

# Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds•Growing Faith•Inspiring Service





#### Saint Catherine of Siena

A few years back, I had the opportunity to travel to Italy. One of our stops was the beautiful town of Siena, located in the Tuscany region. As we walked through this beautiful town surrounded by hills and vineyards, I couldn't help but think of one of my favorite saints – Catherine of Siena. I imagined her walking through the same plazas and the beautiful churches I was seeing there, and prayed a silent prayer to this great Saint of the Church. Even the house she grew up in still exists today.

Caterina Benincasa's birth into a middle-class Italian wool dyer's family caused scarcely a ripple; she was the twenty-third of 23 children – although half of those children died including her twin sister! Another event that same year, was a tidal wave of disease called the "Black Death." In just three years, 1348 to 1350, more than one-third of the population of Europe died. Baby Catherine survived the onslaught and, in adulthood, she saved many plague victims through her compassionate nursing.





St Catherine's House



The Cathedral in Sien

As a young girl, Catherine often went to a cave near her home in Siena to meditate, fast, and pray. At about age 7, she claimed to have seen a vision of Jesus and announced to her parents her desire to live a religious life. Convinced of her devotion, they gave her a small room in the basement of their home that acted as a private place of prayer. However, Catherine was not satisfied living a meditative life; she wanted to help the poor and sick. But she did not want to be an ordinary nun. Through the influence of her cousin, a Dominican priest, Catherine joined the Dominican Order in 1363 at the age of 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and simplicity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her-men and women, priests and religious. An active public ministry grew out of her meditative life. Her letters, mostly for spiritual instruction and encouragement of her followers, began to take more and more note of public affairs. Opposition resulted from her mixing fearlessly with the world and speaking with the candor and authority of one completely committed to Christ. This extraordinary girl blossomed into a no less extraordinary woman whose spiritual, moral, and political efforts had a lasting effect. What is most impressive about her is that she learned to view her surrender to her Lord as a goal to be reached through time. Her public influence reached great heights because of her evident holiness, and she made a deep impression on the Pope. She worked tirelessly for the crusade against the Turks and for peace between Florence and the Rome. In 1378, the Great Schism began, splitting the Christian world in two, and putting popes and even saints on opposing sides. Catherine spent the last two years of her life in Rome, in prayer and pleading on behalf of the cause of Pope Urban VI and the unity of the Church.

Catherine died in Rome, on April 29, 1380, at the age of thirty-three, having suffered a stroke which paralyzed her from the waist down. Surrounded by her many followers, her last words were, "Father, into Your Hands I commend my soul and my spirit." She was canonized a saint in 1461. Catherine ranks high among the mystics and spiritual writers of the Church. In 1939, she and Francis of Assisi were declared co-patrons of Italy. Pope Paul VI named her and Teresa of Avila Doctors of the Church in 1970. Her spiritual testament is found in her book "The Dialogue."

Though she lived her life in a faith experience and spirituality far different from that of our own time, Catherine of Siena stands as a companion with us on the Christian journey in her undivided effort to invite the Lord to take flesh in her own life. Events which might make us wince or chuckle or even yawn fill her biographies: a mystical experience at six, childhood betrothal to Christ, stories of harsh meditation, her frequent visions. Still, Catherine lived in an age which did not know the rapid change of 21st-century mobile America. The value of her life for us today lies in her recognition of holiness as a goal to be sought over the course of a lifetime. Saint Catherine is the patron saint of Europe, Fire Prevention, and Italy. *Celebrate her feast day this coming Saturday! Blessings*! Mark Friedman CRE / OLG

# Our Lady of Grace School Drama Club Presents



Book by Thomas Meehan Music by Charles Strause Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"<sup>®</sup> By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

# Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30PM Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM

Little Flower Parish Center

TICKETS sold at the door \$5.00

Annie JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

Parents of students from the St. Margaret Mary and St. Ann Churches: Please see the information below on sacraments for 2025.



