



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Turning dreams into reality

Dreams do come true, and St. Mary School in Chardon is living proof of that timeless adage. Affordability has always been on the minds and hearts of families, but especially today, parents strive to provide the best educational option for their children. That certainly rings true for the O'Keeffes, parents who are committed to sending their three children to Catholic schools. While less costly education options are available, they prove inadequate substitutes for what the O'Keeffes and thousands of families throughout Northeast Ohio seek every day for their children.

Father Scott Goodfellow, pastor of St. Mary Parish and Mrs. Julie Fedak, principal of St. Mary School know personally the sacrifices parents make to send their children to Catholic schools. Fedak speaks regularly with families about the many options available to help make the cost of a Catholic education more affordable. One such innovative option in the Diocese of Cleveland is the Fund A Dream Scholarship Program. Uniquely pairing sponsors with deserving students, this tuition program

relieves a growing need in the lives of parents who wish to make a Catholic education possible for their child.

"Fund A Dream brings together Catholic school students and donors who believe in the transformational power of Catholic education. It helps build up the body of Christ across age groups, while connecting parishioners and school families with one another," notes Father Scott. St. Mary School currently has four student recipients of Fund A Dream Scholarships. Fund A Dream not only positively affects the lives of those students and families who receive scholarships, but it also helps sustain optimally



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sized classes for all children enrolled at St. Mary School, a distinguishing attribute of Catholic education.

Harper O'Keeffe, St. Mary School fourth grader, is certainly a worthy Fund A Dream Scholarship recipient. She's an avid reader, creative artist and an aspiring archeologist. Harper can't envision herself going to any school other than St. Mary. "My teachers help me learn, Mass makes me feel happy and helps me feel closer to God and my friends are the best." From freeze tag to curling up with the latest copy of *Pete the Cat*, Harper has found her school home at St. Mary, just like her two older siblings did.

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Catholic education is worth the sacrifice for the O'Keeffe family, the proof is in the joy of their children, not to mention their academic and spiritual growth. Growing in a relationship with Jesus Christ, while being challenged to be their very best selves in and out of the classroom, is a hallmark of the Catholic education experience for their family.

John Bednarski, a Fund A Dream donor, remembers fondly his own experience of Catholic school: "Some 60 years ago, I first had the opportunity to attend a Catholic school. I witnessed firsthand the impact St. Philip Neri Catholic School had on my life and the lives of my sisters." John, a parishioner of St. Mary Church for the past 40 years, feels called to support Catholic schools and children like Harper. After attending the Alleluia Ball, the biannual philanthropic event focused on raising tuition assistance dollars in our diocese, John knew exactly how he wanted to continue serving God and the Church — partner with parents to help make the dream of a Catholic education a reality for their children. Very much a tribute to his late wife and parents, being Harper's Fund A Dream sponsor for the 2024/2025 school year is also an opportunity for John to honor their memories of selfless giving without counting the cost.

The Fund A Dream Scholarship allows both sponsors and recipients to give and receive the very best of education — Catholic education — where high-quality academics and life-giving faith meet. †



THEFEST

Sunday, August 4, 2024

12:00 pm Faith, Family, & Fun • 8:00 pm Outdoor Mass



A DAY OF FAITH

Inspiration for all ages!

Christian Music, Confession, Adoration, Pray the Rosary.
Testimonies on the impact of the Eucharist
Celebrate Mass with Bishop Woost and Bishop Malesic

GREAT, AFFORDABLE FOOD

All your FEST Favorites...

Hot off the grill...burgers, brats and dogs! Fresh cut fries, Marc's fresh sandwiches & fruit, frozen treats, fresh squeezed lemonade and more!

ACTIVITIES, GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT

Something for everyone!

Performance Dog Shows, BMX Bikers, Inflatables, Kids Crafts, Petting Zoo, Marc's Moms' Station, Man Cave, Activities, Vendors, Sponsors & more!

FREE EVENT!

Easy-Access Parking & Shuttles.



Find the details at TheFEST.us!

