

SECOND GRADERS CELEBRATE SPECIAL MOMENTS WITH GOD



JESUS DAY

On April 30, the second-grade students of St. Michael School celebrated Jesus Day with one another, helping to prepare them for their First Holy Communion. They started the morning creating their own unique communion banners to help them remember their special day, and spent the day together celebrating their relationship with Jesus. They made prayer bead necklaces, participated in a bread ceremony, decorated crosses, and watched 'Rainbow Fish,' helping them learn what it means to give unselfishly and be a true friend, just as Jesus did.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



On May 5, the second-grade students at St. Michael School and Saint Michael PSR made their First Holy Communion. They walked two-by-two in procession, eagerly anticipating their new connection with Jesus. The morning Mass was celebrated by Fr. Pete Colletti and Fr. Walt Jenne, and the afternoon Mass was celebrated by Fr. Pete. In Fr. Pete's homily, he shared his thoughts about how animals eat the same food every day. He talked to the children about their favorite food, and how food nourishes their bodies like the "bread of life" nourishes their souls. The children participated in reading scriptures and led prayer intentions, rang bells for songs, and brought up the offertory gifts. The children wore their excitement on their faces as they offered peace to one another, and then received Jesus in the Eucharist. A special thank you to everyone who prepared the children for their First Communion: Mrs. Campisi, Mrs. Wisnieski, Miss Lasecki, Miss Paolucci, Miss Scott, and Ms. Fantone.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Friends of St. Michael School,

We are excited to share the "Messenger" newsletter with all of our families, parish community, and friends. This has been an exciting and busy school year! We had our Welcome Back Social at the St. Basil Campus, Safari Theme Open House, Lunch With a Loved One, St. Michael Day, Jump Rope for Heart, concerts, Jr. High Dance, Pastries for Parents, City of Independence Arbor Day, and Field Day. Let us not forget our students who performed in our Drama Club performance of "Mirror Image" and the students that participated and did very well in Science Olympiad, Pen Ohio, Science Fair, Geography Bee, and Spelling Bee.

We are a school that is here to provide the best possible academic education and we do, particularly as we grow in the use of our technology and other creative teaching methods. Google Classroom has been implemented and our students are thriving in using critical thinking and collaboration skills. Teachers spent their free time learning about integrating technology into the classroom to benefit students, as well as attending several professional development workshops. However, our main purpose is to help our students grow in their faith. We do this not only through our weekly Masses, but also through our various student-led prayer services, various service projects (making cookies for community workers, raking leaves, singing Christmas Carols at retirement homes, collecting Toys for Tots, collecting for Honduras, just to name a few), May Crowning, and all-school retreats. Thirty-two students prepared for and received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Thirty-one eighth-grade students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. These are just highlights of what we have done this year as a school.

We want to wish our eighth-graders the very best as they begin a new journey as freshmen in high school. We are proud to announce that 22 out of 31 students will be attending Catholic high schools - Holy Name, Padua Franciscan, St. Ignatius, Beaumont, Benedictine, and Walsh Jesuit. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our graduates! We ask that you keep them in your prayers that God will guide and protect them.

I want to thank all of our parent volunteers, SMILES volunteers, and all of the St. Michael and St. Basil the Great parishioners, and both communities for all of your help and support this school year. It is with your help and support that we are able to help our student grow and develop into well-educated, productive individuals that can and will improve this world with the help of our Lord.

On behalf of Fr. Pete, Fr. Walt, Deacon Lou and the St. Michael School faculty and staff, I wish you a fun-filled summer and look forward to seeing you in August!

God's Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Margaret Campisi, Principal

CALENDAR

August

- 13 Meet the Teacher Meeting grades 2-4 - 6:30 pm
- 14 Meet the Teacher Meeting grades Preschool-1st grade - 6:30pm
- 16 School Offices open 7:15am - 3:00pm
First Day of School - grades 1-8
Kindergarten Orientation
Boys - 9:00-11:00am;
Girls 12:00-2:00pm
- 17 Kindergarten First Day
- 20 Hot Lunch Begins
Jr. Kdg. Boys Orientation - 9:00-10:30am
- 21 Jr. Kdg. Girls Orientation - 9:00-10:30am
Opening Mass - Main Campus - 8:30am
- 22 Jr. Kdg. First Day
- 24 Opening Mass -
St. Basil Campus - 9:00am
- 27 Pre-school Orientation - Pre-4
- 28 Pre-school Orientation - Pre-3
- 29 Pre-school Orientation - Pre-4
- 30 Pre-school Orientation - Pre-3

September

- 3 No School - Labor Day
- 4 Pre-3 - First Day
- 5 Pre-4 - First Day
Parent Meeting - grades 5-8 - 6:30pm

MORE THAN 300 GUESTS ENJOY ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL'S "ANGEL GALA" AND RAISE \$125,000



St. Michael School hosted an Angel Gala Benefit Fundraiser on Saturday, April 14 at the Embassy Suites Cleveland - Rockside. This evening of excellence brought together more than 300 parents, alumni, family and friends of St. Michael School, St. Michael and St. Basil the Great Parishes. **The event raised \$125,000 to benefit and improve the school campuses, as well as the student experience.** Proceeds from this year's event will allow the school to update the main campus security system, make capital improvements, and provide general operating support.

There was a silent and live auction, wine tasting, dinner, award presentation, and dancing. FOX8 News Meteorologist Melissa Mack was the emcee.

St. Michael School presented the first-ever Distinguished Alumni Awards. **This year's recipients were Wesley Gaab, Class of 1937, a City of Independence historian, author, and educator and Dr. Raymond Onders, M.D., FACS, Class of 1978, Chief of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Professor of Surgery, Remen Chair in Surgical Innovation, University Hospitals (UH) Cleveland Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.** They recognized for their incredible successes and commitment to educational excellence.

