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## Special Points of Interest for Winter 2023

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**“Corpus Christi Catholic School welcomes all children; enriching their knowledge, nurturing their faith, and building their character in a Catholic Christian environment.”**



Advent by Candlelight potluck dinner



Parent Prayer Warriors

## RETURN TO COMMUNITY

**We invite you to return to community with us**

Corpus Christi Community,

May the joy of the Christmas season be with you and your family! Rejoice, the Lord has come! May this new year also bring your family peace and happiness. We are grateful for the blessings of our community this year and are excited for the year to come!

We have continued our theme this year of “Return to Community,” welcoming everyone together once again. One new way we have invited our parents to be more involved is through our Parent Prayer Warriors group. This group of Corpus Christi parents gathers each month on a Friday after dropping their children off. They begin the morning with coffee and breakfast treats, getting to know each other, and letting their little children play together. Once the school children finish their morning prayer, the parents move into the school’s chapel to pray a Rosary together. This event has brought new and old families together to pray for our students, and they have prayed together in both English and Spanish! We are blessed by the universality of our faith and the many ways our community can pray together. We invite you to join us for our next gathering; check our school calendar for the date!

Another way in which we have returned to community is through our annual Advent by Candlelight dinner. This event welcomes the women of our parish and school communities to come together in faith and fellowship. This year we held our event on December 1. We had sixty women join us that evening for Eucharistic Adoration, tours of our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium, a potluck dinner, and a keynote address from Sr. Colleen Ann Nagle of the Franciscan Life Process Center. She spoke on the topic of Mary our Mother and how her faith reflects the beauty of God’s intelligent design. It was a beautiful evening, and we are grateful to the Corpus Christi Foundation for co-sponsoring our speaker and event.

We invite you to return to community with us this year. Our school Masses are celebrated Wednesday mornings at 8:45 AM and our community is welcome to join! We are grateful for your support and continue to hold all of you in our prayers. May the new year bring you blessings and joy!

In Christ,

Jennifer M. Liniewski  
Principal

Welcome to a place where our students go to learn coping strategies

**A safe and welcoming environment for students that helps to build a healthier community.**

"Here at Corpus Christi Catholic School, we recognize that academics and students are more than a grade. The well being of the entire student is of great importance, meaning we care for their growth and development in academics, spirituality, and mental health. Through the contributions of our Academic Dean, Katie Lookhart, and Behavior Specialist, Katie Christoffersen, we have been able to provide many supports to our students to help them continue to grow in their knowledge, faith, and character.

This year, we have introduced common language across all grade levels to help students identify feelings, the reason behind them, and strategies to get back on track to learn. The teachers at Corpus Christi Catholic School have also done an amazing job at utilizing this common language, called the Zones of Regulation. Students are able to identify how they are feeling, choose strategies to help them in that moment, and work through how to return to a calmer mental state to be more focused and ready to learn.

We help students to learn these techniques through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons. Mrs. Christofferson has joined each class at Corpus Christi Catholic School to practice

mindfulness, self-control, and identifying strategies for each Zone of Regulation. Additionally, individual time is provided to students in need of extra support. Students may need them at the moment or on a regular basis. These breaks, overseen by Mrs. Lookhart and Mrs. Christoffersen, help students use self control with their body, while also bringing themselves to a state where they are ready to learn.

One of the ways students help regain their focus is taking a break in our sensory room throughout the day. The Sensory Room is a safe, welcoming environment for students to practice restorative skills and build a healthier community. Some students use this room for a movement break, getting out the energy that is distracting them from focusing in the classroom. Other students may require a sensory break. This will include calming activities to refocus their mind and body. All feelings are welcomed and natural; however, we continue to empower the students of Corpus Christi Catholic School with the tools for better mental health so students can focus on their talents.

We are so grateful to be able to offer these resources to our students, and we would not be able to offer this without the generous support of our Knights of Columbus. The Sensory Room was completely funded through money raised from the most recent golf outings and Tootsie Roll drives. We are so thankful for our partnership with the Knights of Columbus so we can continue to meet the needs of all students and help them to grow into who God intended them to be!"



## Welcome New Staff Members

**A new Academic Dean and a Behavioral Specialist join our school family!**

### **Katie Lookhart**

Mrs. Lookhart begins her career with Corpus Christi as the Academic Dean. She has over 15 years of experience in education. During that time, she has been a science teacher, curriculum designer, assessment writer, and assistant principal both in public, virtual, and charter schools. She holds master's degrees in Educational Leadership and Environmental Management. Her passion in these subjects inspired her to move her family to West Michigan where they are often found exploring outdoors. To her, it is a joy to be a part of the Catholic community, supporting students' growth in academics and faith.



