



NEWS & VIEWS

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FROM THE PASTOR

Growing up in a Lithuanian family (during a time when Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union), the importance of traditions and the richness of our collective history was impressed upon me from a young age. We attended Lithuanian Saturday School and danced, sang and spoke only Lithuanian at home. In so doing, we lived and preserved our history while, at the same time, new traditions were introduced. These new experiences added to the richness of what had been before, ultimately ensuring the vibrancy and future of our culture. It was this beautiful interplay of old and new that preserved, enriched and continued that culture which ultimately led me to join the Jesuits in Lithuania so many years ago.

As we collectively dream of Gesu's future, my hope is that this beautiful interplay of old and new is always present. That we cherish the traditions, generations and history of our past, but that we also embrace, welcome and dream of a vibrant newness that can be added to our parish. I have been told on more than one occasion, that because of the depth of history and the many generations that have attended Gesu, it can be hard to "break into the community." I believe this to be both a challenge and a misunderstanding – a challenge for those who have been members of Gesu for generations to open our arms and make sure to always be welcoming and inclusive, and perhaps hopefully a misunderstanding on the part of some that the traditions and history exclude new members. Though, as some have shared this is a very real experience for them, I have seen and felt that our legacy folks are ready to embrace and love. It is therefore my hope, as we look to the future of our great parish, that this interplay will continue and be experienced in our worship, programs, education and who we are. We are a people deeply rooted

in a rich tradition and history that must be respected and cherished and yet we must always be looking to improve, grow, welcome and dream.

This is precisely why we wanted to highlight this interplay in the pages that follow. As we know our greatest gift in faith is the people we share it with and whom we call our family of faith. My hope is that in this edition of *News & Views* you find yourself. Whether your family is an intergenerational Gesu member or you signed up and joined the parish yesterday (by the way we have registered a large number of people this past year!), may you know and feel that Gesu is home. And let us never be afraid to offer that welcome and membership to others, as it ensures our bright future.

So, as we continue to watch the horrors of war in Ukraine or see the division, violence or brokenness within our own country, we are reminded how important the interplay of old and new is. How we must live, work and fight to cherish our collective history and also look to build a fresh, bright future. Let us work for peace, fight for justice and live our faith through this lens. Personally, this lesson was taught to me by my parents and grandparents through the richness of my own cultural heritage as a Lithuanian. Now, as a member and shepherd of Gesu, my hope for myself and all of us is the same. May we love our history and keep dreaming for the future. Find yourself in these next pages and know, whether new or old, that Gesu is indeed home...for in Gesu/Jesus all belong and are loved.

Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ
Pastor

THOMA-CARNEY FAMILY LEGACY AT GESU

By Colleen Clemens, Development Assistant

As Gesu prepares for its 100th anniversary, we continue to be grateful for the many remarkable families whose members call Gesu their home. The old and the new shape our parish into the strong and caring community that it is today. One such family is the Thoma-Carney family who have been members since the very beginning of the parish and whose family members continue to walk the aisles and halls of the church and school. The Thoma-Carney family has been steadily involved at Gesu for almost 100 years.

The legacy began around 1927 when Joseph and Ella Thoma moved to the University Heights area and registered in the parish with their five children – Grace, Mary Eloise, Ralph, Harold and Eugene. Eugene Thoma, husband of longtime parishioner Eloise Thoma, began his education at Gesu in 1932 and continued on to St. Ignatius High School. In 1954, Eugene and Eloise were married and moved to University Heights where their five children – Beth, Tim, Joan, Ted and John – attended Gesu Catholic School and received all of their sacraments at Church of the Gesu.



Members of the Thoma-Carney family celebrate the recent baptisms of their three newest family members.

Joan, a longtime Gesu parishioner, notes that as she was growing up, all of her relatives on the Thoma side attended Gesu School, and it was common in her extended family or in other “legacy” families to have a cousin or two in the same grade. She remembers Mrs. Helen McDonald (Gr. 1), Sr. Claudette (Gr. 3), and Sr. Mary Rita Lynn (Gr. 8) as some of her favorite teachers. She loved when each class would practice a skit or recital for special occasions such as feast days, which were all-school assembly celebrations for the principal or pastor.

Joan also fondly remembers how caring and inclusive the school was during her family’s time there. When Joan’s older sister, Beth, was diagnosed with a terminal illness as a very young girl, the

school supported her family and welcomed Beth to attend classes whenever she was able. The school worked hard to make sure Beth felt included in her class, despite her many absences, and that the entire Thoma Family felt loved and supported by the Gesu community. Joan states, “What sticks with me is the very Jesuit notion of a life informed by faith. The relationship with God should be apparent in our relationships with others. I recall Fr. Dietz making himself available to anyone at any time...a real man for others.”

