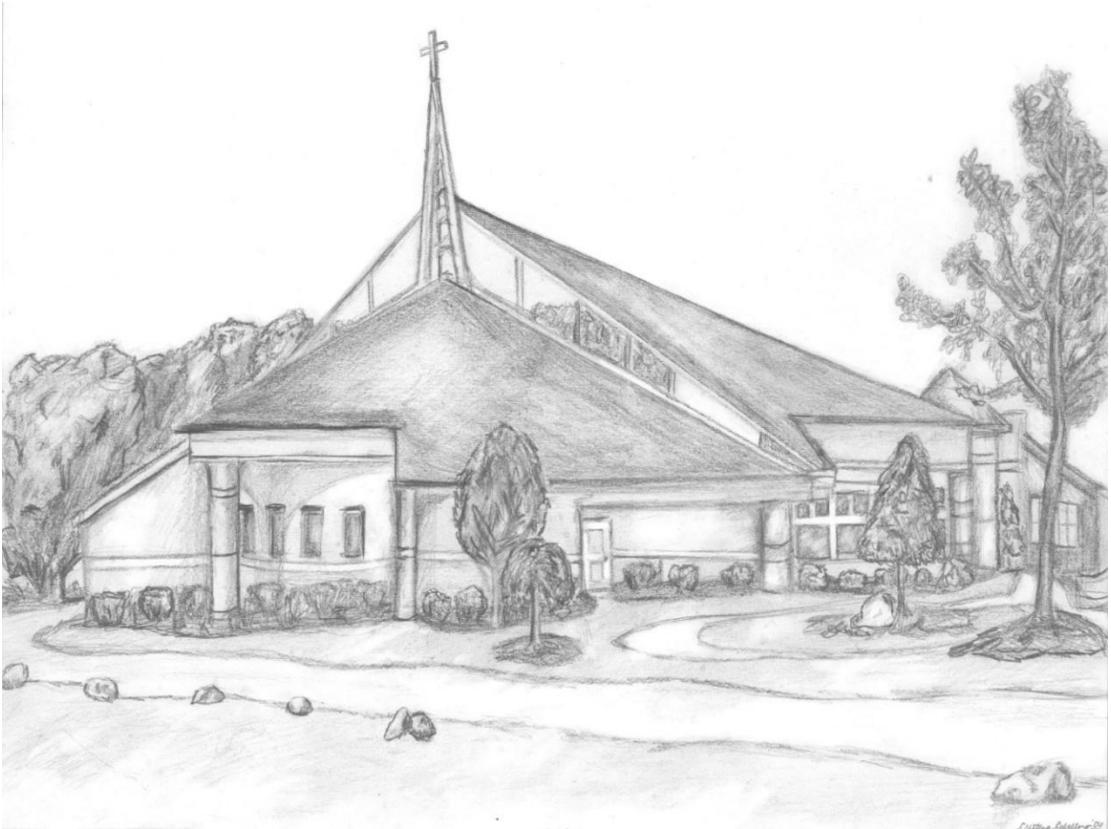


Our Lady Chapel



Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

Feast of the Holy Cross

THE CROSS OF JESUS:

The Church interrupts the procession of Weeks in Ordinary Time to celebrate a feast day — **The Feast of the Holy Cross**. Many people believe that this feast is associated with the Congregation of Holy Cross, but it is not. Sainte Croix [Holy Cross] is really a town in France where the Congregation of Holy Cross has its beginnings. The town is located right outside Le Mans, France.

Here's the real "scope" on the Feast. According to legend, the cross on which Jesus was crucified was found by St. Helena when she was eighty years old. She allegedly supervised an excavation on the Mount of Calvary just outside Jerusalem, and unearthed three crosses. Near one of the crosses was a sign, and that same cross bore nail marks where the sign had most likely been attached. From this evidence St. Helena felt she was able to identify the cross of Jesus.

About three hundred years later this "True Cross" was carried off by a Persian king who had conquered and sacked the city of Jerusalem. Then, a dozen or so years later, a Christian emperor of Constantinople retrieved this most famous of Christian relics, and restored it to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on Calvary. It is that restoration that the church celebrates on this feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

There is no way of knowing if this story recounts the history of the actual piece of wood on which Jesus was hung. It is indisputable that the pieces of the "True Cross" were distributed so liberally throughout Europe during the Middle Ages that people were scandalized. Cynics wryly observed that if all these pieces were put together there would be enough wood to reconstruct not only the true cross but Noah's ark as well.

