



— August 15, 2025 —

# Irish Messenger

Issue 1

# Welcome Back!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

8/17-8/29  
Heat Schedule

9/1  
Labor Day  
No School

9/7  
St. Carlo Acutis  
Celebration at  
Retro City  
12-3pm

9/10  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wed  
2pm Dismissal

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to another blessed school year at St. Patrick School of Mary Mother of God Parish! I hope you had a restful and joyful summer. This year's theme is "You Can Sit with Us," a reminder that our school is a place of welcome and inclusion for all. As a faith-filled community, we strive to embrace each other with kindness, compassion, and love, following the example of Christ.

We are excited to walk this journey with you, growing together in knowledge, faith, and friendship. To our returning families, thank you for your continued trust; to our new families, we are thrilled to have you join us.

Let us remember to keep each other in prayer as we begin this new year, and may God's love guide us every step of the way.

In Christ's love,  
Mrs. Smith



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# MEET OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

## Welcome Back Dr. T!

Mike Thurwanger, also known as Dr. T, is returning to teach 8th grade advanced math for the 2025-26 school year. He previously taught 7th and 8th grade advanced math here from 2021-2023. He has been a substitute teacher during the intervening two years. Mike has been a member of the parish for the past 16 years and serves in other ministries as well. He and his wife, Chris, live in Eureka and have three adult daughters: Becky, Ruth and Hannah. Four of his six grandchildren currently attend St. Patrick School...the Cody kids. He is a retired college professor, having taught at both Eureka College and Bradley University for a total of 21 years and in a previous career retired from the U.S Navy after 20 years commissioned service. He enjoys playing golf (poorly), walking his dogs, and BBC mysteries on PBS television.



## Mrs. Engel - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

I am very excited to be part of the St. Patrick's team and family! I'm Melissa Engel. I live in Hudson with my husband, Denny, and our four children, Mady (25), Kenzi (20), Rylan (18), and Rylee (8), who will be joining me at St. Pat's as a 3rd grader. We also run a family farm with over 70 pigs and other animals, and we love showing our livestock through 4H and community events. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from MacMurray College and certifications in behavior support, elementary, and early childhood education. My background includes teaching in Christian schools and supporting students with special needs. I'm passionate about creating a Christ-centered, inclusive, and engaging learning environment, and I look forward to getting to know my students and the entire parish community!

## Miss Heard - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

My name is Amber Heard, and I'm so grateful to have accepted the 2nd grade teaching position at St. Patrick School. I recently graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Reading Endorsement. Teaching has been my calling for as long as I can remember, and I feel incredibly blessed to begin my career in such a faith-filled and close-knit community. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, exploring the outdoors, and reading. I'm excited for a joyful year of learning and growing in faith with our students!



## Ms. Corbin - Technology

My name is Cari Corbin, and this will be my 11th year in education. I've taught both junior high ELA and lower elementary grades, and I'm thrilled to begin a new chapter as the Technology teacher at St. Pat's! I'm a proud Peoria native and mom of two, six and three, who both attend another diocesan school. I'm a devoted St. Louis Cardinals fan, love reading, and enjoy listening to music. I'm looking forward to helping our students grow their digital literacy and creativity in a faith-centered environment.

## Mrs. Dana Wilson - Aide

Dana Wilson has been part of the choir at Saint Patrick Church for a year now but she and her kids are new to Saint Patrick School. Her husband Ryan is active duty Coast Guard and they moved here last July from Miami. Dana is the mother of Athena (7) and Apollo (5). She graduated from Marywood University with a degree in musical theatre and has performed and taught music for several years. The Wilsons are avid board gamers and are always up for a game night and family time! She's excited to be an aide this year and get to know the students and families of Saint Patrick School.





# MAP TESTING

*We want to inform you that MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing will take place over the next two weeks for students in grades K-8. Please see the schedule below:*

*Thursday, August 21 – Grades K-8 (Morning)*

*Tuesday, August 26 – Grades K-8 (Morning)*

*Thursday, August 28 – Grades 3-8 (Morning)*

*To help your child do their very best, we kindly ask for your support with the following:*

*Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep before each testing day.*

*Provide a healthy breakfast to help with focus and stamina.*

*Please make every effort to avoid absences or tardies on testing days.*

*Encourage your child to do their best!*

*MAP testing helps us measure academic growth and better support student learning throughout the year.*

*Thank you for partnering with us to set students up for success!*

*If you have any questions about the testing schedule, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or the school office.*







