

CHRISTUS VIVIT NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD 2023



“Do not leave it to others to be protagonists of change.
You are the ones who hold the future!
The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions,
your faith.”

~ Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*

The Christus Vivit National Youth Award recognizes young Catholics in their junior or senior year of high school who have helped bring Christ to life in their parish church, their school and their local community.

These are the young people who live and model what it means to be a missionary disciple in the world today through:

- Christian service and stewardship;
- Advocacy for those in need;
- Modeling Christian living;
- Serving as lights for the world.

This year Our Lady of the Assumption is pleased to announce three Christus Vivit National Youth Award recipients: Matthew Flynn, Sophie Kunsch & Christopher Marciel.

SOPHIE KUNSCH



Sophie Kunsch has been an active member of OLA since 2008. As a little girl, she was one of the original children to participate in the current version of OLA’s Children’s Liturgy of the Word. She attended Kindergarten at Our Lady of the Assumption Academy and began the PREP program the following year. Under Sister Kathleen’s direction, not only did she receive her sacraments, but she furthered her involvement in the parish through participation in the OLA Youth Choir for 5 years, and during the summer in Vacation Bible School. Once she received her First Holy Communion, she became an altar

server at the end of 3rd Grade and served for 8 years. In addition to altar serving, Sophie helped with video livestreams during the pandemic to bring the Mass home to the people that couldn’t come into the church. Since she was little, she has volunteered at LOLA events such as the Christmas Craft Fair, where she helps at the White Elephant table. Now, Sophie serves the parish by helping to run Children’s Liturgy of the Word.

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MATTHEW FLYNN



Since he was baptized in 2006 by Deacon John Rose, Matthew Flynn has been a part of the Our Lady of the Assumption community. At an early age, he started out assisting his dad as a junior usher. In 2017, he became an altar server shortly after making his First Holy Communion. Recognizing his continued service at Mass, Vince Caprio promoted Matthew to usher. Matthew is always jumping in to assist as needed at the 10 AM Mass. He has also offered his musical talents to the Music Ministry at critical times. He is now planning to go to college and get a degree in Computer Science.

CHRISTOPHER MARCIL



Chris is the youngest in the Marcil family who joined OLA parish in 2001. Chris was born into the parish and received all of his sacraments at OLA. As a member of the parish, Chris has actively participated as a parishioner. He began at a young age going with his dad every Saturday night to Panera Bread to pick up that day's leftovers to be delivered to a homeless shelter in Norristown. The Panera Bread Outreach ended in 2019. Chris volunteered as a youth helper at Vacation Bible School during his middle school years. He assisted the teacher with the preschool age children. Chris has volunteered over the years at Assumption Academy's Preschool Camp where his Mom

works. Chris started to usher at the 10 AM Mass on Sundays alongside his Dad when he was quite young and has now become a full-fledged usher. Chris is entering his senior year at Conestoga High School and has a passion for history. He participated in the National History Day competition during his sophomore year. For three years he has been a part of the Ultimate Frisbee club and will take on the role of President of the club in his senior year. He is also involved with the Study Buddies Club, where he helps the middle school students with their homework. Chris is a member of the National Honor Society and is preparing to pursue further studies in History in college.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR RECIPIENTS!