Mr. Gaab was a public school biology teacher and administrator for more than 50 years in the Parma City Schools and also taught at Kent State University. His passion always has been local, Independence history, which began with his writing of the "Historically Speaking" column for the Independence City Newsletter, as well as a book. He is also one of the oldest known living graduates of St. Michael School. *"I am so humbled that out of thousands of people that graduated from St. Michael School, I was one of two recognized. I am thrilled."*

Dr. Onders spent his early years at UH developing a minimally invasive procedure to allow ventilator-free breathing for paralyzed patients. Dr. Onders also has led the effort to apply that same technology in patients with the progressive neurological disorder Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). *"It all began at St. Michael School for me," said Onders. "I was the fifth of 10 siblings to start my schooling walking up the hill on Brecksville Road every day to go to school from my house across the street from Tricker's fish pond. St. Michael was a huge part of my family's life. I'll always remember all the sporting events and even my first job during the summer months as a janitor assistance."*

The Angel Gala was led by co-chairs Andre and Jennifer Calabretta, Jim and Jacqueline Reginelli, and Mike and Elissa Ziccardi, as well as a committee comprised of more than 40 school parents.

EIGHTH GRADERS ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT



CONFIRMATION

The Holy Spirit filled the hearts of our eighth-grade students from the day school and the PSR program at St. Michael Church through the Rite of Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Martin J. Amos on May 17.

In his homily, the Bishop quipped that perhaps Jesus needs an advertising agency to attract more followers. After all, "Pick up your cross," "You will endure suffering," etc. might not be the most inviting "jingles" in this day and age. The Bishop reminded the Confirmandi, their sponsors, and their families that "pick up your cross" should be seen as a commitment you really want to take on, a commitment that provides true happiness. With this commitment of discipleship we will receive the gifts of grace, salvation, and eternal life. Bishop Amos then challenged the Confirmandi to be Jesus' advertising agents by living out the mission he has for us.

The Mass continued with the renewal of Baptismal Promises, the Laying on of Hands, and the Anointing with Chrism. One student remarked how nice the Chrism smelled after he was confirmed! Bishop Amos stayed in the church after Mass to take pictures with the newly Confirmed.

Please continue to pray for our young men and women as they continue their faith journey as fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.





MAY CROWNING

St. Michael School held its annual May Crowning on May 9 at St. Michael Church. It was a special day for the school, as they honored the Blessed Virgin Mary. It also was a special day for the second-graders who had just received their First Holy Communion, as well as the eighth-graders who were preparing to receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation the following week. Both the second and eighth-graders led everyone in the rosary. Crowning Mary was done by eighth-graders Ellie McCune and Angelo Ciccolini, who also read reflections they wrote on Mary. The St. Basil Campus held their May Crowning on May 4.



“What an incredible night of support and fellowship for our school. It was wonderful to see so many people, past and present, alumni and community celebrate the rich history of our school that dates back to the 1870s, We now are able to kickstart so many new projects and improvements because of the generosity of our school and parish communities. Thank you for your commitment to providing every student who walks through our doors with a Christ-centered, academically-challenging, and safe environment.
~ Margaret Campisi, Principal, St. Michael School



“The event itself was made possible only because we have a committee filled with people who excel at what they do, and who are driven by their love for St. Michael School. The evening was a success because we are surrounded by a Catholic community of parents, friends, and leaders that are always generous when it comes to what is most important - the education and formation of our children. We were incredibly blessed to be a part of it all, and look forward to the bright future of St. Michael School.
~ Jennifer and Andre Calabretta



For more information on St. Michael School, visit www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com or visit the school on social media at [@smsblueangels](https://www.instagram.com/smsblueangels).



JACOB ANIELSKI
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



DINO ANTHONY
ST. IGNATIUS H.S.



AJ APPENZELLER
INDEPENDENCE H.S.

God Bless You and Best Wishes!

St. Michael School is proud to congratulate its graduating eighth-graders as they move on to their chosen high schools this fall. We will miss you and we wish you much success in high school and beyond!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2018

MRS. HARTMAN'S HOMEROOM

MRS. MACKOVJAK'S HOMEROOM



JIMMY BOYLE
BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW
HEIGHTS H.S.



CARMELA CICCOLINI
WALSH JESUIT H.S.



GABBY CORTES
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



DOMINIC DEBLASIS
ST. IGNATIUS H.S.



HAYDEN DOEHRING
BENEDICTINE H.S.



JOHNNY ALLEN-MCINTYRE
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



ANGELO CICCOLINI
WALSH JESUIT H.S.



VICTOR DIGERONIMO
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



BRIDGET DONOVAN
INDEPENDENCE H.S.



HANNAH FIFIK
KENSTON H.S.



TYLER FERNANDEZ
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



JOSH GADIANO
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



MARIA FOSSA
HOLY NAME H.S.



ROSE FOSSA
HOLY NAME H.S.



GRACE GALLUCCI
INDEPENDENCE H.S.



FRAN MANDAT
WALSH JESUIT H.S.



GENNA FOX
WALSH JESUIT H.S.



AUSTYN KAZMIERCZAK
ST. IGNATIUS H.S.



MAX MASON
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



ELLE MCCUNE
WALSH JESUIT H.S.



SONIA SAJOVIE
INDEPENDENCE H.S.



DANNY TRANIA
ST. IGNATIUS H.S.



CHASEY YANUS
NORMANDY H.S.



JIMMY MALZ
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



MARISSA MITCHELL
BEAUMONT H.S.



RACHEL RESSLER
INDEPENDENCE H.S.



NICK RINI
PADUA FRANCISCAN H.S.



JOSH SOBECKS
BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW
HEIGHTS H.S.