



# NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER, 2024

**Joseph A. Zaite**  
Founder, OCFCU

**John F. Hartman**  
Founder, OCFCU



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



# OHIO CATHOLIC CELEBRATES OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY!

## 2024 marks 70 years for Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union

Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union is excited to announce that we are celebrating 70 years of impacting the Catholic community by focusing on faith, financial solutions, and education.

It was out of a strong sense of faith and neighborly responsibility that our credit union was formed in 1954. In February 1954, 13 members of the St. Monica Parish, (Joseph Zaite, John Hartman), and Reverend Hugh Gallagher formed St. Monica Garfield Heights Federal Credit Union with the vision to create a faithful and impactful financial cooperative. Operation began on March 23, 1954. The mission was to provide fellow Catholics with better access to money and financial support. The idea was that they would pool their money to make loans to one another, and with a \$5 investment from each member, they formed the credit union built on the cooperative philosophy of people helping people.

These virtues laid the foundation for, and drove the creation of, our progressive credit union, one capable of meeting a vast array of financial needs for our members, and 70 years later, that sentiment and effort have yielded a powerful organization that funds members' lives:

- Mortgages for our members' first, next or dream home
- Business loans for economic growth and development
- Savings accounts for emergencies and future goals
- Checking accounts for life's hobbies and activities
- Private Wealth Management for expansive financial portfolios
- Member appreciation program for rewarding our faithful members
- A full suite of digital tools and services to make managing money easier and more efficient

The Power of this impactful vision, mission, and philosophy continues to shine brightly and guide leadership in their service to our members. Since that founding day in 1954, Ohio Catholic's strength, wisdom, and prudent management have helped us grow consistently. Today, Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union's asset size exceeds \$246 million, and we serve more than 12,300 members.

**Watch for more information about events this year to celebrate our 70th Anniversary!**



Groundbreaking for the Garfield Heights main office in 1988



Longtime employees Linda Dempsey and Sue Cobb



Past Annual Meeting



# MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

# Member

# APPRECIATION

We appreciate you!! On the first Friday of every month stop in your local branch and let us remind you why banking is better with a credit union. Spin the prize wheel for Ohio Catholic swag or gift cards and let us say thank you for being a member. At Ohio Catholic you can choose how you bank with our mobile application, online, through our Member Service Center or in one of our five convenient branch locations. What can we help you with in 2024? Looking to buy a new car or use the equity in your home? Call the experts in our Loan Zone and schedule an appointment with a loan officer either virtually or at one of our branch locations. Our priority is to provide you convenience, great rates and great service. See you on February 2!



## IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?

Please be sure to keep your contact information current with Ohio Catholic FCU. Important information includes name changes, telephone number, email address, and mailing address. Emails are a way for us to quickly contact you with information regarding your accounts and operational information like weather closures or online issues.

If you unsubscribed and need to opt back in, please [click this link](#) and fill out the form, or call Member Services at (888)696-4462.

# SCAM ALERTS



A recent report by [Social Catfish](#), an online investigation service, found that the U.S. is the most scammed country in the world. A staggering amount of money was lost to scams in 2022, and that number will likely continue to trend upward, thanks to newly available mediums for scammers, like artificial intelligence (AI). The good news is, with the right information, you can protect yourself from being part of next year's scam statistics. Let's take a look at some of the significant findings of the report, and how you can keep your money and your information safe.

## Who gets scammed the most?

With an astounding 466,501 online scams in 2022, the U.S. leads the world as the country with the most scam victims per year. The U.K., Canada, India and Australia follow as the respective second through fifth most-scammed countries across the globe.

Of the 50 states, California had the most online scam victims in 2022, at 80,766, with an average of \$24,921 lost per victim at a total loss of \$2,012,806,866. Florida is next in line with 42,792 victims with an average loss per victim of \$19,746. North Dakota takes the prize for the lowest number of scam victims, at just 703. It's important to note that these are actual numbers and not percentages of each state's population. Of course, more populated states, like California and Florida, have higher numbers of scam victims than more sparsely populated states, like Montana.

