

OUR SCHOOLS ARE

*coloring*  
THE  
*world*

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5 ♦ CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS  
WEEK

JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 5



Catholic Schools  
Faith. Excellence. Service.

11 • CATHOLIC TIMES • JANUARY 23, 2022

FEATURE

A LETTER FROM BISHOP PAPROCKI . . .

# Catholic Schools Week:

CELEBRATING



My dear brothers and sisters and Christ,

I continue to be amazed at what our Catholic schools are accomplishing despite the COVID pandemic. Let me first start with the news that enrollment across the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is up nearly 500 students this year, compared to last year, a 5 percent increase. This is a testament to the high-quality education our schools provide, the great teachers we have in our classrooms, the warm and inviting atmosphere inside our school walls, and having God as the center of our mission in everything we do.

Amongst all the negative news and uncertainty in the world, it is refreshing to see our schools rise above that, resulting in more parents choosing Catholic education for their children. Our schools are a beacon of hope and love because of the one thing that sets them apart — our Catholic faith.

It is our Catholic schools that go on mission trips to paint homes and build handicap ramps for families in need. It is our Catholic schools that organize food drives so hungry families do not have to worry about meals for a change. It is our Catholic schools that raise money for charities that help the poor and vulnerable. It is our Catholic schools that have toy drives for families who cannot afford them. It is our Catholic schools that pray before class begins. It is our Catholic schools that march for life. It is our Catholic schools that offer the sacraments, especially the holy sacrifice of the Mass every week, providing the Eucharist, the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ to our students, teachers, and staff. It is our Catholic schools that are shaping minds to be holy and virtuous.

It is quite clear from that list that our Catholic schools are not a “check box” for young people to mark off as they

grow up. Instead, they are the beginning of a mission — a mission to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and ultimately, a saint.

I want to thank our principals, teachers, staff, students, parents, and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to Catholic education, especially during this pandemic. Your witness, despite all the challenges thrown at you,

is a shining example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ, that witness of hope. I know it

has not been easy, but you have persevered. It is the authentic faith, hope, and love you all show that adds beautiful colors to our Catholic schools.

In the following pages, you will learn more about how our students are living the Gospel message and how our schools are building up the Kingdom of God in our diocese as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 5.

With every best wish and prayers, I am sincerely yours in Christ,

*† Thomas John Paprocki*

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki



# DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON IS THE  
FOUNDER OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, WITH A  
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CATHOLIC MISSION.

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SUBMIT A NARRATIVE OF THE  
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ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED TO  
THE DIOCESE AT  
[www.dio.org/schools/eas](http://www.dio.org/schools/eas)



**Pictured is 2021 winner, Arlis Dejaynes from St. Teresa High School in Decatur with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki.**

**SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE TO THE DIOCESE BY MARCH 4TH.**

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL – NEWTON



**PENNY WAR WINNERS** — St. Thomas School conducted a Penny War with the sixth-grade class (pictured here) winning the battle. As a whole, the school raised over \$1,500 for the Jasper County Ministerial Association’s Christmas food boxes to be provided to over 300 families in the community. We are proud of our St. Thomas Saints!

## ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL – GRANITE CITY

**GETTING CREATIVE** — Let’s get creative! The idea was simple: Please instruct kids to read a book, and then decorate a pumpkin at home to either resemble one of the book’s characters or go with the book’s theme. The kids then get to bring their masterpieces to school and present both their pumpkins and book reports at the same time. After the presentations, St. Elizabeth third-graders left their pumpkins at the altar to help decorate the church. Not only did the children love showing off their pumpkins at weekend Mass, but parishioners enjoyed the display.



# CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

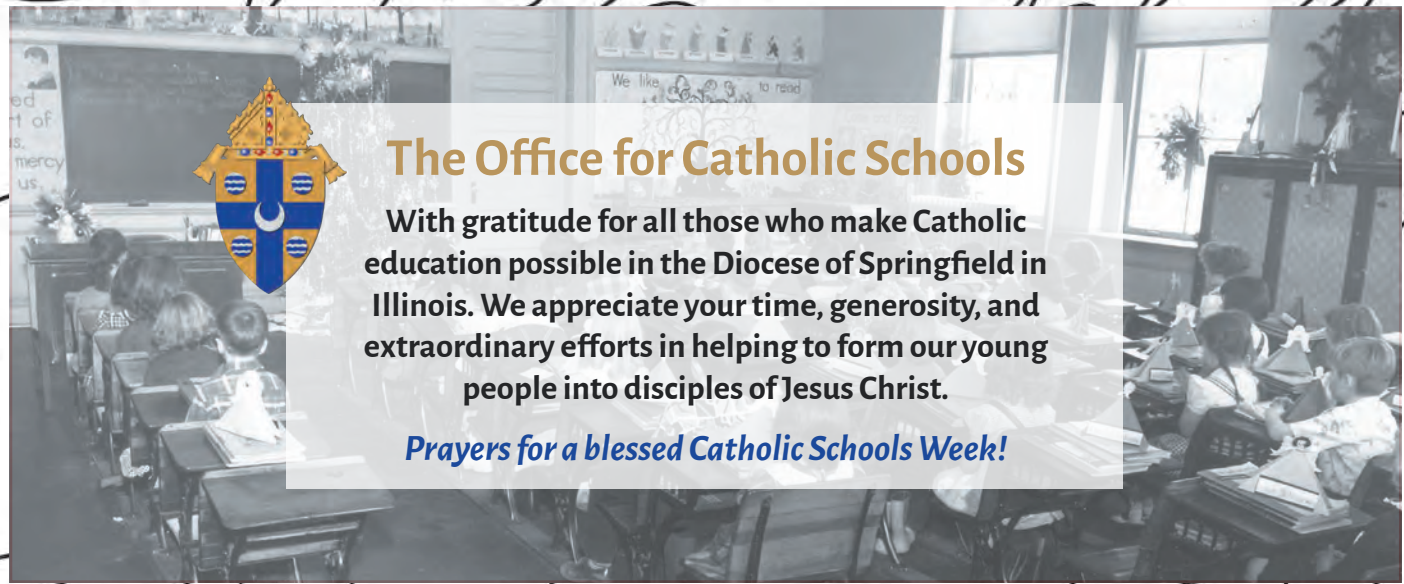


**SHARING AT THANKSGIVING** — In November, Christ the King School students and PSR students collected food items for 60 Catholic Charities Thanksgiving food baskets. Eight hundred dollars were also given to purchase turkeys, pies, etc. Each grade was challenged to bring in the most donations. Sixth grade won the challenge this year. Pictured here from left to right are: Neve, Lurkey the CTK Turkey, and Beckett.

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL – DECATUR



**BLESSINGS BAGS** — Earlier this school year Our Lady of Lourdes students delivered over 200 blessing bags to a variety of first responders in Decatur. The bags, which were delivered by members of the Student Council, contained snacks and special thank you notes and pictures, expressing the students' gratitude for all the first responders do for the community. What a blessing it is to give!



## The Office for Catholic Schools

With gratitude for all those who make Catholic education possible in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. We appreciate your time, generosity, and extraordinary efforts in helping to form our young people into disciples of Jesus Christ.

*Prayers for a blessed Catholic Schools Week!*

# ST. MARY SCHOOL – ALTON



**CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION** — During the month of December, St. Mary School confirmed the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade classes on three separate nights. Shown here is the eighth-grade class.

# ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL – EFFINGHAM



**YOUNG SAINTS** — St. Anthony Grade School celebrated All Saint's Day with their traditional All Saint's Day Mass. That day each sixth-grader dressed up as his or her confirmation saint, and then the "saints came marching in" at Mass.

# BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

**SERVICE IN ACTION** — All of the fifth-grade students at Blessed Sacrament School in Springfield made blankets in December for Catholic Charities to distribute during the winter months. Other service projects during the last year include food and diaper drives for local agencies, Trunk or Treat and Mardi Gras events to benefit the Missionary Childhood Association, Rice Bowl, stuffing stockings for St. Patrick School, and older students picking up trash on MacArthur Boulevard in partnership with the MacArthur Boulevard Association.



# ST. JOHN NEUMANN SCHOOL – MARYVILLE

## Robotics teams stand out in competitions

By **ANTHONY BODNAR**  
Principal

St. John Neumann School in Maryville has many robotics teams that span from first grade through eighth grade. On Dec. 4, two of their robotics teams competed in the Illinois Robotics Regional Qualifier at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Both of these teams brought home first place awards for SJN!

