Deacon administrator:
Deacon Frank Iannarino is the first deacon specifically appointed by Bishop Robert Brennan to be administrator of a parish, Page 2

Faith in Action:
Mark Huddy reflects on the tragic mass shootings in Dayton and in Texas and says something needs to be done about gun violence in our country, Page 5

Scripture:
Respond to the word of God and spread the Good News to all the world, Father Timothy Hayes writes, Page 19

DIOCESAN STUDENTS
HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

Pages 3-4
Deacon moves into new role as parish administrator

This month, Deacon Frank Iannarino began serving as deacon parish administrator of Columbus St. John the Baptist Church after being appointed to the position in July by Bishop Robert Brennan.

He is the only deacon in the Diocese of Columbus serving in such a position. Deacon Andy Duda is administrator of Newcomerstown St. Francis de Sales Church, overseeing day-to-day parish activities, but that parish also has a priest moderator, Father Victor Wesolowski.

For about 15 years until 2018, Columbus St. Agnes and St. Aloysius churches had deacon administrators serving under the supervision of a priest moderator. Deacon Bill Davis was the first of those deacons, succeeded by Deacons Jim Gorski, George Zimmerman and Tom Phillips. Father Patrick Toner became pastor of the two parishes and of Columbus St. Mary Magdalen Church in 2018.

Deacons also have served in several instances as temporary administrators of parishes in the diocese when a pastor became ill or died.

Deacon Iannarino is the first deacon specifically appointed by Bishop Brennan to be administrator of a parish so its parishioners can have constant pastoral care.

St. John the Baptist has one Sunday Mass, celebrated on alternate Sundays by Msgr. Anthony Missimi and Msgr. John Cody, retired priests of the diocese.

St. John the Baptist was established in 1898 as an Italian national parish, with no geographic boundaries, and is the only such parish in the diocese. It is a landmark for motorists on Interstate 670 because its cross is easily visible, and its annual Italian Festival in October in the parish parking lot attracts large crowds from throughout central Ohio.

For several years, St. John the Baptist and Columbus Sacred Heart Church have shared a priest as administrator. Father Robert Kitsmiller served in that role until Monday, Aug. 5, when he became rector of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, succeeding Father Michael Lumpe, who was appointed vice rector for the college of liberal arts at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Bishop Brennan appointed Father Streitenberger as administrator at Sacred Heart and Deacon Iannarino to the same position at St. John the Baptist. Father Streitenberger also will continue as parochial vicar at the cathedral and was appointed to the new position of coordinator of evangelization for the diocese.

Deacon Iannarino retains his current positions as director of the diocesan Office of the Permanent Diaconate and chaplain and religious education director at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and continues part-time diocesan ministry at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church.

As administrator, he reports directly to the bishop and Msgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan vicar general, and keeps Father Lumpe, who also will continue as diocesan vicar for priests, informed of actions he has taken.

“Bishop Brennan called me and said he didn’t want to appoint a priest as administrator at St. John the Baptist, but didn’t want me to be administrator of two parishes, so he chose Father Streitenberger for Sacred Heart and selected me for St. John,” Deacon Iannarino said.

“My dad was baptized at St. John, and I’ve always felt a connection to the parish because of my Italian heritage, so I told the bishop I’d be honored to provide a pastoral presence there.”

“I’ve already scheduled a wedding and a couple baptisms at the church. I will be at all the Sunday Masses there, and my first priority is to be sure Mass and the Sacraments continue to be celebrated there regularly.

“The bishop told me that he foresees having more deacons playing an active role in staffing parishes and that he thought it would be good for me to be one of the first. With the blessing of my wife, I gladly accepted.”

Two men from diocese profess Holy Cross vows

Michael Ryan and Brian Vetter from the Diocese of Columbus made their first profession of religious vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross as they discern a calling to the priesthood.

Ryan, son of Bob and Mary Ginn Ryan of Columbus St. Catharine Church, and Vetter, whose parents are John and Patricia Vetter of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, were among 12 men professing vows on Saturday, Aug. 3, at Sacred Heart Church in Columbus.

Profession of vows means they have completed a year of prayer and discernment at the congregation’s novitiate near Colorado Springs.

Ryan was involved in summer ministry at Holy Redeemer Church in Portland, Oregon, and Vetter was at St. Ignatius the Martyr Church in Austin, Texas.

They and the other men who professed their vows in Colorado will live at Moreau Seminary at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and engage their theological studies and pastoral formation through the university’s master of divinity program. This period of formation usually takes about a year. A seminarian then professes perpetual vows and is ordained as a deacon, followed generally in about eight months by ordination as a priest.

After professing vows during the Mass, the 12 men received the Holy Cross habit and the congregation’s

See HOLY CROSS, Page 21
Firefighter-turned-teacher kindles love of God in students

When Theodore “Chip” Roberts’ fifth- and sixth-grade religion students at Westerville St. Paul School returned to his classroom on Wednesday, Aug. 21, they saw not only the usual messages of welcome, but also a display of what firefighters call “turn-out gear” – the protective clothing and other items that keep them safe amid smoke and flames.

The fire gear was there because Roberts was a firefighter for 26 years. He retired from the Columbus Division of Fire in 2014 and started a second career teaching theology at St. Paul School three years later.

“I tell my students on the first day of classes that there’s a connection between teaching and fighting fires,” he said. “Both are callings by God to serve others. Each is a mission from God, and each student is being called by God to his or her own mission, unique to that specific person.

“I explain that we will be talking throughout the year about theology and religion – theology being who God is, and religion being the practice of worship – and that we will be trying to discover why God created them and to explore what God wants them to do,” Roberts said.

“No matter what they end up doing in their lives, these are ultimately the most important questions for them to answer: ‘Who is God?’ ‘Why were you created?’ and ‘What was the purpose for which you were created by God?’”

Roberts, a Springfield native, has spent his life in the service of others. He is the youngest of five siblings, and one of his earliest memories is helping a sibling who was born with a physical disability. “It was just part of my daily routine,” he said.

After graduating from high school, Roberts came to Columbus to study special education at Ohio State University. While in college, he held part-time jobs at group homes, assisting people with physical and intellectual challenges. His love for this work led him to a full-time position with the state of Ohio as a vocational rehabilitation specialist at the Columbus Developmental Center, teaching people with many levels of developmental disabilities.

He eventually became part of a special behavioral modification team that worked at the Columbus center and at other developmental centers throughout Ohio to implement a state policy of deinstitutionalizing the centers.

By 1988, deinstitutionalization had dramatically decreased the number of state developmental disabilities department employees. Roberts by then was married to his wife, Sue, and the third of their five children was on the way. Departmental layoffs loomed, and he thought it was time for a career move.

“My father had been a fire chief in Springfield, and I had an uncle and aunts in fire service,” he said. Seeing that Columbus’ fire department was hiring, he applied for a position. He passed each of the department’s physical and written examinations and was offered a commission as a city firefighter in 1988.

His first assignment was as a firefighter and emergency medical technician at Fire Station 10 in the Franklinton area on the city’s west side. Shortly afterward, he completed training as a paramedic.

“I helped deliver five babies, handled many cardiac cases and occasionally saved a life,” he said. “My most dramatic memory of being a paramedic comes from when a father came to me with a tear in his eye, held out his newborn daughter and said, ‘Please save my little girl.’

“Sue had just given birth to our third child, so those words had a great impact on me as a dad. But I couldn’t save the newborn girl. I was angry and ranted about the situation until another firefighter came up to me and quietly said, ‘Who ever told you we were God?’ Those were words I needed to hear. They calmed and focused me, but I’ve never forgotten that incident.”

While Roberts was a paramedic, he began to think that teaching might be where he could serve the fire department best. With the encouragement of then-Fire Chief Harmon Dutko, Roberts was assigned as a teacher-coordinator of EMT basic education and fire department continuing education for 1,500 personnel. He also was the EMT basic recruit commander-teacher for 500 recruits hired over several years by the fire department.

He retired from the department on Dec. 19, 2014, after a combined 34 years of public service. “I loved being retired and being able to go to daily Mass and a daily jog,” he said. But his impulse to teach was strong. He became a substitute teacher for two years in the Diocese of Columbus and taught Confirmation candidates in the Parish School of Religion at Columbus St. Peter Church.

“When I heard a theology teacher’s job was open at St. Paul, I gave it a lot of thought and prayer, then decided to apply and see if it was where God

See FIREFIGHTER, Page 4

Roberts shows his full firefighting gear to Worthington St. Michael School students during a Fire Prevention Week presentation before he became a teacher at St. Paul. He had a 26-year career with the Columbus Division of Fire, first as a firefighter, emergency medical technician, and paramedic and later as a teacher-coordinator of EMT basic education and fire department continuing education for 1,500 personnel.
All the schools in the Diocese of Columbus are now back in session. At schools in Portsmouth, Wellston, New Philadelphia and Columbus, the students were greeted by new principals. Each of our new principals brings great experience in the ministry of Catholic education, as well as a great passion for their schools.

At Portsmouth Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School, long-serving teacher JD McKenzie will lead the school. In addition to his love of teaching, McKenzie has been recognized for his tremendous success as a girls basketball coach. Last April, he was chosen as Division IV coach of the year by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association.

“I am looking forward to the challenges in my new role as principal. I am excited about the opportunity to lead Notre Dame to the forefront of education in southern Ohio,” he said. “I know in my heart that God has led me to this position at Notre Dame. I truly believe that God brought me here to lead it into the future and take our great school to unprecedented heights.”

McKenzie has big plans for the school, focusing on building up the diocese’s only Catholic high school in southern Ohio. He looks forward to building stronger relationships with Notre Dame Elementary School, the parishes of the Scioto County Consortium and the other Catholic ministries in the area. “We are excited this year at Notre Dame for several reasons, but one of them is partnering with St. Francis Outreach Center as a sponsor for our senior’s service project. I believe this is a great way for our students to give back to the community,” he said.

Just up the road from Notre Dame at Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul School, Christine Kirby will serve as principal, having previously been director and lead teacher of the preschool program. A 25-year veteran of Catholic education, she has taught the majority of the students in the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school. “I always felt drawn to the mission of the schools to develop lifelong learners who embody Catholic values and beliefs,” she said.

“I am looking forward to meeting our new students and families, as well as welcoming back our returning ones. We have an amazing staff and faculty and I am looking forward to working with them on a daily basis. We also have an amazing community, so I am looking forward to attending our many events. I also am looking forward to working with our pastor, Father Nic Ventura, especially in the area of faith formation for our students."

One of her main goals this year is to further strengthen the school’s Catholic identity. She explained, “I want people to know we are a Catholic school not only by seeing what is hanging on our walls, but by our actions and deeds as well. I want to increase our service projects and to focus on the liturgical year, to involve the students in the traditions of the Church, and to focus on embodying our Catholic teachings, values and beliefs. We have three parishes that feed into our school. As a principal, I would like to work on the ongoing relationship with these parishes, providing opportunities for all of us to work together for the good of the Church and our school.”

Jennifer Calvo is the new principal at New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School. She served as a counselor and teacher for the past 10 years before making the transition to the principal’s role.

“I am looking forward to leading Tuscarawas Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School into our next 50 years,” she said, “I am excited to build on traditions, foster increased alumni involvement and strive for academic excellence. I am ready to celebrate my students’ successes and be a source of comfort during challenges.”

She has many plans for the school in the coming year. She would like to focus on improving the sense of community in the school, particularly in creating a more defined middle-school experience. Part of that process will involve developing a house system, an increasingly popular model of community building in school that helps form connections between faculty and students across grade levels. She also will work toward building an outstanding high-school retreat program and strengthening the school’s relationship with its alumni. “Building on my previous knowledge of students, staff, and community while developing programs that will help all of our community grow in all aspects of their lives is especially important to me,” she said.