Among age groups, teens and children have seen the largest percentage increase in money lost. Victims in the under-20 age group lost \$210 million in 2022, compared to \$8.2 million in 2017. Seniors still hold the place as the most victimized group, though, with their overall losses totaling \$3.1 billion.

## How do I protect myself?

- When interacting with a new online friend or love interest, perform a reverse photo search on any shared pics to verify their authenticity.
- Never click on embedded links or download attachments from emails sent by unknown contacts.
- Never wire money to an unverified contact.
- Use strong, unique and long passwords for each of your accounts. A password manager can help you generate and remember unbreakable passwords.
- Watch out for these red flags in websites, ads and emails: poor grammar and spelling, lack of a physical address and/or phone number, claims of being in the military and/or working overseas, demands to be paid by wire transfer, or in gift card or cryptocurrency and use of a URL that is very similar to a reputable company's web address.
- Report any scam and scam attempt to the FTC, IC3, FBI and Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union.
- The statistics on scams may be frightening, but you don't have to be the next victim. Follow the tips outlined above to stay safe.

# LEARN ABOUT OUR MEMBER SERVICE CENTER

The Member Service Center is a full-service electronic branch allowing members to complete transactions without physically entering a branch. All calls to Ohio Catholic are filtered through the Member Service Center. The center manages and directs all phone calls, processes transactions, responds to online chats, replies to online messaging (including the app), processes online account openings, and completes most account revisions.

Occasionally, a representative may contact you by phone regarding a specific issue with your account. Please know that we will not ask for a full social security number. If you ever feel uncomfortable or unsure the call is from Ohio Catholic, feel free to tell the representative that you will hang up and call back. Just ask for the representative by name and you can resume the the call with full confidence in the security of your account.

The Member Service Center has slightly extended hours for member convenience but follows the same holiday schedule as branches. If the branches are closed, the Center is closed as well. You can contact us at (888)696-4462 from Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Other ways to manage or review your account or transactions include logging into online banking or calling our automated iTalk line. iTalk is our 24-hour all-access telephone banking system. Features include the ability to check your balance, complete a fee-free transfer, and verify the last few transactions on your account. Call (844) 365-6446 anytime.

Send us a secure message through online banking or the mobile app, and a representative in the member service center will promptly reply. Messages received after hours are reviewed the next business day. We can answer specific account questions or discuss any concerns, upload documents, assist in navigation for bill pay or transfers to an external account, and document travel notices. Specific account information, such as address, phone number, and email, can be updated to ensure all information is current.

For general questions, we have a chat feature available on our website. This feature is best used for general, non-member-specific account information and is available Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

## MEMBER SERVICE CENTER CONTINUED

Our Support tab on the website is also a great resource for frequently asked questions. Topics range from online banking questions to card detail. Experiencing card fraud? If you suspect your card has been compromised or you see a transaction you did not initiate, please call our Fraud hotline at 888-514-1348. A fraud case will be opened, a case number assigned, and correspondence sent by mail. The Fraud area does not order new cards at the time of the case opening, so once the fraud case has been opened, please be sure to contact the Member Service Center to order a new card.

The Member Service Center can make your banking experience quick, easy, and secure in many ways. Our team looks forward to assisting you!

# MEDICARE AND ESTATE PLANNING SEMINARS

Join us at our Garfield Heights branch on January 23 at 1:30 PM or 3:30 PM for our first in the Senior Series for a free Medicare and estate planning seminar. We are thrilled to have Kelly George, AIF, of George Financial Services and Nicole Feilon, Attorney at Law, as our speakers. Mr. George will present "Medicare 101" for those becoming eligible for Medicare, those exploring other plans, or those who missed their enrollment date.

Ms. Feilon will explain basic estate planning documents including Last Will and Testament, Financial Power of Attorney (POA), Health Care POA, and Living Will. She will also provide an overview of the use of a Living Trust and the basics of Medicaid Planning. Register to attend by [visiting our website](#) or calling the Member Service Center at (888) 696-4462.

