

# FAITH IN ACTION

*Serving God and Neighbor*

## 2026 Ministry Guide

St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church

6477 Ada Drive Southeast

Ada, Michigan, 49301

(616) 676-9111

[www.strobertchurch.org](http://www.strobertchurch.org)

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# A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter 2026, I'm grateful for each of you and the many gifts you share with our parish family and all those we serve. This updated Ministry Guide reflects our ongoing commitment to growing in faith and service together. **You'll notice several new ministries**—clearly marked as NEW!—as well as embedded hyperlinks in the headers and footers of each page and each ministry title to help you quickly access more detailed descriptions on the St. Robert of Newminster website. *TIP: click the ministry group on the [Table of Contents](#) page you're interested in learning more about, and it will take you directly to that page within this guide!*

Stewardship is more than giving; it is recognizing that everything we have is a blessing from God and responding by offering our time, talent, and treasure in service to Him and one another. Your involvement, generosity, and support make our mission possible and strengthen the vibrant community we share.

Thank you for being part of St. Robert of Newminster. Your participation not only sustains our parish but helps us bring the love of Christ to the world around us. May God bless you abundantly as we continue to serve with joyful hearts.



**Fr. Tony Russo**  
*Pastor*  
St. Robert of Newminster Parish

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## 2026 STAFF DIRECTORY

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### PARISH CONTACT:

Hans Whitmer

[hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org)


St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church and School complies with the requirements of the [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#) of the U.S.C.C.B. and the guidelines of the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Under the requirements of the program, every employee of the parish or school and all volunteers engaged in regular contact with minors must meet the following requirements:

- Complete *VIRTUS* training
- Comply with the *Standards for Ministerial Behavior*
- Undergo a criminal background check at least every 5 years
- Certain staff must also be fingerprinted

# WELCOME TO SRN!

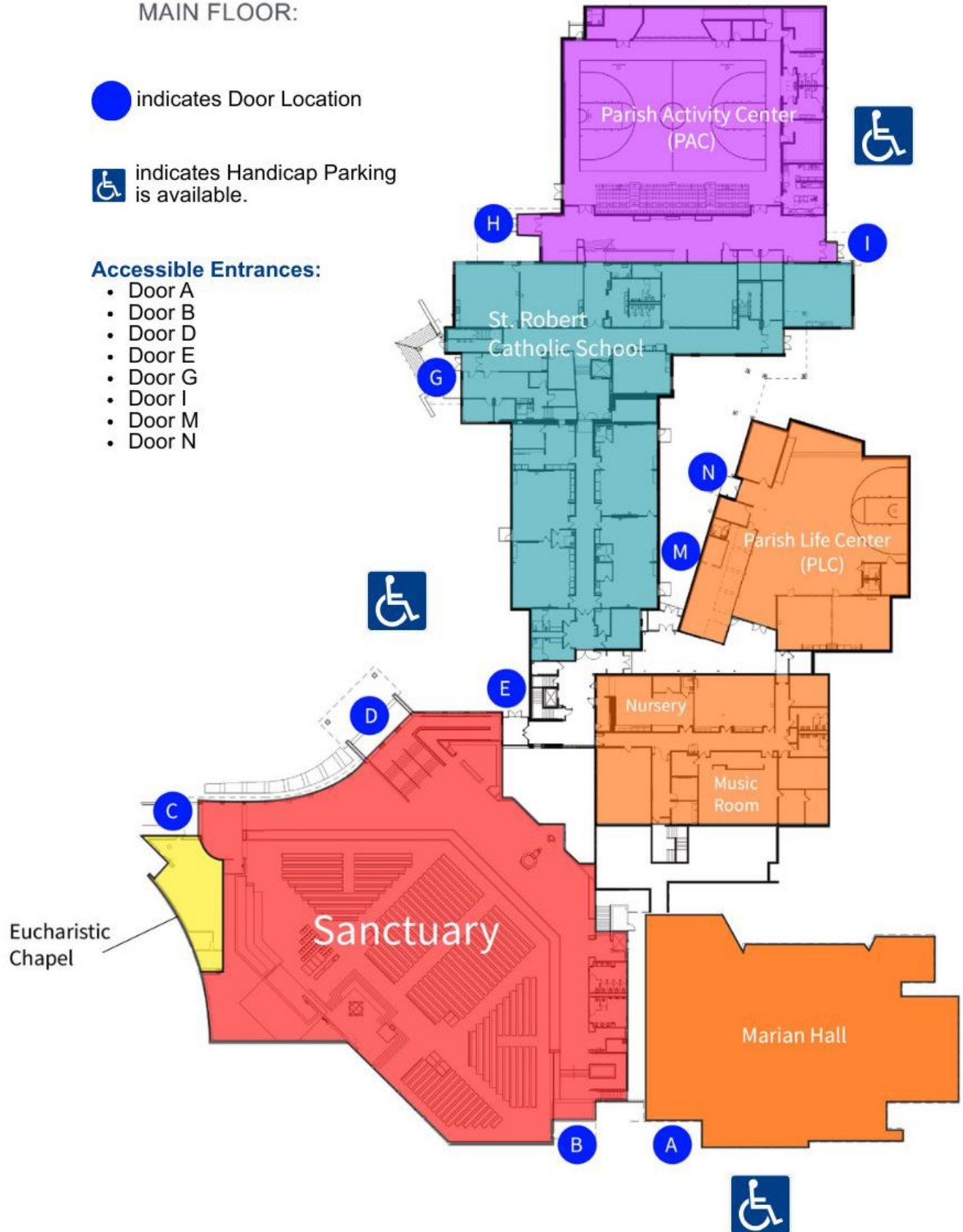
## MAIN FLOOR:

 indicates Door Location

 indicates Handicap Parking is available.

