Teens Attend the National Catholic Youth Conference

Members of St. Columbkille’s Teen Faith program had fun at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis a few weeks ago.
MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Thursday
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
8:15 a.m. (Communion Service)
Vigil 5:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Friday
6:20 a.m. & 8:15 a.m.
Sunday
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
10:30 a.m., Noon, 5:00 p.m.
RECONCILIATION
Monday-Thursday
5:00-5:20 p.m.
Saturday
3:30-4:30 p.m.

ST. COLUMBKILLE PARISH DIRECTORY

PRIESTS
FR. DAVE REESON, PASTOR
402-339-3285 ext. 103 | dreeson@saintcolumbkille.org
FR. TOM GREISEN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
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David Graef | 402-592-4741
Bill Hill | 402-250-3030
Steve Jordan | 402-290-4916
Robert Kellar | 402-321-4902
David Krueger | 402-680-3430
Eldon Lauber | 402-679-0604
Frank Mascarello | 402-650-2579
Tracy Ortgies | 402-630-4384
Jerry Overkamp | 402-339-2998
Russ Perry | 402-960-6509
Bob Stier | 402-331-0716
Bud Tharp | 402-339-3614
Brian Thomas | 402-614-7640
Eric Vande Berg | 402-651-8451

Sacraments of Baptism
Baptismal preparation classes are required for parents with children to be baptized. Call the Parish Office for information.

Sacrament of Marriage
The Archdiocese requires a minimum of six months notification for all who are to be married in order to arrange for and complete the various activities/programs associated with marriage preparation. Contact the Parish Office before setting a date.

Bulletin Deadline
Bulletin items are due 10 days before the issue date. Please email them to Anna Ferguson at aferguson@saintcolumbkille.org. We reserve the right to make any edits we deem necessary.
Pope Francis opened his Jubilee of Mercy saying that this year will be one in which Catholics are called to grow ever more convinced of God’s mercy, which should always come before judgment. “How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy,” he said, as he celebrated a Mass in St. Peter’s Square that marked the opening of the jubilee. “We have to put mercy before judgment,” he added.

Members of St. Columbkille Parish are invited to celebrate, in a special way, God’s unconditional love and forgiveness at our Reconciliation Service on December 19th at 7 p.m. in the church. We will be using Form II of the rite, which involves communal ways of reflecting, repenting and celebrating God’s mercy together.

Through prayer, song and scripture, we come to realize God’s abundant mercy and forgiveness for our sins. If you or someone you know has been away from the sacrament of Reconciliation for a while, or if you’ve never had the opportunity to experience this positive, welcoming celebration, please join us.

The Rite involves the following:

Song and scripture remind us that we are all sinners but still loved by God, who desires to forgive. Together we say a prayer of sorrow which indicates our desire to turn from sin back to God. Then, with the help of 16 priests, we approach one of them for Confession and say,

“I am grateful for God’s love & forgiveness even when I…”

We mention anything major or other areas of our lives (sin) that make it hard for us to accept God’s love. There’s no need to go into a lot of detail. The priest doesn’t counsel or lecture, but provides forgiveness through the ministry of the Church. This part goes quickly.

After you have had the opportunity to approach a priest and receive a penance and absolution, you will move to the chapel by way of the credence table door for a concluding prayer and blessing.

Whenever Jesus told a story of forgiveness (Prodigal Son, Lost Sheep), it was followed by a party to celebrate our being reconciled. Following the service, we, too, will celebrate with a party in the Social Level that includes wine, cheese, cookies, punch and hot chocolate. Don’t miss this celebration!

Pax,
A Simple, Inexpensive, and Wonderful Christmas Gift from a Child

Ask a child in your life to color a picture of baby Jesus as a Christmas gift to their parent, grandparent, or other special person. Talk to them about their gift of art and ask them to sign it. Add the year to make it even more of a keepsake. It would be fun to make it a tradition every Christmas. Save them to look at and talk about Jesus's birthday every year! Copies of coloring sheets are available in the church narthex. Or, children could draw and color their own pictures. As Christmas approaches, this is a great way to talk to a child about how acts of stewardship, like sharing a gift of time and talent by coloring/drawing a picture of baby Jesus, can make wonderful gifts.