### 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

#### All Offices and the Member Service Center Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 15

Presidents Day, February 19

Good Friday, March 29

Memorial Day, May 27

Juneteenth Day, June 19

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day, September 2

Columbus Day, October 14

Veterans Day (observed), November 11

Thanksgiving Day, November 28

Christmas Day, December 25



Main Office:  
13623 Rockside Road  
Garfield Heights, OH 44125  
p. (888) 696-4462

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Join us live for our 2024 Virtual Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 27, at 4pm.

Members wishing to attend the Annual Meeting will be able to attend virtually from home or in-person at our Garfield Heights branch. If you RSVP and attend the meeting either online or in-person at Garfield, you will receive a \$25 gift card. Virtual meeting information will be sent out via email to registrants closer to the meeting date. If you would like to attend in-person, we will be opening our Garfield Heights branch lobby located at 13623 Rockside Rd. We will have refreshments and you can meet members of the executive staff.

Register online at <http://www.ohiocatholicfcu.com/annual-meeting-2024> to attend the Annual Meeting. Please indicate if you will be attending virtually or in-person. Do you have a question you would like to ask our CEO? Submit your questions when you register by January 26. If you have questions about registration for the Annual Meeting, please contact Ohio Catholic's Member Service Center at (888) 696-4462 or [ebranch@ohiocatholicfcu.com](mailto:ebranch@ohiocatholicfcu.com).

In 2024, there is one nominee for election to the Board of Directors. The incumbent nominees for the Board positions will serve for three year terms.

Anita Simko, Incumbent

Anita is a Relationship Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and an Advisory Board Member at Catholic Charities. She has served as a Board Member at Ohio Catholic FCU since 2018. Anita resides in Elyria.

All positions are volunteer positions, which provide no compensation. Members of the Board of Directors set the credit union's policies, plan the credit union's course and make sure it maintains a sound financial position. They are required to attend monthly Board Meetings, monthly committee meetings and other meetings designated by the board.

In order to be considered for an open position, individuals must submit their qualifications to the Nominating Committee. Members must be in good standing, be at least 18 years of age, and must have a base level of financial skills. All nominees will be reviewed and approved by the Nominating Committee.

Nominations for vacancies may also be made, but only by petition. An election will not be conducted by ballot and there will be no nominations from the floor when there is only one nominee for each position to be filled. Any member who wants to submit a nomination by petition must have the petition signed by 1% of the membership and therefore must be signed by at least 123 Credit Union members. Each nominee by petition must submit a statement of qualifications, biographical data, and include a statement that they are agreeable to the nomination and will serve, if elected to office, for the full term to the best of their ability. All petitions and statements must be returned to the Credit Union office by February 9, 2024.



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**Akron**

2720 S. Arlington Road

**North Canton**

210 Applegrove St. NW

**Or Call**

**Member Service Center**

(888) 696-4462

**The Loan Zone**

(216) 478-0067

[www.OhioCatholicFCU.com](http://www.OhioCatholicFCU.com)

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to creditworthiness, Ohio Catholic FCU lending policies, and membership eligibility. The 5.99% APR is a promotional rate on balance transfers from another financial institution made between the promotion period January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024. Promotional APR of 5.99% is valid for 12 billing cycles from the date of first qualifying transfer. The APR on all other transactions and balances on your account will remain at the applicable rate in accordance with your credit card agreement. Other fees may apply. The maximum APR is 17.99%. The interest rate on qualifying balance transfers will remain 5.99% APR unless the account becomes delinquent and/or over the limit. All payments will be applied to the highest interest rate first. Existing Ohio Catholic FCU credit card/loan balances are not eligible for the promo rate. All balance transfers made during the promotional period will be subject to a fee of 3.00% of the transferred amount. Minimum balance transfer amount of \$500.00. Reward points and/or Cash Back will not be awarded for balance transfers. Ohio Catholic FCU may discontinue or modify this offer without notice. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #413040.