### Accessible Entrances:


- Door A
- Door B
- Door D
- Door E
- Door G
- Door I
- Door M
- Door N



# EXPLORE OUR CAMPUS

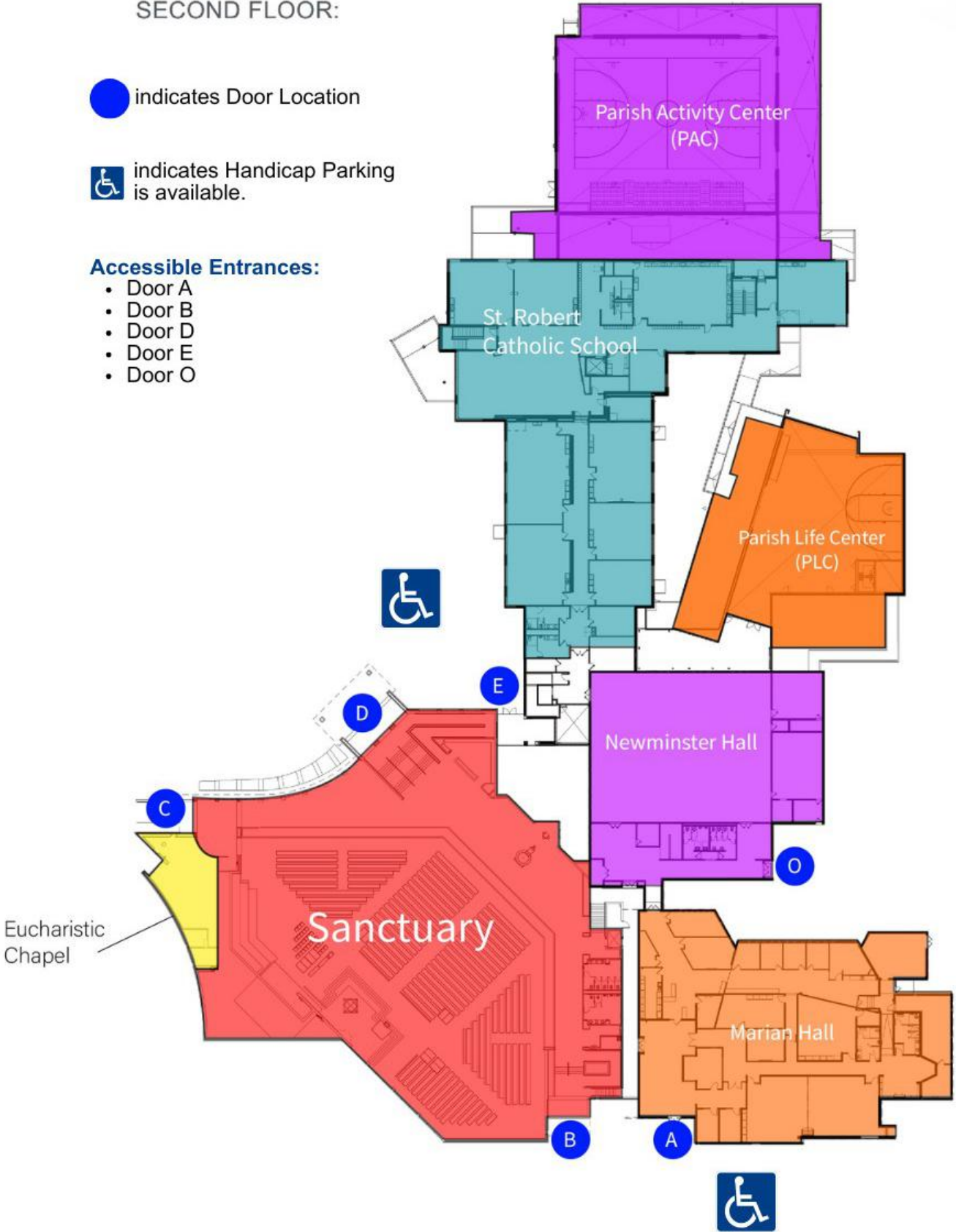
## SECOND FLOOR:

 indicates Door Location

 indicates Handicap Parking is available.

### Accessible Entrances:

- Door A
- Door B
- Door D
- Door E
- Door O



# SACRAMENTS

## **BAPTISM (Child) \***

Catholic parents have a primary role in forming their children in Christian discipleship. New parents must register to attend a Baptism Preparation Session prior to scheduling their child's baptism. *The session need only be attended once.* Baptisms are not celebrated during the Lenten season.

**Contact:** Molly Reppuhn, [mollyr@strobertychurch.org](mailto:mollyr@strobertychurch.org)

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION (Child) \***

Sacramental prep for First Reconciliation occurs during 2nd grade. All disciples enrolled in the 2nd grade Faith Formation program or in 2nd grade at St. Robert Catholic School will automatically receive sacramental prep. In addition to weekly catechesis, Communicants are expected to attend a retreat in the fall with at least one parent or guardian. First Reconciliation is celebrated during Advent.