Parish Center Gift-Giving
Our parish is the beneficiary of a generous gift from Geri and Dr. William Schlueter. When our new Parish Center opens this fall, we will have a Steinway Piano on behalf of the Schlueter family. Thanks so much for their kindness!

Members of our parish will also soon have the opportunity to help provide furniture, fixtures and other items for our new facilities. Watch the bulletin and our website for more information on the Parish Center Giving Tree for ways you can help. The tree will be ready in January.

Funeral Lunch Ministry
The Funeral Lunch Ministry is in need of men to help with the lunches. For example, we need help with lifting heavy coffee pots, carrying drink dispensers, and taking out trash. Your help would be greatly appreciated. For additional information, contact Joann Peterson at 402-339-2799 or Sue Cummings at 402-339-8875.

Sanctuary Railing—A Note from Fr. Dave
Almost a year ago someone suggested to me that a railing would be useful in our church to assist lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, deacons and older priests like me that might occasionally need help navigating the steps up to the altar area. This person even told me that they would be willing to help finance the railing. As I age, I am getting a bit more forgetful. If you are the one that brought this to my attention and you are willing to help fund the project, would you please give me a call? We are moving forwards with the railing! (402)-339-3285.

Volunteer Opportunity
For anyone who is interested, we are looking for volunteers who might want to help answer the Parish Office phones over holidays when the Parish Staff are not in. These dates would include Christmas Eve Day and New Year’s Eve day. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Parish Office at 402-339-3285.

Tri-City Food Pantry December Most-Needed List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Items</th>
<th>Non-Food Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canned Sloppy Joe Mix</td>
<td>Laundry Detergent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamburger Helper</td>
<td>Dishwashing Soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Helper</td>
<td>Women’s Deodorant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna Helper</td>
<td>Toilet Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Sides</td>
<td>Kleenex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta Sides</td>
<td>Paper Towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muffin Mix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Beans</td>
<td>There is currently an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned Pasta</td>
<td>abundance of green beans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seamstresses and Quilters Needed
The St. Columbkille 2nd graders are working on their quilt blocks and will need help putting their keepsake First Communion quilts together! We have many families that need help sewing.

Workshops will be held in the social level on Saturday, February 8th, 2020 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Saturday, February 15th, 2020 also from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. During workshop times, families will drop off their completed quilt blocks and materials. You will not need to bring your sewing equipment; all sewing will be done at your home on your own time. All quilts will need to be finished by April 27th, 2020. If you have questions or are able to help, please contact Jenny Jensen at 712-579-1595 or jenny0315jensen@gmail.com. Thank you!
Faith and Formation

“The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into the mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.”
~Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Give your spouse a special gift this Christmas. Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day. For more information call Pat and Janelle Benson at (308) 940-1105, or visit WWME.org.

Upcoming dates:
- February 7th - 9th: Ramada Inn, Kearney
- August 28th - 30th: Quality Inn, Ogallala
- October 2nd - 4th: Immaculate Monastery, Norfolk

Deadline to register is 1 month prior to the date of the weekend.

December Advent-Themed Ablaze Worship Nights
The next Ablaze praise and worship nights will be:
- Friday, December 14th, at 7 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 7790 S 192nd St., Gretna.
- Sunday, December 22nd, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Gerald’s Church, 96th & Q St.

Ablaze includes Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship, and time for both communal and personal prayer. All are welcome!

Young Catholic Professionals
The next Young Catholic Professionals event is an Executive Speaker Series at Skutt Catholic High School on Tuesday, December 17th. Mass will begin at 6:15 p.m., with a social and free food starting at 7 p.m., and the speaker beginning at 7:45 p.m. Wendy Townley, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library Foundation, will be the featured speaker, and her talk will be on “Finding My Religion—Returning to My Catholic Faith.”

Prepare the Way of the King
Dr. Scott Hahn

The Greatest Gift We Can Ever Receive
Dr. Scott Hahn reveals what scholars know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind — Jesus Christ.
**St. Columbkille School**

If you have a student who will be in grades 4-7 and have considered switching over to St. Columbkille, now is your chance! If you are interested, please contact the principal, Mrs. Redburn, at bredburn@saintcolumbkilleschool.org or by calling the School Office at 402-339-8706. We would love to meet you, tell you a little bit about our school, and take you on a tour! St. Columbkille students work every day to grow in spirit, mind and body as disciples of Christ.

