

# St Christopher Alumni Association

*Celebrating our past and planning for our future*



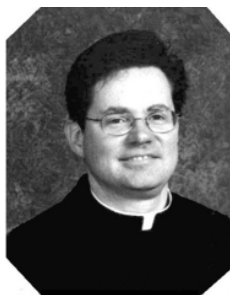
## Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2006

### Welcome to the St. Christopher Alumni Association!

*The St. Christopher Alumni Association was founded to promote alumni activities, to help alumni keep in touch with each other and with the school, and to promote the continued success of St. Christopher School.*

#### Fr. Mark's Corner

St. Christopher School just opened for its 83<sup>rd</sup> school year. We also celebrate in 2007 our parish's 85th anniversary. It may be hard to believe that we have been around that long. You are part of a great history which is St. Christopher Church and School.



I am the tenth pastor of St. Chris and can tell you that I am quite proud of that. As you may know, we, as a parish, have had recent trials. It has been the faith and determination of the parishioners and God's blessings that have carried us through. We now look to a future that will give us another 85 years as a parish and school. As alumni of St. Christopher, you are part of that future.

On **Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007** we will celebrate our parish's anniversary with a special dinner dance at the Odyssey Country Club. More information will be following, but I hope you can attend.

Thank you for choosing St. Christopher in the past and for making us part of your future.

#### All-Alumni Mass on Nov 12!

The Second Annual All-Alumni Mass will be held on **Sunday, November 12, 2006**, at the 9:30 Mass. All alumni and friends of the school are invited to this special Mass.

After Mass, the Holy Name Society will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast in the cafeteria and Franciscan Room. At the breakfast, you can:

- take tours of the school
- win a prize in our free raffle
- challenge your memory with St. Chris trivia
- renew friendships with old friends
- make some new friends!
- and much more!

Last year's All-Alumni Mass and Holy Name Society breakfast was a huge success and this year's promises to be even better!

If you have any questions, you can email us at [events@stchrisalumni.org](mailto:events@stchrisalumni.org). As always, visit our web site at [www.stchrisalumni.org](http://www.stchrisalumni.org) for the latest news and info about events.

Hope to see you there!

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### Meet our new principal!

Our new school principal is Mr. Michael Johnson. He has many years teaching and administrative experience, and he is an alumnus of St. Christopher ('88)!

Mr. Johnson has fond memories of his nine years at St. Chris. As a student, he always enjoyed Grandparents' Day. He remembers learning to write research papers in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, under the tutelage of Mrs. Janasek and Mrs. Carey. He was in the Teen Club and participated in a number of "lock-ins".

Prior to returning to St. Chris, Mr. Johnson taught at Brother Rice and St. Laurence High Schools, and was an administrator at an elementary school in Kankakee.

Among his goals for the future, Mr. Johnson is working on a multi-phase plan to remodel and update our library. He plans to enhance the use of technology throughout the school. He is also implementing support programs to increase school Terra Nova scores.

### Alumni Night at Fiesta

The 2nd Annual St. Chris All-Alumni Fiesta Reunion was held on **Friday, July 21, 2006**, from 7:00 pm until closing, in the main food and beer tent. Over 100 alumni enjoyed food, drink, and fellowship under the big tent.

The alumni were entertained by the band "The Legends", who played the best music of the 1960's and 70's, and 80's, including the Beatles, the Beach Boys, and much more.

Thanks to all who stopped by the Alumni Booth to register for the free raffle and congrats to the winners Maureen & Tim.

### Our Lady of the Millennium Visits St. Chris

The Our Lady of the Millennium Statue was on parish grounds from June 18, 2006 through July 8, 2006. This statue of Mary is 33 feet tall, weighs 8,400 pounds and is sculpted out of gleaming stainless steel.



The 11am mass on Sunday June 25th was held at the statue, as was a special 4th of July Mass. The Rosary was prayed daily at 7:00 pm during the three weeks the statue was at St. Christopher. Those of you who have seen this statue can testify to its powerful, moving statement of faith and grace.

We are grateful to all of those who helped to make the visit of Our Lady possible.

### Alumni in the News

Nationally-renowned author and St. Chris Alumni John Coyne visited Midlothian Public Library on Tuesday, June 6. He spoke about his new book "The Caddie who knew Ben Hogan" and signed copies of the book.

At the event, representatives of the St. Chris School Board and Alumni Association presented Mr. Coyne with a St. Chris alumni golf shirt and a DVD containing a photo montage of vintage St. Christopher parish and school photos. Plans are being made for him to visit the school in the fall.