Even if the stories of the True Cross fall into the category of "pious legend," they do point to a prominent peculiarity of the Christian faith — its insistence on acknowledging the cross of Jesus. Christianity holds up for veneration the one thing which is the ultimate sign of shame and degradation — the cross on which common criminals were executed. This mark of shame has become the hallmark of faith. Is that not the true triumph of the cross? In our times of sorrow and desperation we can look to the cross and see Jesus in the same plight. Suffering, pain, humiliation and even death are held up on that cross as redemptive. Because of what Jesus did for us, we too can triumph. Surely that is worth celebrating.



FAITH EDUCATION SCHEDULE:

Meeting dates for September are the 14th and the 28th. Faith Education is an important part of every person's formation. Please make sure that you have not forgotten this important responsibility for your children. **Our Sessions go from 8:45—9:45 AM, on Sunday mornings, with the hope that our children would then participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass.** Thank you for taking care of this important responsibility. **Please contact Patty or Father John in the Chapel Office for more information.**



PILGRIMAGE FOR THE YEAR OF HOPE — SUN. SEPT. 14th:

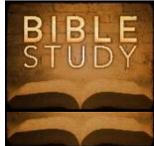
Today is the day of our Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Downtown Cleveland, as part of the observance of the Jubilee Year in the Church. The Jubilee Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining plenary indulgences. The Cathedral in Cleveland has been designated as a **Sacred Site**, at which the plenary indulgence may be obtained by pilgrims who make the journey. We have a sign-up sheet on the Easel in the Narthex of the Chapel. **Please sign up if you are interested in making this journey with Fr. John and other members of our Chapel community. Gilmour Transportation will be provided for you, to & from the Cathedral.**



NEXT BIBLE STUDY — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th:

Our next Virtual Bible Study will be on Wednesday, September 24th at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study continues to meet bi-weekly. The Bible Study is open to everyone — all middle and high school students, college students, young adults, and all adults. We will all come together to be enriched by God’s word. It’s a great time, and a good witness of our faith to others. If you can’t come at 6:30, come when you can. Gather your favorite snack and/or drink, but be prepared to be nourished on God’s word.



Our topic: Who are the Angels?

Mark your calendars and be part of this wonderful activity that will deepen your spiritual journey. **We usually will meet every other week — topic to be decided at the end of the previous meeting.** Join us. You’ll have a blast, and celebrate your faith along the way.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, September 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10:00 AM In-Person & Live Stream
Monday, September 15: The Seven Sorrows of Mary	NO MASS
Tuesday, September 16: Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian	NO MASS
Wednesday, September 17:	NO MASS
Thursday, September 18:	NO MASS
Friday, September 19:	NO MASS
Saturday, September 20: 25th Week in Ordinary Time	5:00 PM In-Person only
Sunday, September 21: 25th Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM In-Person & Live Stream

BLESSING OF ANIMALS — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th:

On **Sunday, October 5th**, our Chapel community will gather after Mass at **11:35 AM for a special blessing of our pets!** In the spirit of the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. John will be offering this special blessing. If you cannot bring your pet, bring a photo to share. We will meet, weather permitting, outside the Chapel in the brick paved area. We will have Coffee & Donuts on this special occasion as well! **In the event of rain, our Pet Blessing will be postponed until the following Sunday, October 12th.** We hope you can join us!



COLLECTING FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:



Our Lady Chapel’s Council group has decided to begin an ongoing food collection to assist the Food Pantry. **Right now, we are focusing on the following items only: canned vegetables, dry cereals and dry noodles.** We have bins in the Chapel Narthex for your

Feast of the Holy Cross

donations. Thank you!

REFLECTION ON THE THEME FOR THE WEEK:

Here's a little statement about unawareness — “There is more going on than is going on.” In the simplest things, there is always more than meets the eye or ear or touch. Molecules are racing around; germs are marching hand in hand with the microbes on our hands. Our senses and minds are so limited. In our every-day lives, as at the Eucharist, there is always more going on than we can capture in concepts or quickie phrases. The little annoying dog across the alley is ratcheting up for an evening of a ongoing barking. Who knows why the dog is doing that. Maybe, if somebody did, we would not mind and be less aggravated at this present moment. What we think is going on, just might not be what is.

We live humbly with the experiences of not knowing, and yet we can grow in awareness or openness to just what is actually going on. As we live the Eucharist, we desire to be as available to what's going on within and around us. There is a peacefulness which comes from accepting that we just don't know, and yet we trust and accept — living with many unknowings. There is a way of praying in front of these little mysterious what-is-it. We could go across the alley and find out what's bugging that little barker, or just admit that we don't have to know in order to be peaceful. What is important here is that we are always aware that there is more going on than we can grasp. Grasping the Eucharist is a wonderful pledge in grace to allow other mysteries into unfold within our minds and our hearts.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on September fourteenth. This year it replaces the twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This makes the feast extraordinary in the history and in the mind of the Church. It is believed that St. Helen — the mother of Constantine — while on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326 AD, found a piece of the “True Cross” on September fourteenth. The Feast became important when it was believed that the “True Cross” was returned from Persia to Jerusalem in the seventh century after its having been stolen. The Church exulted over the cross' return, and soon this led to an even deeper realization of what the Cross of Jesus meant as an instrument of true triumph.