**Questions Kids Ask**

A recent question from one of our young parishioners was, “What is prolife?” This is one of the many tough questions regarding the moral issues in today’s society. Answering this question with regards to abortion, without a loss of innocence, can be a challenge. Children are naturally prolife, so it’s never easy to explain the awfulness of abortion.

Fortunately, God has already provided you with the perfect words. For a young child, prolife can be explained as a promise to keep and protect every baby, even if they are still growing inside mommy’s belly. Prolife is about helping God take care of the babies who don’t have a voice. For older children, the same can be used, with some room to add that some people choose to harm babies instead of keeping them safe, and those actions may end in a loss of life.

Trust in the Lord that he will give you the perfect words to offer the curious child. Appreciate that children ask about difficult subjects so we may offer them a path to build a stronger relationship with God. When these questions arise, provide your child the gift of courage and counsel that will balance the darkness of abortion with the truth of God’s loving light.

PARISH ATHLETICS
Questions? Contact Sarah Yarpe, Director of Athletics, at syarpe@saintcolumbkille.org

CRUSADERS INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
Registration is open for Intramural Basketball.
Deadline to register is January 1st, 2020.
Open to boys and girls in Kindergarten and 1st grade.
Season runs January through February on Saturday mornings. To register, visit the Athletics website: www.saintcolumbkille.org/athletics

ST. COLUMBKILLE ATHLETICS BLANKETS FOR SALE!
We are taking pre-orders for our NEW Crusaders fleece blankets. Oversized fleece blankets are available in two different styles. Cost: $40/blanket. Limited stock available! All proceeds benefit the youth athletes at St. Columbkille. To view blanket options and place an order, visit the Athletics website: https://www.saintcolumbkille.org/athletics.

ST. COLUMBKILLE ATHLETICS BOWLING FUNDRAISER:
HUNTING for a STRIKE! Wear your best camo or hunting gear!
All teams are filled. Thank you to those who registered.
When: January 17th 5:30-9:30 p.m. (Dinner/drinks served at 5:30 p.m.)
Where: Papio Bowl
Cost: $40/bowler
Questions? Contact Travis Pinkelman at 402-490-0367 or trcp@hotmail.com.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING REQUIREMENT
FOR ALL COACHES
St. Columbkille Athletics requires all coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers to complete the diocesan Safe Environment Training. If you are considering coaching or volunteering in the near future, please visit the link below to register for an upcoming training session: https://archomaha.org/safe-environment/.

COMING SOON!
Crusader Spring 2020 Soccer Registration (U7-U14).
**Parish Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 16th</strong></td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Senior Exercise (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. Crusader Care (SHC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m. RE Reconciliation Service (Ed C)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Preschool Program (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Secret Kindness Agents (SHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council (SHC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Teen Faith (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Jr. High Advent Program (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting (PO)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 17th</strong></td>
<td>12:00 p.m. PAT (PO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. Crusader Care (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:15 p.m. 2nd Grad Brownies (SHC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (SHC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Lord Teach Me to Pray (C)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Kindergarten Music Program (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. RCIA (SHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. RCIA Childcare (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 18th</strong></td>
<td>9:00 a.m. School Song Practice (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Tai Chi (SHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Bible Study (SHC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Rosary Makers (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 p.m. Jr. High Advent Program (C)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. Crusader Care (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Youth Choir (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, November 19th</strong></td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Moms of Faith (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Tai Chi (SHC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 a.m. School Advent Event (SHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. Crusader Care (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (SL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Legion of Mary (PO)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Parish reconciliation Service (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, December 20th</strong></td>
<td>(Half Day of School)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Line Dancing (SL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 21st</strong></td>
<td>7:00 a.m. Yoga Fitness (SHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Ed C)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Tai Chi (SHC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 22nd</strong></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. Prayer Group (C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rosary Makers**

The Rosary Makers WILL NOT be meeting on the following dates:
- December 18th
- December 25th
- January 1st, 2020

**Offutt Capehart Chapel Christmas Carol Service**

All St. Columbkille parishioners are invited to a Christmas Carol Service at Offutt Air Force Base’s Capehart Chapel on Sunday, December 22nd at 5:00 p.m. A reception and dessert Bake-Off Contest will follow the service. Make your favorite Christmas dessert and compete for a festive prize! For more information contact the Chapel at 402-294-6244.