The Discovery Botgineers won first place for the Innovation Project Award, where they designed a system that would alert semi-truck drivers if their load/trailer was too tall for an approaching bridge. The Scrambled Gears won first place for the Robot Design Award and took fourth overall on the robot table performance. The Scrambled Gears were also one of four teams selected to advance to the FIRST LEGO League State Tournament in Champaign on Jan. 29.

The members of the Discovery

Botgineers robotics team are: Mac C., Noah C., David H., Brenden P., Bryce S., Sebastian S., and Owen W. The members of the Scrambled

Gears robotics team are: Anne C., Nathan E., Luke M., Anna M., Sam M., Jack S., Kayleigh V., and Abe W. We are so proud of our Crusaders! 🏆

### QND Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

- Historically, QND students provide more than 10,000 hours of volunteer work and community service each year.
- The Class of 2021 qualified for more than \$5.4 million in academic, athletic and performing arts scholarships.
- The QND Foundation awarded more than \$300,000 in financial assistance to 35% of QND students this year.



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# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL – CARROLLTON



**CAROLING** — The students of St. John the Evangelist School enjoyed an unusually warm day in December by spending part of their afternoon Christmas caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the school. They spread the love and joy of Christmas to many shut-ins, family members, parishioners, and businesses throughout the community.

# ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL – GODFREY



**OUTDOOR CLASSROOM** — Toward the end of the 2020-2021 school year, current St. Ambrose fourth-grade students asked if they could help pull weeds and clean up an eye sore area between our buildings. This inspiration led to the development of a project to enhance the space and create an outdoor classroom. Over \$20,000 was donated to cover costs and to improve the space. To complete the project approximately 40 volunteers (including staff, students, parents, grandparents, and parishioners) attended a workday this past summer. With their efforts an amazing space was created for our students. Recently St. Ambrose applied for grants to add more features to the outdoor classroom. Here the seventh-grade St. Ambrose students enjoy using the newly developed area.

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL – PANA



**SAINT MUSEUM** — The seventh-grade class at Sacred Heart School in Pana hosted a saint museum for the entire K-8 student body during last year’s Catholic Schools Week. Each seventh-grader selected a saint, researched the life of the saint, wrote and memorized a speech, and designed a costume. Visitors to the saint museum enjoyed short, first-person accounts of many different saints. One young student said, “It was seeing the past.”

## ST. LOUIS SCHOOL – NOKOMIS



**FIRST NOELLE 5K** — One of our Forever Students, Ayden O’Malley, suffered from arteriovenous malformation (AVM) and passed away while at the national March for Life in January 2018. Ayden was a St. Louis School (SLS) student at the time and brought so much joy to anyone she encountered. Her family has transformed this tragedy into a beautiful legacy through her First Noelle 5K, which provides scholarships to many families at SLS. This year’s event was hosted Dec. 4 and had 75 participants. The top three finishers in this year’s student division were first place: Camryn Engelman (left); second place: SLS fourth-grader Adalyn Gillock (right); and third place: SLS first-grader and Ayden’s nephew Brody Wright (middle). Funds from this event provide scholarships for students to attend SLS as well as the March for Life. The 5K has raised over \$12,000 for SLS students over the past three years and we’re sure this year will bring just as much success. Ayden’s mother, Roz O’Malley, said Ayden would never want anyone to miss out on the opportunity to attend SLS or the March for Life because they could not afford to, so they will continue this endeavor as long as possible. We may have lost a wonderful person, but her legacy lives on in the halls of SLS forever.

# SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN HIGH SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

## Sacred Heart-Griffin Announces New Tuition Model In Time for New School Year

Sacred Heart-Griffin has always been committed to helping families obtain a Catholic Dominican secondary education. We are excited to announce that SHG has developed a new Modernized Tuition Model that tailors tuition to help meet each family's needs. Please visit our website at [www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org) and click on Student Investment Program for more information.

Come see what SHG has to offer by scheduling a tour or a Shadow Day! Contact our Director of Admissions, Amanda Mandeville, at [mandeville@shg.org](mailto:mandeville@shg.org) for more information.

There's a place for everyone at SHG. Come find yours.



