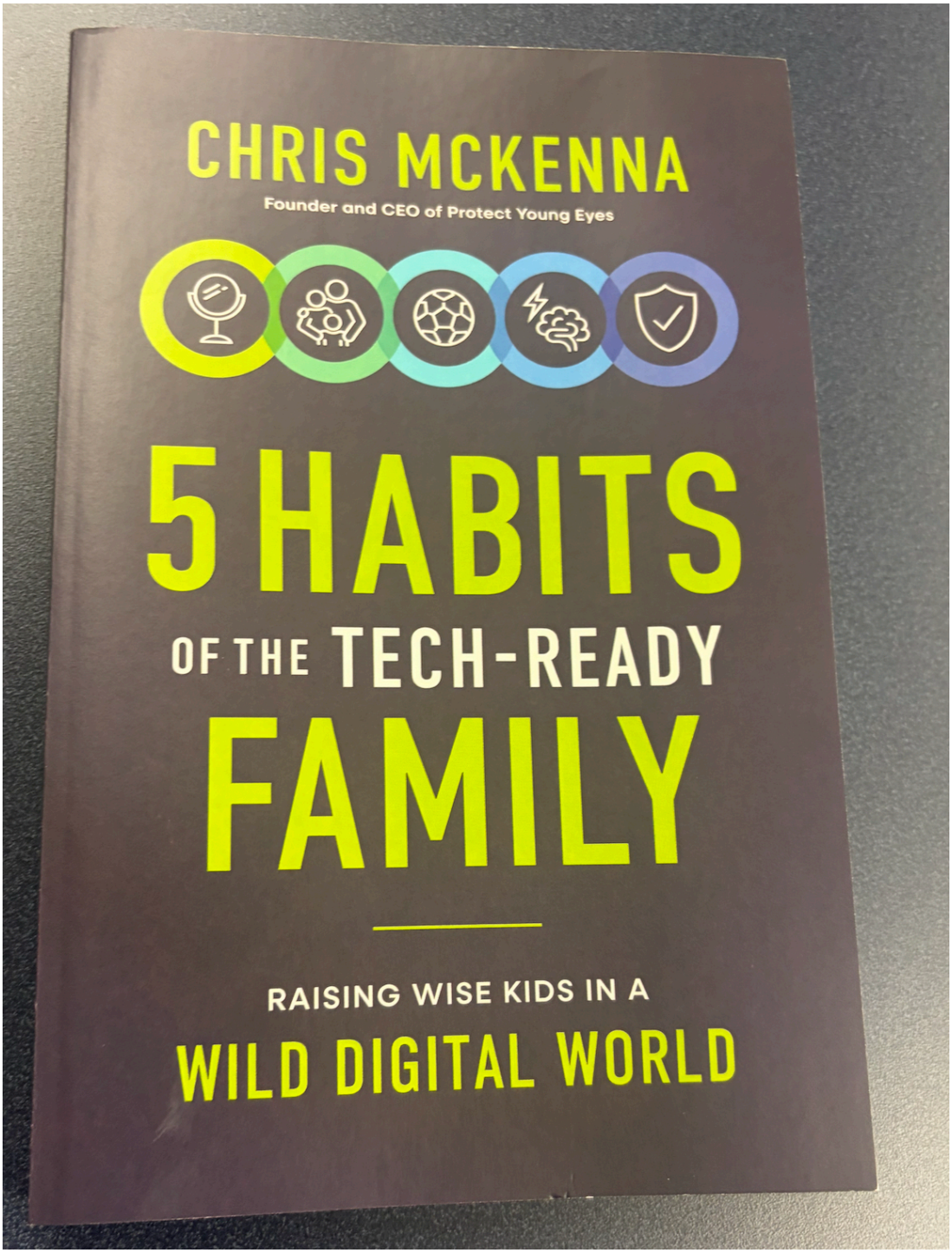
Discovering Jesus through the beauty of our faith



Gathering in our church's upper balcony nook; reflecting on the beauty and wonder of the Mass



Looking for a good reference on kids & technology?
Chris McKenna's latest book is linked below.


