



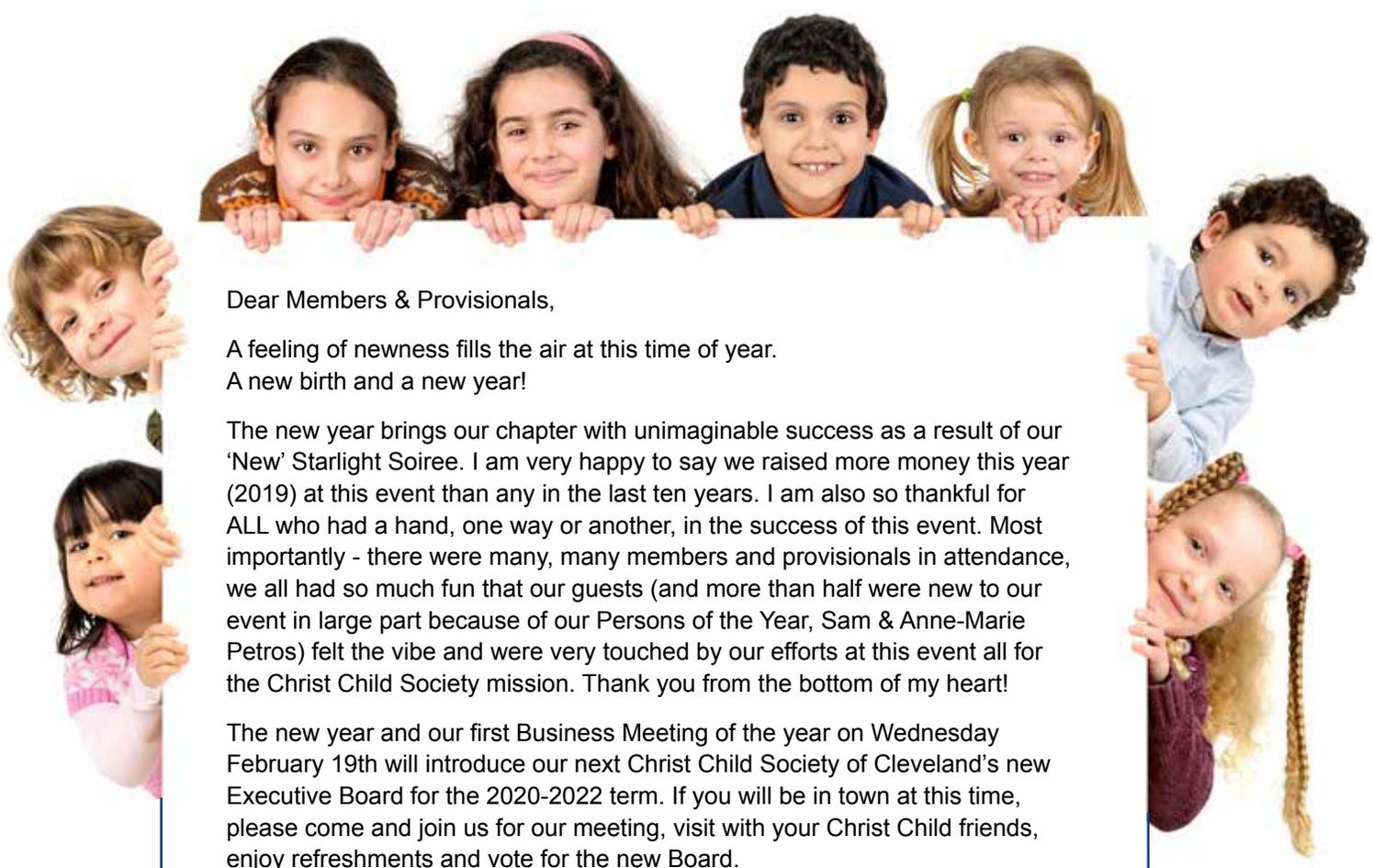
January/February 2020

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY[®] OF CLEVELAND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Members & Provisionals,

A feeling of newness fills the air at this time of year.
A new birth and a new year!

The new year brings our chapter with unimaginable success as a result of our 'New' Starlight Soiree. I am very happy to say we raised more money this year (2019) at this event than any in the last ten years. I am also so thankful for ALL who had a hand, one way or another, in the success of this event. Most importantly - there were many, many members and provisionals in attendance, we all had so much fun that our guests (and more than half were new to our event in large part because of our Persons of the Year, Sam & Anne-Marie Petros) felt the vibe and were very touched by our efforts at this event all for the Christ Child Society mission. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

The new year and our first Business Meeting of the year on Wednesday February 19th will introduce our next Christ Child Society of Cleveland's new Executive Board for the 2020-2022 term. If you will be in town at this time, please come and join us for our meeting, visit with your Christ Child friends, enjoy refreshments and vote for the new Board.