# ST. PATRICK SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

**KEY BEHAVIORS** — At St. Patrick School, we are focusing on one key behavior a month. Last month's behavior was "respect yourself" and each week students who demonstrated the traits of "respect" were selected as Student of the Week. This month, our behavior is "be safe" and all students selected will attend a celebration at the end of the month. Our goal is to have all of our students attend the celebration.



ST. PETER SCHOOL – QUINCY

# St. Peter Spirit Days help feed sister parishes

By **CINDY VENVERTLOH**  
Principal

Every month, our school has a Spirit Day that allows our students to take pride in our school by wearing their “Spirit Day” shirt, non-dress code bottoms and donating to a worthy cause. This year, our school is raising money to help feed our sister parishes, Our Lady of Assumption and St. Leo the Great, in Haiti. We are raising \$2,700 to provide 10,000 rice servings to help feed the poor.

In September, we kicked off our Spirit Day challenge with a presentation about how dire the situations of many families and children are due to war and natural disasters that have battered the country. Often, families only have these rice servings to survive on. The students learned that a \$6 meal at McDonald’s will provide 22 servings of rice in Haiti.

In October, our seventh- and eighth-grade students had the opportunity to pack rice kits at Quincy University as a

community endeavor to help many Haiti parishes who had been devastated by the natural disasters that occurred in late September and early October. Students were amazed by how little a rice kit is compared to what we eat every day. Many students were humbled that these rice kits might be the only meal that a family of four to six might have in a day.

So far, our students have raised \$1,176.74 in just the first four months of school. We are on track to meet our goal! 💎

## ST. NORBERT SCHOOL – HARDIN



**‘T WAS THE SEASON FOR GIVING —** Students in Mrs. Angie Goode’s class filled up blessing bags for Churches on the Streets STL during the Christmas season. They then distributed these bags to those in the area who are less fortunate that time of year. Churches on the Streets is a faith-based organization that not only generously gives to those in need but spreads the word and love of God as they travel around the area. Each bag was filled with gloves, towels, wipes, tissues, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, medicine, and snacks, all donated by students and their families.

**St. John School, Carrollton • 2022 Daily Drawing**

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*365 Daily Drawings throughout entire year of 2022.*

*Winners names returned to drawing.*

*Get your Daily Drawing Certificate today from any*

**St. John School student or mail to:**

**St. John School, 414 Third St.**  
**Carrollton, IL 62016**

**A Winner  
Every Day!**

# ST. MARY SCHOOL – TAYLORVILLE



**AG IN THE CLASSROOM —** Students in kindergarten through sixth grade at St. Mary School in Taylorville participate in Ag in the Classroom periodically during the school year. Agriculture is a predominant industry in and around Taylorville. The Ag in the Classroom lessons enhance the students understanding of agriculture and are a lot of fun! Ag in the Classroom is presented through the University of Illinois Christian County Extension. Rebecca Livingston, who is the Christian and Montgomery County Agricultural Literacy Program coordinator, teaches the lessons, and she is a graduate of St. Mary School. Pictured are some St. Mary sixth-graders enjoying Ag in the Classroom shortly before Christmas break.

# ST. MARY SCHOOL – BRUSSELS



**SPECIAL BOOK FAIR —** St. Mary School in Brussels held their annual Book Fair and for the third year collected donations to purchase books for the Calhoun Angel Tree. The community, school, and students raised \$400. They bought 90 books to ensure all the children on the tree would receive a book for Christmas.

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE SCHOOL – BETHALTO

**ADVENT WREATH TRADITION** — Faith is the center of everything we do at OLQP. One of our traditions is the lighting of the Advent wreath. Pictured here, the eighth-graders are prepared to lead the school in an Advent prayer service honoring the first week of Advent. This helps the school community to stay focused on preparing to celebrate Christ’s coming at Christmas.



# SACRED HEART SCHOOL – EFFINGHAM



**BUDDY TIME** — Each week our seventh- and eighth-grade students spend time mentoring and reading with their kindergarten and first grade “buddies.” They also pray together and engage in fun learning experiences such as flying kites, technology projects, and writing letters. Both age groups grow and learn from these relationships. Many of these “buddy” friendships last well beyond their years at SHS. Pictured here is eighth-grader, Austin Borries, reading with first-graders Oliver Durbin, Jonathan McDevitt, and Madelynn Niemerg.