**Contact:** Jolana Peard, [jpeard@strobertychurch.org](mailto:jpeard@strobertychurch.org)

## **FIRST COMMUNION (Child) \***

Sacramental prep for First Communion occurs during 2nd grade. All disciples enrolled in the 2nd grade Faith Formation program or in 2nd grade at St. Robert Catholic School will automatically receive sacramental prep. In addition to weekly catechesis, Communicants are expected to attend a retreat in early spring with at least one parent or guardian. The First Communion Mass is scheduled yearly on the first Sunday of May.

**Contact:** Jolana Peard, [jpeard@strobertychurch.org](mailto:jpeard@strobertychurch.org)

## **CONFIRMATION (Youth) \***

Sacramental prep for Confirmation occurs during 8th grade. All students enrolled in 8th grade formation will automatically receive sacramental prep. In addition to weekly catechesis, Confirmandi are expected to attend a day-long Confirmation Retreat and participate in service opportunities.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org)

*\*If you have a child who requires non-traditional aged sacramental prep for Baptism (age 7 and under), Reconciliation & Communion (3rd grade and above) or Confirmation (9th to 12th grade), contact Hans Whitmer, Director of Faith Formation, at [hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org) or (616) 676-9111 ext 117.*

## **CHRISTIAN INITIATION (Adult)**

Adults who have never been baptized or Confirmed in the Church or are interested in becoming Catholic should participate in the preparation for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.).

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org)

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION (Adult)**

Participation in a marriage preparation process is required for couples planning to be married in the Church. A marriage preparation program is held quarterly at SRN (over the course of a weekend). Couples must contact us at least six months prior to their intended wedding date to begin the process of planning their wedding.

**Contact:** Molly Reppuhn, [mollyr@strobertychurch.org](mailto:mollyr@strobertychurch.org)

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Many associate the anointing of the sick with those near death, but it is also a powerful sacrament for times of surgery or physical, mental, or emotional struggle. In these moments, we need the Holy Spirit's gifts of strength, faith, peace, and courage. This is when the anointing of the sick is also available to us. Those desiring to receive this Sacrament from a priest should notify our Director of Pastoral Care.

**Contact:** Katie Mendenhall, [kmendenhall@strobertychurch.org](mailto:kmendenhall@strobertychurch.org)



# LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

## ART & ENVIRONMENT

Art and environment play a crucial role in honoring God within and around St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church. These elements are not merely decorative but serve to elevate the spiritual experience of the faithful, creating a sacred space that reflects the divine beauty and presence of God. We are always seeking volunteers who wish to participate. Artistic experience is not necessary, but a willingness and desire to enhance the quality of our worship is always required. Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

### **The Sanctuary**

The environment within a church changes with the liturgical seasons, reflecting the different aspects of the Christian journey. Under the direction of our Pastor and Liturgical Worship Team, volunteers assist in decorating and preparing for the seasonal décor in our church, especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

**Contact:** Jane VanHouten, [janev@stroburch.org](mailto:janev@stroburch.org)

### **The Grounds**

Before even walking into the church, our grounds reflect the beauty and glory of God. Under the direction of our Facilities Manager and volunteer Master Gardener, volunteer gardeners maintain an area of the grounds from April until October.

**Contact:** Lynn Mossner, [lmossner@stroburch.org](mailto:lmossner@stroburch.org)

We welcome all who wish to contribute to these efforts and help create a beautiful and inspiring environment for our faith community.

## ALTAR LINENS & PURIFICATORS:

Volunteers in this ministry wash and iron the purificators, corporals, and towels used weekly at Mass on a monthly rotation in strict accordance with guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This can be done at home!

**Contact:** Barb Mathey  
(616) 304-9065 or [matheyb@icloud.com](mailto:matheyb@icloud.com)

## ALTAR SERVERS

Youth in 4th grade and older are invited to join the Altar Server ministry, assisting the priest during the Mass and taking a more active role in the liturgy. Signups are used to schedule weekend Masses.

**Contact:** Amy Rokos  
(248) 245-0910 or [amy.rokos@gmail.com](mailto:amy.rokos@gmail.com)

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Ministers distribute the Eucharist during Mass and other liturgies. Training is required. This ministry utilizes Ministry Scheduler Pro, an online scheduling program, to schedule the service rotation of all trained Eucharistic Ministers.

**Contact:** Patricia (Pat) Pflug  
(616) 581-6003 or [teakum@gmail.com](mailto:teakum@gmail.com)

## LECTORS

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at the weekend liturgies as well as help with the readings at other special services. Training is required. This ministry utilizes Ministry Scheduler Pro, an online scheduling program, to schedule the service rotation of all trained Lectors.

**Contact:** Mari Stone  
(616) 446-2069 or [maristone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maristone@sbcglobal.net)

## USHERS

Ushers are the visible ministers who provide personal service and courtesies to parishioners and guests before, during, and after Mass. Our mission is one of hospitality. We create a welcoming environment so that all may celebrate the Sacred Liturgy as the holy people of God who become one in Christ. Ushers also help with taking up the collection and directing the Eucharistic procession during Mass.