Joan met her husband, Pat Carney, when they attended Case Western Reserve University together. They were married at Gesu in October of 1981 and moved their family into their current home on Eaton Road in University Heights in 1987. Joan states, “When we moved, I was surprised to see many of my own classmates already back at Gesu raising their families as well.” Joan and Pat’s six children (Patrick, Brian, Kevin, Mary, Katie, and John) all attended Gesu from 1989-2008. Joan recalls traditions from her childhood continuing and new ones developing as the school grew with the Family Center addition in the late 90’s. “Growing up in Gesu Parish was a wonderful experience for our kids. I always felt they were well prepared for high school, and I also enjoyed watching them participate in parish and school life through athletics, extracurricular activities, and most of all, serving Mass. Gesu was more than just a school or church; it was our spiritual home. The kids would see their grandparents at daily Mass, Pat was president of both Boosters and Parish Council, and I would help out with Women’s Guild and PTO functions. Life was full and rich.”

Moving forward to the fourth generation of Carney students at Gesu, two of Joan and Pat’s sons, Patrick (wife Jenni) and Brian (wife Melissa) have children at Gesu. Their oldest granddaughter, Sofia, graduated from Gesu this past June. Recently, Joan and Pat’s family, along with great-grandmother Eloise, proudly gathered after the 11:30 am Sunday Mass to witness the baptisms of three new grandsons. This event marks the 18th member of the Thoma-Carney family to be baptized at the church and welcomed into the Gesu community. We look forward to them continuing the Carney legacy at Gesu and becoming proud Bulldogs in years to come!

PSR WELCOMES THE OSTROM FAMILY

By Mary O'Neill, Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families

During the summer of 2019, Chris and Carolyn Ostrom joined Church of the Gesu when they moved to the area. They enjoyed the vibrancy of the parish and the many opportunities offered here. When children Casanova and Cashmere came to live with Chris and Carolyn in the Fall of 2021, Parish School of Religion (PSR) became a place for the whole family to become involved in the parish.

This was a first-time experience for all members of the family, as Casanova and Cashmere were enrolled as PSR students and Chris served as one of the catechists for their class. By taking on this endeavor together, they were able to share the faith as a family and as part of a larger community. PSR provided the opportunity to expose the children to the Catholic faith in a community setting, as well as provide conversation starters for the family to discuss the faith.

Being part of the PSR community has allowed Casanova and Cashmere the opportunity to engage with the other children in their class. Because this was their first experience with faith formation, having other children their age to learn from and serve as role models in the Catholic faith was essential. Community is so important for all ages when sharing the faith and developing lifelong Catholics.

Another essential element to spreading the faith is good catechists. As a new catechist, Chris worked alongside Leslie Henderson to share Catholic teachings in exciting and engaging ways for the children in their class. Chris said, "The best part about being a catechist was having Leslie as a role model to learn how to talk to young children about the faith." By working together, Chris and Leslie were able to use their gifts to best serve the children in their PSR class.

The Gesu community has been important to the Ostrom family as they have begun their faith journey together. They appreciate that the community joins together to celebrate Mass wholeheartedly



each weekend and that there are many events and ways to become involved. The PSR program in particular has served as a way to grow spiritually with peers and to connect with others in the community.

In June of 2022, Casanova and Cashmere officially became members of the Ostrom family through adoption. This is such a blessing for this beautiful family and the Gesu community. Let us keep them in prayer as they continue to grow together in faith.

Alumni Reunion Gatherings



CLASS OF 1957

Saturday,
October 22, 2022

4:30 pm Mass at
Church of the Gesu
Dinner gathering following at
Geraci's (Chagrin Blvd.)

For more information,
please contact
Mary Koehler Leahy '57 at
mkleahy@roadrunner.com

CLASS OF 1972

Saturday,
September 17, 2022

3:30 pm Tour of
Gesu Catholic School
4:30 pm Mass at
Church of the Gesu
Dinner/Social following in
Gesu's McAuley Hall

Contact Mike McHenry at
mm7g@andrew.cmu.edu
if you need more information
or visit <https://bit.ly/3aIv8IU>

CLASS OF 2012

Saturday,
November 26, 2022

3:30 pm Tour of
Gesu Catholic School
4:30 pm Mass at
Church of the Gesu
Social following at
Pizzazz on the Circle

For more information, please
contact Moira Abdalian '12 at
mabdalian@icloud.com



FISH FRIES AT GESU

By Amy Zucca, Outreach Coordinator

Church of the Gesu had a wonderful opportunity this past spring to partner with EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute to offer fish fries three Fridays during Lent. EDWINS is a 501(c)(3) organization that offers formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the culinary and hospitality industries, as well as a support network necessary for long-term success. Located in Shaker Square and founded by Brandon Chrostowski in 2007, the driving principle behind the organization is that every human being, regardless of his or her past, has a right to a fair and equal future.