## Celebrating Black History Month

# GOSPEL MASS

**February 27, 2022**  
**St. Aloysius**  
 2000 E. Sangamon Ave.  
 Springfield, IL 62702  
 11:00 AM

*You are invited to Mass followed by a Soul Food Luncheon \$5 for lunch*

**RSVP**

- [dio.org/plasm/black-catholic-commission.html](http://dio.org/plasm/black-catholic-commission.html)
- 217-321-1161
- [dmoore@dio.org](mailto:dmoore@dio.org)

Sponsored by the Black Catholic Commission

# ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL – QUINCY



## I love my school because...

“ St. Dominic is a perfect example of a family. Every day I love waking up and being excited to come to school. I love when we have time for God and for friends. There is not one thing I would change about St. Dominic school! I love all of the teachers and all of my classmates. I am so thankful to have such an amazing school. ”

-Ava Price  
St. Dominic Student

### ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

4100 Columbus Road | Quincy, IL | 217-224-0041 | stdominiquincy.org



*A dedicated Catholic school community promoting spiritual growth and academic excellence, while challenging students to use their talents to lead and serve.*

**WHY I LOVE MY SCHOOL** — During Catholic Schools Week, St. Dominic School invites each student to tell why their family chooses Catholic education at our school. Here, Ava Price shares her thoughts, thanks to the Marketing and Enrollment Committee that creates these banners with quotes from each student’s essay. It is not a contest, rather a celebration of why the students love their school and why they are thankful for their parents’ choice.

# SS. PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL – COLLINSVILLE



**CHRISTMAS TRADITION** — The eighth-grade class of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Collinsville carries on the school tradition of performing the play *On Our Way to Bethlehem*.

# CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

Highlighting

HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital



## Here with you.

At HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital, we'll always be right by your side. Day or night, your experience means everything to us. It's because respect guides us, care defines us, competence empowers us and joy inspires us. HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital. **We're here with you.**



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Learn more at [hshsgoodshepherd.org/herewithyou](https://hshsgoodshepherd.org/herewithyou)

- ◆ HSHS St. Francis Hospital  
Litchfield
- ◆ OSF Saint Anthony's Hospital  
Alton
- ◆ HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital  
Shelbyville
- ◆ HSHS St. Mary's Hospital  
Decatur
- ◆ HSHS Holy Family Hospital  
Greenville
- ◆ HSHS St. John's Hospital  
Springfield
- ◆ HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital  
Highland
- ◆ HSHS St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital  
Effingham



## ST. TERESA HIGH SCHOOL – DECATUR

### Students excel in Scholastic Bowl and helping those in need

This year, both the varsity and junior varsity Scholastic Bowl teams won their level of the conference with a 13-1 record. This is the fifth year in a row that the varsity team has either won the title or shared the title. This year, the team is led by senior Jack Kramer. Jack has had a record-setting season. He beat the current conference season record set in 2015 by more than 32 points. He set the all-time career record by more than 110 points. In addition, Jack was top individual

scorer at the International Tournament at Bradley University in Peoria. The team is looking forward to regionals.

Meanwhile, the St. Teresa High School community helped make the day for dozens of children in Decatur. The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) wrapped over 200 gifts donated by the students, families, and faculty of St. Teresa High School. The gifts were donated to the children in the Webster-Cantrell Youth Academy located in Decatur. Webster-Cantrell's

mission is helping children, youth, and families in troubled circumstances. It is a child welfare agency with 13 programs that provide services in residential settings in addition to community-based programs. St. Teresa has been partnering with Webster-Cantrell for the past several years. This year, each fourth hour classroom adopted a child in the program and bought Christmas gifts, which were then wrapped and distributed. ♦

## MARQUETTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – ALTON

### Building on foundations

By **TIMOTHY HARMON**  
Principal

As human beings we are created for relationship. Unfortunately, the pandemic has greatly affected our ability to be in relationship with one another and even God. At Marquette Catholic High School, we are excited to be together again, in person, for the 2021-2022 school where can once again focus on relationship,

both with each other and God.