### **Katie Christoffersen**

Mrs. Christoffersen joined our Corpus Christi family as our Behavioral Specialist. She graduated from Grand Valley State University with a degree in Special Education, majoring in psychology, minoring in elementary education, and having endorsements in cognitive and emotional impairments. She worked previously in both the Rockford and West Ottawa Public School Districts. Katie and her husband moved to Holland to be closer to trails, the beach, and family. Katie is passionate about building relationships with her students and loves to implement strategies and tools to help all learners be successful. She is grateful to be a part of her faith community in this way!

## FRESH FROM THE OVEN

### **Bake sale raises money for important outreach!**

The 6th Grade Class at Corpus Christi Catholic School sold bake sale items at the annual CCCS Craft Sale on November 19th. Student's and their families were asked to provide baked goods for the ever popular Bake Sale Table". The smells from hundreds of baked goods, ranging from cookies- to dog treats- to spiced butterscotch chip banana bread, successfully tempted shoppers. The students raised \$870 for the Harbor Humane Society and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Congratulations and Thank You to 6th Grade and their families!"



6th Grade Bake Sale

## AUCTION WITH A TWIST RECAP

### **A successful event with the help of CCCS alumni!**

The 2022 Auction With A Twist, held at Baker Lofts in Downtown Holland, did not disappoint. Friends of Corpus Christi Catholic School, Our Lady of the Lake, and St. Francis de Sales bid generously on over 50 packages, Grab Bags, a Wine Pull, & Golden Tickets, as well as placing monetary donations on specific needs in our community and tuition assistance.

Attendees enjoyed the opening words from Bishop Walkowiak, as well as a heartfelt speech from Principal Liniewski about the importance of providing a Catholic School for our children to grow up in. The live auction offered many opportunities to bid on trips, artwork, gift cards, and an electric bike to name a few. The food and fellowship warmed the soul while the dancing at the end of the evening warmed the feet! Together in our efforts we raised over \$90,000!

The Auction With A Twist Committee would like to give special recognition to this year's graduating seniors & CCCS alumni, for volunteering the night of the event. Giving back to your school is a Corpus Christi Catholic School tradition and we could not be more proud of the incredible individuals you have become!



Bishop Walkowiak and CCCS graduate Austin Ysasi at the Auction



Alumni Leah O'Connell and Emily Asselin help with the Live Auction



CCCS Alumni posing with two of their favorite CCCS teachers.  
Left to right: Aiden VandenElzen, Matthew LaPorte, Leah O'Connell,  
Megan Koster, Elaina Dishinger, Sarah Butch, & Emily Asselin.

## DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

**You can help our students checkout more books, by checking out our library wish list!**

The CCCS Library is used weekly and nothing would put a bigger smile on our student's faces than to see some new titles on the shelves! Our school is blessed to have an active library run by staff and students. Help us to continue to fill our shelves by visiting our wish list on Amazon. You can find the link at our website: [www.corpuschristischool.us/give](http://www.corpuschristischool.us/give)

**Amazon Smile helps our school budget smile!**

Do you shop on Amazon? Do you know that by doing that shopping through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you can support Corpus Christi Catholic School?

Here is how:

1. Choose your favorite charity - Corpus Christi Catholic School of course!
2. Shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) - Same products, same prices, same services as the Amazon you know.
3. AmazonSmile donates to your charity - Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Catholic Schools Week** - January 28th - February 5th
- **Angel Tuition Drive** - January 28th - February 28th
- **Open House** - February 16th  
5:30pm - 7:00pm
- **Crusader Toss** - February 25th
- **May Crowning** - May 10th
- **Fiesta** - May 19th

For details on these events please visit the calendar on our school website: <https://www.corpuschristischool.us/events/>

### Corpus Christi Catholic School

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## ANGEL TUITION DRIVE

**"Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace."**

- St. Francis of Assisi

At the start of Catholic Schools Week, January 28th, we will kick off our annual Angel Tuition Drive. This year we ask friends of Corpus Christi Catholic School to consider St. Francis of Assisi's prayer above. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can be an instrument of His peace by helping to provide peace of mind to families in our community who desire a Catholic education for their child(ren) yet cannot make that desire a reality without assistance from our loving community. Providing access to a Catholic education for all families who desire it, is a cornerstone of our mission to welcome all children, enrich their knowledge, nurture their faith, and build their character in a Catholic Christian environment. We are asking for your partnership in helping us to fulfill this mission!

- Over 50% of our student population receives tuition assistance.
- All families have a financial stake in their child(ren)'s education.
- This Angel Tuition Drive will be our only community wide major ask for Angel Tuition donations for the year!
- CCCS remains a leader in education in our community. Our students' successes, regardless of demographics, are our greatest proof!

Angel Tuition is a blessing for students and their families. If you are called to be an instrument of His peace in this way, please make a donation to CCCS from January 28th - February 28th.

Donations can be made by:

- Cash or check mailed in the enclosed envelope
- Credit Card through PayPal on our website: [www.corpuschristischool.us/give](http://www.corpuschristischool.us/give)
- Stock Trade - contact Comptroller for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Charles Fust CPA @ 616-475-1253



2022-23 CCCS Students and Staff