**Contact:** Jim Stone  
(616) 581-0403 or [jimwstone68@att.net](mailto:jimwstone68@att.net)



# PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

We walk with families at the time of a loved one's death. Some ways to be involved include helping during the funeral liturgy or providing follow up care with phone calls and cards during the year following the loss.

**Contact:** Katie Mendenhall  
[kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org](mailto:kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org)

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT

We meet the first Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm to discuss the spiritual, emotional and practical needs of caregivers.

**Contact:** Yvonne Prouty  
(616) 460-3093 or [yvonne.prouty@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.prouty@gmail.com)

## END OF LIFE CARE & FUNERAL PLANNING

If you or a loved one are in need of end-of-life support, funeral planning, or pastoral care during a time of grief, we invite you to reach out. We are here to listen, pray with you, and help you navigate this difficult time with compassion and dignity.

**Contact:** Katie Mendenhall  
[kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org](mailto:kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org)

## HOPE IN HEALING

This ministry is focused on providing continued and ongoing support for widows and widowers. We offer prayer, support, and fellowship.

**Contact:** Katie Mendenhall  
[kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org](mailto:kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org)

## RED BIRD MINISTRY

Red Bird Ministries offers grief support for families who have experienced child loss of any age and circumstance including pregnancy loss through miscarriage and stillbirth, and after birth as an infant, child, adolescent, or adult—including loss of a child to suicide.

**Contact:** Katie Mendenhall  
[kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org](mailto:kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org)

## VISITATION MINISTRY

Our Visitation Ministry provides the Eucharist to those who are homebound, in assisted living facilities, hospitals, or prison. We also have volunteers who visit those who are lonely or may be struggling emotionally at the end of life.

**Contact:** Katie Mendenhall  
[kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org](mailto:kmendenhall@stobertchurch.org)

## TRANSPORTATION TO MASS

This group provides a ride to weekend Masses for those who are elderly and/or unable to drive themselves. Substitute drivers are always welcome and needed, particularly for the Saturday vigil Mass.

**Contact:** Sue Perry  
(616) 780-3456 or [rperry123@att.net](mailto:rperry123@att.net)

## PRAYER

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Eucharist is exposed for Adoration 5 days a week, Tuesday through Saturday (times and locations vary). *Children are ALWAYS welcome!* Special Holy Hours for families with young children and those with sensory needs are offered monthly. To view the full Adoration schedule and sign up for your weekly Holy Hour, visit [stobertchurch.org/ministry/Eucharistic-adoration/](http://stobertchurch.org/ministry/Eucharistic-adoration/).

**Contact:** Tom Swab  
(616) 581-0802 or [tom.swab@outlook.com](mailto:tom.swab@outlook.com)

### Millions of Monicas (M.O.M.)

Like St. Monica, we are a group of mothers and mother-figures who pray for our children who have wandered away from their Catholic faith. We listen to Scripture, pray the rosary, and pray for our children and for each other. We gather every Tuesday in the Eucharistic Chapel, 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

**Contact:** Connie Ehlke  
(248) 705-5309 or [connie.ehlke@gmail.com](mailto:connie.ehlke@gmail.com)

### **NEW!** Moms in Prayer

*Moms in Prayer* (MIP) is an international, Christian ministry whose goal is to have every school covered in prayer. A prayer group which specifically covers Forest Hills Central Middle & High School meets at SRN.

**Contact:** Jane Krug, [jmk.krug@gmail.com](mailto:jmk.krug@gmail.com)

### **NEW!** Ladies Rosary Group

Meets Mondays from 9:00–10:30 a.m. to pray the Scriptural Rosary in a peaceful and reverent setting. Women of all ages are invited to participate. There is no cost to attend; please bring your rosary and join in this time of prayer and reflection.

**Contact:** Jeniece Buczek, [jeniecebuczek@comcast.net](mailto:jeniecebuczek@comcast.net)

# MUSIC



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact: Jane VanHouten, [janev@stobertchurch.org](mailto:janev@stobertchurch.org)

### Cantors/Psalms

This is a ministry for those who have strong vocal technique and leadership skills. Cantors have an essential role in serving the Mass. Please contact the Director of Liturgical Music for an audition.

### Newminster Schola Cantorum

This semi-professional ensemble is audition-based and serves at liturgies 1-2 times per month throughout the choir season. A strong musical background and fluency in reading music are required. Repertoire is advanced and challenging. Rehearsals are held bi-weekly. Please contact the Director of Liturgical Music for an audition.

### Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is an excellent ensemble of experienced singers with varying levels of ability to read music. It serves the Mass and presents a great variety of choral literature during the season. The choir rehearses weekly and sings most Sunday mornings at various Mass times from the Second Sunday in October through Corpus Christi. Come join our musical family!

### Resurrection Choir

Our Resurrection Choir is an extremely essential ensemble to assist with funeral liturgies. The choir will arrive the day of and participate in the singing of the hymns, responses, and Mass parts. There will be no practice beforehand except for the 45 minutes before Mass which will consist of making sure everyone has the run-down for the Mass. Please consider signing up for this beautiful ministry.

### Youth Choirs (Grades K through High School)

The mission of this choral program is to encourage and support our youth in their spiritual and musical education in order to serve the worship experience of our community.