**Gather and Save Your Styrofoam**

A Plastilite Truck will be at the St. Columbkille southeast bottom parking lot on January 4th and 5th. Please bring all your large Styrofoam pieces for recycling.

**Retrouvaille Weekend**

Is your marriage going down the right road or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you both seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track.

For more information about a Retrouvaille Weekend Program, and to register for the February 14-16, 2020 weekend, call 1-800-470-2230 or go to www.retrouvaille.org. The last day to sign up for the February weekend is January 31st, 2020.

**A Christmas Carol at St. Barnabas**

St. Barnabas Classical Academy, 129 N. 40th St., is hosting a dramatic reading of Dickens’ Christmas classic, A Christmas Carol, as well as carols and festive food and drink on December 19th from 7-8:30 p.m. Free-will donations for the Academy will be gratefully accepted. For more information visit www.saintbarnabas.academy.

**In Remembrance**

We remember and celebrate the life of:

Daniel Strauss

May he rest in peace of Christ Jesus.
End of Year Charitable Contributions

2019 charitable contributions must be received by 11:59 p.m. on December 31st in order for you to claim a charitable contribution for 2019. Anything after that will be posted to 2020.

End of the year tax statements will be sent out before January 31, 2020. Please send us your current email address so your statement can be sent via email, and let us know of any changes in contact info, employment, phone number or email by calling the Parish Office. This saves the parish hundreds of dollars in postage. We make every effort to be good stewards of your gifts.

Aside from cash, a gift of stocks or bonds is another way to benefit your church and gain a tax advantage. A gift of appreciated stocks or bonds provides a deduction at the fair market value on the date of the transfer. This gives the investor the advantage of a larger deduction without paying capital gains taxes. Seek the advice of your tax professional and keep in mind this alternative method for providing a gift to your church.

We appreciate your sacrifices. If you have any questions regarding a year-end gift, please call Business Manager Debbie Armentrout at 402-592-8494.

You Are Invited!

Join in the fun of decorating our Worship Space for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd, at 6:00 p.m., following the evening Mass.

There is a job for everyone, and families are welcome. Tidy the pews, prepare the poinsettias, string some lights, etc. In addition, outdoor tree lighting can be done as your personal schedule permits, any time before the 22nd. Please consider joining in the preparation of our church for the newborn King.

Please contact Michelle Grzywa at 402-689-3536 or magrzywa@saintcolumbkille.org if you have questions.

Healing with Project Rachel

Is there an abortion in your past? Do you feel a sense of loss? Despair? Alienation and guilt? Do you feel distant from your Church? PROJECT RACHEL can help heal the wounds of abortion. For private, sensitive and confidential counseling and/or reconciliation, call 1-888- 456-HOPE (4673). More information is available online at www.hopeafterabortion.com.

Upcoming Advent Events

- 7th & 8th Grade Advent Program--December 18th, 7:00 p.m.
- St. Columbkille Reconciliation Service--December 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Community Christmas Concerts

The Omaha Chamber Singers, conducted by David Batter, present Gaudete: The Third Sunday of Advent this Sunday, December 15th, at 3 p.m. at the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. Several parishioners are part of the Omaha Chamber Singers.
LET'S GLOW CRAZY

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE
NEON GLOW PARTY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
6:30-8:30 PM
ST. COLUMBKILLE SOCIAL LEVEL

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL OFFICE WITH CHECKS PAYABLE TO
ST. COLUMBKILLE HSA
BY JANUARY 10

COST IS $10 PER FAMILY
SPONSORED BY THE HSA

FAMILY LAST NAME: ______________________
DAUGHTER(S) NAME: ______________________
GRADE (S): ______________________

SONG REQUESTS: ______________________
PLEASE CHOOSE OPTION OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED:
CASH ___ CHECK #____

DANCING * DOOR PRIZES * GAMES