Have a very Happy New Year and I hope to see you in February at our meeting.

Fondly,
Cathy Caruso

CCS CLE NEWS!

News You Need To Know

NOW!

February 5, 2020	Provisional Review Day at our office
February 19, 2020	General Business Meeting Starts at Noon Voting for new officers for 20/22 <i>PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND</i>
March 11, 2020	Provisional Informational Coffee at our office
March 25, 2020	Installation Mass/Legacy Luncheon Cathedral of St. John in Cleveland Legacy Luncheon at Crowne Plaza (Playhouse Square)
May 4, 2020	Provisional Bus Tour
May 27, 2020	Red Wagon Luncheon at Embassy Suites Independence
June 24, 2020	Spring Business Meeting Installation of new Officers Luncheon at the Acacia Reservation

COFFEE FOR NEW PROVISIONALS

It is that time of year that we start thinking about the people we know who may be interested in joining our mission in the CCS. The first of the year I will be sending out informational packages inviting these prospective new members to our coffee on March 11. This coffee will be held at 10:00 at our Office on Detroit Ave. Please send me contact information so that I can include anyone whom you think would enjoy our organization. As always, thank you for your help in this endeavor.

Jane Donovan

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

January - March 2020

Layette Packing

First Monday, 10:00-12:30
January 6, February 3, March 2
Contact: **Jean Boldt**

Euclid -St. John of the Cross Sewing Group

Fourth Thursday, 9:00-12:00
January 23, February 28, March 26
Contact: **Andrea Dean**

Grandmothers' Program Merrick House

Note: Volunteers must wear socks.
Contact: **Stephanie West**

Shaker Heights-St. Dominic Sewing Group

Third Tuesday, 10:00-12:00
January 21, February 18, March 17
Contact: **Irene Chalko**

Independence Sewing Group

Second Wed. & Thurs., 10:00-2:00
Jan. 8 & 9; Feb. 11 & 12; March 11 & 12
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Merrick House Pre-School Reading Enrichment

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays 9:30-11:00
January 7 & 21; February 4 & 18; March 3, 17 & 31
Contact: **Stephanie West**

"My Stuff" Packing

Third Monday, 10:00-12:00
January 20, February 17, March 16
Contact: **Kathy Moehring**

Parkview HeadStart Reading Program

First and Third Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00
Jan. 7 & 21; Feb. 4 & 18; March 3 & 17
Contact: **Marsha Gleine** or **Sharon Skotko**

St. Francis Library

During the school year Tue: 9:30-2:00 / Wed: 9:30-2:30
January 7 until May 6
Contact: **Anne Mooney**

St. Rocco Library

During the school year Mon: 8:30-12:00
January 13 until May 18
Contact: **Paula Conrad**

Showcase

Shifts available on Tuesday-Saturday:
11:00-2:00 / 11:00-4:00 / 12:00-4:00
Contact: **Marge Ansel**

***Contact information can be found in our Chapter roster.**

Provisional Christmas Party

On December 4 the Provisional Class put on a Christmas Party for the children in the Boniface Building of Cleveland Metro Catholic. This campus, on West 54th and Denison, houses the students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade. In total there were 148 students that this years Provisional Class serviced with games, crafts, songs, stories and of course the magical visit with Santa.

This years chairperson, Linda Cochran, did a magnificent job of rotating these children through all the different activities. When they were done with their activities Mrs. Claus gave each child a gift bag that Dolly Thomas and her committee had assembled. The teachers and staff were also treated to a beautiful luncheon of vegetarian lasagna, chicken parmesan and salad.

It was a beautiful day and a great way to start the Christmas Season! A special thanks to all the members of the Provisional Class that put in so many hours making this event one of the very best we have had and for one of the largest schools we have serviced. We also want to thank Larry Kennedy, our Santa, who with his wife donated \$500 to the CCS and presented the check to our President, Cathy Caruso, at the end of the day.