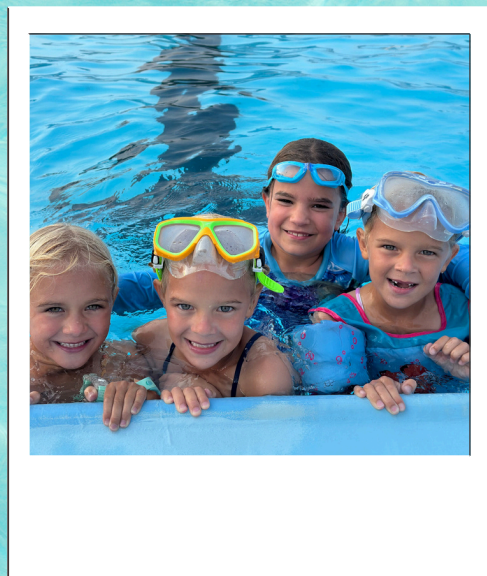
# WELCOME BACK







Fun was had by all at the  
*Back to School Pool Party*





# IRISH ATHLETICS



**Cross Country is busy building their stamina and strength for the season!**



**Golf is getting back into the swing of things!  
The Irish hosted their 1<sup>st</sup> ever golf match  
at Hillcrest and came out on top!**

## Softball

**8/19**

**vs. Monroe  
Limestone HS  
4:30pm**

**8/21**

**vs. Rankin  
Washington Park  
4:30pm**

**8/23**

**vs Georgetown  
Washington Park  
10:00am**

## Cross Country

**8/19**

**St. Jude Meet  
Donovan Park  
4:15pm**

**8/23**

**Metamora Meet  
Black Partridge  
9am**

**8/28**

**Mid-Illini Conference  
Mineral Springs Park  
4:30pm**



# IRISH



City  
tournament  
at Central  
baseball fields

8/15  
vs. WMS  
at 4:15pm

8/16  
vs D50  
at 12pm

8/16  
vs Central  
at 2pm



David Johnson and Lucas Bagley,  
class of 2024, have returned  
to assist Coach Stein this year.



# Lady Irish



Irish Softball kicked off their season with a jersey ceremony. Dads presented their daughters a jersey along with words of encouragement and heartfelt sentiments.

Congratulations to St. Patrick 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Ashlyn Crowley, for winning the Peoria Jr. Open!



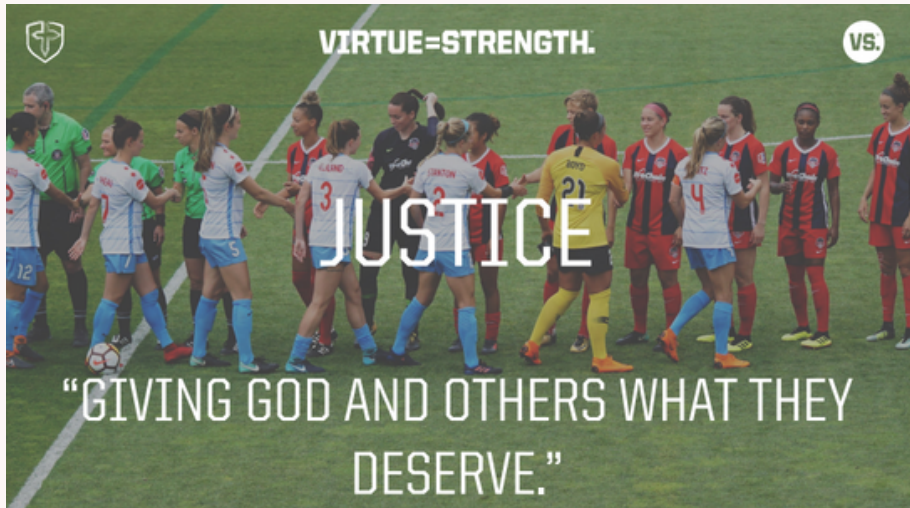
Our cheerleaders are hard at work preparing for the season. New pom-poms were purchased. And thank you to alum, Sophie Kamienski, for helping with practice!



# VIRTUE=STRENGTH.

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. STRENGTHEN.

*This week*



JUSTICE

HOW TO STRENGTHEN

How do we grow this virtue of  
**JUSTICE?**

Listen attentively and follow  
directions.

Speak well of others in person, online  
and with your friends.

Remember to say "Please" and  
"Thank you".

**NEXT  
WEEK**

INTEGRITY

St. Clement of Rome  
(c. 35-99 AD)

*"Let us act with integrity in  
all that we do, being mindful  
that God sees all things."*

*(First Letter to the  
Corinthians)*



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# Good Disciples

Thank You to Our Faithful Volunteers!