The Scripture Readings for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross opens [Numbers 21:4-9] with a very human picture. The Israelites have been on a very long and exhausting journey. In the middle of this journey — when the food and water were annoying the taste-buds of the people — they begin complaining about the “accommodations”. God has a biting response.

The people of Israel are itching for relief, and they ask Moses to talk to God. Moses — as custodian of the people — brings their petition to God Who gives Moses a sacred remedy — a “saraph” which means roughly, a winged creature. The saraph is also the root for the title of a group of angels — the Seraphim. This saraph forms a bronze image which is raised. Those who would look upon that image would be relieved and saved from their pains. So they continued their journey less grumbling and more trusting.

John's gospel [3:13-17] tunes us in on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Nicodemus has come by night to try to figure out Jesus, and Jesus in turn tries to lead him into the ways of the spirit — not the flesh. Nicodemus wants facts, logic, and clarity. Jesus scrambles the picture by moving him towards belief. Jesus — knowing that this Jewish leader is familiar with his Scriptures — recalls Moses' lifting up the bronze serpent in the desert. Using this historical event, Jesus reveals that he also will be lifted up so that those who look, in faith, upon him will receive eternal life. This being



“lifted up” on the pole of the cross will be the gesture by which God changes the human question from “why haven’t you done this for us”, to “Why did you have to do this for us?”

The Exaltation of the Cross reminds us that by his death, Jesus has put a final punctuation mark at the end of the long-life sentence of his being the loving servant of God and humanity. The “question mark” is reformed into an “exclamation point”! No longer is it: “What do you think of us?” Now it becomes God’s final judgment and definition of us with the sign of the cross. The serpent reigns no more — death is not our destiny. The triumph of Jesus’ death is not that of God over us, but God for us. While the serpent ruled, we were not safe from ourselves. We were ambiguous about whether we were of the earth only — where do we belong? Whose are we?

Jesus’ dying and rising for us destroys our shame and our confusion about our identity. The further we stand from the cross, the more we float back into destructive names and images we have for ourselves individually and collectively. The closer we move to the shade of the cross, the more we can hear our name and our vocations. At the foot of the cross, there are certain things we can no longer say about ourselves and our sisters and brothers.

In John’s Gospel, we read: “They will look upon him whom they have pierced” [John 19:37]. In all of John’s Gospel, seeing, looking is the invitation to go beyond, go into and receive what’s being revealed. The Exaltation is the raising of the cross with the body of Jesus upon it and even more, the whole human race and history are raised from trying to save itself, fill itself. What we all have hunger for is to be loved so that we might be saved from our not loving ourselves.

The cross becomes the throne of victory whereby all will be drawn together, and human grumbling will be silenced. The Servant has become the royal conqueror while still remaining Servant. He washes the earth with his blood and love, and all who come to see him in faith are saved from the darkness and ignorance of who God is, and who they are to God. God so loves us that God continues presenting us to ourselves at the foot of the throne of the cross. The triumph of the cross is that we are saved from eternal ignorance — saved from the eternal and temporal hell of our not knowing what real life is.

—taken from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

WOMEN’S EVENING OF RETREAT — SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, October 28th from 6:00 PM – 8:15 PM, we will host our annual

Women’s Fall Retreat. All women of Our Lady Chapel and Gilmour Academy, and their guests, are welcome. We will begin with Mass together in the Chapel, and then move to the Center for Performing Arts building for a light supper, and spiritual discussion, led by **Father John.** **There is no cost for the evening, but we will accept free will donations to offset the cost of our food service.** [If you can’t make it for Mass, come anyway when you can.] It will be a wonderful evening of spiritual renewal. So **mark the date on your calendars** and give yourself a treat in the Lord. **Sign up on the retreat sheet which is located on the easel in the narthex of the Chapel, or call [440-473-3560] or email: szaniszlop@gilmour.org.**



O.C.I.A [Order of Christian Initiation for Adults]:

We are beginning to plan for our OCIA program [formerly known as RCIA] which will begin shortly. Why the name change? OCIA refers to the entire journey of faith discernment, whereas RCIA refers only to the Ritual aspects of the journey.

