



## ***St. Michael Catholic Church***

*100 Antwerp Drive*

*Hicksville, OH 43526*

*Mailing/Billing Address:*

*311 West High Street*

*419-542-8202*

[\*saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com\*](mailto:saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com)

A member of the Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Deanery

Facebook Page: **St. Michael Catholic Church-Hicksville** YouTube Channel: **St. Michael Hicksville**

# **September 10, 2023**

### **Office Hours:**

9:30-12 noon, Wed & Fri

**Parish Office/House** - 419-542-8202

**Office Fax** - 419-542-9513

**Church/Hall** - 419-542-8714

### ***St. Michael's Mass Times:***

Sunday	10:30am
Saturday	4:00pm (Odd)
Wednesday	8:30am
Friday	8:30am

### ***St. Mary's Mass Times :***

Sunday	8:30am
Saturday	4:00pm (Even)
Tuesday	6:00pm
Thursday	8:30am

### ***St. Joseph's Mass Times:***

Saturday	6:00pm
Monday	8:30am

**Reconciliation:** 7:30am Wednesdays & Fridays.

(Sun. & Thurs. 7:30am & Tues. 5:30pm at St. Mary's. Monday 7:30am at St. Joseph's.)

**Hospitalizations:** Due to federal confidentiality laws, hospitals will no longer share patient information. Families must contact Fr. Borgelt or the office to inform him if someone is hospitalized.

**Baptisms:** Call Office at 419-542-8202.

**Weddings:** All weddings must be arranged through the pastor at least six months before the planned wedding in order to allow time for marriage preparation.&

**R.C.I.A.** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Those interested in learning about the church or joining the church contact the office.

### **Church Directory:**

**Very Reverend Daniel E. Borgelt**  
**Edgerton Office**

**419-298-2540**

Deacon Joe Timbrook, Senior Status  
[deacon\\_joe@hotmail.com](mailto:deacon_joe@hotmail.com)

260-466-9741

Deacon Rod Conkle  
[rodconkle@live.com](mailto:rodconkle@live.com)

419-542-6473

Deacon John Kromer, Senior Status  
[ydnimt822@gmail.com](mailto:ydnimt822@gmail.com)

419-670-1855

Office Manager/Bookkeeper / Susie Smalley  
[saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com)

419-542-8202

Pastoral Council Pres/Cody Sanders  
Finance Council Chair/Gabe Inkrott

419-487-4280

260-908-3177

Maintenance Committee: Russell Pierce  
Custodian/ Bob Meyer

419-506-0061

419-487-1179

CCD Coordinator: Kayla Vetter

419-518-0201

Bulletin Editor/ Mary Wermer

419-769-6750

[Jmmec2007@yahoo.com](mailto:Jmmec2007@yahoo.com) (Deadline: Tuesday @ 5pm)

Altar Rosary Society Pres / Shelia Bassett

419-542-6141

Knights of Columbus Grand Knight / Ed Mendez

419-309-6518

Music Director / Joy Martin

419-438-2516

## Liturgies & Calendar



### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time September 10, 2023

<b>H</b> <b>B</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sept 9</b>	4:00pm 6:00pm	<b>Donna Rice</b> Leo Muehlfeld
<b>E</b> <b>H</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Sept 10</b>	8:30am 10:30am	Ubaldo & Frances Dietsch <b>Gregory Langham</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Sept 11</b>	8:30am	NO MASS
<b>E</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Sept 12</b>	6:00pm	Al & Sharon Shaffer
<b>H</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Sept 13</b>	8:30am	<b>David Kenner</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Sept 14</b>	8:30am	** Paul & Dolores Cape Family
<b>H</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sept 15</b>	8:30am	<b>Living &amp; Deceased</b> <b>Members of the Victor &amp;</b> <b>Margaret Siler Family</b>
<b>H</b> <b>B</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sept 16</b>	4:00pm 6:00pm	<b>Dee Bany</b> ** The Parish
<b>E</b> <b>H</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	8:30am 10:30am	Linda Stewart <b>Arlene Billman</b>

H = Hicksville; E = Edgerton; B = Blakeslee  
\*\*Prayers for the living

#### INCOME:

Sunday (mailed and Online)	\$ 4,228.00
Candles	\$ 25.00
Building & Maintenance Fund	\$ 100.00
Restroom Renovation Fund	\$ 25.00
Growing God's Way	\$ 1,090.22
Rental	\$ 100.00