In Columbus, Brenda Huth takes over as head of school at St. Joseph Montessori School, completing a transition that began last spring. She has an extensive background in Montessori education, mainly in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, area. “Being a Montessori head of school has been a lifelong dream,” she said. Being a head of school in a Catholic Montessori school allows me to live my faith guided by the inner spiritual preparation that is an essential component of every Montessorian’s journey.”

Looking forward to this year, she said, “I would like to establish a culture of service, potential and gratitude. As Montessorians, we follow a pedagogy that believes deeply in the potential of the child. As the adults that serve the children, we must continue to grow in self-awareness and intellect and prepare ourselves spiritually in order to offer ourselves as servant leaders.

“Every day, something special is happening at our school. Children, as Dr. Maria Montessori stated, are constructing, every day with every experience, the adult they are to become. It is a beautiful thing to watch unfold,” she said.

As these new principals open the school year, the 53 schools of the Diocese of Columbus and the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools welcome back all of our students. We are eager to begin the new year and continue our important mission of forming disciples of Jesus Christ through our schools.
It can’t be business as usual anymore

FAITH IN ACTION
Mark Hudy

Mark Hudy is the episcopal moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.

Between July 29 and Aug. 4, three mass shootings occurred, taking the lives of 34 people and injuring more than 60 others. These shootings, which occurred at a community festival in Gilroy, California, a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, and a popular bar and restaurant district in Dayton should cause us to stop, pray, think and act.

We should stop what we are doing, stop the way we are doing it, just to realize that it can’t be business as usual any more. Something has to change. Many things have to change. We have to change.

After every mass shooting since the Stockton, California, schoolyard shooting in 1989, we have talked about change, at least for a while. And we have the capacity to change.

In 1994, the federal government passed the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, prohibiting the manufacture, transfer or possession of “semiautomatic assault weapons.” The act also prohibited the manufacture of “large capacity ammunition feeding devices.” However, the law had a 10-year sunset provision that allowed it to expire in 2004. After the horrific school shootings that have occurred during the last few years, young people have mobilized, seeking a response to the gun violence that has claimed so many lives.

As Catholics, we pray, as we always do, for the victims of these most recent shootings – those who have died and those who have been injured and traumatized by these events. And we pray for their family members, whose lives have been irreparably changed.

We pray for an end to the violence, and to the hatred and ideologies that inspire it. We pray for guidance that we will choose the right path of action that acknowledges the responsibility we all bear for what is happening in our society. We pray for the will and the courage to walk the path that is shown to us, to make the changes that are required in our attitudes and in our laws and policies in order to see an end to the succession of senseless mass killings.

As rational people, we need to think about why this is happening so frequently in our nation and what we can do about it. All of the most recent three mass shootings involved assault rifles. In Dayton, the shooter killed nine people and injured 27 in a mere 30 seconds. These shootings were perpetrated by individuals who viewed armed violence as a legitimate answer to what they perceived as the nation moving in the wrong direction. Have we lost the ability to engage in discourse, using the tools of logic and rational argument, as a means of solving pernicious problems? Are we capable of listening to opposing viewpoints without stoking the fires of hatred for the people that hold them? Can we model that behavior?

When considering root causes, we cannot ignore the spiritual. In a world without God, people have to protect their own interests. They may come to worship the things they believe will provide this protection in the best way. It may be money, it may be power, it may be violence or weapons. But if it is reliance on something other than the loving kindness of the God who sent His Son to save us, it is idolatry.

We can even make idols out of things that are good if we place them above God. I think this can happen with some interpretations of the Second Amendment that are opposed to background checks, permitting and licensing of weapons, and reasonable restrictions on the ownership of assault rifles, bump stocks and certain types of ammunition. When the commitment to recognize the human dignity of all persons is undermined through the institutionalized acceptance of violence, as in abortion, assisted suicide, the use of the death penalty and racism, we will have problems living together peacefully.

Regarding action, our first box on the checklist should be prayer. Quick solutions are always beyond our reach, but for God, all things are possible. Recognizing and promoting the human dignity of all is next on the list. Supporting legislative efforts, such as elements of the proposal that Ohio’s governor recently unveiled, is a step in the right direction. The important thing is to do something. Because as the period from July 29 through Aug. 4 has so clearly demonstrated, it can’t be business as usual any more.

Just when I thought I had much of my life figured out, a few sharp curves in the road came up. We all experience this. Some are more severe than others, but they always remind us that ultimately, we are not in control. God is in control, no matter how hard I try to be. And His Holy Spirit is always present to carry out His plan and will.

Just when I thought the world was imploding for so many reasons, I have to be reminded that God’s will does not shake my faith. His will shapes and matures my faith. Human weakness and sin shake us. Mercy and forgiveness are strong. Life remains an ongoing daily challenge. We need strong faith. I have been writing this column for about 15 years. That does not make me an authority or expert on anything. But I enjoy it, and will continue until they tell me to stop. Just when I think I have run out of topics and ideas, something else pops into my head, or a particular experience provides inspiration. And just when I think no one is paying attention to this column, I will make a comment that causes reaction. I always think it is a good thing, and I always appreciate any reaction or comments I might get, although rare.

In my last column at the end of July, I made a reference to “Whatever happened to the Latin Mass?” My personal comment was “good riddance.” That generated some very good criticism. Let me say again that I am not a writer by training, nor do I claim to be any kind of authority. More importantly, it is never my intent to offend anyone. If I did, I apologize. My hope was to focus on how we can get more people back to the Eucharist each week. That is the hope for all of us. After Vatican II, my parish growing up in Cleveland was one of the last, if not the last, to make any changes. I served at the Latin Mass and still do a good thing. I am just sharing the priest’s love for the good people in his parish. And I always think it is a good thing, and I always appreciate any reaction or comments I might get, although rare.

Just when I thought our president could not come up with anything more unpresidential to say, he unloaded on Baltimore. The priest at noon Mass gave a great homily, and I was so impressed by his passion and resolve. He said the president’s comments had lifted up so many people there to show how resilient they are and how they can make things better. Now, please do not misinterpret this as saying that the president somehow did a good thing. I am just sharing the priest’s love for the good people in his city.

The gospel was the story of Jesus healing a woman’s possessed daughter. It is an interesting exchange between Jesus and the woman. She has great faith and tells Jesus that even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from their master’s table. Just when I think Jesus cannot touch me again and make a difference, He does. He does it through family, friends, co-workers, strangers and people in other cities who are loved by the same God, just as much as me.

Just when I thought ...

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC
Rick Jeric

My real job is raising funds for our two lifesaving and family-building Women’s Care Centers in Columbus. I do the same for centers in Bloomington, Indiana, and Baltimore, Maryland.

Just when I thought my travel was at a minimum, I had to go to Baltimore for a few days earlier this month. I was there for three days and was downtown a lot, and I did not see one rat. On one of the days, I had the opportunity to go to confession and attend noon Mass at the Basilica of the Assumption, the nation’s first Catholic cathedral. Just when I thought I could not be especially struck by God’s mercy and forgiveness through His priest, it happened again. I confessed my sins, and I was just so impressed and impacted by what the priest said to me. It just never fails. God is so good.

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New Catholic needs annulment?; dipping host into chalice; Muslims and Jesus

A neighbor of ours, age 66, just completed the RCIA program to become a Catholic. She has been told that she cannot receive Communion or be confirmed until she secures an annulment.

She was not married in a Catholic church and has been divorced for over a decade. She states that she has “no intention of getting married again.” Does she really need an annulment? (Columbus)

A No. If she has no intention of marrying again, there is no need for her to have an annulment before she is received into the Catholic Church and able to share in the sacraments. If the time ever came, however, when she wanted to enter into a new marriage, she would first have to have that earlier marriage examined by the church.

Some Catholics think — mistakenly — that when two non-Catholics marry, that marriage doesn’t “count” with the Catholic Church. That is untrue. So whether the first marriage of the woman in question was to a Catholic or to a non-Catholic, that marriage would still have to be declared null for her to enter a new marriage with the church’s blessing.

Earlier this year, I saw a communicant take the host and proceed to dip it into the consecrated wine before consuming it. Is this acceptable? (I had never seen it before.) (Annandale, Virginia)

A No. What you saw is not permissible — unless the one receiving Communion happened to be a priest concelebrating the Mass. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the church’s “rulebook” on liturgy, does envision “intinction,” but limits self-communicating to priest-concelebrants.

For others, the instruction indicates that “each communicant, holding a Communion plate under the mouth, approaches the priest. . . . The priest takes a host, intincts it partly in the chalice and, showing it, says ‘The body and blood of Christ’” before placing the host in the communicant’s mouth (No. 287).

The priests who are concelebrating, however, are permitted to dip the host into the precious blood and, holding a purificator under the mouth, self-communicate (No. 249). All of this is premised, of course, on the church’s reverence for the Eucharist, taking care that drops of the precious blood not be spilled.

In a 2002 document titled Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under-Both Kinds, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops highlighted this caution saying, “The communicant, including the extraordinary minister, is never allowed to self-communicate, even by means of intinction. Communion under either form, bread or wine, must always be given by an ordinary or extraordinary minister of holy Communion” (No. 50).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting the document Lumen Gentium from the Second Vatican Council, says, “The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind’s judge on the last day” (No. 841).

Does this imply that Muslims and Catholics have the same fundamental belief in Jesus as the Son of God, second person of the blessed Trinity and redeemer of the human race? (As I recall, Muslims do not believe that Jesus died on the cross.) (Iowa City, Iowa)

A Jesus is mentioned some 25 times in the Quran, the central religious text of Islam, with ample accounts of his birth and miracles. He is regarded by Muslims as the son of man, born of a virgin, a prophet sent by God with a privileged role and a special message for the human race.

So Christians and Muslims do have some common ideas about Jesus, but there are also stark and fundamental differences.

To start with, Muslims do not accept that Christ was divine. He was instead, in their minds, a man created in time, neither Savior nor Son of God and certainly not “consubstantial with the Father.”

In fact, the Quran asks, “How could he (Allah) have a son?” (6:101) Muslims do not believe in original sin and therefore would see no need of a redeemer.

Moreover, as our writer points out, Muslims don’t believe that Jesus died on the cross.

For them, the cross was thought not to be fitting for someone like Christ, and so they teach that Jesus was spared a natural death and was instead assumed into heaven to return on the day of judgment.

Showing up for Jesus with open hands and open hearts

I have a new fitness student who joined our strength classes recently. I was so impressed because she attended four classes her first week, despite soreness, nervousness and having to make some adjustments to her work schedule.

She is showing up and good things already are happening as she is learning, getting stronger, making new friends and having fun.

This parallels the spiritual life. The most important thing is to show up. Show up for Jesus with open hands and open hearts to allow him to lead us on a spiritual journey. How do we do this? Each of us is called individually, but a good way to start is to show up through daily time in prayer. Setting aside silent time to talk and listen to Jesus daily is a way we can get to know him, and through this relationship, we learn how to become more like him.

Showing up for weekly — even daily — Mass, frequently receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and saying “Yes” to a weekly Holy Hour are ways we can show up for Jesus.

My new student is seeking to grow stronger and healthier by showing up for strength classes. As Christians, we are seeking to grow stronger and spiritually healthier, and to do that, we need to be faithful to nurturing our spiritual lives.

In large and small acts of charity, in reading Scripture and good spiritual books, in attending holy events and viewing faith-based television shows, movies, videos and social media, we are showing up for Jesus.

