

**"The higher we go,
the better we shall hear
the voice of Christ."**

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Geibel Gator Newsletter

Be sure to follow us on
Facebook and Instagram to
keep up to date on all
Geibel Catholic happenings!



Calendars:

The School Academic Calendar can
be found by clicking on the below
link:

[https://www.geibelcatholic.org/
resources/Documents/
Calendars/2022-23%20Color%
20School%20Calendar%
20Revised.pdf](https://www.geibelcatholic.org/resources/Documents/Calendars/2022-23%20Color%20School%20Calendar%20Revised.pdf)

The Athletic Calendar can be found
by clicking on the below link:

[https://www.geibelcatholic.org/
Lists/AthleticsCalendar/
calendar.aspx](https://www.geibelcatholic.org/Lists/AthleticsCalendar/calendar.aspx)

Important Upcoming Dates

January 16th– No School

January 17th– No School– Teacher In Service

January 23rd thru 27th– Activity Bell Week

January 28th–29th– CSW Mass Speeches at local Churches

January 30th thru February 3– Catholic Schools Week

February 2nd– CSW Mass/Ring Ceremony

Upcoming College Visits

The following dates are for college visits. These schools will be coming to us to share during periods two, three and four.

1/23 – Mt. Aloysius

1/30 – Mt. Aloysius snow date

2/6 – Seton Hill University

2/13 – St. Francis University

3/13 – Duquesne

3/20 – WVU

Junior Class Ring Ceremony:

It is tradition at Geibel Catholic that the Junior Class holds a Ring Ceremony, which stemmed from the time when nearly every student would purchase a class ring. Over time, the preference to purchase a class ring has shifted, and not all students desire to buy one. However, the Ring Ceremony also serves as a "rite of passage" to the Junior Class as the future leaders of the school. For that reason, we want to continue the tradition at Geibel Catholic to help celebrate the Junior Class's accomplishments and what lies ahead. The Ring Ceremony will take place on Thursday, February 2, 2022 at 1pm in Geibel Catholic's Gym. Families of our Junior Class are invited and highly encouraged to attend!

****If you are a parent of a Junior Student, please check your emails for more information.**

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

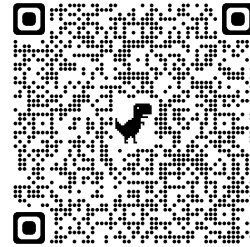
John the Baptist had been told that he would see the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He listened, he believed, and he kept his eyes open. He was ready when God revealed the truth. Let's ask ourselves: are our eyes open? Are we ready?

Service Hours Opportunity -Catholic Schools Week Speeches at Masses

Parents – Please use the QR code to access an opportunity for your child to earn service hours while giving a Catholic Schools Week speech at a local Church on the weekend of January 28–29, 2023. Once information is gathered, Mr. Anderson will coordinate a time and final destination with you and your child. Please note that all of our student need service hours, and this is an easy way to earn hours!

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Anderson at CAnderson@GeibelCatholic.org

Thank you in advance for your commitment and consideration!



Fr. John Moineau; Msgr Paul Fitzmaurice, Our Geibel Catholic School Family; Gracie's Aunt Barb & Family; Theresa Partridge, A.H., ACM, KB, JL, Kolencik Family, the men and women serving our country; the Priests and Bishop of our Diocese. Have a prayer request? Call the Office, 724-628-5600 or email, cnhernandez@geibelcatholic.org

Franciscan University - Opportunity to Visit

Junior & Senior students and parents of Juniors & Seniors, please note the following information regarding Franciscan University visit days. Franciscan University offers fantastic scholarship opportunities to Geibel Catholic graduates! Please let our school office know if you (or your child) are seriously considering attending Franciscan University for higher education.

On March 27, 2023, **Franciscan University** of Steubenville, Ohio will be hosting a **University Visit Day** for any prospective student who may be discerning college, and specifically will be addressing those who are interested in the field of **education**. To help inspire students considering the profession and assist them with the discernment process, Franciscan University created a dynamic day of programs that will be made available to any student who visits campus on March 27, 2023. This day will feature listening and discussion sessions with Franciscan University's Education Department professors and current students, a campus tour with a preview of the Residence Halls, Mass, complimentary lunch, and interactive Education Program-themed breakout sessions! The day will begin at 8:15 AM and wrap up at around 3:00 PM. If you have any students interested in participating, please use this [Link to sign up](#)

Also, through the link are registration dates for **School of Social Work, School of Natural and Applied Sciences, Criminal Justice, Athletics, and Nursing.**

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Helping Households Connect

Pennsylvania
WORK SMART. LIVE HAPPY.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#), or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivor Benefits
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch and School Breakfast Program
 - [Lifeline](#)

Check out [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP) for a Consumer FAQ and other program resources.

TWO-STEPS TO ENROLL

1. Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a mail-in application; and
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

HOW ARE CONSUMERS PROTECTED?

FCC rules protect Affordable Connectivity Program recipients by:

- Empowering consumers to choose the service plan that best meets their needs (including a plan they may already be on);
- Ensuring consumers have access to supported broadband services regardless of their credit status;
- Prohibiting providers from excluding consumers with past due balances or prior debt from enrolling in the program;
- Preventing consumers from being forced into more expensive or lower quality plans in order to receive the ACP;
- Ensuring that consumers are not liable for early termination fees;
- Reducing the potential for bill shock or other financial harms;
- Allowing ACP recipients to switch providers or broadband service offerings; and
- Providing [a dedicated FCC process for ACP complaints](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Check out [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP) for a Consumer FAQ and other program resources.