**Thank you to those who are mailing in their donations and/or using ONLINE GIVING. Please consider making a donation to our St. Michael ONLINE GIVING. It's easy! If you need help, we'll be glad to help you get your account set up. <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/St9999438>.**

### Ministries Schedule for Saturday, September 16, 2023 @ 4:00pm

**Servers:** Ben & Clara Harris  
**Ushers:** Duane Bassett, Dan Vetter  
**Lector:** Christine Wonderly  
**Offertory:** The Franciscans  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Leif Kurtz, Ted Laker, Carolyn Gallup, Mary Slattery  
**Greeters:** Bob & Roxie Timbrook

### Ministries Schedule for Sunday, September 17, 2023 @ 10:30am

**Servers:** Audrey & Tasha Crites  
**Ushers:** Russ & Paul Pierce  
**Lector:** Dale Gallup  
**Offertory:** Drew & Jackie Taylor  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Bob & Tabitha Crites, Bob & Polly Meyer  
**Greeters:** Brenda Greer & Family

**If you cannot fulfill your scheduled ministry, It is YOUR responsibility to get a replacement! Call or Text Lisa Firestone for scheduling changes at 260-715-0439**

#### **SEPTEMBER MONEY COUNTERS:**

Pat Etchen, Shelia Bassett  
Joan Linder, Jane Boylan

#### **SEPTEMBER MONEY COLLECTOR:**

Sundays ~ Jim Siler  
Saturdays ~ Janet Langham

### Weekly Calendar – Sept. 10 – Sept. 17, 2023

SUN	Sept 10	10:30am	Mass
MON	Sept 11	6:00pm	CHALLENGE Girls' Club
		6:00pm	Altar Rosary Mtg
		7:00pm	Prayer Group before the Tabernacle
TUES	Sept 12	6:00pm	Knights of Columbus Mtg
WED	Sept 13	8:30am	Mass
		6:00pm	CCD Classes Begin
THUR	Sept 14	8:00am	Adoration
		4:30pm	Community Meal
FRI	Sept 15	8:30am	Mass
SAT	Sept 16	4:00pm	Mass
SUN	Sept 17	10:30am	Mass
		1:30pm	Franciscan Frat Mtg

### **A Family Perspective ~ September 10<sup>th</sup> -- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The key word in today's gospel is "listen." We cannot change another person; not alone, not with others and not with a whole Church. All we can do is state our position and "if he listens to you" then he / she can take the steps necessary to change themselves. Change comes from within.



***\*\*We will be livestreaming Mass from our Facebook Page and up on YouTube***

## ***NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL***

➤ **The Internal Audit Review** for the last fiscal year (July 1, 2022 -- June 30, 2023) was completed on Friday, September 8, 2023. The findings and recommendations are as follows:

- • Complete a parish handbook of procedures and policies.
- • Complete annual performance reviews for all employees.
- • Finance Council to continue performing monthly bank statement and monthly and quarterly payroll taxes reviews throughout the year.
- • Audit committee to continue performing audits in early fall to correspond with the fiscal period.
- SUMMARY: All financial records were reviewed and found to be in order.

Gabriel Inkrott  
Carolyn Gallup  
Linda Thiel

➤ **TEMPLARS TODAY--CATHOLIC TEMPLARS OF THE UNITED STATES**--There are pamphlets on the table across from the elevator upstairs that give information about the Templars, who were recently at our Parish. Whether you're just curious or interested in more information, pick one up. This pamphlet gives great information, history, and current information, including a link to the AUTHENTIC website that gives even more info. Were you curious about their clothing? For the Men: The white mantel cloak of the ancient Knights of the Temple with the frieze of a red embroidered patent cross on the left shoulder is the one granted in the year 1128 by the Supreme Pontiff Honorius II to the first Knights Templar Grand Master, Hugo de Paganis. Following internal hierarchic level of chivalry, the cloak is worn over a white coat with a red patent cross on the chest and at the waist a leather belt. For the Women: A black cloak with hood and a red embroidered lozenge on the left shoulder, worn with a white scarf knotted at the neck.