Each January, more people than ever join gyms in an effort to get fit and lose weight. By March, the tide has dwindled, and I always wonder why people don’t stick with it. Perhaps they didn’t find something they enjoyed or it didn’t fit into their work and family schedules. Motivation often wanes and exercise just isn’t a priority any more.

The same can happen in our spiritual lives. There are times of dryness, perhaps physical or emotional issues that make praying difficult, or it feels fruitless. Maybe we are lonely or bored or too tired or time-pressed to pray. Do we give up as well?

Like my new fitness student, we can choose to stick to the schedule. We can show up. Let it unfold. Give it time and trust in the process. We might not feel it or feel like doing it, but it’s on the daily schedule to pray, so we do it. We can call on Jesus, Mary, our guardian angel, the saints and our holy earthly friends for help and support in times where we feel like pulling away from a spiritual life. We might need the structure of a weekly prayer or Bible study group. Maybe a spiritual director or a holy friend can offer us direction and encouragement, but we have to be humble and ask for help.

My student has me to encourage and teach her and help her be accountable to the strength classes. In the spiritual life, we have Jesus, who is our strength and our guide, and all of the helps of the Catholic Church are available to us when we show up in spite of our earthly circumstances. We are called to cooperate with God’s grace, which he constantly pours out to help us; thank goodness we aren’t alone on this spiritual journey!

St. Augustine said, “Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.” May we all keep showing up for Jesus, despite the challenges and struggles, and put our trust in him.

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock is a parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church. Lori leads SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise at parishes, teaches physical strength classes and writes about faith and fitness at holyandhealthycatholic.com.
2019 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Senior standouts Jalan January (12) and Miles Fleming (2) lead Columbus Bishop Hartley into the 2019 high school football season. (CT photo by Ken Snow)
First-year coach Gage Lotozo faced a major decision before he had a chance to lead his Zanesville Rosecrans High School team onto the field this year.

Even though he had been attempting to recruit players since January, only 13 had committed to coming out for the Aug. 1 start of preseason practice. With football traditionally being an 11-player game, that left little margin for error in the almost inevitable likelihood that someone would be injured.

“I thought about canceling the season,” Lotozo said. “Millersport High School, one of our regular opponents, decided not to have a team last year because of low numbers, and they’re not fielding one again this year. I didn’t want to see the same thing happen here because football might never come back if it did, so canceling was not an option.”

During the summer, Lotozo learned that Toledo Christian High School had decided to field an eight-man football team this fall. That variety of the game is played by high schools in most other states but is not recognized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

“I got in touch with Toledo Christian’s athletic director, and he said he’d be willing to play a home-and-home series with us if we went to eight-man. Through him and through the coaching grapevine, I learned that three other Ohio schools were going to go the eight-man route,” he said.

“All of us playing each other twice would be enough for eight games, so we decided in late July to cancel the schedule we had with 11-man teams and go to eight-man.”

Lotozo said player safety was the most important reason for the change. “Football is a little different than a lot of other sports,” he said. “You can’t just plug in a place a football player in another position as easily as you can in other cases.”

“In basketball, for instance, you can go with a five-guard lineup if that’s what you have, or use several other interchangeable combinations. In football, you can’t just tell a lineman to go into the backfield or a back to play up front. The positions are too different, and there’s too much risk of danger if you try to switch. We only have five linemen, so there’s no margin for error if one goes down.”

The Bishops will open their eight-man schedule on Friday, Aug. 30 with a home game against Sandusky St. Mary. They are then scheduled to take two weeks off, although Lotozo is exploring if eight-man teams from other states could fill the gap.

If not, the schedule will resume on Sept. 20 with Toledo Christian coming to Zanesville. The Bishops travel the following week to Ashtabula St. John, where former Ohio State coach Urban Meyer played high school football. St. John advanced to the 11-man playoffs last year, but Heralds coach Scott Knisely told the Ashtabula Star Beacon that he was down to 12 players when the decision was made that his school would play the eight-man game.

The first half of the season ends Oct. 4 at Holgate in rural northwest Ohio. The Bishops play St. John and Holgate at home the following two weeks, then close the season at St. Mary and at Toledo Christian.

Lotozo said one reason for Rosecrans making the decision was that it did was to give the Bishops’ scheduled 11-man opponents time to reschedule against other teams. Rosecrans’ original schedule included games against Columbus diocesan opponents Newark Catholic, Portsmouth Notre Dame and Lancaster Fisher Catholic.

All three found replacements to fill the hole left by Rosecrans. Newark Catholic opens the season against Edon, located near the Indiana border. That game will be played at Ohio Northern University in Ada, a neutral site about midway between the two schools, to avoid one of them having to make a 3 1/2-hour drive to the other. Notre Dame will play the Academy for Urban Scholars, a Columbus-based charter school, in the second week, and Fisher meets Marion County school Ridgedale in week nine. Ridgedale played a mainly 11-man schedule with two eight-man games last year. This year, it will play eight 11-man teams and Toledo Christian, in a game that will start with 11 men for a few plays, then switch to eight-man.

Since the OHSAA doesn’t sanction eight-man football, games between 11-man and eight-man teams or between two eight-man teams won’t count in its playoff standings, said Tim Stried of the OHSAA. Although Rosecrans and its four opponents won’t be eligible for the playoffs, Lotozo said the team with the best record among them in eight-man play will be able to claim an unofficial state championship.

Stried said the association encourages schools to play eight-man football if that is their only viable option. “Football participation numbers are very strong in Ohio, and it is still our most popular sport for boys,” he said. “While the OHSAA doesn’t sponsor a postseason tournament for eight-man football, we support these schools that have decided to go that route in an effort to keep football going at their school. We hope they can return to playing 11-man football in the near future.”

“I see more small schools going to eight-man as a viable option,” Lotozo said. “It’s a lot easier on everyone to pick your best eight out of a roster of 15 than to try to put in 11 from the same sized group, especially when dealing with inexperienced players.”

There has been eight-man football in Ohio in the past, but an internet search indicated that the last time it was played in the state on a regular basis was when five schools had an eight-man league from 1947 to 1961. Fostoria St. Wendelin High School was given OHSAA permission to play an eight-man game at the end of the 2012 season because it had run out of healthy players.

In eight-man football, two linemen and a backfield position are eliminated from the offense, while a defensive back, linebacker and lineman are missing on defense. The width of the field is reduced from 53 1/3 yards to 40 yards, but in Ohio, it remains 100 yards long. Some states use an 80-
COLUMBUS BISHOP HARTLEY HAWKS

No Central Catholic League football program has experienced as much success in the past decade as Columbus Bishop Hartley, and there’s no reason to expect the Hawks to slow down this season.

Hartley began the decade with a state championship in 2010 and has won two more since then. Led by coach Brad Burchfield, the Hawks also finished as state runner-up once, won seven Central Catholic League titles and have gone undefeated twice in the regular season.

But last season, Hartley made its earliest exit in the postseason under Burchfield, falling 19-14 to Columbus Eastmoor Academy in the second round of the Divison III playoffs. That loss left a sour taste in the Hawks’ mouths entering the 2019 season.

“The expectations are always sky-high,” Burchfield said. “It stings to lose, and we need to win these tough, close games. In the playoffs, you are either going to end your season with a tough loss or win tough games. We keep moving forward and forging ahead.”

Senior Miles Fleming, a 6-foot, 180-pound quarterback/defensive back who has committed to play college football at Minnesota next season, said, “We’ve got a lot of fire under our butts about the way last season ended.”

Fleming was knocked out of the playoff game with a concussion, and Hartley’s fortunes took a downturn in his absence. But he’s healthy entering this season and will be a big part of the Hawks’ talented backfield.

A year ago, Fleming passed for 1,065 yards and nine touchdowns and rushed for 766 yards and five TDs.

“He’s bigger and stronger,” Burchfield said. “We are going to use Miles on defense as well this year.”

Fleming will be handing the ball off to a collection of impressive running backs. At the top of the list is second-team All-Ohio senior Jalan Godfrey, but the Hawks also have a collection of other skilled runners.

The expectations are always sky-high, but Hartley is quick to caution that, “It stinks not being in the playoffs,” Burchfield said. “Our kids think of playing for themselves a chance to win. We just didn’t have enough offensive firepower, and so when we lost not only our first quarterback but our second one, it was difficult. You can’t appreciate what he went through.”

DeSales unquestionably was affected by seven players suffering season-ending injuries, which led to a three-game losing streak to end the season and doomed its playoff hopes. But in each of those games, the score was 14-14 late in the fourth quarter.

One of the sidelined players, senior quarterback Reno Godfrey, has made a remarkable offseason recovery.

COLUMBUS ST. FRANCIS DESALES STALLIONS

There’s often a fine line between qualifying for the playoffs and missing by an eyelash.

At the end of the past two seasons, Columbus St. Francis DeSales uncharacteristically found itself just on the outside looking in. So if success is defined by postseason appearances, the Stallions fell short of the high standards the program has established in its rich history.

“It stinks not being in the playoffs,” DeSales coach Ryan Wiggins said. “Our kids think of playing for DeSales, you’re going to be there.”

But Wiggins, entering his 13th season as coach, is quick to caution that there are often extenuating circumstances beyond the team’s control.

Unlike losing the top two quarterbacks on the roster with injuries. Like losing three games by a touchdown or less, including one by a point. Wiggins doesn’t want to sound like he’s making excuses, but those are the cold, hard facts that kept one of the state’s more successful programs from reaching its potential in 2018.

“When you go back and look at it and say, ‘5-5, that must have been a terrible team,’ it’s actually amazing we were able to hold it together,” he said. “I’m not talking moral victories. I understand what this program is about. But for us to lose the amount of kids that we did.

… “We did give ourselves a chance to win. We just didn’t have enough offensive firepower, and so when we lost not only our first quarterback but our second one, it was difficult. You can’t appreciate what he went through.”

DeSales unquestionably was affected by seven players suffering season-ending injuries, which led to a three-game losing streak to end the season and doomed its playoff hopes. But in each of those games, the score was 14-14 late in the fourth quarter.

One of the sidelined players, senior quarterback Reno Godfrey, has made a remarkable offseason recovery.

2019 SCHEDULE
- 8-30 Timber Creek Regional (NJ)
- 9-6 at Wheelersburg
- 9-13 Gahanna
- 9-20 at Dayton Chaminade-Julienne
- 9-27 at Clinton-Massie
- 10-4 St. Charles
- 10-11 at Austintown Fitch
- 10-18 at Bishop Watterson
- 10-25 Dayton Belmont
- 10-31 DeSales

2018 RESULTS (9-3)
- Toledo Central Catholic 42, Hartley 17
- Hartley 51, Wheelersburg 20
- Hartley 49, Bishop Ready 19
- Hartley 49, Chillicothe 10
- Clinton-Massie 31, Hartley 31
- Hartley 49, Bishop Watterson 28
- Hartley 42, Dayton Belmont 8
- Hartley 21, DeSales 14
- Hartley 45, North Canton Hoover 38
- Hartley 6, St. Charles 3
- Hartley 51, Athens 14 (OHSAA playoffs)
- Eastmoor Academy 19, Hartley 14 (OHSAA playoffs)
- Conference: Central Catholic League
- Coach: Brad Burchfield (120-26 in 11 seasons at Hartley, 151-51 overall)

2019 SCHEDULE
- 8-31 at Dayton Carroll
- 9-6 at Dublin Jerome
- 9-13 Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin
- 9-20 Kettering Alter
- 9-27 at Middletown Bishop Fenwick
- 10-4 Bishop Watterson
- 10-11 at Dayton Belmont
- 10-18 at St. Charles
- 10-25 Steubenville
- 10-31 at Bishop Hartley

2018 RESULTS (5-5)
- DeSales 35, Dayton Dunbar 0
- DeSales 32, Lancaster 22
- Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 19
- DeSales 18
- DeSales 50, Dayton Belmont 6
- Covington Catholic 35, DeSales 14
- DeSales 36, St. Charles 7
- DeSales 33, Terra Haute (Ind.) North 15
- Bishop Hartley 21, DeSales 14
- Winton Woods 28, DeSales 14
- Bishop Watterson 21, DeSales 14
- Conference: Central Catholic League
- Coach: Ryan Wiggins (107-45 in 12 seasons at DeSales, 111-51 overall)
COLUMBUS ST. CHARLES CARDINALS

Columbus St. Charles finished with a respectable 4-6 record last season, and Deke Hocker would like to see the Cardinals take another step forward in his second year as head coach.