When Chrostowski, now President & CEO of EDWINS, reached out to Father Laniauskas to partner and host fish fries at Gesu during Lent, Father responded with an emphatic and enthusiastic “Yes!” He was very excited to provide an opportunity for Gesu parishioners to gather as a faith-filled

community and support a worthwhile organization.

While Gesu provided the advertising, venue and over 100 volunteers to serve during the event (including forty Gesu junior high students), as part of the volunteer team, EDWINS ordered the ingredients, beverages (beer, wine and soda), and accoutrements. They set up the online preordering system and installed four large fryers in the Gesu Cafeteria so they could make and serve the food fresh on campus. The EDWINS team worked tirelessly to prepare delicious meals for our eager parishioners, offering both take-out and dine-in options. Over 2,000 meals were ordered, with housemade beer-battered cod, breaded shrimp and hot cross buns as stars of the menu.

All proceeds raised during the event supported both the EDWINS organization and Gesu’s Outreach Ministries, with \$4,116 coming back to the Gesu community. Gesu was thrilled to partner with EDWINS in support of a special organization devoted to helping motivate individuals transform their lives and succeed in the community. We are hoping to continue this tradition in the years to come.



Learn more about EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute and its mission: edwinsrestaurant.org



FR. VINCENT CELEBRATES HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE PRIESTHOOD



On June 19, Fr. Michael Vincent celebrated his 40th anniversary as a Jesuit priest. Along with four other Jesuits, he was ordained at Gesu Detroit Church in 1982. Next year, Fr. Vincent will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a member of the Society of Jesus.

Much of Fr. Vincent's time as a priest has been spent teaching Latin and German in Jesuit high

schools. Twenty of those years were at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland. “I still speak fluent German, and I enjoy reading German. Delr Spiegel, the German version of Time, is fun to

read when I can find a copy in a library or newsstand,” notes Fr. Vincent.

Little known by Gesu parishioners but clearly remembered by Fr. Vincent (who, as we know, clearly remembers almost everything) is the time that he spent teaching English to young Jesuits outside the United States. “I taught at two locations. One was Darjeeling in Northern India, and the other was in Kathmandu, Nepal. Both were amazing places, and I had exceptional experiences,” remembers Fr. Vincent.

More than a quarter of his priesthood has been as an associate pastor. He has been at Gesu for 11 years. He crisply and accurately sums up his service here by saying: “Gesu is a place where I can help people love God more.”

Congratulations, Fr. Vincent on your 40th anniversary, and thank you for all your years of service to Gesu!

SCOUTS BSA TROOP 620 WELCOMES FEMALE MEMBERS

By Brett Young, Scouts BSA Troop 620 Leader

Gesu Parish has sponsored Scouts BSA (formerly called Boy Scouts) Troop 620 since 1960. Over the years, a countless number of young men have passed through the Troop, and more than 60 scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout (the organization's highest rank), including Jack Young, who earned rank this July.

In October of 2021, Gesu welcomed the first class of girls into Scouts BSA Troop 620. Six girls joined the newly formed female unit, led by Gesu parents, Heather Costanzo and Erin Donovan Goldwood. These new members have been very active in the Troop's adventures. The boys and girls participate in most activities, campouts and meetings together. The boys, under the leadership of by Brett Young for the past four years, welcomed the new female scouts immediately. Young, also a Gesu parent, states, "It feels like they have always been part of the group. The girls have brought a lot of energy and fun."

Troop 620 is very active and participates in a number of annual events, monthly campouts and service projects for the community. A Troop favorite is the annual Klondike, held outdoors in January/February, and is a competition against other Northeast Ohio scout troops. As the weather warms, the Troop regularly takes to the trails near and far. In the past year, they have biked at Valley Forge, hiked the Alleghenies in Pennsylvania, whitewater rafted in West Virginia and kayaked the Mohican River.

All of these campouts and activities culminate in another Troop favorite – an annual trip to Beaumont Scout Reservation in Ashtabula for a week of summer camp. Here the scouts sleep in tents, work on merit badges, swim, kayak and make friends. This July, the Troop had 19 boys, five girls and six leaders who attended. The campers earned over 100 merit badges, rode a zip line, sang songs around the campfire



Gesu Scouts BSA Troop 620 marches down the streets of University Heights in the city's 2022 Memorial Day Parade.

and had an overall great time. The girls are already talking about what they will be doing when they attend summer camp next year. When asked what they have enjoyed most since joining Scouts BSA, the girls have commented, "it's great making so many friends," "we love camping," and "it's just fun to do so many outdoor activities."