A big thank you to the Engstrom family, and members of the Washington High School Football Team for giving their time and talents to beautify our school grounds! By weeding and mulching the front of the school building, they've shown what it means to be good stewards and true disciples, serving with willing hearts and helping our school shine.

We are still looking for a family (or two!) to help care for our flower beds and landscaping throughout the year. This is a great way to get involved, spend time outdoors, and serve our school community. If you're interested or would like to learn more, please contact Mrs. Smith at 309-444-4345. Your helping hands would be a true blessing!



## Welcome Father Matt and Buddy!



**Have pictures or news for the Irish Messenger send them to:  
[barront@stpatswashington.com](mailto:barront@stpatswashington.com)**














# APPROVED UNIFORMS

## St. Patrick Approved Uniforms

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://st-pats-washington.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

<b>BLANK Sport-Tek Youth Posicharge Polo</b>  3 Colors \$13.00	<b>EMBROIDERED Sport-Tek Youth Polo</b>  3 Colors \$21.00	<b>Port &amp; Company Youth Core Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt</b>  4 Colors \$23.00	<b>Port Authority Youth Value Fleece Jacket</b>  2 Colors \$33.00	<b>BLANK Sport-Tek Polo</b>  3 Colors \$14.00	<b>EMBROIDERED Sport-Tek Polo</b>  3 Colors \$21.00
<b>Port &amp; Company Essential Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt</b>  4 Colors \$21.00	<b>Port Authority Value Fleece Jacket</b>  2 Colors \$33.00	<b>Sport-Tek 1/4-Zip Sweatshirt</b>  4 Colors \$36.00	<b>Sport-Tek Sport-Wick Stretch 1/4-Zip Pullover</b>  3 Colors \$40.00		

powered by  **ORDERMYGEAR**

Questions?  
Dan Crowley  
3095307557  
[inkstainzscreenprinting@gmail.com](mailto:inkstainzscreenprinting@gmail.com)

# Uniform store is open throughout the school year!





ST. PATRICK SCHOOL  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
we show our Irish pride!

# SPIRIT WEAR TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS



**STUDENTS CAN WEAR SPIRIT  
WEAR TOPS (OR MRS. HARRIS  
TOPS ON THURSDAYS) WITH  
UNIFORM BOTTOMS.**



2025 Spirit Wear Store is Open!  
Taking orders through  
August 17, 2025.



<https://st-pats-spirit.itemorder.com/shop/home/>





## Pack 168 Information and Registration Night

For Boys and Girls K-5th Grade

Thursday August 21st

6:00 - 7:30 PM

St. Patrick School Social Room

# #ADVENTUREON!



## Upcoming Pack 168 Events

The Pack offers events for your scout year round. You can attend all of them or the events that work within your schedule. During the school year, dens (grade level specific) meet once a month for about an hour to work on advancements.

In addition to den meetings, the Pack offers an event every month that can last between one and three hours. All family members are welcome to attend either the den or pack meetings.

The calendar to the right is what our Pack has tentatively planned for the upcoming year.

Want to know more? SCAN →



### Tentative 2025-2026 Calendar

Sep 20t: Blast Into Scouting

Oct 18-19: Overnight camping—Camp Wildwood

Nov: Volunteer at Midwest Food Bank

Dec 13: Ice skating—Pekin

Jan 25: Pinewood Derby

Feb 22: Blue and Gold Banquet

March 22: Cub Scout Track and Field

April 17-19: Overnight camping—ISR

May 8: Fishing and Cookout

June - Aug: TBD



# TRIVIA NIGHT

Through the Decades

Saturday, September 20th  
St. Monica's Hall

Doors Open at 5:00pm (directly after 4pm Vigil Mass at St. Monica's)  
Event Begins at 6:00pm  
Bring your own food