If you know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or who presently is not a Catholic but would like to pursue this avenue of faith; or investigate it; if you know someone who is not fully initiated [Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation] in their Catholic faith; or someone who has been away from the Catholic



Feast of the Holy Cross

Church for a while — then consider having them join our OCIA program. **Please contact Father John [440-473-3560] for more information.**

SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR — SAT. SEPT. 20th:

Our Savior Lutheran Church — across the street from the Chapel — has a Food Pantry which distributes food to the community on **the third Saturday of each month**. They welcome volunteers. **On Saturday morning at 9 AM, they need help unloading the trailers and setting up items for distribution and preparing for the food pantry to open. It serves around 150 clients each time. The food pantry serves clients from 9:30 AM—1:30 PM on Saturday.**



Our Savior Lutheran's Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Please join us for a great experience.

Please let us know in the Chapel office [440-473-3560] if you would like more information or if you would like to help. This is a wonderful way to serve others. Please consider this opportunity.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

We list the Scripture readings for the week, with the hope that you will take some time in your busy day to reflect on God's word in your homes. We hope you can make good use of it.

Monday: Judith 13:17-20; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 19:25-27

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Timothy 4:12-16; Luke 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Timothy 6:2-12; Luke 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

THE CHOSEN – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th:

We had a wonderful group of people join us for our initial showing of an episode of *The Chosen* during this past Lenten season. The viewing was followed by a very inspiring sharing among those present. **Allowing for a break for summer months, we will begin again in the fall with a monthly gathering, as we continue the journey of faith together**



The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series. Created, directed, and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, it is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series depicts the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people who interacted with him, including the apostles and disciples of Jesus, Jewish religious leaders, Roman government and military officials, and ordinary people. In contrast with typical Bible-focused productions, Jenkins has given more depth to his scripts by adding backstories to various characters from the gospels without contradicting the material of the gospel. **Beginning in the fall, our series will resume on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please plan to join us on October 12th. If you have any questions, please contact Father John or the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

WEEKLY OFFERING:

A collection box is located just inside the center door when you enter the chapel. Please place your offering in the collection box. Baskets will not be passed during the offertory time. Your offering will help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, you can request a printout of your offerings for the year to submit to the IRS. God bless you.

Total Offerings: Saturday [9/6/25] ----- \$ 80.00

Total Offerings: Sunday [9/7/25] ----- \$ 647.00

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Thomas Noble who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Tara Hyland Zittel [*07] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Andre Polsinelli, who is undergoing treatment for Parkinson’s Disease.
- For Anna Sasin, mother of Brother Ben Sasin, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Al Connors, grandfather of Alex Keene [*10], who is critically ill.
- For Brother Dan Kane, C.S.C., former long-time instructor at Gilmour, who is under hospice care
- For Kathy Pender, mother of Marc [*83] and Michael [*90], grandmother of Matthew [*11] and Charlotte [*13] Pender, and Katherine [*17] and Tyler [*19] Clark, who is recovering from surgery
- For Kate Tzefronis, sister of Charlie [*24], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Mary DiLisi, mother of Rick [*82], Greg [*83], and Jennifer [*96] DiLisi, grandmother of Tomasso [*16], Jack Michael [*19], and Anna Marie [*22] Solomon, who is in rehab following serious surgery.
- For Richard Fletcher [*97] who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- For a Gilmour parent who has been diagnosed with leukemia.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Joseph Sichko, father of Maureen Sichko Pitfield [*88] and Patrick Sichko [*91]
- For Matthew Pasowicz [*05]
- For Kim Paduano, mother of Michael [*00]
- For Toni Fangman, grandmother of Quinn Doyle [*25] 's grandmother,
- For Kathy Ganley, grandmother of Quinn L’Esperance [*19]
- For Rocco DiPuccio, father of Dominic [*82], and grandfather of Dominic [*14], Matthew [*17], Sophia [*19], Armand [*19], Lena [*20], Michael [*22], and Isabel [*25] DiPuccio, and father-in-law of Katie Heltzel DiPuccio [*93]
- For Gilbert Diaz, nephew of Senior Lizandra Burgos-Ramos
- For Charles Kirk

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For the victims of the school shooting in Evergreen, Colorado, and for their families.
- For an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine, and the political issues in Palestine and Iran.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For an end to violence in our society in all of its forms.

- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ A Prayer Before The Crucifix ~

**Look down upon me,
good and gentle Jesus,
while before Your face
I humbly kneel,
And with a burning soul,
pray and beseech You
to fix deep in my heart
lively sentiments
of faith,
hope
and charity;
true contrition for my sins,
and a firm purpose of amendment.**

**While I contemplate,
with great love
and tender pity,
Your five most precious wounds —
pondering over them
within me
and calling to mind
the words which David,
Your prophet,
said of You, my Jesus:
"They have pierced
My hands and My feet,
they have numbered all My bones."
Amen.**

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.
phone: [440] 473-3560 [office] or 216-570-9276 [cell].

September 13-14, 2025

e-mail: blazekj@gilmour.org