The Cardinals started 2-2 a year ago before losing four of their final six games. One of those losses was by three points to playoff qualifier Columbus Bishop Hartley to end the regular season.

“We made strides throughout the course of the year,” Hocker said. “We had some disappointments, and we had some positive things happen, just like a normal football season.

“We were trying every week to continue to progress everywhere, just from the standpoint of being more physical, not missing assignments, not making mistakes. We had some critical mental mistakes, and we can’t afford to hurt ourselves. The teams that we’re playing, you can’t afford to make mistakes. They’ll capitalize on it, and we just can’t hurt ourselves.”

St. Charles’ first opponent will be Dublin Scioto on Aug. 30, followed by 2018 playoff qualifier Columbus Eastmoor Academy, then Columbus Bishop Ready in a game that will determine the Central Catholic League Gold Division champion.

“We’re going to come out of that game (against Scioto) knowing where we’re at and move forward,” Hocker said. “It will be a good test, for sure.”

Whether the Cardinals can end a string of five straight losing seasons remains to be seen, but Hocker has spent a year becoming familiar with the players and assessing their strengths and weaknesses. In turn, the players have embraced Hocker’s expectations.

“The second year in, you’re always a little more ahead because the boys are familiar with what we’re trying to do and with us as people,” Hocker said. “But we’ve still got work to do.”

On offense, Andy Mason returns after starting four games at quarterback last year. One of the 6-foot-3, 180-pound senior’s primary passing targets could be senior wide receiver Roland Rowe, who eclipsed 1,000 all-purpose yards in 2018 and led the team in interception.

COLUMBUS BISHOP WATTERSON EAGLES

Bishop Watterson brings plenty of momentum from 2018 into the 2019 season.

The Eagles finished with a 5-5 overall record under coach Brian Kennedy that included a season-ending 21-14 victory over Central Catholic League rival St. Francis DeSales.

The victory at home over DeSales capped a three-game winning streak to end the season after Watterson rebounded from losing four in a row.

The late run wasn’t enough, though, to keep Watterson from missing the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

The Eagles last made the Ohio High School Athletic Association football playoffs in 2015. They have qualified for the postseason and finished with a winning record only twice since claiming a state championship in 2010. Their last Central Catholic League title came in 2012.

The Eagles managed to finish on a positive note a year ago without promising quarterback Jake Hoyer, who sustained a broken collarbone in the seventh game of the season against Youngstown Ursuline in a 24-21 loss and missed the final three games.

Hoyer, the son of former Ohio State quarterback Bob Hoyer, returns this season. The 6-foot-1, 185-pound junior will be counted on to lead the Watterson offense. He passed for 1,313 yards and nine touchdowns in 2018 before the injury.

“Jake is getting more and more physical development and skills,” Kennedy said at the Central Catholic League media day on Aug. 12. “I think he’s an elite quarterback.”

A host of juniors and sophomores saw into playing time a year ago and that experience should pay dividends this season.

A big change for Watterson this fall will be the site of its home games. The Eagles will play their four home games at Ohio Dominican University, starting with a matchup against Maria Stein Marion Local, a traditional small-school power from western Ohio, on Sept. 6.

Watterson played home games for years at venerable Hagely Field in Clintonville, but Columbus City

See ST. CHARLES, Page 17

See WATTERSON, Page 16
COLUMBUS BISHOP READY SILVER KNIGHTS

Joel Cutler returns to Bishop Ready High School as football coach after five years at Upper Arlington, and he couldn’t be more excited about the 2019 season.

The Silver Knights are equally thrilled to have him back.

In two years with Cutler as the head coach, Ready reached the playoffs twice, going 7-3 in 2012 and finishing 12-2 in 2013 after reaching the Division VI state semfinals.

Cutler, who stepped aside at Upper Arlington last fall, replaces Ohio High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Famer Brian Cross. In five years at Ready, Cross compiled a 30-22 record and led the school into the playoffs in 2016 and 2017.

It’s almost as if Cutler never left. Most of his coaching staff has stayed with him, and he has added former Ready standout Brady Taylor, who spent the past five years at Ohio State as a backup center. Some of the players on the current roster come from families whose brothers played for Cutler during his previous go-round at the school.

“It’s been a great transition back,” Cutler said. “Lots of familiar faces. That’s been a blessing. There’s been some carryover and some instant buy-in.”

Cutler is optimistic that a deep senior class and several talented underclassmen will help the Silver Knights improve on last season’s 4-6 record.

One of the top returnees is Jack Foley, a small but mighty running back at 5-feet-5, 160 pounds who has rushed for 3,500 yards in the past two seasons.

Other seniors expected to contribute in a big way are linemen Josh Baum, Thomas Stillner, Jacob Robinson and Gabe Hawkins; linebacker Nik Kamer; H-back/linebacker Donovan Sanders; and kicker/punter/defensive back A.J. Craddock.

“I have a hungry senior class, and I’ve really grown to admire their work ethic and how passionate they are about getting better,” Cutler said.

Athletic quarterback Darius Parnham, a 6-3, 170-pound junior, also plays point guard on the basketball team. One of his top targets in the passing game is expected to be Tyrese Hudson, a 5-9, 160-pound junior who has received a scholarship offer from Southern Mississippi.

Juniors Oumar Dia and Cole Matthews are returning receivers, and junior running back Nate Williams, sr., LB/OL Michael Snider, sr.; OL/DL Brian Evans, sr.; RB/DB Keenan Foley, a small but mighty running back at 5-feet-5, 160 pounds who has rushed for 3,500 yards in the past two seasons.

NEWARK CATHOLIC GREEN WAVE

Newark Catholic coach Ryan Aiello is looking forward to the return of some key players from injury-shortened seasons.

“Our quarterback, Matt Carlisle, injured his labrum in game four and was out for the rest of the season, and that was a big loss,” Aiello said. “His leadership and work ethic are tremendous, and he’s made great strides off his injury. He’s 100 percent now after a tremendous job of preparation in the offseason.

“Another guy we’re glad to have back is Derek Hawk, who will start at running back after barely playing a game last year because of a stress fracture.

“Our top lineman is (6-foot-5, 300-pound) Nate Williams. He filled out during the summer, putting on about 30 pounds of solid weight.”

Aiello is in his second year as coach of one of the most successful programs in Ohio history – 35 playoff appearances, eight state championships and six runner-up finishes – but is coming off back-to-back 3-7 finishes.

“We have very high expectations at Newark Catholic and are working hard to bring this program back where it should be,” he said. “Getting into the playoffs and winning the Licking County League Cardinal Division are always our goal.”

Newark Catholic, as the only Division VII school in the league, traditionally has played schools with larger enrollments, and this year is no exception. Its only Division VII opponent is Edon, located in northwest Ohio. That game was scheduled after the Green Wave’s anticipated opening-game opponent, Zanesville Rosecrans, switched to eight-man football.


Coach speaks: “Last year’s team was much more competitive than its record may indicate. We were one play away from winning in four of the seven losses. We did some very good things last year, now we just have to be more consistent in our approach.”
First-year Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans coach Gage Lotozo says his players understand the school’s decision to switch to eight-man football this year and are seeing it as an unexpected opportunity.

“Our kids have not skipped a beat,” he said. “They’re upset, but they realize it’s not that different from the 11-man game. Our 13-man roster may be small, but with seven seniors, it’s an experienced group.

“We’re playing two games apiece with each of the other three teams in the state which have switched to the eight-man game, so the team with the best record can claim an unofficial state championship. With the experience we have, we feel we have a pretty good shot at being on top of that group at the end of the year.”

Cam Hagy returns for a second year at quarterback after being the starting fullback in his sophomore year. Nick Losco is the top running back, switching from the wide receiver spot he held on last year’s 5-5 team.

“On defense, Dalton Proctor is a four-year starter. He’s 6 feet and 240 pounds and very tough to block, and we expect him to dominate,” Lotozo said. “Jesse Kunkler is another senior veteran on the line with a lot of experience. The line is a strength. We only have five back, but four are seniors with one junior. Of course, the key is not to have anyone get hurt.

“We’ll be running a lot of spread and power formations and anticipate a more wide-open offense with the eight-man game. We were going to have a three-man defensive front anyway if we’d played 11-man, so there’s no change there.”


Coach speaks: “With as small a roster as we have, we decided not to have two-a-day practices during training camp. Instead, we’re having one practice in the morning, going three hours total with meetings in the middle, focusing on offense one day, defense the next, with special teams mixed in. Once the regular season starts, we’ll have the usual daily practice schedule.

“With only 13 players, even in eight-on-eight, we need coaches and volunteers to fill in gaps when we’re working on plays. But we’ve been doing that anyway for a few years in 11-man, so we’re used to it.”

The return of an all-state player and the arrival of several transfers have New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic coach Casey Cummings looking forward to the coming season.

The all-star is quarterback Alex Price, a second-team selection on the state high school sportswriters’ 2018 All-Ohio list. He completed 166 of 345 passes for 1,761 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. His top returning target, Ryan Dick, had 42 catches for 209 yards and two scores and ran for 592 yards on 175 carries, eight of them for touchdowns. Also coming back is receiver Ben Martin, who caught only 10 passes in 2018 but averaged 21 yards per catch.

“We think we can be pretty good this year,” Cummings said. “It’s not just because of who’s coming back, but we really flipped the switch and picked up a half-dozen transfers from Dover, Claymont and Tuscarawas Valley, and most of them are pretty good.”

The coach is coming back for his eighth season at the school.

Despite dressing only 17 players, the Saints won three straight at the end of the 2018 regular season to finish 5-5 and make the playoffs, where they fell 42-13 to eventual state semi-finalist Cuyahoga Heights.

“Last year was kind of a circus,” Cummings said. “There were times when we were down to five line players and had to put a lineman’s jersey on a running back, but we hung in. We were down only 13-7 with two minutes left in the first half against Cuyahoga Heights, but they got two late scores before halftime.

“We won three in a row at the end of the season to get into the playoffs. That strong finish brought more guys out this year. We have 25 on the roster. That’s a good number for a small school like us.”


Coach speaks: “We open against Fisher Catholic, a playoff team last year. Playing in the Inter-Valley Conference, one of the best small-school leagues in the state, it’s a battle every week, but we’re up for it.”
LANCASTER FISHER CATHOLIC IRISH

Quarterback Kaden Starcher returns for his senior year after leading a high-powered Lancaster Fisher Catholic offense that scored 256 points in 2018, averaging 28.4 points per game in the regular season before being blanked 37-0 in a playoff opener by state Division VII runner-up Glouster Trimble.

Starcher threw for about 850 yards and six touchdowns and ran for 600 yards and another half-dozen scores. The team rushed for more than 2,000 yards.

“I knew Kaden is one of the best quarterbacks in central Ohio and a legitimate contender for all-state honors,” said coach Doug Miller, in his third year in charge of the Irish. “He has a strong arm, is very competitive and has improved tremendously as an athlete and a leader in the past year.”