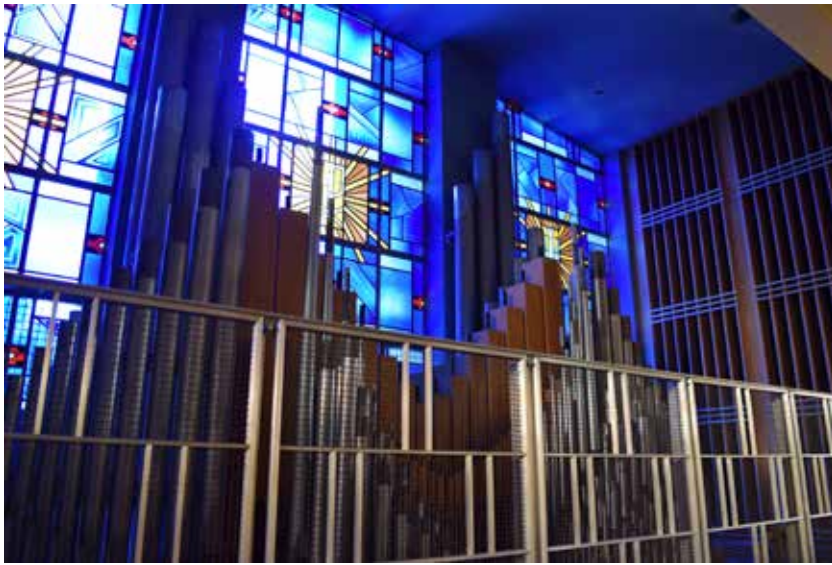
The scouts gather once per week for a Troop meeting. They practice skills such as first aid, knot tying, fire building and orienteering, followed by an outdoor game at the end of the meeting. If you know of a boy or girl aged 11 to 18 who is interested in outdoor adventure, learning skills, developing leadership and independence, and is interested in joining the Scouts, please send an email to troop620.gesu@gmail.com for more information. There will be many more adventures ahead for the boys and girls in Scouts BSA Troop 620!



The Troop members enjoyed their time together at summer camp this July at Beaumont Scout Reservation. A generous donor gifted the scouts matching glow party t-shirts and mugs for never-ending root beer.

SCHANTZ PIPE ORGAN SERVES GESU FOR 65 YEARS

By Mark Ehrbar, Director of Music



Just as there is tradition and history with music in our Liturgy and the Universal Church, there is much history right here in the music at Gesu! One item that stands out significantly is the pipe organ located in the choir loft of the main church. This spectacular instrument is a 1957 3-manual (keyboard) Schantz Pipe Organ. The Schantz Organ Company located in Orville, Ohio began their family business in 1873 and is one of the oldest and largest American pipe organ companies in the nation. They continue to build and restore pipe organs for many churches, cathedrals, and public spaces around the world.

Under then music director, Dr. Louis Balough, who served at Gesu from 1938-1969, Gesu ordered the organ in 1955 for the newly built church.

At that time, the cost of the organ was a mere

\$27,690. While the core of the organ remains true to its original form, it has undergone two major advancements in the last 50 years. The most recent renovation and addition occurred in 2009. In this project, new electronics were installed, worn leather was replaced and expansions were made with pipes from various unused instruments throughout the Cleveland area. Also in 2009, the organ console was prepared to add a new section of the organ at the cantor stand near the front of the church. This would accompany the cantor and help keep better time between the organist in the loft and the cantor in the front of the church. Unfortunately, funding for the project never came to full fruition, but even so, the improvements and major maintenance made in 2009 under then music director, Dr. Joseph Metzinger, enhanced the sound and quality of the pipe organ. For 65 years, the Schantz Pipe Organ has served Gesu Church and its community through its use in thousands of funerals, weddings and weekend Liturgies. We are looking forward to many more years of beautiful music with this historic instrument.



YOUR TAXES CAN BENEFIT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Make a charitable donation to the new **Angel Scholarship Fund** and “**turn tax dollars into tuition**” through an Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 (\$1,500 if married filing jointly) against your 2022 state tax liability. Donations can be designated to benefit Gesu Catholic School or another school in the Diocese of Cleveland. **The process is simple!**

For more information or to make a contribution, visit: catholiccommunity.org/angel

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

'NOW ANNOUNCING FOR THE GUARDIANS...BOB TAY-EK!'