Please keep those who are sick or those in need in our prayers:

August 11<sup>th</sup>

**Keith Schliesser**

**Ray Schliesser**

**Martha Sweet**

**Raegan Wonderly**

**Roseann Meyer**

**Kristi Phillips & Family**

**Seth Bidlack**

**Ryan Cass**

**Deb Rogers**

**Father Tom Oedy**

**Santo Brothers**

**Michael Bell**

**Carl Sabo**

**Tanya Wonderly**

If you would like a loved one added to this list, a family member must contact the office (419-542-8202) or you may contact Mary directly at 419-769-6750 or [jmmec2007@yahoo.com](mailto:jmmec2007@yahoo.com).

Those added will remain on the list for one month, at which time the family can contact us to add them again as many times as needed.

Please keep all military personnel in your Prayers

**Levi Guilford**

**Brian Kraft**

If your family has a member in the military please contact the office and we will add their name as well.

## ***A Note From The Knights Of Columbus~***

The following Knights from our parish are in need of extra prayers as they go through some difficult circumstances in their lives:

Brian Amstutz

Floyd Esquivel

Ed Hesselschwardt

Joseph Meyer

Bill Welly

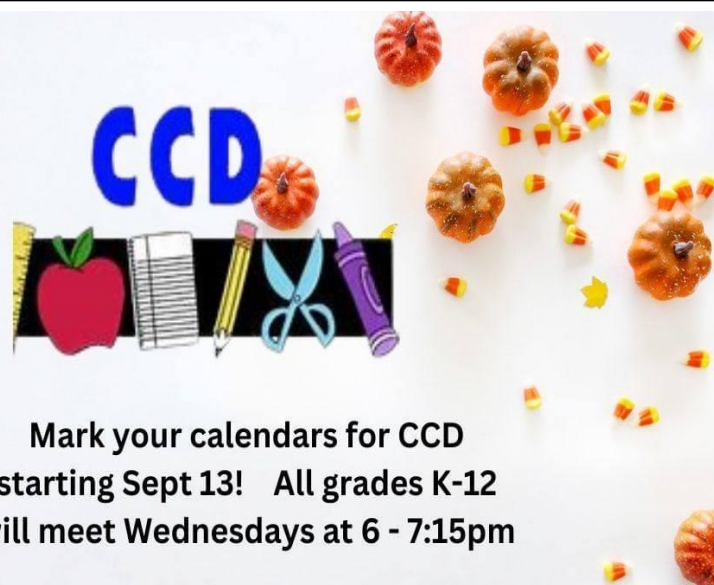
Ralph Art

Dale Gallup

Devon Werder

Kenneth Reinhart

Jason Wermer



Mark your calendars for CCD  
starting Sept 13! All grades K-12  
will meet Wednesdays at 6 - 7:15pm

***We are still in need of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher!!***

➤ **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** – RCIA classes are alive & active in our parish! If you or someone you know is interested in learning about the Catholic Faith & possibly joining the Church, please contact the office at 419-542-8202 or [saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com). **ALL are Welcomed to attend & learn more about Christ's love for EVERYONE!**

➤ **Right-to-Life Prayer Group** I hear babies crying in the wombs, "Come save me. Come pray for me." Let us all unite in the fight against abortion & contraception & pray the Rosary for the fight against abortion with a few added prayers after the Rosary. Bring any prayers you may want God to hear. We will meet the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm in the Church. Families are welcome: education is a key to prevention.

➤ **Do you want to enrich your Christian walk with Jesus and enlighten your relationship with God?** Come join us **every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm** for Holy Hour with Exposition, Adoration, Benediction, the Holy Rosary, & Benediction. This hour is dedicated to honor the true presence of Jesus Christ. If you cannot make it in person, you may view it on livestream. **This is a great way to ready yourselves for the coming of the Lord.**

➤ **Come & visit Jesus**—The doors are open. Come and sit with Jesus on Thursdays. Adoration Thurs 8a m-7pm.

➤ **St. Michael's Library**~ includes many superior resources that can strengthen your faith journey! Please feel free to explore the titles at the bottom of the stairs at the south entrance of the church.

