

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds•Growing Faith•Inspiring Service





Angels Watching Over Me...

Every day before the students leave school here at Our Lady of Grace, we all pray the Guardian Angel Prayer: "Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, rule and guide. Amen." We do this to ask the guardian angels to protect each student until we see them again.

Perhaps no aspect of Catholic devotion is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death. Devotion to the angels is, at base, an expression of faith in God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person day in and day out.



The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Devotion to the angels began to develop with the birth of the monasteries. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12th-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day. A feast in honor of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16th century. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar.

Now mostly everyone has an angel story. I have two I'd like to share.

My first goes way back to the time of the great blizzard here in Cincinnati in 1978 when the Ohio River froze and temperatures were below zero for days. I had gone to the movies with a friend and when we walked out of the cinema, everything was frozen over. Getting back to my friend's house was treacherous and I ended up being stranded there for four days - my car wouldn't start and the roads were too icy to travel on. Things were still bad on Friday morning but I had promised a friend at my parish that I would sing at her husband's funeral so I got up at 4:00 in the morning and use a hair dryer and blankets to warm the engine and somehow got the car to start. I slowly began the journey of several miles, driving down interstate-75 which was a sheet of ice. At one point, I lost control of the car and began spinning in circles and ended up crashing into the guardrail facing the wrong direction on the freeway. I got out of the car and tried to push my car but to no avail. It was freezing cold and I was not dressed for the weather. I remember thinking I could freeze to death right there. Suddenly out of nowhere came a truck - driven by a man with a heavy winter coat and a hood covering most of his face. He asked if he could help and I said yes. He told me to get in the car and then proceeded to push me on to the gravely side lane of the freeway and told me to go to my exit and he would follow me, making sure I got there safely. When I reached my exit, I looked in the rearview mirror and his car had simply disappeared. I then made it slowly up the hill to the church and was able to play and sing at the funeral of my friend's husband. To this day I believe it was an Angel who helped me get there safely.

My second story took place when my daughter was looking at colleges on the East Coast. We packed our van for a week-long trip and drove across country to Philadelphia where she had three schools to visit. As we were passing through Wheeling WV, I could feel the car dying going up a hill. I got the car off the freeway as best I could and we limped our way to a garage. Then the van simply died. And as it was Saturday the garage was closing at 1:00. Due to a convention in town, there were no hotel rooms available and no rental cars available in Wheeling. We had a van full of luggage, my two kids, my wife, and myself – with nowhere to go or to spend the night. Making frantic phone calls, I found I could rent a car at the Pittsburgh airport – but it was sixty miles away, with no way to get there. Half to myself, and half out loud I said "I just don't know how we're going to get to Pittsburgh." And from clear across the room, I heard a voice say "I'll take you to the airport." It was an elderly man who had a large pickup truck – big enough for all our luggage - and for four people in the cab! It was truly an answer our prayers!

From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by the watchful care and intercession of our Guardian Angels. I am living proof of that.

Blessings, Mark Friedman, CRE / OLG



Last Day of School

May 22: Last Day of School

We will be celebrating the last day of school with an all school Mass at 10:30. After Mass, we will honor our retirees, and sing the Circle Song. Parents are invited to share in this celebration with us.

We will then go back to the classrooms for final summer preparations. At 12:00, you are invited to sign your child(ren) out from their homerooms. It is fun for the kids to have a special early dismissal the last day!

We understand not all parents are able to be here to get their child early, so teachers will have lunch with students whose parents are unable to pick them up for the Early Dismissal. The cafeteria will have a brown bag style lunch and milk available for students to buy, or they can pack their own lunch from home. Teachers will supervise students until dismissal at 2:50 p.m. Buses will be running at their normal times for those few students.

Click here for English and Spanish





CLICK HERE for the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar

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, SAT, OCT 5, 2024 (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!





OR CALL (513) 652-1162

VOUCHER AND PRIVATE PAY AVAILABLE

Rising 8th 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. https://www.stxavier.org/academics/summer-camps.