### FROM THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION MQH

### **CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION 2025**

#### SACRAMENT PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION, COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IN 2025

- All baptized children who attend Our Lady of Grace School, and who are also parishioners of St Ann or St. Margaret Mary should plan to attend sacrament preparation in the fall. Parents should note the parent meeting dates for each sacrament and plan on attending. Confirmation prep meets for 8 sessions plus a student retreat. First Reconciliation and Communion prep each meet for about 8 sessions and all children are expected to attend the First Communion retreat.
- ⇒ Contact Pam Bevington at <u>pbevington@saintannparish.org</u> OR 513-521-8440 X117 by September 1st, 2024.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

PARENT MEETINGS: (CLASS SCHEDULE WILL BE GIVEN AT THIS MEETING)

- ⇒ CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING, SEPT 24, 2024
- ⇒ FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING, OCT 22, 2024
- ⇒ FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING, FEB 18, 2025

#### SACRAMENT RETREATS:

- ⇒ (option 1) CONFIRMATION RETREAT, <u>SAT, OCT 5, 2024</u> (DAY TIME, location TBD)
- ⇒ (option 2) CONFIRMATION RETREAT at St. James School/Parish on THURS, JAN 16 (SCHOOL DAY)
- ⇒ FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT, TUES, APRIL 29, 2025

#### SACRAMENT DATES:

- ⇒ FIRST RECONCILIATION, JAN 22, 2025—ST ANN
- ⇒ FIRST COMMUNION, MAY 3 & 4, 2025—ST ANN
- ⇒ CONFIRMATION (MQH FAMILY), SUN JAN 26, 2025-CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST PETER IN CHAINS

If you or your child is interested in becoming Catholic, please reach out to our Director of Evangelization, Barb Yoder at 513-353-4207 ext.5. We would love to welcome our families into the church!

#### Re-Enrollment (Current Families) and Open Enrollment (New Families) is Open Now-



Classes are filling up quickly. Please use the following link to let us know if your child(ren) will be returning to OLG for the 2024-2025 school year: <u>http://olgcs.org/Prospective-Families/Registration-ReEnrollment</u> (Siblings of current students entering kindergarten should also enroll here. Parents will be contacted with kindergarten assessment information once their child is enrolled.)

**CLICK HERE for EdChoice Renewal Information** 



**CLICK HERE** for the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar





# Menu Changes

Tues. April 30th: Spaghetti & Beef Meatballs, Garlic Bread

Thurs. May 2nd: Mini Cheese Pizza Bagels

All meals include a choice of fruit and milk.

Alternative entrees will follow the regular weekly schedule.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



School Office <u>Pick Up Procedures</u> <u>Final Forms</u> <u>Option C</u> <u>Volunteer Information</u> Cafeteria Lunch/Snack Account Breakfast Information CLICK HERE to Volunteer PTO/Athletics Out of Uniform Passes



## Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys:

St. Xavier is offering the **Summer Enrichment Program.** Through a mix of academic, cultural, social, and athletic activities, the SEP provides an excellent opportunity for students to become acquainted with life at St. X. Students will make a film, break out of an escape room, and build and race a soap box derby car. Register your son today for a fun-filled summer of meeting future classmates and having fun. Registration is open at this registration link. <u>https://www.stxavier.org/academics/summer-camps</u>



### Summer Camps:

We are excited to offer a variety of summer camps where prospective students, boys, and girls in grade school, will meet new friends, explore the St. Xavier campus and experience the core tenets of a Jesuit education. Through hands-on, community-based activities, St. Xavier's teachers and coaches promote fun summer experiences filled with learning opportunities. Minecraft, filmmaking, guitar, acting, makers space, and a variety of sports camps are offered. Registration is open at this registration link. <a href="https://www.stxavier.org/academics/summer-camps">https://www.stxavier.org/academics/summer-camps</a>.