



November 18th, 2021

Dear Friends

St. Aloysius Gonzaga is one of the oldest Catholic schools on the historic Westside of Cincinnati. We want to remain a vital part of the greater Bridgetown community through our schooling, services, and volunteerism. This school year, thanks to the hard work of our Administration, Faculty, Alumni, PTO, Athletic board, Students and Parents, our enrollment has increased from 112 students in 2017 to 272 students currently enrolled in Preschool through 8th grade. St. Al's has been a valued member of this beloved community and we are asking for your support to continue this tradition of service.

In 2020 we hosted our fourth Gator Gala fundraiser event in St. Al's gymnasium. The event has sold out each year with 240 people attending. Since its inception in 2017, our Gala has raised over \$300,000 towards improving the educational institution for our students and community.

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, St. Aloysius Gonzaga School will once again host our Fifth Annual Gator Gala, Join Our Journey Around the World. Our goal this year is \$80,000. The money raised this year is earmarked for supplementing educational programs and maintaining affordable tuition at St. Al's

We have an ambitious goal. Please consider supporting our Gala with a donation of items or goods for the Auction. The financial success of our event depends on your goodwill. Your generosity will be rewarded by excellent community exposure and advertising in the Gala brochure. Not only will your business name be listed in the brochure, but it will also be published on our school's website and Facebook page.

On request, a receipt can be provided for tax recording purposes. Contact Sandi Staud, Development Director, by phone [513.574.4035], or email [sandistaud@gmail.com](mailto:sandistaud@gmail.com), to arrange for a donation pickup, or drop off at school. If you prefer, you may mail your donation to

Gator Gala 2022 Attn: Sandi Staud 4390 Bridgetown Road Cincinnati, OH 45211

Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping us keep St. Aloysius Gonzaga a leader in Catholic education in our community. We hope you consider making a donation, ensuring our fifth Gala is another rousing success!

P.S. Donated goods, services, gift certificates and/or cash in any price range are welcomed. Cash donations are welcome using cash or checks [payable to St. \_\_\_\_\_ Aloysius Gonzaga].

Sincerely,

Mark Auer, Principal

Sandi Staud, Director of Development



## A letter from the Director

It was great to welcome back everyone from Christmas break! We hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and extra time with family. The next few months following Christmas break will be filled with tremendous growth from students. This is the time of the year when everything starts to come together and we see a lot of aha moments. Please see below for important and upcoming dates.

**-NO SCHOOL January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.**

**-NO SCHOOL January 18th teacher in-service day. Please note this is a change from the school calendar.**

-Preschool Registration for current families was due this week, if you have not returned your registration form, please do so as soon as possible.

-Open House for perspective families will be held on Sunday, January 30th from 11:00-1:30.

-January 31st, we kick off Catholic Schools Week!

Thank you,

Stephanie Goettke

# From the Pastoral Associate Julie McDonald

## **So, what is the liturgical year?**

You don't need to be confused by this terminology it's just a way of saying the church year or Christian calendar. Just as we have a cookout to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnicking with family and friends or going to the fireworks downtown for Labor Day, going to the pumpkin festivals in the fall, baking cookies at Christmas time we are celebrating the seasonal year. We love to live seasonally because it gives us something to look forward to and it's not the same old thing day after day.

To live the liturgical year just means to celebrate those special days and feasts that are on the Church calendar. And I guarantee that you have already been doing this!

Have you ever...

Celebrated Christmas? Boom! That's living the liturgical year!

Dyed Easter eggs? Congratulations! You have lived the liturgical year!

Sent Valentines? Again, liturgical year! St. Valentine is a Catholic Saint after all. Yay!!! You are already living the liturgical year!

We celebrate Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> or in the US we celebrated it on Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Feast Day is associated with three events in the life of Christ when His divinity shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan which is what we are celebrating this Sunday (Mt 3); and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana, (Jn 2).

One thing we can do at home is bless our homes on that day or since we are reading this after we can do it on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord.

## **Epiphany House Blessing with Chalk**

The Epiphany house blessing of the door is a really great Catholic tradition for families. We love to bless our door every year on the Epiphany! (And again - it's not too late to do it!)

It's very simple to do, it's not complicated or scary, and you can do it yourself. All you need is a piece of chalk!

**For 2022 this is what you will write on your door in chalk:**

**20 + C + M + B + 22**

# What Do the Epiphany Door Symbols Mean?

The Epiphany door blessing includes symbols for all 3 kings, plus the numbers from the current year.

**Here's what the chalked numbers on the door mean:** The first number "20" is for the first 2 numbers of the year, and the last number "22" is for the last 2 numbers of the year.

**Here's what the chalked letters on the door mean:**

The 3 letters are the first Initial of each of the kings (**Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar**).

The "C, M, B also stands for the Latin blessing *Christius Mansionem Benedicat* which means "May Christ Bless this House".

## Epiphany House Blessing Prayer

*On entering the home,*

**Leader :** Peace be to this house.

**All:** And to all who dwell herein.

**All:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

**All Pray:** The Magnificat. *During the Magnificat, the room is sprinkled with holy water and incensed. After this is completed,*

**All:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

**Leader:** Our Father. . .

And lead us not into temptation

**All:** But deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** All they from Saba shall come

**All:** Bringing gold and frankincense.

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**All:** And let my cry come to You.