By John Betchkal

Meet new Gesu parishioner Bob Tayek, the man behind the public address microphone for 23 exciting seasons at Jacobs and now Progressive Field.

"It's just so much fun to have that honor," says Tayek. "It thrills me, and I hope it thrills the fans, to say sentences like: 'Leading off for the Tribe, Number Seven, Ken-ny LOFTON!' and then hear the crowd's reaction."

Tayek has loved booming out those words over the years for players like Lofton, Grady Sizemore, and Francisco Lindor. Now he's having new-found fun rolling his R's when introducing Franmill Reyes and Jose Ramirez on this year's Guardians roster.

"Jose Ramirez may get as much as a 10-R roll. I can't really count the R's because they come off my tongue so quickly. I like rolling them, and I think the players like hearing the sound. It's fun for all of us."

Each season has included special memories, and Tayek is quick to recall some of those highlights: "The 2016 World Series tops my list. In Game One I was patched into the Fox TV network and I announced the starting lineups to fans listening around the world. I introduced the Cubs first, and then I introduced players like Lindor and starting pitcher Corey Kluber. That was a big thrill for me."

When asked about his favorite player over the years, his answer is quick – and maybe somewhat surprising. Robbie Alomar! "He was the most complete player I have ever watched. He could bunt, steal, and even hit a sacrifice fly when needed. He and Omar Visquel were the greatest double play combination in the game."

Tayek's contributions to the Indians have included being among the front office decision-makers who selected Tom Hamilton to succeed Paul Olden as Herb Score's broadcasting partner. "Tom delivered his audition tape late because his wife was having a baby at the time. It came to us on a coffee cup held in place by a helium balloon. The Tribe got the right guy for that job!"

Tayek was key to assisting in the introduction of Catholic radio to Cleveland in 1995. "I did the morning drive show on WMIH, the new Catholic station which replaced the colorful WIXY – 1260. With all due respect, I learned more about my Faith from talking with WMIH listeners than I experienced in 12 years of Catholic education."

Those years of education and radio served Tayek well when he was Director of Communications for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland from 1998 to 2018. "I worked for Bishops Pilla, Lennon and Perez – all very caring men."

Bob and his wife, Maria, transferred from St. John Cathedral to Gesu Parish this year after they moved to Shaker Heights. They have an adult son and daughter and two grandchildren. Maria, who Tayek recognizes to be a "communications professional par excellence," is already an active contributor to the Gesu Communications Committee.



Bob Tayek at work in his broadcasting booth near home plate at Progressive Field.

Bob also continues to serve as President of the Board at Womankind, the dedicated organization whose members help pregnant women and their babies. "Our baby bottle campaign is our main fundraising effort. It gets huge support from Gesu members. I want to thank them for that."

And many thanks to Maria and Bob for joining the Gesu family!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERS!

By Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults

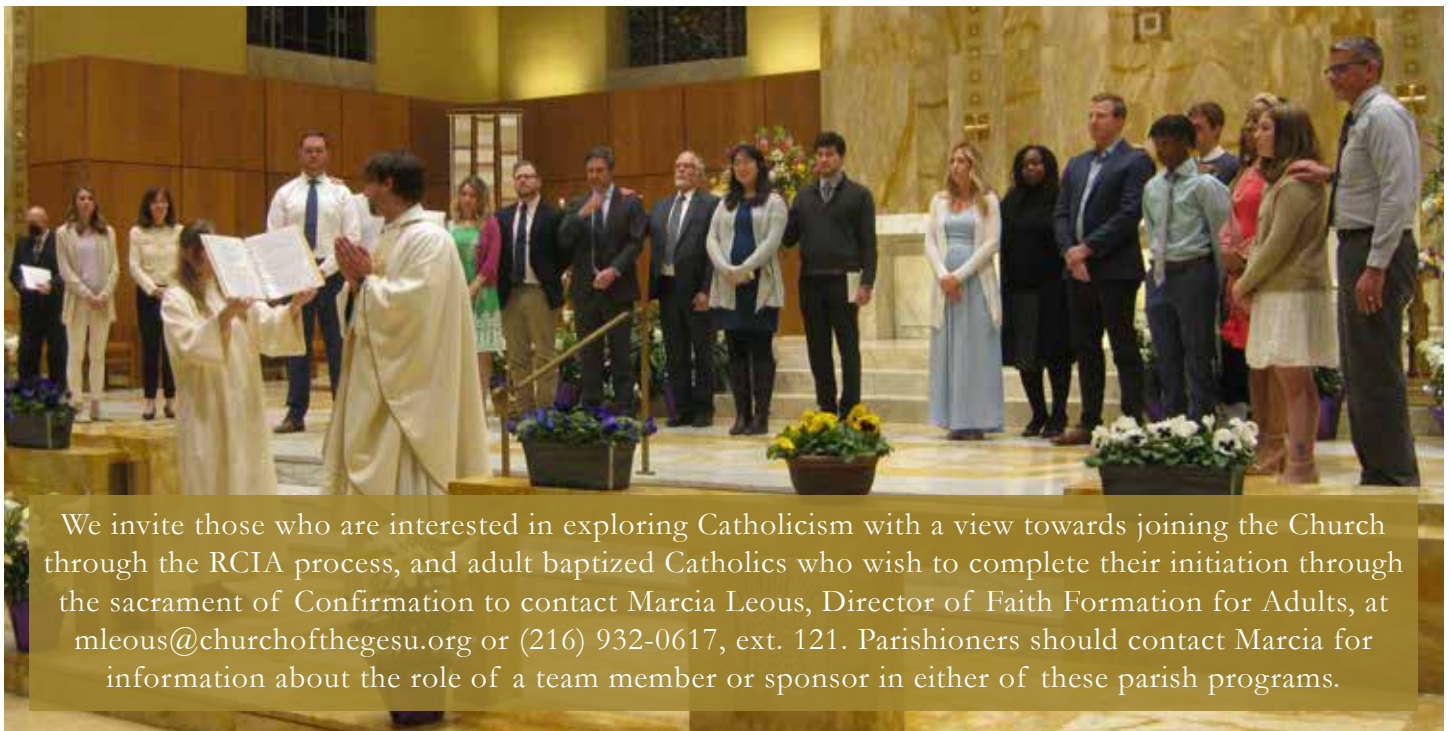
Each year during the Easter Vigil, thousands of people are baptized and/or received into the Catholic Church in the United States. Parishes welcome these new Catholics through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). This year, the Church of the Gesu welcomed eleven persons, including one John Carroll University student, through the RCIA and/or the parish's Adult Confirmation preparation program on Saturday, April 16.

Five people who were baptized in other Christian churches celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Vigil: **Jackson Campbell** (sponsor: Charisse Hogan), JCU student **Maia Echols** (sponsor: Peter Rakytiak), **Lei Kang**

(sponsor: Sean McCarthy), **Mary McLaughlin** (sponsor: Thekla Long), and **Joe Sass** (sponsor: Cooper Moretz).

Five baptized Catholics completed their initiation into the Church through reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist: **Cicely Campbell** (sponsor: Charisse Hogan), **Zak Collins** (sponsor: Jim Grover), **Rokas Ogorodnikas** (sponsor: William George Ryan), **Jasmine Reed** (sponsor: Eric Reed), and **Christina Van Sickler** (sponsor: Andrew Van Sickler).

Also, **Laura Holmes** made a profession of faith at the Vigil. Jeanne Cunningham served as Laura's link to the parish.



We invite those who are interested in exploring Catholicism with a view towards joining the Church through the RCIA process, and adult baptized Catholics who wish to complete their initiation through the sacrament of Confirmation to contact Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults, at mleous@churchofthegesu.org or (216) 932-0617, ext. 121. Parishioners should contact Marcia for information about the role of a team member or sponsor in either of these parish programs.

HISTORY OF THE RCIA

By Deacon Jim O'Donnell

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has its origins in the early Christian communities where inquiring individuals were welcomed into the group and introduced into the Christian way of life. This took a strong and courageous faith at a time when Christians frequently faced persecution and martyrdom for their beliefs. That process, called catechumenate (from the Greek "receiving instruction"), then became quite haphazard after Christianity became the empire's preferred religion with Constantine in the fourth Century and infant baptism became the norm. Various local attempts around the world to revive a consistent process for inquiring adults to become Catholic were met with limited acceptance. Then, in 1965, the bishops at the Second Vatican Council mandated restoration of the catechumenate as a series of distinct steps and liturgical rites for adults leading to their reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

The RCIA formation process began here at Gesu with the promulgation in 1974 of the English translation of the Rite of

Christian Initiation of Adults by the American bishops. Since that time, a multitude of adults have experienced the RCIA process of initiation into our Catholic faith under the expert guidance of a series of five directors who have guided innumerable volunteer parishioner catechists and sponsors. The current director is Marcia Leous, assisted by catechists Mark Phillips, Karen Turk, Vic Turk, Kim Lonsdale, and me, Deacon Jim O'Donnell.