Congratulations to this years Provisional Class: Ann Marie Baylor, Ellen Becks, Grace Blazak, Stephanie Byrne, Linda Cochran, Nancy Czupik, Mary DeCapua, Carol Fondran, Kathy Gottschick, Cathleen Harbinak, Diane Joeright, Linda Kacenjjar, Laura Labak, Joan Mayer, Maura McLinden, Paula O'Connor, Karen Rebholz, Pat Seifert, Susan Tate, Dolly Thomas, Karen Tinley, Kim Veras, Loraine Wancata and June Zeszut.



Proposed 2020-2022 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers for the 2020-2022 term. The slate will be voted on at the Winter Business Meeting on February 19, 2020. We encourage all our members to attend this meeting to vote in our new slate of officers!

President: Mary Herrick

Financial Secretary: Denise Shafer

President-Elect: Paula Conrad

Recording Secretary: Marsha Gleine

Service Vice President: Julie Jerdonek

Corresponding Secretary: Liz Niehaus

Organization Vice President: Kathleen Michael

On behalf of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland and the Nominating Committee, we thank you for your dedication to the mission of the Christ Child Society and the vision of Mary Virginia Merrick.

Rose Dziak, Carol Janas, Janie Nickodem (Chair), Sue Simon and Kathy Yoakum
Nominating Committee

GET TO KNOW THEM



MARY HERRICK-President

Mary fell in love with the Christ Child Society when she co-chaired the Provisional Christmas Party with Georgeann Simia in 2013. Since that time she has served on the Starlight Ball committee working on reservations under the tutelage of Terri Parker and Jean Canestraro. Her introduction to the Board was as Public Relations Chairman, which allowed her to promote the Cleveland Chapter and work with Susan Ferraro Smith's committee to create the new video for the Centennial year.

Currently, Mary serves as the President –Elect. She serves on Susan Smith's Community Needs Assessment Committee, she co-chaired the Starlight Ball with Janie Nickodem, and headed up the Gift Card Raffle at this year's Soiree' with Denise Shafer. Most recently, she has been a part of a Christmas Book Giveaway at parishes and schools, working alongside Paula Conrad and Liz Niehaus, along with a small but mighty group of women. The Christmas Book project has already distributed over 2,000 books. Mary has been a member of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland since 2013 and credits her involvement to her sponsor and dear friend, Karen Kirk.

Mary is the owner of Armor Background Screeners LLC, located in Westlake, Ohio. She is also a certified elite tennis teaching professional for the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). She has been involved in the tennis industry most of her life, both as a player and a coach. She served on the USPTA Midwest Board for 12 years and was inducted into the USPTA Midwest Hall of Fame in the summer of 2019. In addition to her work, Mary is the Board President for the Blessing House, a children's crisis care center, located in Lorain County, Ohio. Mary has a daughter, Ashley, a son-in-law Jordan, and a beautiful grandson, Benjamin, who live in Washington DC.



PAULA CONRAD-Nominee for President-elect

Paula has been a member of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland for 20 years. During that time she has served as Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Membership and Public Relations Chairman. She has co-chaired the Starlight Ball several times, chaired the Red Wagon and she was instrumental on the Strategic Planning committee and the 100th Anniversary celebration committee. Paula has represented the Christ Child Society of Cleveland chapter at National Christ Child conferences and conventions, and served on the National Board as the Recording Secretary and on the National By-laws committee. Most people from the

Cleveland Chapter know Paula from the years she has devoted to St. Rocco's library as chairman. Most recently, Paula has headed up the Childrens' Christmas Book giveaway along with Mary Herrick, Liz Niehaus and a team of Christ Child members. Over 2000 Christmas books have been distributed to Cleveland children through distributions at churches and schools. Paula says that it's the wonderful ladies she has met in the organization that keeps her going and that she wouldn't have made it this long without the members!!

Paula is a dedicated wife to Dennis and mother to their son, David. Dennis serves as Deacon at St. Christopher's parish. Paula was the winner of our Chapter's Mary Virginia Merrick award in 2018.



JULIE JERDONEK-Nominee for Service Vice President

My spring Christ Child Provisional Bus Tour in 2012 was an inspirational, enriching, and exciting beginning to this new chapter in my life. I knew then that Christ Child is where I wanted to fulfill my passion for helping children. I plunged into wrapping layettes on Mondays, packaging children's coats in the Fall, the Red Wagon kitchen committee, loved arranging household displays at Showcase and tried not to pass up double hours for its "changeover". Before long, Peg Rowland and I were reading to classes at Parmadale Headstart, complete with props and hats, as we brought books to life for three and four year olds.