Starcher has grown by a couple of inches and gained about 30 pounds in that time and worked with former Ohio State quarterback Greg Frey in the offseason.

“He’s been preparing himself for this season for two years,” Miller said, adding that Starcher is being recruited by schools in NCAA Divisions I and II and has received two Division II offers.

Also returning is Christian Gaul, a second-team All-Ohio lineman last year. “Like Kaden, he has gotten bigger and stronger in the offseason,” Miller said. “He’s a solid leader with superlative work habits, and the two of them set a great example for the rest of the team. Christian is being highly recruited by several FCS (the former NCAA Division I-AA) and Division III schools.”

They’re among 13 lettermen back on a roster of 27. “We play a pretty rough schedule, and our challenge is to stay competitive for 10 weeks,” Miller said. “Physically, we’re bigger and stronger than ever. Credit for that belongs to (assistant coaches) John Young and Luke Thimmes, the way they run the weight room and their ability to push kids.”


Coach speaks: “The key to a possible playoff run will be our ability to play strong for four quarters. With six playoff teams from last year on our schedule, we can’t be sporadic and play hard for two quarters and take two off. If we can execute for a whole game, we can have a pretty good season.”

PORTSMOUTH NOTRE DAME TITANS

Portsmouth Notre Dame could have thrown in the towel last season after starting 0-5 and losing its best player, but the Titans didn’t give up and are hoping to retain the momentum from a strong finish.

After yielding at least 30 points in each of their five opening losses, the Titans defeated previously unbeaten Franklin Furnace Green 16-8, then split the remaining four games to finish 3-7, giving up more than two touchdowns only once in that span.

Coach Bob Ashley said running back Logan Emnett was the key to the second-half surge. “Logan had to step up after we suffered a devastating loss in game three, and (he) had a fantastic year on both sides of the ball,” Ashley said. Emnett, a junior this year, finished with 1,215 yards rushing and scored 18 touchdowns. He also had 100 tackles on defense.

The Titans had been expecting a big senior year from Ben Mader, who had run for almost 1,500 yards as a junior in 2017, but never was fully healthy last year. “He had ankle and knee problems and tried to play, but by the third game, it was obvious he needed to shut things down,” Ashley said. “It took a couple more games to figure out who we were, but once we did, we could play with anybody.”

This year’s Titans are young, with seven returning lettermen and only four seniors. Their key offensive players – Emnett and quarterback Jake McGuire, who rushed for 431 yards and four touchdowns as a running back last year – are both juniors.

“As with all small schools, our biggest challenge is to stay healthy,” said Ashley, who has been the Titans’ coach since 2015 after holding the same position for nine years earlier in his career. “We’re dressing 25, but a couple of those will be limited by injury.” One of those players is kicker Caleb Nichols, who had been expected to start at quarterback before undergoing surgery in the spring.


Coach speaks: “We need to have some success early. The 0-5 start hurt us last year. If we get a little momentum going and guys step up, we can have a strong season.”

2019 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

2019 SCHEDULE

• 8-31 at Tuscarawas Central Catholic
• 9-7 Crestline
• 9-14 Fisher Catholic
• 9-20 Berne Union
• 9-27 at Grove City Christian
• 10-5 Worthington Christian
• 10-11 at Fairfield Christian
• 10-18 Lucas
• 10-26 Ridgedale
• 11-1 Troy Christian

2018 RESULTS (6-4)

• Fisher Catholic 28, Crooksville 7
• Fisher Catholic 35, Crestline 7
• Fisher Catholic 50, Ridgedale 0
• Berne Union 27, Fisher Catholic 13
• Fisher Catholic 23, Grove City Christian 6
• Worthington Christian 40, Fisher Catholic 29
• Fisher Catholic 53, Fairfield Christian 7
• Harvest Prep 12, Fisher Catholic 0
• Fisher Catholic 25, Bishop Rosecrans 22
• Glouster Trimble 37, Fisher Catholic 0 (OHSAA playoffs)
• Conference: Mid-State League Cardinal Division
• Coach: Doug Miller (6-14 in two seasons at Fisher Catholic)

2019 SCHEDULE

• 8-30 Racine Southern
• 9-6 Academy of Urban Scholars
• 9-14 at Fisher Catholic
• 9-20 Fayetteville-Perry
• 9-27 Greenup County (Ky.)
• 10-5 Northwest
• 10-11 at Green
• 10-18 Beaver Eastern
• 10-25 at Symmes Valley
• 11-1 at Scioto Valley East

2018 RESULTS (3-7)

• Racing Southern 36, Portsmouth Notre Dame 6
• Bishop Rosecrans 35, Portsmouth Notre Dame 26
• Fayetteville-Perry 30, Portsmouth Notre Dame 8
• Beaver Eastern 50, Portsmouth Notre Dame 7
• Oak Hill 40, Portsmouth Notre Dame 14
• Symmes Valley 35, Portsmouth Notre Dame 14
• Northwest 35, Portsmouth Notre Dame 14
• Portsmouth ND 55, Manchester 0
• Portsmouth ND 49, Scioto Valley East 8
• Conference: Southern Ohio
• Coach: Bob Ashley (68-66 overall in 13 seasons at Notre Dame, 90-94 overall)
Ohio State enters the 2019 season with a first-year head coach, a new quarterback, some depth issues at the running back position, a new coach on offense, a strong nucleus on defense and experienced special-teams performers.

Quarterback Evan Ernst seized the starting job last year as a redshirt freshman, but he didn’t have a season to build on. Ernst lost one of his top receivers, All-American Cory Contini, but ODU returns three of the team’s four leading pass catchers. Among them are senior David Turner (76 catches, 733 yards, four TDs) and junior Devanaire Conliffe (781 yards, 10 TDs) and Fred Pitts (433 yards, three TDs) expected to carry the load.

“I expect EJ to be one of the top players in our league and Fred to be right there with him,” Cummings said. Four of the team’s top six in tackles from last season have departed, but Cummings doesn’t anticipate much of a dropoff on defense. Senior all-conference linebacker Camden Moore finished with 93 tackles last fall, and junior defensive back Jayden Davis added 64 tackles and one interception. Senior linebacker Alessio Amato led ODU in interceptions with four.

Junior punter Logan Neidhardt was an honorable mention All-American after averaging 43.0 yards per punt, 10th best in Division II.

“We had some very special players the past few seasons that graduated at key spots, and so we’re going to be young at some spots where we had veterans,” Cummings said. “(In) some spots we were young at a year ago, we’ve got some veterans stepping into those roles. We’ve got tons of talent.”

Cummings also had to fill several coaching vacancies during the offsea-

Ohio State backup kicker Dominic DiMaccio played high school football at St. Francis DeSales. (Photo courtesy Ohio State Athletic Communications)

Ohio State was brought on board as secondary coach and co-defensive coordinator. Day also selected former Columbus Bishop Watterson graduate Al Washington as linebackers coach.

Day snatched Mike Yurcich from Oklahoma State to be the passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Yurcich will be responsible for developing transfer quarterback Justin Fields, the top recruit in the nation two years ago, who left Georgia after one season.

Fields was named the starting quarterback on Monday and, barring an unforeseen development, he will be on the field for the Aug. 31 opener against Florida Atlantic.

The athletic sophomore will be more of a dual threat in the offense than prolific passer Dwayne Haskins Jr., who was picked last spring in the first round of the NFL draft by the Washington Redskins after one record-setting season as the starter at Ohio State.

Smith didn’t hesitate in hiring Day, who then revamped the defensive coaching staff after the Buckeyes struggled on that side of the ball in 2018.

Greg Mattison was hired away from Michigan to replace Greg Schiano as defensive coordinator, and former NFL assistant Jeff Hafler was promoted to defensive line coach. The Buckeyes will be a tough act to follow. But plenty of talent remains in place to make Ohio State a favorite to win the Big Ten and a national playoff contender.

Day knows offense, having served as Ohio State’s offensive coordinator for the past two years and as acting head coach for three games last season while Meyer sat out with a suspension. Athletic director Gene\n
Ohio Dominicans Panthers

Ohio Dominican was thwarted in its bid for back-to-back Great Midwest Athletic Conference titles a year ago in its second season in the league, but looks to reclaim the top spot entering 2019.

The Panthers finished 9-2 in 2018, but dropped conference games to Hillsdale and Tiffin after reaching 12th in the NCAA Division II rankings. A 24-23 loss to Tiffin in October most likely kept Ohio Dominican from going to the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

Hillsdale is expected to be one of the hurdles facing Ohio Dominican again this season. In the conference’s pre-season poll, the Panthers were picked second behind the Chargers.

Coach Kelly Cummings enters his third season with legitimate reasons for optimism. ODU returns a wealth of skill players on offense, a strong nucleus on defense and experienced special-teams performers.

Quarterback Evan Ernst seized the starting job last year as a redshirt freshman and proceeded to lead the nation in passing efficiency, completing 196 of 263 passes for 2,506 yards, with 28 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Ernst lost one of his top receivers, All-American Cory Contini, but ODU returns three of the team’s four leading pass catchers. Among them are senior David Turner (76 catches, 733 yards, four TDs) and junior Devanaire Conliffe (36 catches, 540 yards, seven TDs).

Running back is another position of strength, with returnees EJ Colson (781 yards, 10 TDs) and Fred Pitts (433 yards, three TDs) expected to carry the load.

“I expect EJ to be one of the top players in our league and Fred to be right there with him,” Cummings said. Four of the team’s top six in tackles from last season have departed, but Cummings doesn’t anticipate much of a dropoff on defense. Senior all-conference linebacker Camden Moore finished with 93 tackles last fall, and junior defensive back Jayden Davis added 64 tackles and one interception. Senior linebacker Alessio Amato led ODU in interceptions with four.

Junior punter Logan Neidhardt was an honorable mention All-American after averaging 43.0 yards per punt, 10th best in Division II.

“We had some very special players the past few seasons that graduated at key spots, and so we’re going to be young at some spots where we had veterans,” Cummings said. “(In) some spots we were young at a year ago, we’ve got some veterans stepping into those roles. We’ve got tons of talent.”

Cummings also had to fill several coaching vacancies during the offsea-

See OHIO DOMINICAN, Page 16

Ohio State Buckeyes

Ohio State enters the 2019 season with a first-year head coach, a new quarterback, some depth issues at running back and several holes to fill on the offensive line.

Other than that, coach Ryan Day should be able to take the handoff from Urban Meyer and not miss a beat. Day steps into the large shoes left by Meyer, who decided to step aside as head coach after the Buckeyes finished a 13-1 season that included Big Ten championship game and Rose Bowl victories, but not a trip to the College Football Playoff.

Meyer’s 83-9 record in seven years with the Buckeyes will be a tough act to follow. But plenty of talent remains in place to make Ohio State a favorite to win the Big Ten and a national playoff contender.

Day knows offense, having served as Ohio State’s offensive coordinator for the past two years and as acting head coach for three games last season while Meyer sat out with a suspension. Athletic director Gene\n
2019 Schedule

- 9-14 at Valdosta State
- 9-21 Findlay
- 9-26 at Tiffin
- 10-5 at Alderson Broaddus
- 10-19 at Kentucky Wesleyan
- 10-26 Walsh
- 11-9 Lake Erie
- 11-16 at Hillsdale

2019 Results (9-2)

- Ohio Dominican 28, California (Pa.) 23
- Ohio Dominican 24, Ashland 17
- Hillsdale 34, Ohio Dominican 18
- Ohio Dominican 34, Findlay 21
- Ohio Dominican 66, Alderson Broaddus 27
- Ohio Dominican 20, Walsh 10
- Ohio Dominican 57, Malone 17
- Tiffin 24, Ohio Dominican 23
- Ohio Dominican 48, East Stroudsburg 35
- Ohio Dominican 65, Kentucky Wesleyan 7
- Ohio Dominican 62, Lake Erie 6
- Conference: Great Midwest Athletic
- Coach: Kelly Cummings (23-9 in three seasons at ODU and overall)

Ohio State was brought on board as secondary coach and co-defensive coordinator. Day also selected former Columbus Bishop Watterson graduate Al Washington as linebackers coach.