I have been involved in the RCIA since 1990. Over those years, it remains most evident that RCIA is a vibrant and essential part of our parish community. We are no longer subject to the persecution suffered by the earliest Christians and are seldom fed to lions. But the threat of erosion of our faith by the influences of our times is real. Led by the Holy Spirit, the RCIA serves as an antidote to that influence as we are privileged to come to know the steady procession of inquiring adults who pursue that gift of Catholic faith which we "lifer" Catholics can be tempted to take for granted. RCIA reminds us who we are.

While Gesu Catholic School ensures that its academics are rigorous, we also strive to develop and educate the whole person by offering various after-school and summer enrichment opportunities for students on their personal growth journeys. Below are some highlights of the wonderful clubs and camps students across the grade levels participated in throughout the school year.

Spotlight Discovery

Spotlight Discovery Camp, directed by sixth grade teacher Ms. Peggy Mascha, is a favorite among so many children each year! It is open to students in Grades 1-5 and is held the first week following the last day of school. This year's theme was "Nature Rocks!" with fifty students attending the camp. Campers enjoyed creating leaf print characters, learning about insects, and exploring various bird beak types. They even practiced "eating food" with different instruments that resemble beaks. Additional activities enjoyed by the campers included teamwork exercises in the gym with Mrs. Fanning and building birdhouses with Mrs. Janson. The "nature stuffies" made with Mrs. Elliott were also a big hit, as well as designing bug catchers with Miss Bielecki. Overall, the camp was a buzzing success!



Tech Camp

Tech Camp is a week-long camp centered on the latest technology which provides a hands-on learning experience for students. Under the direction of Mrs. Shelly Clary and Mr. Michael Martinek, campers practice using tools available in the Gesu STREAM Center to create different projects each year. Some of these tools include the laser cutter, 3D printers, sewing machines, Cricut cutters, iPads and robots. What a great experience for our students in this ever-changing world of advanced technology! This summer, camp was scheduled from August 1-5.

GESU CAMPS & CLUBS

By Katelyn Seliskar,
Assistant Principal

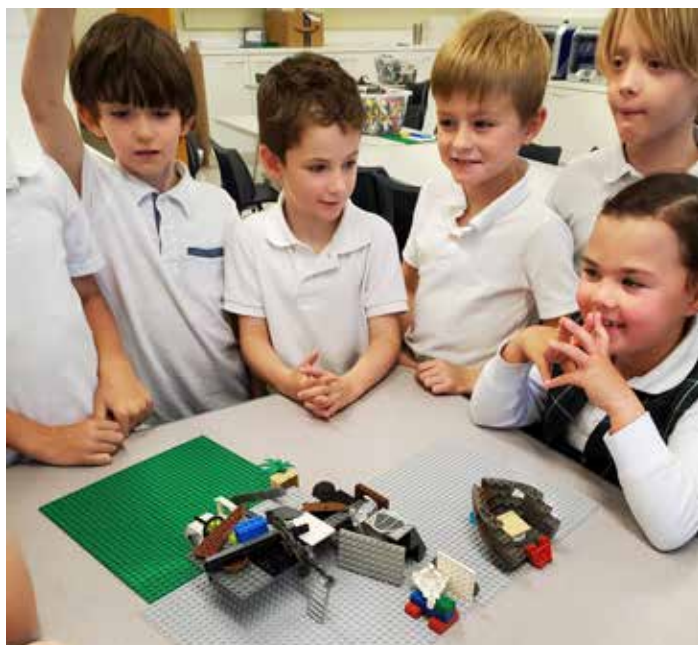
Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School, held this summer on June 13-17, allowed students in Pre-K through Grade 4 to enjoy much fellowship, faith and fun as they gathered each morning. This year's theme was Great Big Beautiful World which focused on the care of Creation and Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. Through the direction of Ms. Mary O'Neill and her team of dedicated volunteers, each day the children learned through scripture, crafts, service projects, games, music and discussion on how to care for the world God created. A fun and prayerful week was definitely enjoyed by all!



Lego Club

One of the newest clubs introduced this past school year is Lego Club, which is open to students in Grades 1-2 and directed by Mrs. Shelly Clary and Mrs. Patty Komperda. In this club, students are tasked with solving challenges using only Legos. Working as a group, they foster critical teamwork skills while developing creative and problem solving skills. Who doesn't love to play with Legos?



Minecraft Club

Minecraft Club is an afterschool program run by Mrs. Shelly Clary and Miss Aquila. Students in grades 3-8 of varying skill levels can increase their understanding of math, science, computer programming, creativity and social skills through the popular video game of Minecraft. From completing challenges and tasks individually or as a group, students further develop their skills in teamwork and problem solving. One example of a challenge that students have tackled is building an amusement park. They collaborated and used critical thinking skills to focus on the main challenge of facilitating the creation of a functional amusement park attraction such as a roller coaster.