A few years ago, I was asked to update our Crib Program. I learned the infant mortality rate in our county had soared over the past years and our crib program grew and became more important with the support of our executive leadership. I developed new Portable Crib Guidelines and simplified the Request Form for social service agency staff. We now distribute cribs for newborn babies without delay. Every infant identified by our social service agencies has a safe place to sleep upon arrival home from the hospital. Christ Child Society continues to promote and advocate our crib program for newborns to help prevent infant mortality.

I served on the Christ Child Board as Crib Chair for more than one year. I have also assisted Arlene McNamara with developing our new Christ Child Bed Program and participate on the Community Needs Assessment Workshop and Committee lead by Susan Ferraro Smith. I enjoyed being part of our successful Starlight Soiree Committee this year.

As an Ignatian Volunteer, I also serve at Maggie's Place, a home for pregnant women in Garfield Heights, and am Volunteer Coordinator with the Family Engagement Program at the West Side Catholic Center and have volunteered there for 25 years. I serve at St Basil the Great on the Social Concern Commission and with the St Vincent de Paul Society. As a graduate of Regina High School and Catholic University, I am a registered nurse and Certified Case Manager. I worked in hospital ICUs and clinics, trauma case management, medical research, and managed care. My husband Rich always encourages me in my volunteer work and helps me when I am challenged with technology or weight-lifting boxes! We were blessed with three sons, and now have six wonderful grandchildren, affectionately, our California girls and Jersey boys, and our greatest joy!



KATHLEEN MICHAEL-Nominee for Organization Vice President

I joined the Columbus chapter of the Christ Child Society in 1998, and then transferred to the Cleveland Chapter when we moved here in the summer of 2000. To meet people, I volunteered for the Ball Committee and worked on the Silent Auction. I continued to work on the Ball in various capacities in following years, including seeking corporate sponsorships and managing the invitation process. I have also worked on several Red Wagon committees, specifically in taking reservations/assigning tales and in finding raffle items. During my active membership years, I chaired "My Stuff", co-chaired a Provisional Class year, served on the board as Corresponding Secretary, and worked as the Religious Chair

organizing the Days of Recollection and planning the Installation Masses. It has always been my pleasure to work alongside dedicated members and at the same time recognize the great purpose of the Christ Child Society to provide for the well-being of needy children in the name of Jesus.

When my children started college, I returned to working full-time, and became a sustaining member. My position at John Carrol as the Treasury Specialist and Assistant to the Vice President for Finance was a good fit for me to use my organization skills, education and work experience in banking, sales and communication. I recently retired from John Carroll and am available to serve others through the Christ Child Society as an active member. I will strive to be a compassionate and loyal team player and work diligently to use my skills, experience, and personal and professional relationships to meet objectives and challenging circumstances. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve in this manner for the Christ Child Society of Cleveland.



DENISE SHAFER-Nominee for Financial Secretary

Denise joined the Christ Child Society in 2017 as part of a Provisional class of 24. She has enjoyed serving Christ Child Society as a member of the Starlight Ball Committee and Starlight Soiree Committee, has participated in the Appreciative Inquiry Project, has been a member of the publicity committee for Christ Child, enjoys volunteering at Showcase when she is able and has been a program provider for the preschoolers at Merrick House.

She currently serves as President of her HOA, is a Big Sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County to Mya and was named Big Sister of the Year for 2019.

She has been recognized by the Ohio State Assembly for her work with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She serves as Treasurer on the Board of Blessing House since 2015, is Treasurer of Harbourtown Fine Arts Center, volunteers at Second Harvest Food Bank, and is a member of St Mary's Parish, Vermilion. She is also a member of Vermilion Boat Club. Denise and her husband, Jim, have established the Shafer Strunk Family Fund, and they are sponsors of two Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra Scholarships.

Denise currently works at Landing Point Financial Group in Avon as a Wealth Advisor. She lives in Vermilion with her spouse, Jim Strunk, and three delightful Miniature Dachshunds; Bernie, a gentlemanly rescue, and litter mates, Ava and Schnitzel. Denise has two grown children and seven grandchildren.



MARSHA GLEINE-Nominee for Recording Secretary

Among my many blessings are first and foremost my dear husband Carl and two amazing children, their equally amazing spouses, and my 4 grandchildren who make me smile every day!

My professional career includes 26+ years in Catholic education as a teacher, assistant principal, and currently as a substitute teacher.

I became a Provisional Member of the Christ Child Society in 2014 and an active member in 2015.

Since then I have volunteered at Showcase, My Stuff, coats, and various other programs. I have served as co-chairman the Country Kitchen at the Red Wagon Luncheon for the past three years. Two years ago, I was honored to join the Board of Directors as chairman of the Parkview Head Start reading program. For the past two years I have also been co-chairman of our chapter's celebration of the National Christ Society Make a Difference Day/Week.