CHRIS MCKENNA
Founder and CEO of Protect Young Eyes
5 HABITS
OF THE TECH-READY
FAMILY
RAISING WISE KIDS IN A
WILD DIGITAL WORLD



Looking for something to do AFTER the Pancake Breakfast on 10/18? The Cummings String Quartet will be playing at the church on Sunday at noon. This is the same strings program that teachers our SFX Students.

THE CUMMINGS QUARTET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 • 12:00PM

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, PETOSKEY

GREAT LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Join the Cummings Quartet for an afternoon concert of sweeping melodies and spirited energy. Bedřich Smetana's *String Quartet No. 1, "From My Life,"* traces the composer's memories of youth, love, and loss, while Felix Mendelssohn's *String Quartet No. 4* pairs passionate intensity with lyrical warmth. Together, these works offer an expressive journey through the intimacy and power of four strings.



This event is free and open to the public.

The quartet is composed of professional musicians, representing the Dorothy Gerber Strings Program, David Reimer, Rodrigo Zafani Quintana, Elizabeth Bert, and Kim Teachout.



St. Katharine Drexel

The Heart of a Woman, the Strength of a Saint

Monday, October 19th 2026

Saint Katharine Drexel (1858–1955) was an American heiress who gave away a massive fortune to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She dedicated her life, and more than $12 million of her inheritance, to advocating for racial justice and providing quality education for African Americans and Native Americans. As a young woman Katharine visited the Holy Childhood school.

Mass 5:30 PM

Food 6:30 PM

Speakers 7:00 PM

Food catered by Vernales

Holy Childhood of Jesus
Bishop Baraga Parish Hall

FREE EVENT

Presented by the HCJC Parish Historical Committee with support from the Knights of Columbus

Free Will Donations Accepted and Appreciated

Opening prayer and program introduction by Fr. Mitch Roman, Pastor, Holy Childhood of Jesus



Featured Speaker



Margaret M. McGuiness, Ph.D
Professor Emeritus
School of Arts and Sciences, Religion
La Salle University

Margaret is the author of *Called to Serve: A History of American Nuns* (NYU Press, 2013) and *Neighbors and Missionaries: A History of the Sisters of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine* (Fordham, 2012). *The Catholic Studies Reader*, co-edited with James T. Fisher (Fordham, 2011) was awarded first place in "History" by the Catholic Press Association. She currently serves as associate editor of *American Catholic Studies* (co-editor from 2000 until 2013). In 2013 she became president of the American Catholic Historical Association.

For more information
Joe Hoffman
231.881.2498

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN'S SOULS

Counselors from Catholic Human Services (CHS) will speak on topics that are relevant to the mental health of our children.

Second Sunday of Each Month
October - February at 5:00 PM at St. Matthew

Topics We'll Explore Together:

- **October**: Many parts, one family – **understanding and communication** in families, dealing with **anger** and **conflict**.
- **November**: Behavioral health: The human person and **mental wellbeing**
- **December: Substance Use Prevention –** Awareness, Current Trends; Signs, Symptoms, Hidden in Plain Sight, Refusal Skills
- **January: Safe Talk/ Suicide/ Mental Health**
- **February**: Understanding **anxiety** and promoting **wellness**: A nursing perspective



This program is for everyone—parents, grandparents, teachers, church leaders, and all those who care about the well-being and future of our children. Together, we can encourage, support, and invest in the next generation.

First Session: Sunday, October 11

If you have any questions, call the St. Matthew Parish Office
(231) 582-7718

LEARN TO SKATE USA

LEARN TO SKATE CLASS

FALL SESSION: OCTOBER 25- DECEMBER 6, 2026

NO CLASS NOV. 29, 2026

KIDS & ADULTS 4+ Years Old



Learn to Skate USA is endorsed by U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey and US Speedskating.

Group classes are a great way to start on your ice skating journey.

SNOWPLOW SAM

- Skaters ages 4-6 years
- 30 minutes of instruction
- Safe and positive learning through age-appropriate games and activities

time
2:30-3:00

$100
6-week session

BASIC SKILLS & ADULT

- Skaters ages 6+ years
- 30 minutes of instruction, followed by 20 minutes of practice time

time
2:30-3:20

$120
6-week session

Registration Link
www.littletraversefigureskating.com

All classes held at Petoskey Ice Arena



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