If you need to talk to someone about your eligibility or application status, call the ACP Support Center at (877) 384-2575.

The **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- ✓ Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service;
- ✓ A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than \$10 but less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Let's Make the Connection - PARENT PAGE

PLEASE SHARE—HELPFUL INFORMATION

INTERNET SAFETY 101®
www.internetsafety101.org

Online Gaming: Advice to Parents

How to Stay Safe on Gaming Sites

Setting ground rules at home is essential, but remember, your kids can play games from a friend's computer as well as at an Internet café. To help protect your children at home, talk to them about the dangers of online gaming, be ready to listen if they seem upset about something that happened while they were on the computer, and encourage them to use wisdom when deciding what types of online games to play. You can help keep your child's gaming experiences safe, age-appropriate, friendly, fun, and even educational by educating yourself about the gaming community, game ratings, and how to use the privacy and safety tools built into the games. Check out the safety features and parental controls offered by all the major gaming consoles including Xbox, Wii, and PlayStation.

TIPS: Teach your child to:

- Use voice chat wisely
- Be aware of voice masking technology - while masking can be a safety feature, predators can use it to pretend to be someone they are not.
- Beware of strangers. While there are both safe and dangerous strangers, they are still strangers. We advise that younger gamers, under 15, only play with people they know in person and that are parent-approved.
- Use suitable screen names (gamertags) - don't use your actual name
- Be aware of cyberbullies (griefers)
- Never give out personal information about him/herself or that of another player.
- Kick out any players that make them feel uncomfortable (ignore/block), and tell a trusted adult.
- Report abusive or inappropriate behavior in the reporting area of the game.
- Remember that use of games and other technology is a privilege, not a right.

TIPS: As a parent:

- Review games and ratings posted by games and apps before you download or buy games to make sure they are age-appropriate. The Internet is a parent's best friend for getting up to date information on safety, tools and gaming features. (See Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) Gaming ratings and summary before downloading or buying games).
- Play the game yourself by spending time alongside your child to learn about the game. Kids love to teach parents and will enjoy the interaction.
- Build an atmosphere of trust with your child regarding all of his/her online activities. Have regular ongoing conversations with your child about the games they are playing, their gaming experiences (both good and bad), and who they are talking to. Use these opportunities to keep the safety conversation current and ongoing.

Let's Make the Connection - PARENT PAGE

PLEASE SHARE—HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Use parental controls for games used by your child. (Here's a resource to show you how). Additionally, set and save parental controls provided within the game or gaming app. Remember if you set controls provided by the game itself, you will also need to do the same on the gaming platform used by your child. (Xbox, Nintendo Switch, Playstation 4, Windows 10 and iOS). Remember, games can be played on multiple devices (consoles, phones, tablets), so controls need to be set on each device.
- Keep your parent password private. Believe it or not, some parents have their kid set up parental controls which can defeat the purpose.
- Here are some basic guidelines for setting parental control tools:
 - * Set time limits. Gaming can be addictive, so set boundaries for when and how long your child can play.
 - * Filter mature language
 - * Determine if your child is mature enough for voice chat, if not, turn it off. Be aware your child may hear profanity or other unwanted language via voice chats features.
 - * Have your child check with you before attempting to enter any credit card information. Consider setting controls to require your parent PIN on purchases and to restrict access to games, including free games in the online store via your PIN.
 - * Know who your child is playing with. Limit the players your child can play with to parent-approved players, ie, kids you and your child know. (Note, your child cannot detect a disguised predator. Predators groom many children at a time and are patient with gathering details on the child and accessing their vulnerability for grooming.)
 - * Consider limiting access to web browsing, which is unrestricted Internet access and opens up all of the good and bad on the Internet.
 - * Consider disallowing the webcam use while gaming - instead, consider use of an avatar, especially for under 14+ gamers.
 - * Consider disallowing voice masking technology
 - * Be aware that there are numerous blogs, youtube videos etc that show kids how to disable parental controls.
- Keep up with new gaming functions introduced by the game as they often change and can put your child at risk. For instance, a game feature was added to Fortnite Battle Royale allowing users to connect with strangers through both text and voice chat. The NSPCC reported that 1 in 4 youth aged 11-18 have been contacted on Fortnite by someone they don't know. (2018). Gaming developers like Microsoft and Epic often have features on their websites whereby a parent can receive updated changes to gaming functions.
- Follow Enough Is Enough®'s Rules 'N Tools for online safety.
- Talk to your child about coming to you if anyone bullies them, asks them for inappropriate pictures or makes them feel uncomfortable
- Keep all software current (security system, operating system) to protect against viruses and spyware.
- Balance screen time with live play, outdoor time and face to face interactions.
- Keep a close eye on how the game may be affecting your child in a negative way. Remember, the games can be violent, are often highly addictive. Warning signs of a problem are increasing agitation when play time is restricted, becoming more sedentary and less interested in outdoor play, increased isolation, aggression and depression. Seek professional help if your child exhibits the last three of these behaviors.

Info from: <https://internetsafety101.org/gamingsafety>