All of us in the St. Chris family are proud of Mr. Coyne's many accomplishments. He has authored over 20 books of fiction and non-fiction, covering a broad range of subjects. He truly is one of St. Christopher's finest!

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### Calendar of Events

**Nov 7** – Holy Hour - Bishop Gustavo 7pm

**Nov 12** – Alumni Mass, 9:30am

**Dec 3** – Late Nite Catechism, 2pm

**Jan 29 – Feb. 2, 2007** – Catholic Schools Week. All alumni are invited to the school open houses during this week.

**Apr 13, 2007** – Parish 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at Odyssey Country Club, Tinley Park.

For more info on any of these events, call the parish center (708-388-8190) or visit our website at [www.stchrisalumni.org](http://www.stchrisalumni.org)

### Parish 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

Mark your calendars! Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 we will celebrate St. Christopher's 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner dance at Odyssey Country Club. All alumni are invited to attend. More information will follow.

### St. Christopher School Endowment Fund

The school and parish will soon be launching the new School Endowment Fund.

An Endowment consists of a collection of funds raised by a school or other non-profit organization to insure the long-term stability and viability of the organization. The money from the Endowment Fund is never spent. It is invested and left untouched in perpetuity; however, the earnings and interest from the Endowment is used to help meet the financial goals of the school. The Archdiocese of Chicago recommends that all parochial schools establish an Endowment Fund.

We will provide more information about the Endowment as it becomes available and how you can help St. Christopher School grow and thrive for decades to come.

### Parish News

After many years of service to the parish, Deacon Joseph Brady retired this summer. On August 6 there was a Mass and reception celebrating his years as pastoral associate. He continues to celebrate at weekend Masses.

Starting September 24, the parish is offering "Children's Liturgy of the Word" for children ages 5 - 9 at the Sunday 9:30 Mass. This program proclaims the scripture readings at an age-appropriate level for children.

The Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, September 10, at Memorial Park in Midlothian. Everyone had a great time.

Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark is being held for 7 consecutive Tuesdays in September and October in Unit D.

The Parish Choirs are back in full swing. The Junior and Senior Children's' Choir resumed on September 12. The Adult Choir resumed on September 14.

### Alumni Association Planning Committee

Looking for a way to have fun while using your God-given talents to help a worthy organization? Then consider joining the Alumni Association Planning Committee!

The Alumni Planning Committee meets once a month between September and June. We plan reunions and other events and look for ways to help the school grow and thrive.

Dates of upcoming meetings are posted on our web site at [www.stchrisalumni.org](http://www.stchrisalumni.org). Please email us at [events@stchrisalumni.org](mailto:events@stchrisalumni.org) or call 708-597-0459 for more information or if you have ideas for future events.

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### School News

School started on August 22, 2006.  
Preschool started on September 6.



Open house was on Aug 31. At 7:00 pm, everyone met in the church for an introductory talk. Following this, everyone went to the school to meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and enjoy refreshments provided by Mother's club.

The first all-school Mass was held on September 6. Fr. Mark welcomed the students back and everyone prayed for a successful school year.

The school welcomes our new computer teacher, Mr. Michael McGrath. In addition to teaching technology to our school children, Mr. McGrath will be responsible for maintaining our school web site, located at: [www.stchrisschool.homestead.com](http://www.stchrisschool.homestead.com)

Many improvements were done in school this spring and summer. The gym stage was completely renovated, including a new floor, new electrical equipment, and new coat of

paint. A large Cougar emblem was painted on the center of the gym. The library was painted and re-carpeted. All main hallways have been painted and new carpeting was installed in classrooms for grades 6 and 7.

Grandparents Day was on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 until 12. We thank all of the grandparents who came and shared in the day's festivities.

The Kelly Miller circus visited St. Chris on Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>. All of the school children watched as the elephants erected the big tent. Fun was had by all at the two shows later that evening. We thank the School Board for their help organizing this event.

The school Spanish program entered its second year. Currently students in first through third grade study Spanish daily. The Spanish program will be expanded to grades one through eight in the years to come.

The new hot lunch program started on September 5. There are two hot entrees per day. This is a way for busy families to make sure their children get nutritious lunches.

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Are you moving? Have your email or phone number changed? Do you have news to share with fellow alumni? Send us your information online at [www.stchrisalumni.org](http://www.stchrisalumni.org) or by mailing this form to: St. Chris Alumni Association, 4130 W. 147<sup>th</sup> St., Midlothian, IL 60445

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name as Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email \_\_\_\_\_ Work Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to Help at Future Alumni Events \_\_\_\_\_

News/Favorite Memories \_\_\_\_\_

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