**The Cherub Choir** is open to all students in grades K-2 and sings preludes for Masses. Singers will learn to produce a healthy choral tone, how to read notes and rhythms, and experience the joy of making music. This choir sings for Masses four or five times per year. Rehearsals begin late fall until the spring.

**The St. Cecilia Choir** is open to students in grades 3-8. The choir rehearses weekly and sings for parish liturgies every three weeks. We hold membership in the *American Federation Pueri Cantores* and participate in local, national, and international choral festivals. A modest fee is requested for participation in the season, covering the costs of binders, choral music, and festival registrations.

**NEW! The Vox Lumen (Voice of Light) Choir** is open to all middle school (by audition only), high school and college-aged singers, and is comprised mainly of St. Cecilia Choir alums who wish to continue to sing in a parish choir. This choir sings for various liturgies and combines with Chamber Choir for High Feasts and Solemnities. The choir rehearses weekly and sings for parish liturgies every three weeks from September to May.



# FAITH FORMATION



## **ADULT BIBLE STUDIES** *(All Adults)*

From September to December and January to May, we offer unique study programs designed to help our SRN faith community grow in a loving relationship with Christ. No prior experience is needed to join any group, and all materials are provided upon registration.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org)

## **NEW! FORMED™**

Our parish has a FORMED™ subscription just for you—absolutely FREE! Sign up for your access now at [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup). Enter our zip code (49301) and select “St. Robert of Newminster”. Enter your name and email and start streaming over 4,000 titles. There’s something for every member of your family.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org)

## **NEW! SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN** *(Adult Women)*

SHE is for ALL women of the parish no matter what stage of life they are in. The program focuses on fellowship, diving deeper into your faith, and incorporating that faith into your daily life. SHE meets weekly, offering both morning and evening sessions.

**Contact:** Jolana Peard, [jpeard@strobertchurch.org](mailto:jpeard@strobertchurch.org)

## **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BIBLE STUDY** *(All Adults)*

Women and men over the age of 18 meet weekly throughout the year to socialize, enjoy a snack, pray, and use the Lectionary to reflect upon the Scripture readings for the upcoming weekend Liturgies. Participants are welcome to join anytime throughout the year.

**Contact:** Tom Hackett  
(616) 724-4720 or [tghackett@aol.com](mailto:tghackett@aol.com)

## **THAT MAN IS YOU!** *(Adult Men)*

That Man Is You! is an interactive Men’s program focused on the development of male leadership in the modern world. This group meets every Friday at 6:00 a.m. in the Parish Life Center.

**Contact:** Al Juarez  
(616) 550-9996 or [aljuarez2@gmail.com](mailto:aljuarez2@gmail.com)

## **WOMEN ALIVE** *(Adult Women)*

Twice a year, typically during Lent and Advent, women of our parish and the larger community, are invited to participate in events to help them be more **Alive, Loving, Inspired, Vibrant, and Engaged**. We need help to prepare for these events! Contact Jolana Peard if you would like to assist.

**Contact:** Jolana Peard, [jpeard@strobertchurch.org](mailto:jpeard@strobertchurch.org)

## **WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** *(Adult Women)*

Our goal is to always seek the understanding of Scripture and to grow spiritually through its message from the Living God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Various books of the Bible are studied throughout the year. We meet weekly in the morning, September to May.

**Contact:** Faith Formation Office, (616) 676-9111 ext 113  
[faithformation@strobertchurch.org](mailto:faithformation@strobertchurch.org)

## **CATECHISTS & ASSISTANTS** *(Serving Preschool to 12th Grade)*

Catechists and Session Assistants are needed for every session time and every grade level (Sunday School to High School). Lesson plans and materials are provided by the Faith Formation staff. All Catechists must be over the age of 18; Assistants must be over the age of 16. All volunteers over the age of 18 must complete Safe Environment training and submit to a background check.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org)

## **PARISH NURSERY** *(Children age 6 month to 3 years)*

The Parish Nursery is available for infants and toddlers most Sundays during the 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses from September to May, following the Faith Formation calendar. Our ability to open is dependent upon having enough volunteers. Prayerfully consider supporting our young families by serving in the Nursery once a month.

**Contact:** Jennifer Kohn, [jkohn@strobertchurch.org](mailto:jkohn@strobertchurch.org)



# FAITH FORMATION

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY** (*Preschool & Kindergarten*)

We offer a dynamic Sunday School program for children in preschool, Young Fives, and Kindergarten. Children are ready for Sunday School when they are fully potty-trained and can separate from parents and guardians without distress. Sunday School is presently offered during the 9:00 a.m. Mass, September to May, following the Faith Formation calendar.

**Contact:** Jennifer Kohn, [jkohn@strobertychurch.org](mailto:jkohn@strobertychurch.org)

## **ELEMENTARY MINISTRY** (*Grades 1–5*)

*Word of Life* by Augustine Institute is the Elementary Ministry Faith Formation curriculum for grades 1 to 5. We open our sessions with prayer, read scripture together, discuss, play games, review what we learned, and close with prayer. The Elementary Ministry offers weekly sessions, September to April.

**Contact:** Jolana Peard, [jpeard@strobertychurch.org](mailto:jpeard@strobertychurch.org)

## **YOUTH MINISTRY—MIDDLE SCHOOL** (*Grades 6–8*)

Middle Schoolers meet weekly for Catechesis from September to April. *Word of Life* by Augustine Institute is the Middle School Curriculum for grades 6 & 7. Youth in 8th grade are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation using the curriculum *Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation* by Ascension Press.