Dress in your  
favorite decade  
Decorate your  
table

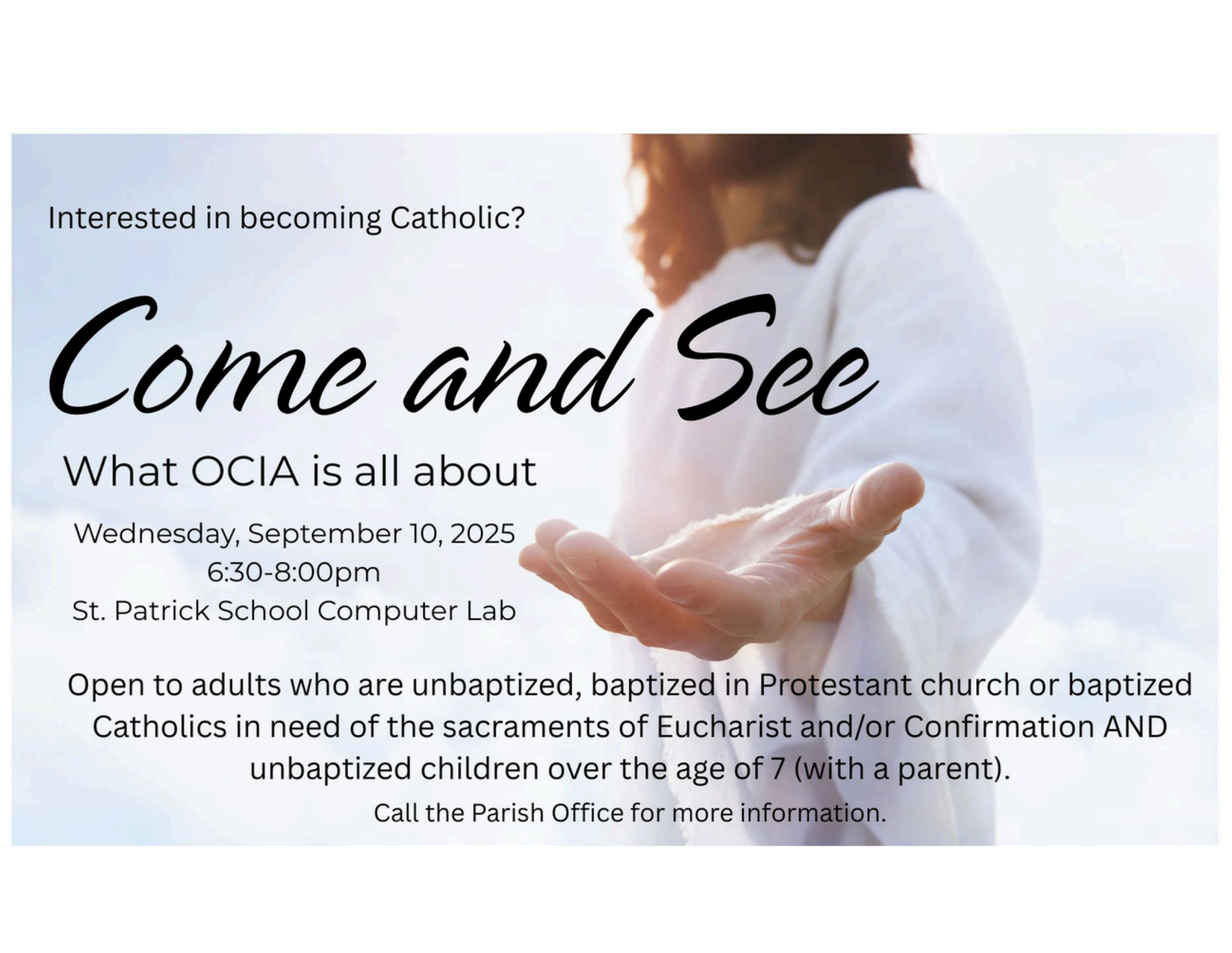
More details to come  
**SAVE THE DATE**

Prizes for best  
costume and best  
table!

Prizes for each  
round





A person wearing a white robe, likely a priest or religious figure, is shown from the chest up, facing slightly to the left. Their hands are held out in front of them, palms up, in a gesture of offering or blessing. The background is a bright, hazy sky with soft clouds. The overall tone is peaceful and inviting.

Interested in becoming Catholic?

# *Come and See*

What OCIA is all about

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

6:30-8:00pm

St. Patrick School Computer Lab

Open to adults who are unbaptized, baptized in Protestant church or baptized Catholics in need of the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation AND unbaptized children over the age of 7 (with a parent).

Call the Parish Office for more information.



Most Reverend Louis Tylka cordially invites you to the

# FOUNDATION *Gala*

*An event to celebrate and support the Diocese of Peoria  
during its 150th Anniversary*



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

**CIVIC CENTER BALLROOM | PEORIA, IL**

6:00 P.M. | COCKTAILS

7:00 P.M. | DINNER

8:00 P.M. | DANCING

A religious painting will be created during the evening and auctioned

Live music by **3 and a Half Men**

Dress Attire Business Casual

**RSVP Due October 20, 2025.**

**Online Reservations at [www.cdop150.org/gala](http://www.cdop150.org/gala).**

**Call 309.671.1550 with questions.**