➤ **Do you watch or listen to The Bishop's Corner?** where Bishop Daniel E. Thomas answers questions from the Faithful, gives a gospel reflection & talks about the upcoming events on his calendar & around the diocese. Listen: Annunciation Radio, Thurs at 4:30pm on 89.7FM Toledo/Bowling Green, 88.1FM Sandusky/Port Clinton, 89.9FM Bryan, 89.5FM Mansfield, 90.9FM Willard. Holy Family Radio, Thursdays at 3:30pm on 94.9FM Ada/Lima, 88.9FM Glandorf/Leipsic, 88.7FM Findlay. Watch:

## This week's Ministry Spotlight ~



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus offers the opportunity for fellowship with those men who are of the same beliefs and who recognize the same duty to God, to family and to neighbor, and who stand side by side in defense of those beliefs. As dedicated Knights of Columbus, we are doing the work of God on earth. We help mold the character of the young. We help carry the cross of the poor, the disabled, and the handicapped. We try healing the wounds of the suffering, the aged, and the disadvantaged. We donate for the protection of the unborn, disabled, etc. We facilitate Fish Fries and Fundraisers to help non-profits such as Never Let Go Ministries. Through our Catholic advertising program, we spread the good news of the Lord. For more info, contact the Office at 419-542-8202 [saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelhicksville@gmail.com) or e-mail: to get the Grand Knight's contact info.

## GIRL'S CHALLENGE CLUB



GIRLS AGES 10 AND UP ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR BRAND-NEW CHALLENGE CLUB.

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 6:00-8:00 P.M. MEETINGS WILL BE A MIXTURE OF FUN AND FAITH; GIRLS WILL LEARN ABOUT SCRIPTURE, SAINTS, VIRTUES, AND SERVICE AS THEY ENJOY PLAYING AND PRAYING TOGETHER.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EARLEE HARRIS (419-542-1800) OR SARA BLALOCK (419-298-2892).

## Free Community Meal, Thursday September 14

### Menu

**Marzetti  
Green Beans  
Tossed Salad  
Dinner Roll  
Cookies/Dessert**



### Donations

Need donations of Cookies & Desserts. See board in the vestibule of Church. Thank you for all your help and donations.



Please come and lend a hand on Wednesday morning to help prepare OR Thursday afternoon to help serve!

[youtube.com/ToledoDiocese](https://www.youtube.com/ToledoDiocese) or [facebook.com/bishopdethomas](https://www.facebook.com/bishopdethomas). Send your questions to the Catholic faith, diocesan news and events or anything you'd like to ask Bishop Thomas. Visit [annunciation.com/bishops-corner.html](http://annunciation.com/bishops-corner.html) or email [bishop@annunciationradio.com](mailto:bishop@annunciationradio.com).

## Extra Parish Directories

If you did not get one of these beautiful compilations of our parish family there are copies available at the main entrance. **What a fabulous way to learn new faces & see the ministry groups that you can become a part of!**

If you're so inclined there are envelopes available for a free will donation to St. Michael Parish.





## Love and Life Programs

### Program 1: *I + YOU = WE*



Happy relationships don't grow on trees. Inspire your Marriage!

**October 7 - 8, 2023**

Immaculate Conception Church • 414 Madison St. • Port Clinton, OH 43452

This is a unique weekend filled with lectures, dynamic workshops, and individual couple dialogue that leads you through 6 simple steps to real joy in your marriage.

All married couples will benefit from this workshop.

#### Program Leader

Fr. Jarosław "Jay" Szymczak  
Institute of the Holy Family • Warsaw, Poland

#### Cost

\$250 per couple. \$300 after Sept. 25th

#### Includes

- Lecture & detailed workshop materials
- Coffee, tea & refreshments
- All meals

#### More Information

[loveandlifeprogams.ohio@gmail.com](mailto:loveandlifeprogams.ohio@gmail.com)  
Aaron & Stephanie Gonya 614-378-6975

#### Registration



Saturday, October 7th 8 am - 9 pm and Sunday, October 8th 8 am - 4 pm

## Clinic Needs

**Bryan:** aspirators, bottles, shoes, sleepers (sizes 9 months and up), snack carriers

**Defiance:** diaper ointment, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), sleepers, baby outfits, thermometers, nail clippers, nursing pads

**Napoleon:** baby towels, baby wash and lotion, wipes, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), hooded bath towels

**Wauseon:** outfits (sizes 18 and 24 months), hooded bath towels, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), sleepers (sizes 12, 18, and 24 months)

Donations can be dropped off at any center during business or clinic hours.