In addition to weekly Catechesis, Middle Schoolers come together periodically for Youth Group, following the Faith Formation calendar.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org)

## **YOUTH MINISTRY—HIGH SCHOOL** (*Grades 9-12*)

High Schoolers meet regularly for Youth Group, September to April, in the Parish Life Center. A meal is served and each session utilizes the *Lifeteen* program.

In addition to Youth Group, High Schoolers meet weekly for Catechesis following the Faith Formation calendar.

We also offer a variety of retreats, social gatherings, trips, and service projects throughout the year—including overnight lock-ins, serving lunch at God's Kitchen, and Damascus Camp.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertychurch.org)

## **FAITH FORMATION EVENTS**

*Throughout the year, our Faith Formation Staff hosts a variety of events, catering to both parishioners and guests from the community. These events take a lot of work, and volunteers are always appreciated.*

### **Sock Hop/Sock Wrap Family Service Project**

Typically held on the second Wednesday in November, this family dinner and service project is a fun time for the whole family! Enjoy a diner-style meal, including root beer floats, while listening to 50s tunes and wrapping socks, gloves, mittens, and hats for distribution at God's Kitchen. We begin collecting donations in the fall. Join the fun while we eat, wrap, and serve the Grand Rapids community together!

### **Community Christmas Party**

All are welcome to join us for a home-cooked Christmas dinner, games, singing, prayer, and more at our Community Christmas Party, typically held the third Wednesday of December.

### **Grandparent Camp**

Grandparent Camp is an opportunity for grandparents to share their faith and create memories with their grandchildren (ages 8 to 12). Offered in June, this three-day learning experience engages participants with breakfast, prayer, games, crafts, and songs.

### **Vacation Bible School**

For four days in June, children from preschool (must be 4-years-old and fully potty-trained by June 1) through 4th grade are invited to grow in relationship with God through music, skits, service projects, snacks, and games. We host over 200 campers and recruit over 120 volunteers ranging from 5th graders to 80-year-olds! This is a fun, generational gathering you won't want to miss.

**Contact:** Faith Formation Office, (616) 676-9111 ext 113

[faithformation@strobertychurch.org](mailto:faithformation@strobertychurch.org)



# SERVICE & OUTREACH

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

This program pairs generous families from SRN with families in-need from the Grand Rapids area for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Parishioners supply gifts and the ingredients for a festive holiday meal. Families are referred by HELP Pregnancy Aid, Bethany Christian Services, and San Juan Diego Academy.

**Contact:** Mary Koval  
(616) 490-2394 or [mbjakoval@att.net](mailto:mbjakoval@att.net)

## DEGAGE MINISTRIES

Degage Ministries offers hope and opportunity to those facing homelessness and poverty. A group of dedicated SRN parishioners share in this support by preparing and serving lunch at Degage the first Friday of every month at 10:30 a.m. We utilize *SignUp Genius* for volunteer scheduling.



**Contact:** Randy Heldt  
(616) 633-1083 or [heldtrl@comcast.net](mailto:heldtrl@comcast.net)

## EMPLOYMENT AND RESOURCE NETWORK (E.a.R.N.)

The St. Robert Roundtable is an affiliate of the Employment and Resource Network and provides a support group and career coaching to unemployed and people in career transition. The group meets every other week on Wednesdays, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and present a varied program.



**Contact:** Bill Weitzel  
(616) 446-1873 or [weitzelwj@aol.com](mailto:weitzelwj@aol.com)

## FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our parish supports two area food pantries: *The Other Way Ministries* and *Northwest Food Pantry*. Both pantries always accept personal care and hygiene products. Collection baskets are in the Narthex.

**Contact:** Molly Reppuhn, [mollyr@stroburchurch.org](mailto:mollyr@stroburchurch.org)

## FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

We seek to comfort grieving families by providing a luncheon for their guests after a funeral. Three ways you can help include: making or buying a salad or dessert, setup of and preparation before the luncheon, or serving during the luncheon and cleanup after.

**Contact:** Molly Reppuhn, [mollyr@stroburchurch.org](mailto:mollyr@stroburchurch.org)

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

This ministry is led by the Knights of Columbus within SRN. Volunteer days are organized once or twice a year for all parishioners aged 16 and older, regardless of skill level.

**Contact:** Paul Galdes, Knights of Columbus  
(616) 299-0239 or [pkgaldes@gmail.com](mailto:pkgaldes@gmail.com)

## OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Operation Santa Claus is a community initiative that offers food, clothing, and toys to families in the Ada/Cascade area identified by local churches as being in need. To support this project, contact Marie Russell in September.

**Contact:** Marie Russell  
(616) 262-0643 or [pixieprincessm@aol.com](mailto:pixieprincessm@aol.com)

## RENUCCI HOSPITALITY HOUSE

The Renucci Hospitality House offers affordable accommodations for families of patients at our local hospitals. Dedicated SRN parishioners support these families by cooking, serving dinner, and cleaning up on the first Monday of each month, 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Contact:** Anna Crawley  
(616) 706-6271 or [anna1954@yahoo.com](mailto:anna1954@yahoo.com)

## RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Respect Life Committee promotes reverence and protection for all stages of life, from conception to natural death, through prayer, education, and events throughout the year.