It is with faith, hope, and love that this year at Marquette, we have chosen as a Catholic high school to rebuild and strengthen our relationship with God and each other in the most effective way possible, through the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Every Wednesday our gymnasium is transformed into a sanctuary. It is in this sanctuary that God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, encounters the 450+ individuals that

bear the name, "Marquette," thereby strengthening us to grow in relationship with God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Indeed, life has changed. Yet, the one, constant person we always be in relationship with is the Divine Person of Jesus Christ. The Mass, accompanied with personal prayer, is the most effective way to strengthen this relationship. The Mass is the foundation of our Catholic faith, and it's the foundation we are striving to build on at Marquette. ♦

## ST. PATRICK SCHOOL – DECATUR



**DEVELOPING CHARACTER** — St. Patrick School in Decatur celebrates its students who earned the "Respect" award in the month of November. Students are taught the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Then, students who display the pillar of the month are announced and celebrated at an all-school assembly.

# ST. MARY SCHOOL – EDWARDSVILLE

## Catholic education forms Catholic way of life

By **STACY HENKE**  
Principal

Catholic education at St. Mary's School in Edwardsville is a precious gift of time, talent, and treasure. Invest in this gift and it pays back in dividends throughout a lifetime.

Catholic education doesn't just take place in religion class — it is part of our school environment rich in Catholic identity. It is putting God first in our lives. It

means attending school Mass and having teachers share their faith and faith stories with our students. Making faith a priority pays dividends every day of your life.

Being Catholic shapes how our students see and interact within our world. Through their study of Catholic beliefs and practices our students gain in the knowledge to see life through a faith-based lens. Making moral development a priority pays dividends every day of your life.

Catholic education continues where

family faith development leaves off. Every path we take in life has hazards and detours. Hard work and discipline develop habits that enable our students to set and reach goals. Making discipline a priority pays dividends every day of your life.

St. Mary's School encourages students and their families to reach out to others in sharing their faith and vision of Catholic education within our community. Catholic education forms a Catholic way of life. ✠

### BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL – QUINCY



**REMEMBERING FAITHFUL DEPARTED** — Blessed Sacrament students in grades K-8 walked to Woodland Cemetery on All Souls Day to say prayers of remembrance for the faithful departed.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



**ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
675 S. Mill St., Nashville, Illinois, 62263

(618) 327-8741 ♦ Fax: (618) 327-4904 ♦ Website: [school.stannnashville.org](http://school.stannnashville.org)

Now accepting applications for the **remainder of the 2022 school year or July 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.**

Our mission is to educate, prepare, inspire, and foster the teaching of Gospel values and moral formation through the integration of faith and culture to all students allowing them to achieve their full potential as lifelong learners, thinkers, and productive contributors to our global society. St. Ann Catholic School provides academic excellence in Pre-kindergarten through 8th grade.

The position is currently available. *The principal is responsible for the overall operation and management of the school with specific focus on spiritual and curriculum development. The principal must be a visionary leader who can unite our faculty, staff, and parish/school community in collaborating for the greater good of the Catholic church; create an environment that promotes the Catholic faith and moral teachings; develop strategic initiatives to promote growth; manage the financial assets of the school; and cultivate the spiritual and professional growth of faculty and staff through strong management skills.*

Applicants should hold a Master's Degree in Education with Illinois License; experience in elementary school teaching and administration; management and budgetary experience; and familiar with Catholic education. He or she is required to be a faithful, committed Catholic who understands and accepts the teachings and disciplines of the Catholic Church.

**To apply:** Send cover letter, résumé, transcripts, three current letters of recommendation, proof of Illinois Professional Educator's License with General Administrative Endorsement to Diocese of Belleville, Office of Education, 2620 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, Illinois 62221 or email: [OfficeofEducation@diobelle.org](mailto:OfficeofEducation@diobelle.org).

# ST. ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL – EFFINGHAM

**COIN DRIVE** — St. Anthony High School Student Council held a coin drive for Catholic Charities, raising \$3,000. They also hosted the elementary school children at a Halloween carnival. Student Council Members presenting the check to Catholic Charities are (left to right): Rilie Willenborg, Annie Strullmyer, Angelo Mendella, and Alexis Stephens. Also shown are Andrea Rudolphi and Abbi Hatton, with poster, and Annie Strullmyer, with the elementary school children.