Day snatched Mike Yurcich from Oklahoma State to be the passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Yurcich will be responsible for developing transfer quarterback Justin Fields, the top recruit in the nation two years ago, who left Georgia after one season.

Fields was named the starting quarterback on Monday and, barring an unforeseen development, he will be on the field for the Aug. 31 opener against Florida Atlantic.

The athletic sophomore will be more of a dual threat in the offense than prolific passer Dwayne Haskins Jr., who was picked last spring in the first round of the NFL draft by the Washington Redskins after one record-setting season as the starter at Ohio State.

Smith didn’t hesitate in hiring Day, who then revamped the defensive coaching staff after the Buckeyes struggled on that side of the ball in 2018.

Greg Mattison was hired away from Michigan to replace Greg Schiano as defensive coordinator, and former NFL assistant Jeff Hafler was promoted to defensive line coach. The Buckeyes will be a tough act to follow. But plenty of talent remains in place to make Ohio State a favorite to win the Big Ten and a national playoff contender.

Day knows offense, having served as Ohio State’s offensive coordinator for the past two years and as acting head coach for three games last season while Meyer sat out with a suspension. Athletic director Gene
EIGHT-MAN, continued from Page 8

yard field for this version of the game. Five offensive players must be on the line of scrimmage at the snap, as opposed to seven in the 11-man game. Every player, regardless of jersey number, who at the snap is on the line or behind the line is an eligible receiver. This generally makes for a more wide-open, high-scoring game.

High school associations in 35 states allow eight-man football. Michigan has 77 schools playing that version of the game, with two playoff divisions. Nine-man football is played by a total of about 200 schools in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Several other states allow six-man football. Texas doesn’t play the eight-man game, but has 234 six-man football schools in two divisions. Their title games are part of a slate of 12 state championship contests played on the weekend before Christmas at AT&T Stadium, the home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Statistics from the National Federation of State High School Associations show a decline in participation in football in Ohio during the past decade. Participation in the sport statewide peaked at 55,392 in 2008-09 and fell to 42,637 in 2017-18. This mirrors a similar decline nationwide. But at the same time, the national association reported that the total number of high school athletes in the United States in 2017-18 increased for the 29th consecutive year, totaling 8 million—3.4 million girls and 4.6 million boys. One significant reason for the increase is continuing growth in girls sports and in the number of sports offered overall.

Lotozo said this trend is occurring at Rosecrans. “Other kids have other interests, and I understand that,” he said. “We have more boys coming out for soccer than we used to, and participation in golf, another fall sport, has remained steady. We only have 50 boys in the school, with a lot of them going in different directions, plus girls soccer and volleyball in the fall, not to mention the winter and spring sports. Football may be down, but we have plenty of athletes.

“We knew all along that this was going to be an especially challenging year because we only had six boys in eighth grade last year at our elementary school, Bishop Fenwick,” he said. “This year, we have 15 in the junior high (seventh and eighth grades). In a case where one more or one less person makes a difference, that’s significant. “Our ultimate goal is to get back to 11-man as soon as possible. We just didn’t want to cancel the season. Eight-man is a different style of game, but it’s still blocking and tackling.”

One often-stated reason for the decline in football participation is the growth in recognition of the negative effects of football-related concussions on the brains of some of those who have been successful enough to reach the NFL level. This has caused great concern among many parents.

Coaches of some of the diocese’s other high school teams had a mixed response when asked about those concerns and about the significance of high school football in general.

“Football teaches a young man how not to be complacent, how to execute a particular role better than any other sports,” said Newark Catholic’s Ryan Aiello. “It teaches a strong work ethic and how each individual has a part to play in the whole picture. It offers so much that it’s a shame to see fewer young men playing.”

Casey Cummings of Tuscarawas Central Catholic said, “The numbers go up and the numbers go down at a school like ours. There’s no doubt that football is hard work, but it’s a great game for America, and a lot of kids still take a lot of pride sweating and banging away and getting up and down two or three hours a day. There’s also a lot who don’t want to make the effort, but could. You just have to accept that.”

“I think eight-man football is great for schools that can’t field 11-man teams,” said Brad Buchfield of Columbus Bishop Hartley. “I don’t know that I am well-versed in those specific situations, but I think anything that can keep Friday night football in communities is great under whatever situations are available.”

Doug Miller of Lancaster Fisher Catholic said football is an important part of the broader picture of Catholic education. “In athletics, just as in academics, we put Christ first,” he said. “People come to a Catholic school because they want and desire what we have; in fact, personally, I don’t understand why kids and parents aren’t breaking the doors down to take advantage of what we offer.”

“On our team, everyone prays. The message is, Christ before self, just as it is in school. The connection between academics, religion and athletics is very tight. We support one another. You’ve got to want a religious education for your kids and make it part of everyday life. Our kids do.”

READY, continued from Page 11

Senior Jejuan McGowan is back at fullback.

Cutler said he hopes the offense can show balance, but “in my mind, and in the Bishop Ready mindset, we lean heavily toward the run. We’re still waiting to see where our strengths lie.”

The Silver Knights face a challenging schedule, opening Aug. 30 on the road against Olmsted Area, a perennial state qualifier, and returning home the following week to face West Jefferson. They’ll travel to St. Charles on Sept. 13 to play for the Central Catholic League Gold Division championship.

Ready then begins Mid-State League Ohio Division play at Liberty Union. The Silver Knights are football-only members of the league.

“I think it’s going to be a competitive league,” Cutler said. “We anticipate it being one heck of a year.”


Coach speaks: “The kids are always willing to get after it and work hard. It’s a tribute to their talent and upbringing. They’ve got a lot of grit. That’s a great word to describe the Silver Knights.”

Attend ODU Preview Day
Saturday, Oct. 5 | 9 a.m. – Noon

Are you ready to get a taste of Panther life? Attend our free Preview Day and you’ll have a chance to tour campus, explore majors, learn about our Catholic Dominican tradition, and so much more!

Register today! | odoudominican.edu/Preview
HARTLEY, continued from Page 9

Also in the mix will be senior fullback Mason Sawyer (463 rushing yards, eight TDs in 2018), senior running back Kiron Anderson (16.4 rushing yards per carry) and junior running back Marcellis Parker.

“We expect a great core of returnees to have their best year,” Burchfield said.

Philip Cole, the Hawks’ leading receiver last year, graduated, but sophomore wideout Richard Kenny has shown during the preseason that he’s a potential weapon in the passing game. Daniel Tooson, who started on the defensive line as a freshman, will also play tight end this year.

Other players expected to take a step forward include junior linebacker Sumo Kessley and sophomore defensive back Travhon Saunders.

“Lots of new young faces will emerge,” Burchfield said.

Several veterans will anchor the defense. Leading the charge will be Sawyer, a third-team all-state linebacker who finished last season with a team-best 89 tackles. He’ll be joined at linebacker by Anderson, whose 78 tackles in 2018 were second only to Sawyer’s total.

“We will be counting heavily on those guys and expect them to have the best years of their career,” Burchfield said.

Burchfield believes in scheduling tough opponents, and this year is no exception. The Hawks will face five playoff teams from a year ago. In addition, they’ll play two Dayton-area schools in the first year of a scheduling agreement between the CCL and the Greater Catholic League.

“We need to find a way to win some big, tough games,” Burchfield said.

“The key will always be for us to stay healthy.”


Coach speaks: “We love this team. This team has a lot of veterans and young men that have contributed for a long time for the Hawks. They have worked to have a great year, and the expectations are always sky-high on the east side.”

DESALES, continued from Page 9

from a severe leg injury. If he can stay healthy, his presence would be a boon for the offense this year. Before the 6-foot-1, 190-pound Godfrey sustained the injury in the fifth game of the season against Covington (Kentucky) Catholic, he had thrown for 940 yards (188 per game) and completed 63.7 percent of his passes for nine touchdowns and one interception. He rushed for an additional 152 yards and four touchdowns on 32 carries.

Godfrey’s injury was so devastating that he spent two months in a wheelchair and had to learn to walk again. After months of rehab and recovery, he has been cleared to play this year.

“So far, I see a kid who doesn’t think about that injury,” Wiggins said. “He got stronger in the upper body, and he’s hungry. He knows this is his last shot.”

After Godfrey went down, DeSales’ ability to throw the ball virtually disappeared. Wiggins had to turn at quarterback to Joey Velazquez, a running back/linebacker who led the team in rushing with 917 yards and 13 touchdowns on 160 carries.

With Velazquez now a freshman at Michigan, Godfrey will be joined on a regular basis in the backfield by running backs Quintell Quinn, a 6-1, 185-pound junior, and Jaylen Ball, a 5-9, 195-pound senior.

Quinn is the older brother of incoming DeSales freshman Xavier Quinn, who was tragically killed in an accidental shooting at his home in late July. Xavier was expected to join his brother on the roster this fall, a rarity for a freshman to be elevated to the varsity during Wiggins’ tenure.

Xavier’s death was a devastating blow to his family and the team.

“Our kids have been amazing through this,” Wiggins said. “We talked about being there for Quintell, being there for the family, being there for each other schoolwide. That’s what we’re trying to do. What else can we do after such a tragic accident?”

“In the days, weeks, months ahead, there’s going to be a lot of healing, but we’re just going to stick together.”

Quintell Quinn was the Stallions’ third-leading rusher a year ago with 227 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries. Ball ranked second with 314 yards and two touchdowns on 56 carries.

“Tough schedule we’ve ever played through this,” Wiggins said. “We’re going to put more on him, and I think he’s ready for it.”

Quinn and Ball made more of an impact on defense last season, and both should do the same this year. Quinn, a second-team All-Ohio linebacker, led DeSales in tackles with 88, including 12.5 for loss. Ball, also a linebacker, led the team in sacks with 4.5, and senior defensive back Owen Faulkner contributed 55 tackles.

Faulkner, another two-way player, added 18 catches for 307 yards and three touchdowns in 2018 as a receiver.

Anchoring the offensive and defensive lines will be Cole Potts, a 6-2, 285-pound senior center and tackle who’s headed to James Madison to play college football next year.

“Do I like our team? I do,” Wiggins said. “I think we have some good skill pieces in place.

“I like our attitude. One thing about last year was, we were put through a lot of adversity. Our seniors never gave up, they never complained. They gave it every last drop of effort they had. It just wasn’t quite enough. Now if we can stay a little healthier …”

The Stallions’ schedule is by no means easy, and they’ve moved up to Division II from Division III, but they won’t have to play juggernauts Cincinnati Winton Woods and Covington Catholic. Seven of their 10 opponents will be Catholic schools.

DeSales’ annual rivalry game against Columbus Bishop Watterson is set for Oct. 4 on Alumni Stadium’s newly installed FieldTurf.


Coach speaks: “Being in Division II this year, I don’t know how that’s going to play out for us. All we can try to do is have great attitude and great effort. And if we don’t win, we’ve got to pick up the pieces and try to win the next one. We can’t worry about it.”

WATTERSON, continued from Page 10

Schools did not renew the lease.

The Eagles’ season opener is set for Aug. 30 on the road against Lancaster.