**Contact:** Cheryl Heise  
(260) 615-1860 or [caheise17@gmail.com](mailto:caheise17@gmail.com)

## NEW! SAFETY TEAM

The Safety Team fosters a safe and welcoming environment so parishioners, guests, and staff can worship with peace of mind. The team supports weekend and school Masses by responding calmly and appropriately to safety concerns. Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and complete required screening, training, and ongoing safety education, including background checks, VIRTUS requirements, and First Aid/CPR instruction.

**Contact:** Lynn Mossner  
[lmossner@stroburchurch.org](mailto:lmossner@stroburchurch.org)

# SERVICE & OUTREACH

## SENIOR CITIZENS PICNIC

This annual picnic at SRN has been a tradition for over 35 years, reaching low-income seniors from local nursing homes and senior centers in the Grand Rapids area. For some of these seniors, it is their only outing for the entire year. The event features lunch, entertainment, games, and prizes. Volunteers are needed for decorating, food prep, serving, set-up, clean-up, and socializing. Donations for gifts and raffle prizes are welcome beginning in June until the event. It's a great opportunity for families to volunteer together and make the day special.

**Contact:** Dawn McDonald (616) 437-1390  
OR Cindy Ritter (616) 676-1948

## **NEW!** WELCOME COMMITTEE & WELCOME DESK

This ministry plays a vital role in shaping the first impressions of our parish. Through warm smiles, attentive presence, and a spirit of genuine hospitality, members help every person who walks through our doors experience the love of God in our community. The Welcome Committee supports Newcomer Welcome Weekends, prepares welcome gifts for newly registered parishioners, maintains and replenishes the connection cards in the pews, and assists with regularly staffing the Welcome Desk at the weekend Masses. In addition to serving at the desk themselves, committee members also recruit friendly parishioners to assist in this ministry of hospitality.

**Contact:** Lisa Novosad, [lisa@novosadrealty.com](mailto:lisa@novosadrealty.com)  
(616) 437-0209

Lisa Brown, [lisabrown1711@gmail.com](mailto:lisabrown1711@gmail.com)  
(616) 304-6216

Lynn Mossner (Welcome Desk Volunteer Scheduling)  
[lmossner@stroburch.org](mailto:lmossner@stroburch.org)



## PARISH TWINNING (Domestic and International)

Parish twinning programs foster meaningful connections between communities. SRN partners with Holy Name of Jesus Parish and San Juan Diego Academy locally and Our Lady's Nativity in Verrettes, Haiti.

### Holy Name of Jesus Parish & San Juan Diego Academy

Over the years, St. Robert of Newminster and Holy Name of Jesus Parishes and San Juan Diego Academy have developed a strong sister parish relationship. Each year, our pastors engage in a pulpit swap for weekend masses. St. Robert of Newminster parishioners generously support the SJDA annual school fundraiser so that high-quality Catholic education remains available in the community served by the school. In addition, Holy Name of Jesus parishioners identified to be in-need are invited to the annual Senior Citizen Picnic and participate in the Adopt-a-Family program.



**Contact:** Lynn Mossner, [lmossner@stroburch.org](mailto:lmossner@stroburch.org)

### Our Lady's Nativity in Verrettes, Haiti

SRN has had a relationship with our sister parish in Verrettes, Haiti pastored by Fr. Murat for almost 30 years. Our main focus has been education, especially providing tuition support for children who otherwise may never have an opportunity to attend school. Our support also helps to pay teacher salaries, provide lunches, and maintain the schools. How can you make a difference?

- Consider becoming an active member of the Haiti Committee.
- Give to the Haiti Fund any time of year.
- Participate in the Haiti Magi Gift collection – a beloved SRN tradition every January.
- Become a Student Sponsor! With a gift of \$350 per year, you can sponsor a child in grades 1–12. Your support covers tuition and provides a daily meal at one of the parish schools—an investment that truly transforms a life.

**Contact:** Tom McDonald  
(616) 893-4428 or [tmcdonald7287@gmail.com](mailto:tmcdonald7287@gmail.com)

# COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP



## COMMUNITY DINNERS

Dinner is served by the Faith Formation Staff most Wednesdays, September to April, in Newminster Hall from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. Enjoy a rotating menu of a variety of meals. Help is always needed with set up and clean up. A free-will offering is accepted.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org)

## DONUT SUNDAYS

Meet and greet old friends and make some new ones! Join us select Sundays, September through May, for coffee and donuts in Newminster Hall following the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

**Contact:** Knights of Columbus, [KofC8117@gmail.com](mailto:KofC8117@gmail.com)

## NEW! F.I.R.E. CAFE

An extension of our Family Integrated Religious Education program, F.I.R.E. Café serves as a time of connection over coffee, juice and donuts for families with young children. Held select Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the PLC Café.

**Contact:** Hans Whitmer, [hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org](mailto:hwhitmer@strobertchurch.org)

## THE FLOCK (Mom's Group)

Our mission is to provide mothers with a place to nurture faith, hope, and charity, to grow in virtue and love for Christ, and to encourage true friendships with one another as we raise our children. Our members include mothers in all stages of motherhood. We meet the second Wednesday of the month for social time and speakers, as well as monthly playgroups, mom's nights out, seasonal book studies and more.