**WOMEN'S HEALTH RESOURCE**  
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

## Night of Healing

WORSHIP  
WORD  
HEALING

TUESDAY

SEPT. 12

7:00 - 8:30 pm

### Sacred Heart, Fremont

550 Smith Rd, Fremont, OH 43420

Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis  
Fr. James Brown  
Fr. Kevin Moebius

ADORATION WITNESS RECONCILIATION

Group healing and personal prayer teams

For more info call the Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal 734-888-8197 or visit website: [www.mccrholyspirit.org](http://www.mccrholyspirit.org)



## HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH

2649 US HIGHWAY 20, SWANTON, OH, UNITED STATES, OHIO

# Life in Spirit Retreat

**September 20**

7 pm to 8.30 pm - retreat for Men

**September 21 & 22**

7 pm to 8.30 pm - retreat for Couples

**September 23**

9 am to 3.30 pm - Conferences on the Holy Spirit

(Babysitting Available)

**For registration please call - 419-644-4014**



Sunday, September 24

4:00 - 7:00pm

St. Richard Church lawn

\*Live music by Vinyl on Tap (featuring local artist CJ Keller)

\*Food Trucks: Uncle Louie's

Rolling Lemon Beverage Co.

Yummy Treats Ice Cream

\*50/50 Raffle

333 Brookside Dr  
Swanton, OH 43558



**St. Augustine Turtle Fest**  
**Come join the fun at the 23rd**  
**Annual St. Augustine Turtle**  
**Fest, September 15 and 16 at**  
**St. Augustine in Napoleon. It**  
**all starts Friday from 6 PM**  
**until Midnight** with Turtle Races  
 and Live Music from "Exit 39"  
 along with great food including  
 Burgers, Hotdogs, Hungarian  
 Hot Dog Sauce, adult beverages  
 and soft drinks. The activities  
 begin on Saturday starting with  
 Mass at 4:30 in the church.  
 Afterward the fun continues from  
 5:30 until Midnight with Turtle  
 Races, live music from "Vinyl on  
 Tap" and college football on the  
 big screen along with casino  
 games, kid's activities, plenty of burgers, dogs and  
 more Hungarian Hot Dog Sause as well as more adult  
 beverages and soft drinks. Both days are filled with

Ohio March for Life, October 6, 2023



Would you like to go to the  
 March for Life, but not in the  
 freezing cold of January?



Consider joining our  
 Students for Life, going to the  
 Ohio March for Life, in Columbus  
 on Friday, October 6th,  
 Marching for Life!  
 On a beautiful October day!

Please let Judy McCalla know March 15th if you're  
 going with us! Adults and drivers needed for the trip.  
 It would be great to have a huge group of students going!

activities including kids' games, raffles, the Big  
 Ticket Raffle plus a great Fine Jewelry Sale. All  
 of this along with other delicious foods and  
 activities on both days including Mexican Food,  
 Egg Rolls, Fish & Chips, Ice Cream and our  
 World Famous French Fries! **Admission is**  
**FREE and Everyone is welcome.**

➤ **Please join us September 26 after the**  
**6:30 pm Mass at 7 pm at St John's Defiance**  
 to hear Kevin McCann speak who has a  
 degree in physical therapy from the University  
 of Findlay where his wife Julie also is a  
 physical therapist. They opened  
 Defiance Physical Therapy in 2013 . Kevin will  
 be speaking about how the Lord has better  
 formed their understanding of pro life through  
 their children guiding them personally &  
 professionally.

## A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political and social questions by helping them to develop a well-formed conscience. Catholics have a serious and lifelong obligation to form their consciences in accord with human reason and the teaching of the Church. Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere "feeling" about what we should or should not do. Rather, conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil. Conscience always requires serious attempts to make sound moral judgments based on the truths of our faith. As stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Conscience is a judgement of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right".

*USCCB Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

<https://rb.gy/m6n32>  
 for more information



### Attaboy Concert

FCA and Growing Gods Way, are partnering to kick  
 of their 2023-2024 ministries, with school  
 assemblies and an evening concert, Wednesday,  
 September 27, at Hicksville Schools. The concert  
 features, Attaboy, and is free and open to the  
 public, and begins at 7:00pm

## St. Michael Catholic Block Party!

October 14

Doors opening at  
 6:00pm, start serving  
 food, until gone.

On the menu: roasted pork,  
 scalloped potatoes, baked  
 beans, coleslaw, and chips

Free will offering!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Band will start at  
 8:00pm through 11:00pm



Beer & Pop  
 for sale.





# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## Good News for all Parents

Have you heard the good news? In July, Ohio joined several other states across the country that have adopted a universal parental choice scholarship program. This new law allows for every Ohio family to be eligible for a scholarship for each child, which may be used at any private school of their choosing. Students in kindergarten through senior year of high school are eligible for a full or partial scholarship based on the family's household income. This is indeed good news for parents whose vocation includes choosing the best possible means of educating their children. Now parents who choose to send their children to private schools will justly, by means of the state's financial support, be on comparable footing with parents who choose other options for the education of their children.

For example, a family of four that makes \$135,000 or less annually is eligible for a scholarship of \$6,165 for students in grades K-8 and \$8,407 for students in grades 9-12. The scholarship award amounts decrease as a family's income increases; however, all families who apply receive a scholarship.

From a Catholic perspective, this good news allows for the Good News to be proclaimed more widely! It is a momentous occasion to celebrate the recognition of parental rights and a new opportunity to help form thousands of young people through the gift of Catholic education! The Church has long taught that parents have the

primary and inalienable right to educate their children in concert with their moral convictions and religious beliefs. As a result of this principle, the Church has advocated for systems of educational pluralism to ensure parents have choices as opposed to an educational monopoly with few or no options. Today in Ohio, parents have more educational options than ever.

Catholic schools are at the heart of the Church and are now a much more viable and affordable option for many families. The then Congregation for Catholic Education, in a 1997 document, taught that "the Catholic school participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out."<sup>1</sup> Another way to consider this metaphor is that Catholic schools are the main muscle through which new life circulates throughout the body, the Church. Until this summer, the financial weight of a Catholic education was a cost-prohibitive endeavor for many families. With the universal parental choice scholarship program, it becomes all the more possible for parents to consider sending their children to a Catholic school.

As parents evaluate what is best for their children, it is my sincere hope and prayer that our Catholic schools will stand out as good partners for all parents. If you are or know a new parent who has a younger child just beginning their formal education, I encourage you to reach out to your



parish or local Catholic school to learn about the education offered in the preschool or primary grades. If you are or know a homeschool parent, I encourage you to reach out to your parish or local Catholic school to learn about what options, programs, and courses may most benefit your child. If you are or know a parent who has never considered a Catholic school as an option, I encourage you to engage with your parish or local Catholic school to understand how this partnership may work. Or if you are or know a current Catholic school parent, I encourage you to take advantage of and tell your family members, friends, co-workers, colleagues, and neighbors about this new opportunity for all. As a product of Catholic schools myself, I can assure you that Catholic education provides what secular options cannot, a faith based education which strives to form the whole person in body, mind, and spirit. I am forever grateful for the Catholic education I was so blessed to receive.

The philosophy of Catholic education is what allows our schools to perform extraordinarily well as compared with other educational options. While college and career readiness are good and noble endeavors, necessary for a productive society, Catholic schools are inspired by a supernatural vision which goes beyond by preparing good citizens for the world and good citizens for heaven, the next generation of saints! Catholic schools create strong, familial communities that recognize each student as made in the image of God. They build character and instill in each student the desire to live a life of

virtue. They witness to those first and fundamental commandments: to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and to love your neighbor as yourself. They exist to make Jesus Christ known, loved, and served, by teaching truth, beauty, and goodness across all disciplines. This unwavering commitment to the Truth in Catholic

schools is becoming all the more valuable and necessary as we witness around us the collapse of our culture.

Our parishes and local Catholic schools have worked this summer to assist families with applying for the parental choice scholarship. The application is just one page and only takes a few minutes

to complete. Our administrators and staff stand ready to facilitate the admissions process and answer your questions. Most of all I ask you to spread the good news far and wide that our Catholic schools stand ready to encourage current families to take advantage of this new opportunity, to welcome new families to our schools, so that the Good News may continue to be announced, proclaimed and lived here in our nineteen counties! How powerful are the words which appear on signs that grace the entrances of many of our Catholic schools: "Let it be known to all who enter here that Jesus Christ is the reason for this school, the unseen but ever-present teacher in all its classes, the model of its faculty, and the inspiration for its students." Good news indeed!

*+ Daniel E. Thomas*

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
August 31, 2023



<sup>1</sup>Congregation for Catholic Education. (1997). *The Catholic School on the Threshold on the Third Millennium*. The Holy See. Paragraph 11. vatican.va