COACH SPEAKS: “We return 11 starters and 16 lettermen from last year. The bulk of our returning experience is at the skill positions. We believe we are capable of improving on our 5-5 record from last year if we stay healthy.”

Young, jr.

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Young, jr.

OHIO DOMINICAN, continued from Page 14

son, including the offensive and defensive coordinators. Mike Hartline, brother of Ohio State assistant and former NFL wide receiver Brian Harte, is the new offensive coordinator. Jami DeBerry takes over as defensive coordinator after two seasons as an assistant at Western Kentucky.

The schedule will present some challenges.

The Panthers weren’t able to fill two vacancies, leaving them with nine regular-season games instead of 11. ODU opens Sept. 7 at Shepherd, which reached the Division II semifinals in 2016, and travels to defending national champion Valdosta State the following week.

“This is going to be one of the toughest schedules we’ve ever played here,” Cummings said. “I guarantee you there’s a lot of other schools out there that would rather play their 11 than the nine we’re going to play.”


COACH SPEAKS: “The hope is we’ve got the talent, the schedule makes us better, and that carries over into our league.

“The reason why you want to play against great teams is, they make you great. I’m a big believer in playing up to your competition and how your competition is going to make you great.”

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“The reason why you want to play against great teams is, they make you great. I’m a big believer in playing up to your competition and how your competition is going to make you great.”
It’s not easy to be as successful as teams from the Diocese of Columbus have been in Ohio high school football.

Of the 10 football-playing schools in the diocese, four have won state championships, and all 10 have qualified for the playoffs since the 1970s. But it can be a challenge for diocesan teams to face teams with larger enrollments to prepare his student-athletes to face teams with larger rosters in the postseason.

This year, Columbus St. Francis DeSales is moving up one level, from Division III to Division II, in football.

Two years ago, Columbus Bishop Hartley went from Division IV to Division III. Playing in larger divisions means facing schools with more students and larger rosters.

DeSales just missed qualifying for the post-season in the past two years in Division III after reaching the playoffs the previous three years and 21 times between 1994 and 2016.

Hartley coach Brad Burchfield

“Being in Division II, I don’t know how that’s going to play out for us,” DeSales coach Ryan Wiggins said.

Hartley won a state football title in Division IV in 2016. The following year, the Hawks were moved up to Division III because of competitive balance rules to compete against teams with larger student bodies. In the past two years, they’ve lost in the regional finals and the regional semifinals of the playoffs.

Hartley coach Brad Burchfield regularly schedules schools with larger enrollments to prepare his student-athletes to face teams with larger rosters in the post-season.

“We will play where we are told, and we will expect to win,” he said.

The Central Catholic League has taken steps to alleviate scheduling concerns by matching up its teams with similar schools. This season, four CCL schools (Hartley, DeSales, Columbus St. Charles and Columbus Bishop Watterson) and four Dayton-area Greater Catholic League schools (Middletown Fenwick, Dayton Carroll, Kettering Alter and Dayton Chaminade-Julienne) begin a scheduling agreement to play two nonconference games in each of the next two years.

“It’s an opportunity to get games against quality opponents and other Catholic schools,” St. Charles coach Deke Hocker said. “We’ll see how it goes and see what happens.”

Wiggins is a big fan of playing Catholic schools, which comprise seven of the Stallions’ 10 regular-season opponents in 2019.

“Improvement’s there, and leadership is improving,” Day said of Fields’ progression during pre-season camp.

At running back, J.K. Dobbins returns for his third season and could be the bell cow while unproven players develop behind him.

“Right now, there is no backup running back,” Day said last week.

The receiving corps lost NFL draft picks Parris Campbell, Terry McLaurin and Johnnie Dixon, but there’s no shortage of veterans on the outside with Binjimen Victor, K.J. Hill, Austin Mack and Chris Olave. Others contending for spots in the receiver rotation are Ellijah Gardiner, Jameson Williams, C.J. Saunders, Jaylen Harris, Garrett Wilson and Jaelen Gill.

“We want to have six, maybe seven receivers that we can use to roll guys,” Day said. “And whenever it fits and however that all fits in terms of those six or seven guys, we’re going to move those around.”

Several new starters will join veteran tackle Thayer Munford on the offensive line.

Where Ohio State really needs to improve this season is on the defensive side. The Buckeyes ranked 72nd nationally last year in total defense, giving up 403 yards per game.

“We are going to be an aggressive defense that runs to the football,” Mattison said.

Everybody on our defense believes in it. I’m really excited right now about what our kids are doing on defense, and it’s our job to get them to play up to the standard that is Ohio State football.”

Representing the Diocese of Columbus on the roster is sophomore Dominic DiMaccio, a backup kicker and former standout at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.


Coach speaks: “The toughness part, I think that’s what it’s going to come down to in the end because I think we’re athletic, fast, a good-looking team.”

“Medium-size Catholic schools should stick together. We have like-minded schools, like-minded missions, like-minded numbers.”

CCL commissioner Jim Jones, an assistant principal at DeSales, is working with the North Coast League in northeast Ohio on a similar arrangement in football and other sports. He hopes the agreement with the GCL will extend beyond 2020.

“I really think our schools are excited about the new rivalries and what they will bring for the communities,” Jones said. “We need to build not only for 2019 and 2020, but well beyond that as well.”

Columbus Bishop Ready is not part of the CCL-GCL arrangement as a smaller Division V school, but the Silver Knights are a football-playing member of the Mid-State League and face public schools similar in size.

“It alleviates some of the travel, and I think it’s a very competitive league,” Ready coach Joel Cutler said.

The other five diocesan teams outside of Columbus will compete in small-school Division VII this year.
FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
ON AM 820

6PM
Catholic High School
PREVIEW SHOW

7PM
Catholic High School
GAME-OF-THE-WEEK

9:30 PM
CITY-WIDE
SCOREBOARD SHOW
presented by ThisWeekSports.com

Date Game of the Week Schedule
August 30 St. Charles @ Dublin Scioto
September 6 West Jefferson vs. Bishop Ready @ Obetz
September 13 Gahanna @ Bishop Hartley
September 20 Newark Catholic @ Watkins Memorial
September 27 Clinton Massie @ Bishop Hartley
October 4 Bishop Watterson @ St. Francis DeSales
October 11 Harvest Prep vs. Bishop Ready @ Obetz
October 18 Bishop Hartley @ Bishop Watterson
October 25 Steubenville @ St. Francis DeSales
November 1 Bishop Watterson @ St. Charles
God’s vision for the world, as revealed in the Scriptures, is that of a world in which all nations are united. Our own experience of the world is anything but that. We find broken relationships, family strife, violence of all kinds, and nations continually at war.

How is this to be bridged? We are invited to share God’s vision by opening our hearts to a broadened perspective and by perseverance. There is a price to be paid. Jesus Christ suffered price to be paid. Jesus Christ suffered for us to be able to share our faith. Some He shall take from our own limited way of seeing. We are invited to learn to see as God sees.

In the midst of the turmoil of the world, we must strive to enter the narrow door. We must stop measuring everything of this life’s journey is for us to get to Jesus makes His way toward Jerusalem and continues to teach along the way. Asked whether those who are to be saved are few in number, He does not answer the question. Instead, He urges His followers to try to enter the narrow gate. He explains that God’s vision is for all to be invited. People will come from beyond the immediate circle of disciples and take their place at the feast in the kingdom of God. The world will be very different than what we experience now. Some who are last will be first, and some who are now among the first will be last.

Our God gathers. All are invited. There are two “jobs” assigned to us: The first is to respond: try to come through the narrow door. RSVP, “Répondez, s’il vous plaît.” Say “Yes” to the invitation to enter the kingdom, to see God’s glory, to understand God’s way of seeing.

The second job is to spread the word. Our life is meant to be an invitation to others. The trials of life and the experience of suffering are God’s challenge to us to stay true. The Scriptures present us with a beautiful promise of what is to come: a new world where we will experience understanding among the nations, divine rule, which forms God’s own people as a priestly reality, and a feast where those present know they are present.

God claims you as His own! He wants to bring you and all your friends and enemies to the kingdom. Are you willing to go where He leads? Who hears God’s call through you? Go out to all the world and tell the Good News!

**St. Charles graduate receives Joyce scholarship**

Cameron DeShetler, who graduated in May from Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, was awarded the Glenna R. Joyce scholarship to the University of Notre Dame, which he will enter this month.

At St. Charles, he graduated with a 4.24 cumulative grade point average, was a National Merit commended scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, and an Advanced Placement scholar with distinction. He scored at the magna cum laude level on the National Latin Exam and was awarded the school’s Msgr. Paul O’Dea Latin award.

He was a member of the varsity engineering team for three years, helping win three state championships. He also was on the cross country and track teams, serving as co-captain of both in his senior year and as track co-captain as a junior.

He is part of the youth ministry at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, and for the past four summers has taken part in Gospel Road mission trips to Appalachia. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 2018.

For the past three years, he has ridden in Pelotonia, the annual cycling fundraiser for cancer research. He also has been an intern in the molecular biology and cancer genetics program at Ohio State. At Notre Dame, he hopes to do research on acoustic mechanics and cell engineering.

The Joyce scholarship, established in 1961 by the late Glenna R. Joyce, covers the costs of four years at Ohio State or Notre Dame institution, including tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, books, transportation and incidental expenses.

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**Employment Opportunity**

Saint Christopher Catholic Church is seeking a Director of Faith Formation to provide leadership in the design and implementation of faith formation for adults, youth, and children. The position is responsible for organizing and coordinating the sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, the RCIA and Youth Group. The Director of Faith Formation will work in conjunction with the Pastor to calendar events, secure volunteers, and work in collaboration with all parish ministries. This position is for the individual who wants to be part of an energetic staff that gives over 100%.

This job is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” course. Salary is commensurate with skills, education, and experience. Starting date is negotiable. Send letter of intention, resume, and references to: Father David A. Poliafito, Pastor, 1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43212.
Local news and events

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help to host Father Gaitley

Members of the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy will visit Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, for a “Mercy and Mary” retreat on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 30 and 31.

The retreat will feature Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, an acclaimed speaker and best-selling author of *33 Days to Morning Glory.*

The retreat will include talks by Father Gaitley on saints and mercy, Mass, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. There also will be a book signing with Father Gaitley and lunch with the Marian Missionaries.

The Friday session will take place from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. Saturday’s program will last from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Limited seating is available and registration is required. Visit events.marianmissionaries.org/events/mercy-mary-retreat-columbus-oh for reservations.

CSS hosts Big Table event

Catholic Social Services will host a Big Table conversation on “Myths and Truths of the Immigration Process” from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28 at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, 409 Industry Drive, Columbus.

The Big Table, sponsored by The Columbus Foundation, is a day of community building through open, thoughtful conversations conducted throughout the Columbus area and designed to connect and inspire central Ohio. The foundation’s goal is that these conversations spark new relationships and new ways for working together by deepening people’s understanding of each other and of what the community needs.

The event is free, but those wishing to attend are asked to register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-table-immigration-process-myths-and-truths-tickets-68165800745. For more information, contact Julie Naporano at jnaporano@colsscs.org.

Renewal sponsors Mass, conference

The Columbus Catholic Renewal organization is sponsoring a healing Mass and mini-conference with Father Richard McAlear, OMI, on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13 and 14 at Columbus St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road.

Father McAlear will provide teachings on forgiveness, healing, faith and the Eucharist. Healing prayer ministry will be a central focus in front of the Blessed Sacrament, with music ministry, praise and worship. Lunch will be provided Saturday.