I consider it a great privilege to work on behalf of children of need in our community. I am inspired and energized to work along side of the dedicated women who make up the Christ Child Society of Cleveland!



LIZ NIEHAUS-Nominee for Corresponding Secretary

With some friendly encouragement from then Provisional Co-Chair Kathy Michael, I joined the Christ Child Society in 2005. A stay-at-home mom (by choice) and active volunteer in my 4 children’s schools and activities, I was looking for something to fill my time as my youngest was leaving for college. The bus tour convinced me that this organization was something I wanted to be part of!

Since my installation, I have participated in a number of projects. I was the newsletter editor for four years. I volunteered at Immaculate Conception Library until the school closed in 2010. Some years, I was able to help with uniforms and coats. I spent some afternoons with the girls in the Merrick House Mentoring Program. I’ve really enjoyed working at Showcase, both in the front of the store and for the past year or so, in the back room as a pricer. In leadership roles, I served 6 years as St. Francis Library Chair, 2 years as Organization Vice President, and am currently Service Vice President.

Outside of Christ Child, I am a regular Monday morning volunteer at the West Side Catholic Center, sorting/organizing household items. I am an active member of The Guild at St. Raphael parish, where I am also a Eucharistic Minister. Every winter for over 25 years, I have been involved on some level with the Ohio High School Mock Trial District and Regional Competitions in Cuyahoga County. I like to be busy!

Beyond my “work without pay”, I love spending time with my family, some here in town, some in Connecticut, and others in Nebraska. I also enjoy travel, live theater, and anything Notre Dame!

My parents always reminded me and my siblings how blessed we were, and stressed the importance of giving back. “Those who have much, much will be expected!” Those blessings have certainly continued into my adult life. I try very hard to “give back” for all I have received....but for some inexplicable reason, I many times feel I receive so much more than I give – yet another blessing!

I’m looking forward to working with the new Board to help further the good works of our Chapter.

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Bringing HOPE in the New Year through prayer . . .

The Prayer Project

Mission: Praying for the good of others and ourselves in the name of The Christ Child.

The Prayer Project is made up of prayer groups, individuals, members, non-members, women, men, young or old. The groups can be formal or informal. Prayer gatherings can be at home, at church, in a park, over lunch, wherever and whenever. No schedules, no rules. And yes, this is a volunteer opportunity! Our members will get hours for their Christ Child Society prayer time. I am confident you will receive much more than just hours and I am also confident that miracles will go along with all those prayers!

Our HOPE is that this will give our members an opportunity to come together, to volunteer, to be an active participant in a special way and to follow the teachings of our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick. Please consider giving of yourself in prayer for each other, for our projects, for the children we serve and their families, the agencies we serve, for special intentions, for thanksgiving, forgiveness, growth, love, kindness, respect, and HOPE.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for The Prayer Project. I have 15 members signed up to-date. I will send out prayer intentions/suggestions but you know we need prayers for all we do and all we serve.

Special Prayer Intention: Please pray for the new slate of officers, for HOPE in our future, and to be filled with grace and HOPE as we embrace change.

Happy New Year!

Terri Parker

“HOPE is to have an opportunity to grow spiritually . . . growing and strengthening our bonds among each other while giving & serving.”

- Author Unknown

The Gift of a Book

Back in October, a sit-down with the director of the Cleveland Kid's Book Bank led to an amazing opportunity. CHRISTMAS BOOKS – thousands of them – needing a home. No monetary cost to us...we just had to devise a plan to distribute them and recruit the volunteer-power to make it happen.

Boxes and boxes of books were transported from the Book Bank. The books were sorted, tagged with our Christ Child Society label, and then re-boxed by book type and reading level. Churches, schools, and existing Christ Child programs were contacted about receiving books. In the end, we were able to distribute **2,055 Christmas books**. At parishes, children weren't the only ones offered a book, but parents and grandparents as well who could read the book to their family. If middle schoolers or teens could not find something of interest, they were encouraged to choose a book for a younger sibling, cousin, or neighbor, and read it to them. Whether it was *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *The Night Before Christmas*, *The Story of the First Christmas*, or any of the 100's of other Christmas book titles, children and adult alike were thrilled to receive a book. Many thanks to our members who sorted, tagged, and boxed, as well as those who distributed books at the following locations:

Blessing House **100 books**

Layettes **100 books**

Metro Catholic **150 books**
(Provisional Christmas Party)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel **100 books**

St. Ignatius of Antioch **350 books**

St. Rocco School **150 books**

St. Francis School **300 books**

St. Aloysius School **250 books**

St. Stanislas School **275 books**

Stepstone Charter School **200 books**

Village Prep Woodland Hills **80 books**

During this blessed season, it is heart-warming to know that we were able to bring a bit of Christmas joy to some underprivileged families in our city, and at the same time, promote literacy, a primary focus of Christ Child chapters nationwide. Perhaps we have started a new tradition?!