**Contact:** Maribeth Ryder and Tiffany Boland  
[strobertmoms@gmail.com](mailto:strobertmoms@gmail.com)

## GOLF LEAGUE (Adult Men)

The St. Robert Golf League is a 9-hole men's league, comprised of 112 full time members, with 56 two-man teams. We play on Monday evenings from the first Monday in May through the last Monday in August. The regular season is 16 weeks long, with flight playoffs and a league championship held after Labor Day, followed by a year-end 18-hole scramble and banquet on the fourth Friday in September. Openings are filled from our waiting list on a first come first serve basis.

**Contact:** Gary Gagliardo, [strobertgolfleague@gmail.com](mailto:strobertgolfleague@gmail.com)

## O.W.L.S.: OLDER, WISER, LIVELIER SENIORS (Adults 55+)

Adults age 55+ are invited to join other senior parishioners in the PLC on the second Friday of each month, August to May. We cover a wide variety of activities and topics—often featuring guest speakers.

**Contact:** Lu Paletta, [lupaletta@gmail.com](mailto:lupaletta@gmail.com)  
Mary Mapes, [maryannmapes@gmail.com](mailto:maryannmapes@gmail.com)

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Busy morning getting everyone ready for Mass? Let the Knights of Columbus handle breakfast! Enjoy a meal of pancakes, eggs, and sausage in Newminster Hall after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses select Sundays, September through May.

**Contact:** Knights of Columbus, [KofC8117@gmail.com](mailto:KofC8117@gmail.com)



# PARISH COUNCILS & AFFILIATES



## FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council serves as a consultative body to the pastor, offering guidance and support in managing the parish's financial affairs. With full access to all financial records and documents, the council assists the pastor in carrying out the parish's administrative functions. The group meets at least four times a year and is composed of members who represent a diverse cross-section of the parish, bringing a wide range of expertise to the table.

**Contact:** Eric Lowe

(616) 676-9111 or [parishmail@strobertchurch.org](mailto:parishmail@strobertchurch.org)

## PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council serves as an advisory body to the pastor, opening itself up to the Holy Spirit, and tries to envision what our parish can be. Councilmembers are tasked with listening to parishioners and bringing their desires and concerns to meetings, where they are shared with the Pastor to inform his decisions for the parish. The group meets at least four times per year. Meeting times are determined by the members.

**Contact:** Pat Smiggen, [msu92und96@yahoo.com](mailto:msu92und96@yahoo.com)



# Knights of Columbus®

## BISHOP KEVIN BRITT COUNCIL 8117

With over 70,000 members in the state of Michigan and 2.0 million worldwide, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to various charities, the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people.

General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., typically in Marian Hall.

**Contact:** Joe Szyperski, Grand Knight

(616) 821-7525 or [KofC8117@gmail.com](mailto:KofC8117@gmail.com)

**Ted Wright, Membership Director**

(616) 862-8337



# ST. ROBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

At St. Robert Catholic School, our mission is deeply integrated into all we do. We guide our students to discover their unique God-given potential through an immersive faith experience and a comprehensive STREAM approach—Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math. This innovative framework reflects our commitment to nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, and creative formation of every child.

**Grades:** Preschool 3's to 8th Grade

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

## Contact Information

Phone: (616) 455-4966 | Website: [strobertschoolada.org](http://strobertschoolada.org)

Email: [tvermetti@strobertschoolada.org](mailto:tvermetti@strobertschoolada.org)



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The St. Robert Home and School Association (HSA) is a vibrant community of parent volunteers dedicated to supporting and enhancing our school. The HSA makes possible special programs, teacher support, and enhancements that fall outside the school budget.

**Contact:** Susanna Franks, President

[hsa@strobertschoolada.org](mailto:hsa@strobertschoolada.org)

## NEW! ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The St. Robert Athletic Boosters run the concession stand in our NEW Parish Activity Center during athletic events. We are currently accepting members.

**Contact:** Mitchell Gorham, Athletic Director

[ad@strobertschoolada.org](mailto:ad@strobertschoolada.org)

## FR. LEN SUDLIK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established in 2021 by the Knights of Columbus at St. Robert, the Fr. Len Sudlik Scholarship Fund supports families who desire a Catholic education but need financial assistance. Managed by the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, this fund accepts perpetual donations.

**Contact:** Liz Peters, [lpeters@strobertschoolada.org](mailto:lpeters@strobertschoolada.org)

## OUR MISSION

St. Robert Catholic School provides a premier Catholic STREAM-based (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) education where students are immersed daily in their faith, empowering them to become the individuals God created them to be.

## OUR VISION

St. Robert Catholic School offers an excellent academic curriculum where faith is foundational to every discipline, preparing students for success in high school and beyond. With a focus on STREAM, we also provide a rich variety of co-curricular and extracurricular activities to foster the holistic growth of every student.

## ST. ROBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

The school board, a board of limited jurisdiction, partners with the principal and pastor to guide St. Robert's educational programs. The board meets on the second Thursday of each month, August through June. Board members serve three-year terms, with the option to renew for a second term. Applications for new members are accepted and reviewed annually in May, with new terms beginning in August.

**Contact:** A.J. Dufendach, Board President

[schoolboard@strobertschoolada.org](mailto:schoolboard@strobertschoolada.org)