Father McAlear, a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, has degrees in philosophy, theology and religious education. With almost 50 years of experience in charismatic renewal, healing and outreach to the poor, he has taught and preached in every part of the United States, as well as Asia, South America, Canada, Australia, New Guinea, Guatemala, Italy, France, Portugal and Scotland.

For more information or to register for the free event, go to www.cccrcolumbus.org, call (614) 500-8178 or email info@ccrcolumbus.org.

Martha Circle plans open house

The Catholic Foundation’s St. Martha Giving Circle will sponsor an open house at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4 in the foundation’s offices, 257 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Two members of the group, known informally as the Marthas, will speak about what it means to be a Martha and what the group does in a typical year. Current members are encouraged to bring others and renew their memberships.

Donations of gently used prom-appropriate dresses, shoes, evening handbags, jewelry and wraps will be collected at the event and distributed to the Fairy Goodmothers organization, which provides formal dresses and accessories to central Ohio high school girls who lack the means to purchase them for themselves. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided.

The St. Martha Giving Circle is an initiative dedicated to bringing Catholic women together to raise awareness and funds for organizations in the Diocese of Columbus. Its members leverage a pooled fund to have a greater philanthropic impact on selected organizations.

Throughout the year, The Marthas gather to learn about organizations and their needs and decide together which projects to fund. The meetings also provide opportunities to share ideas, serve with one another, and socialize.

Those wishing to attend the event are asked to RSVP by Monday, Sept. 2, to Kristin Shuey at kshuey@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893. For more information, visit www.catholic-foundation.org/themarthas.

St. Dominic parishioner wins Emmy

Columbus St. Dominic Church parishioner Charlene Brown, host of WOSU-TV’s *Columbus Neighborhoods* series, received an Ohio Valley

Stella Niagara sisters celebrate milestone anniversaries

Sister Carmen Paris, OSF, who resides at the St. Leo Convent in Columbus, is celebrating her 75th anniversary as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity this month.

She pronounced her vows with the congregation on Aug. 17, 1944.

She was honored at the sisters’ provincial house in Stella Niagara, New York, along with three sisters formerly of the Diocese of Columbus observing significant anniversaries.

Sisters Owen Doody and Mary Diehl have been members of the congregation for 70 and 65 years, respectively. Sister Barbara Pfohl is celebrating 60 years as a Franciscan.

From 1946 to 1963, Sister Carmen ministered at St. Vincent Orphanage, later St. Vincent Children’s Center, in Columbus.

She lived at St. Vincent while working from 1981 to 1997 at St. Ann’s Hospital and the former Columbus and Bristol House nursing homes.

Her other ministries in Ohio were at Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Nelsonville as a physical therapy assistant; at Shawnee St. Mary Church in religious education; and at Mount Aloysius Academy in New Lexington, helping the developmentally delayed.

A local jubilee celebration is planned at St. Leo Convent.

Before Sister Owen’s retirement, she taught, was a computer resource person, and volunteered at Worthington St. Michael School.

She also served at Mount Aloysius and at Columbus St. John, Holy Rosary and St. Anthony schools.

Sister Mary performed pastoral care at St. Ann’s Hospital in Columbus.

Her Columbus parish ministry was at St. Augustine and Holy Rosary-St. John churches.

Sister Barbara volunteers at the Francis Center afterschool program in Niagara Falls, New York, and at a homeless shelter in Buffalo.

She taught in Columbus at St. Peter, Holy Rosary, and St. Anthony schools and was principal at St. Anthony.
Elaine K. Hayes

Funeral Mass for Elaine K. Hayes, 81, who died Sunday, Aug. 18, was celebrated at Columbus St. Timothy Church on Wednesday, Aug. 21. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Pittsburgh.

She was the mother of Father Timothy Hayes, pastor of St. Timothy Church, and grandmother of Tyler Carter, a seminarian of the Diocese of Columbus.

She was born on Aug. 31, 1937, in Peoria, Illinois, to William and Iona (Cline) Keeley, and was a longtime parishioner and office volunteer at Columbus St. James the Less Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Rebecca; brother, William; and sister, Juanita. Survivors include her husband, Thomas; sons, Father Timothy, Charles (Sue), Jeffrey (Regina), David (Carolyn), Kevin, Steven and William, daughter, Susan; 13 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

HOLY CROSS, continued from Page 2

cross-and-anchors symbol as signs of their professed membership.

“For each of us, there is a call – a stirring from deep within, inviting us in the quiet of our lives to ponder ‘What is it, Lord, that you are asking of me?’” Father William Lies, CSC, said in his homily at the Mass.

“These men give voice to this inner yearning of the heart as they publicly consecrate their life to God in the Congregation of Holy Cross. They never set aside their roots with their beloved family, but as they go forth from here, they will no longer depend on them for material support. What they absolutely need is continued love and encouragement.”

Ryan, 29, is the second member of his family to take vows with the congregation. His brother, Father Brogan Ryan, CSC, was ordained a priest in

April and is rector of Notre Dame’s Keough Hall dormitory. Both Ryans and Vetter received bachelor’s degrees from Notre Dame.

“I was drawn to Holy Cross by the joy in community and ministry I saw in the many men – priests and seminarians – that I came to know during my time at Notre Dame and since I have graduated, and by their ideal of educating both the mind and the community. Having a brother in the community helps, too,” Michael Ryan said.

Vetter was drawn to the congregation by “the authentic joy of Holy Cross religious and the deep sense of family lived out in the Holy Cross communities that I experienced.”

The Congregation of Holy Cross, founded in 1837, has approximately 1,200 members in 16 nations on five continents.

Third Order Carmelites issue invitation

Are you being called to a life of deep prayer and to a life of service following the call of Our Lord? Are you drawn to sharing prayer time with others in community? If you answered yes, you may be ready to become a part of the Third Order of Carmelites, a lay order.

Carmelite spirituality has as its patrons Elijah, who incorporated the spirit of contemplation and active service to the Lord and our Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Saints including St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux are a part of the Carmelite tradition. Carmelite charism is threefold: first, daily prayer, deepened with meditation and contemplation; the practice of living out the Lord’s mission of service; and the development of a sense of community by being an active part of the local and worldwide family of Carmel.

If you would like more information about the local Carmelite chapter, contact Mike Hessenauer at (614) 568-7791.
St. John Fisher Stewards link donors to foundation

When then-Bishop Frederick Campbell identified St. John Fisher as patron saint of The Catholic Foundation for his stewardship of endowments, it inspired the formation of the St. John Fisher Stewards.

The stewards aim to be volunteers for a parish, school or ministry – promoting the growth of endowments through collaboration with The Catholic Foundation’s awareness and service initiatives.

One of the foundation’s most successful stewards is Mark Capuano, a St. John Fisher Steward for a little more than two years for Zoar Holy Trinity Church. Capuano first heard about The Catholic Foundation in 2015 when Loren Brown, foundation CEO, came to Holy Trinity for a parish gathering. Even though Capuano didn’t immediately respond, he took notes and asked questions.

Curiosity and the intent to do more eventually won out, and he reached out to learn more about the foundation’s donor advised funds. Capuano set up such a fund because, he said, “it was a simple way to lump my charitable contributions into one convenient account so that I could give systematically and regularly without having to write a bunch of checks.”

Brown contacted Capuano in 2016 about becoming a St. John Fisher Steward after seeing that he had contributed to his fund. Capuano said it had worked so well for him that he wanted to share the experience with fellow parishioners.

Since then, Capuano has referred several people to The Catholic Foundation who have gone on to open their own funds, including a fund for the Knights of Columbus. In addition to having many conversations with parishioners, Capuano also regularly promotes and advertises the foundation through emails to parish members aged 60 and older, bimonthly parish bulletin blurbs and a quarterly full-page bulletin insert.

The parish website also has a link to The Catholic Foundation, and any time the parish has a fundraiser such as its fall dinner, Monte Carlo night or fish fry, Capuano has a table set up there with foundation literature and information.

Father Jeff Coning, pastor of Holy Trinity, has worked with Capuano for about three years and says he appreciates his work on behalf of the parish and the foundation.

“It’s easy for me to take care of the here and now, but difficult for me to be in the mindset of legacy gifts,” Father Coning said. “Mark reminds me and the parish of the ability to do legacy gifts through the foundation and how to go about making those connections.”

A legacy gift is a planned future donation given through a will or other form of designation. It is a decision that each person makes in his or her financial planning, taking into account charitable wishes and values. These gifts often provide the sustainability most parishes, schools and organizations need to survive.

Father Coning thinks that the St. John Fisher Stewards are a great gift to the parish because priests are pulled in so many directions: administering the sacraments, preparing homilies, taking communion to the sick and elderly, presiding at funerals and weddings, and doing financial reports and other administrative tasks for the diocese and church. Having someone such as Capuano thinking about the future and the sustainability of the parish is a blessing because that focus often is lost in day-to-day activities.

Father Coning said Capuano is a great resource at parish events because he makes sure that foundation information is displayed and he is available to answer questions. He is the bridge from a donor to the foundation and to the parish.

Capuano said, “Being a steward is not as overbearing as it may seem and is something that requires an enthusiastic attitude toward the success of the diocese and the local parish. The staff at Holy Trinity and The Catholic Foundation have done most of the work for me. It’s just been such a positive experience to communicate my own experiences to parishioners and groups about how I have been blessed by it.”

For information on becoming a St. John Fisher Steward for your parish, contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org.
Ohio Dominican to host preview days

Ohio Dominican University will host preview days from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 5 and Nov. 9 in the Bishop Griffin Student Center, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Interested high school students and their families may register for either of the events by visiting ohiodominican.edu/preview.

During preview day, students can take a tour of campus, explore majors, discuss available financial aid options, enjoy a complimentary meal, learn about student clubs and honors programs, meet with professors in their field of interest and talk with current students about their experience at ODU.

Students unable to attend either day may schedule a private visit to campus at ohiodominican.edu/visit or by calling the undergraduate admissions office at (614) 251-4500.

DCCW accepting award nominations

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) is accepting nominations for its annual St. Teresa’s Awards, which will be presented by Bishop Robert Brennan during a dinner at 4:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, at Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road.

The awards recognize women who live their lives in the spirit of St. Teresa of Calcutta, who are strong in their Catholic faith, engaged and involved in their parish communities.

Those wishing to nominate a potential recipient of the award are asked to submit an essay of no more 250 words describing how the nominee demonstrates attributes reminiscent of St. Teresa’s life and ministry. All essays must be received by Friday, Oct. 4, and sent to DCCW, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215.

Parishes are encouraged to purchase tables for the dinner so that clergy members and family and friends of award recipients can join them as they receive recognition. Tickets are $30 each or $220 for a table of eight, with a maximum of two tables per parish, and must be paid for in advance by Oct. 4.

For more information, contact DCCW president Katie Boesch at kboesch@columbuscatholic.org or call the DCCW at (614) 228-8601.

Pat Tiberi named ODU trustee

Former U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi is the newest member selected to Ohio Dominican University’s board of trustees. Tiberi is the president and chief executive officer of the Ohio Business Roundtable, a nonprofit organization that includes the chief executives of many of Ohio’s largest companies.

ODU president Robert Gervasi believes Tiberi’s skills and extensive professional network will be benefit students. “Pat’s ability to build relationships with key leaders in central Ohio’s business community will undoubtedly serve to create opportunities for our outstanding students in a wide range of fields,” he said.

“My parents instilled in me a deep appreciation of the importance of education, and to now be provided an opportunity to have a role in impacting the education of others is a humbling honor,” Tiberi said.

Tiberi represented central Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives for 17 years. He is a lifelong resident of the Columbus area and a 1985 Ohio State University graduate. He began his career in public service as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He is a past chairman of the Italian Festival sponsored by Columbus St. John the Baptist Church.