Installation Mass & Legacy Brunch

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Installation Mass

Celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
East 9th & Superior Avenue

Legacy Brunch

Immediately following Mass
Crowne Plaza at Playhouse Square
1260 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland

Please join us for these wonderful events as we welcome the newest Christ Child members and honor those who are marking membership anniversaries.

PLEASE NOTE: Free valet parking is available at the Crowne Plaza. The hotel will offer shuttle service from the hotel to the cathedral and back. Parking at the cathedral is not included.

No separate invitation will be mailed.

LEGACY BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 13th

Reservations can be made online at: christchildsocietycleveland.org/legacy-brunch

Payment must accompany reservation form

Please Reserve: ___ Tickets @ \$40 each
___ Silver Patron @ \$60 (\$20 tax deductible) ___ Gold Patron @ \$85 (\$45 tax deductible)
I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Phone: _____

Seating Requests (Tables of 8) Indicate Member (M), Guest (G), Other Chapter (O), Provisional (P)

List your name and the names of those you have confirmed will be sharing your table.
Incomplete tables will be filled with other Christ Child members and their guests.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. _____ | M G O P | 2. _____ | M G O P |
| 3. _____ | M G O P | 4. _____ | M G O P |
| 5. _____ | M G O P | 6. _____ | M G O P |
| 7. _____ | M G O P | 8. _____ | M G O P |

_____ **I have no seating preference** _____ **I prefer the vegetarian option**

Checks made payable to the Christ Child Society
MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Cardholder Name: _____

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail reservation form with payment to:
Christ Child Society, 7901 Detroit Ave., Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102
Attn: Legacy Luncheon

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Remembrance/Endowment Report

November 2 - December 17, 2020

Memory

Jean Bzdafka	Jerrold Jbara (2)
Maina Consolo	Joyce Palinkas
Richard Clouse	Viola Schwalm (25)
Angel Eve	Dr. Gerald Wahl
Anthony Giordano	Polly Woznicki (26)
Catherine M. Harrington	Bill Wagner (4)
Heidi Herten	

Please notify the Christ Child office regarding deaths of CCS members or their immediate family members.

Send Remembrance/Endowment checks to:

Christ Child Society of Cleveland,
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300,
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Honor

Diane Anker-Merry Christmas
Father John Carlin-Happy Birthday
Margo and John Cengic-Merry Christmas
Rita Farley-Happy Birthday
Robert and Maureen Nickodem
Margie Picciano-Happy Birthday
Kathy Scheidt-Happy Birthday

St. John Cathedral Mass for Christ Child members,
living and deceased, and for their families.

Friday, January 24, Noon

Tuesday, February 24, Noon

Wednesday, March 25, 10am

this will also be the Christ Child Society Installation Mass.

In Our Thoughts

Juday Michalski, death of husband- Robert
Mary Ann Petrancek, death of husband- Frank
The family of Viola E. Schwalm
Margo Cengic, death of mother - Doris Sourek
The family of Polly Woznicki

Donations November 2-December 17	\$2,570.00
TOTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR	\$5,770.00

Online Remembrance Giving available on our website at christchildsocietycleveland.org

"Let not a day pass without having learned something, without having overcome yourself in something, without having performed a kind act, without having accomplished something." -Mary Virginia Merrick





Christ Child Society of Cleveland

7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

www.christchildsocietycleveland.org

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DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by January 1st.

Articles for the newsletter

Please contact **Kate Toma** if you have any special needs or volunteer requests for the newsletter.
Articles for the March/April issue will be due by Wednesday, February 12th.

Cathy Caruso
President

Mary Herrick
President-Elect

Liz Niehaus
Service VP

Carol Janas
Organization VP

Sue Simon
Recording Secretary

Jo Ann Lamb
Corresponding Secretary

Meg Kearns
Financial Secretary

Mary Jo Dailey
Endowment/
Remembrance

Kate Toma
Newsletter Editor

Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski
Spiritual Advisor