Golf Club

The Gesu Golf Club, founded by 8th grader William Bermel, is open to students in Grades 7-8 who want to learn the game of golf or improve their golf game. It was established just this year and is moderated by Mr. Michael Martinek, Mr. Nate Luengo, Mr. Gideon Nocero and Ms. Nora Joyce. In its inaugural season, approximately 20 students participated in the club. The students and teachers met on two Fridays in May at the Par 3 Course at Shawnee Hills in Bedford, Ohio. The hope is that this club continues to grow this fall and into the future.



Chess Club

The tried-and-true Chess Club of Gesu continued this year under the direction of Mr. Nate Luengo, Mr. Gideon Nocero and Br. Sean Barry, SJ. Approximately 48 students in Grades 4-8 met in McAuley Hall every Tuesday after school for friendly games of chess. During Chess Club, students improved academic skills such as concentration, reasoning, creativity and problem-solving. They were able to learn the game of chess and participate in some friendly competition. This year culminated in a full single-elimination chess tournament. The final match ended in a stalemate, so 7th grader John Teresinski and 4th grader Owen Barilla were declared co-champions.



Congratulations to Gesu Catholic School Principal, Mrs. Regan Kazel, who has been accepted into the University of Notre Dame Center for Transformational Educational Leadership program. Mrs. Kazel will begin this two-year program in July of 2022. The program kicks off with a full week of research-based professional development and best practices, including spiritual development at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Course work and coaching by Notre Dame professionals will continue throughout the next two school years, along with two immersion trips to visit high quality Catholic elementary schools across the country. "I am extremely excited to be part of a program where I will be surrounded by current Catholic school principals who share the same desire to strengthen and grow their schools, along with University of Notre Dame educational experts who will support me in this endeavor."



Ms. Katelyn Seliskar, Gesu Catholic School's assistant principal, was accepted into the graduate school program at Concordia University of Chicago in 2019 and has been completing coursework in education, research, and leadership classes towards a PhD in curriculum and instruction over the last three years. This summer, Ms. Seliskar will finish her final course and, after taking her comprehensive exams, will begin the research and dissertation process. Ms. Seliskar's research interests involve the alignment between assessments and curriculum, especially with considerations of teachers' assessment literacy. The qualitative study she will complete will help to inform future professional development offerings for teachers as schools aim to best lead students through the learning process.



SAVE THE DATE

Class of 1972 Reunion: Saturday, September 17

Donut Sunday (Catechetical Sunday):

Sunday, September 18

Bulldog Bolt: Saturday, October 22

50+ Club Clambake: Sunday, October 23

Donut Sunday (GSO): Sunday, October 30

Turk-A-Tron: Friday, November 18 (*tentative*)

Class of 2012 Reunion: Saturday, November 26

Giving Tuesday: Tuesday, November 29

Service Day: Saturday, December 3

Visit churchofthegesu.org for event details and our most up-to-date calendar.



Bricks & Pavers

Consider commemorating a milestone such as an anniversary, a graduation, or a multiple-family-member legacy. The bricks (\$100) and pavers (\$175) will be installed outside the Madonna della Strada Pastoral Center. Order forms can be found on the parish website at churchofthegesu.org/parish-giving. Or call the Development Office at (216) 932-0617.

MISSION STATEMENT

Gesu Parish, a Catholic community in the Jesuit tradition, is committed to:
Eucharistic living, Lifelong learning, Generous serving “all for the greater glory of God.”



GESU PARISH
BLOCK PARTY!
Saturday, August 20th
5:30 - 8:00 pm
Following the 4:30 pm Outdoor Mass
Enjoy an evening of great food, friendship, music
and entertainment!
If you would like to volunteer to help out with this event, please contact
Lori Wright at lwright@churchofthegesu.org.

PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

Rev. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ, Pastor
Rev. Michael Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor
Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence
Rev. Dr. James O'Donnell, Deacon
Sr. Kathleen Flannery, OSU, Parish Life Director & Liturgist
Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults
Mary O'Neill, Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families
Mark Ehrbar, Director of Music Ministry
Therese Blumenthal, Business Manager

Mary Kate Farrar, Development & Communications Director
Brittany Lynch, Communications Coordinator
Colleen Clemens, Development Assistant
Amy Zucca, Outreach Coordinator
Regan Kazel, Principal
Katelyn Seliskar, Assistant Principal
Debbie Lautenbach, Preschool Director
Matthew Culkar, Athletic Director
Michael Martinek, Technology Director

VOLUNTEER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Gesu Communication Committee

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All efforts have been made to provide accurate information. Please contact us for corrections.