**Leader:** Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

**All:** And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



The Greater Gator Award will start in January and nomination forms will be sent home the week students come back in January. Nominate a student that you feel has shown traits of being the Greater Gator: Giving, Admirable, Thoughtful, Outstanding, Respectful. 2 students will be picked each month and will receive prizes! The goal of the award is to recognize a students exceptional acts or behaviors each month.

The Greater Gator Educator Award will also be starting in January! This award is for our educators and nomination forms will also be sent home with students.



Volunteers are still needed for:

Cafeteria: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094eaca72ea5fa7-cafeteria>

Recess: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094eaca72ea5fa7-recess>

# The Catholic Education Foundation For the Archdiocese of Cincinnati 2022-2023 Tuition Assistance Grants



The Catholic Education Foundation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will once again be able to offer over \$2 million in tuition assistance grants for the 2022-23 school year.

Families of elementary students K-8 may apply for needs based assistance between now and February 6, 2022

Please visit [CatholicBestChoice.org](https://CatholicBestChoice.org) for more details and instructions on how to apply.



**Catholic Education Foundation**  
**Archdiocese of Cincinnati**



If your child develops any of the following symptoms please have the child isolate and speak to their medical provider.

Fever	myalgia	nausea	fatigue	cough	loss of taste/smell
Chills	headache	vomiting	congestion	shortness of breath	
Rigors	sore throat	diarrhea	running nose	difficulty breathing	

	14-day Quarantine	10-day Quarantine
<b>Optimal Duration to Minimize Risk of Transmission</b>	Stay at home for at least <b>14 days</b> after last exposure	Maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others and wear a mask when around other people. Self-monitor for symptoms through <b>day 14</b> . (Check temperature twice a day, watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.) Persons who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate and follow recommendations for discontinuing isolation.
<b>Reduced Duration 1</b>	Stay at home at least <b>10 days</b> after last exposure	Maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others and wear a mask when around other people. Self-monitor for symptoms through <b>day 14</b> . (Check temperature twice a day, watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.) Consider obtaining a viral test near the end of this period (day eight or later) to increase certainty that there is no infection, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after day 10. Persons who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate and follow recommendations for discontinuing isolation.
<b>Reduced Duration 2</b>	<b>Negative test</b> result for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) from a sample collected on day five or later after last exposure <b>AND</b> stay at home for at least <b>seven days</b> after last exposure.	Maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others and wear a mask when around other people. Self-monitor for symptoms through <b>day 14</b> . (Check temperature twice a day, watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.) Persons who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate and follow recommendations for discontinuing isolation.

*A 14-day quarantine period presents the lowest risk of post-quarantine transmission. This strategy is preferred for people living in, working at, or visiting congregate living facilities, high density workplaces, or other settings where potential extensive transmission or contact with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is possible.*

• to minimize the risk of Covid-19 transmission, student-athletes should wait until 14 days of symptom monitoring have passed since they would not be able to social distance or

wear a mask during active practice or play. Such student athletes are permitted to return to class sooner since they can social distance (at least 6 feet) and wear a mask when around others in class.

If you or your child's doctor has any questions or concerns, please contact *Hamilton County Public Health's Division of Epidemiology and Assessment Outbreak Response Team* at (513) 946-7919.

Sincerely,



Greg Kesterman  
Health Commissioner  
Hamilton County Public Health

## **Updated Quarantine Guidelines**

**(October 25, 2021)**

***Effective immediately***

The Ohio Department of Health has announced updated alternative guidelines for quarantines in schools. “The Mask to Stay – Test to Play” guidelines are designed to help keep students in school and reduce long term quarantines out of school.

These guidelines are optional, and parents may choose to follow standard quarantine rules. They also only apply to students who were exposed within the school setting. Those who were exposed outside of school, such as through a family member, should still follow standard quarantine practices.

### ***Mask to Stay***

Those unmasked or unvaccinated who were exposed to Covid from INSIDE the school setting are no longer required to follow standard quarantine rules and may remain in school if the following criteria are met:

- Wear a mask to school for 14 days from the exposure

- Parents monitor child’s symptoms at home

- Exposed person isolates if symptomatic

- Masking may discontinue after 7 days if no symptoms are present and a negative Covid test result after day 7 of exposure. Test can be a PCR or antigen test. The test cannot be an over-the-counter test that is entirely self-administered.

### ***Test to Play***

Those who have been exposed to Covid and participating in extracurricular activities who are asymptomatic can continue to participate in school activities if they:

- Test as soon as they are notified following exposure

- Wear a mask when reasonable such as riding on team bus, locker room, sitting or standing on sidelines

- If student tests again between days 5 and 7 and tests negative, they can return to playing. Test can be a PCR or antigen test. The test cannot be an over-the-counter test that is entirely self-administered.

[Dr. Vanderhoff Press Conference October 25, 2021 announcing updated, alternative quarantine guidelines](#)