# FATHER MCGIVNEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – GLEN CARBON



**IN SERVICE** — At Father McGivney Catholic High School we promote a Culture of Life from the four pillars of the Knights of Columbus: Unity, Charity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Our namesake, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus focused on serving families and communities and our students are encouraged to follow that same path of service. For example, in late November, FMCHS student ambassadors and St. John Neumann eighth-graders joined together to support the Missions International Haiti Rice Project. McGivney students and Faith Formation Director Craig Brummer spent the day completing a variety of cleaning and repair projects at St. Mary of Victories Parish in St. Louis. The parish is aging and greatly appreciated the assistance of our McGivney team in the much-needed deep cleaning of this beautiful and historic church. Shown here is junior Daniel Gierer helping out at St. Mary of Victories Parish.

ST. FRANCIS/HOLY GHOST SCHOOL – JERSEYVILLE

# Three words important to school mission

By DENNIS CRAMSEY  
Principal

Faith. Academics. Service. These three words boldly appear on our new logo proclaiming the focus of our students' mission at St. Francis/Holy Ghost Catholic School, "To graduate students who are prepared spiritually and academically in the 21st century." We provide an environment where faith, love, and service help all children develop a personal relationship with God.

Every day our students engage in activities surrounding faith formation including morning prayers, religion and Catholic enrichment classes, and before and after meal prayers. Our teachers foster an environment imbued with Catholic values and social justice where mutual respect, cooperative spirit and self-motivation are evident for all of God's creation. As a result, our students, faculty, and staff continue to grow their faith through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our academic program cultivates an environment for learning and academic excellence. Our students continue to excel on assessments designed to measure student growth. Our graduates demonstrate academic success at the high school level based on higher-than-average grade point averages. In concert with faith formation, academics remains a high priority at SFHGCS.

The last of the three tenets on our logo is service. Our students continually demonstrate a benevolent heart. Of the many acts of service performed by our students, The St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving food drive and The ThriVe® Project deserve special notice.

Pre-K through eighth-grade students entered a food drive to support a local ministry serving the needy in our community with a goal of 1,500 items. As the food drive progressed toward the final days, it was evident that our students would reach their goal. Amazingly, in the last few days, students and their families poured out their hearts and

pantries as we ended the food drive with nearly 2,200 items that assisted our community this holiday season.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students fulfill their service requirement through participation in the ThriVe® Project. Students are given \$50 as "seed" money to begin their project. Using time and God-given talents students are tasked to make a \$50 startup treasure grow into something bigger. All funds raised will be donated to ThriVe® Metro East, which is a Christ-centered organization that empowers young men and women to make life-affirming, estimable, and healthy decisions. This year, we are partnering with our local Knights of Columbus to help purchase an ultrasound machine for one of the mobile vans.

We believe our students are making a difference to those around them and our community and honoring God through each experience gained at St. Francis/Holy Ghost Catholic School. ☩

## ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL – SIGEL



### GRANDPARENTS DAY

**CELEBRATION** — St. Michael School in Sigel celebrated Grandparents Day in September with an outdoor Mass with their 203 students and more than 300 grandparents. Father Sunder Ery celebrated the Mass on the St. Michael Church grounds.

ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL – EDWARDSVILLE

# Catholic education forms Catholic way of life

By **COOPER WITTEK**  
**Student Council President**  
**Class of 2022**

A kid's job is to grow and learn about all our big, round, beautiful planet has to offer us. Sometimes this task seems exciting and fun, while other times all these things to learn seem daunting. I am so grateful to have spent a large part of my childhood learning these lessons at St Boniface School in Edwardsville.

Just like Earth, St. Boniface School offers such a well-rounded and diverse education. From shape forms and colors, to sight words and math facts, to paragraph composition, anatomy, and civics, St Boniface has fostered a love of learning that leaves

me feeling prepared and ready to tackle even great lessons to come.

Already St Boniface has pushed me beyond our Earth's lessons. Through weekly Masses, time spent learning from our teachers and priests, to witnessing acts of love through the gift of time from the many volunteers composed of alumni, parents, grandparents, and community members, I know there are lessons to learn that stretch well beyond our Earth's atmosphere. Our Catholic faith and lifestyle have been modeled for me by my fellow school families and parish members my whole life.

As I enter my final semester at this wonderful school, I have a sense of gratitude for my education. I also feel

grateful to have been here this year — the year the school grew, maybe as much as the students have! This fall St Boniface had a grand opening of our beautiful Legacy Hall, the Carlos Acutis Media Center, the Father Eckhard Band Room, the St. Catherine Art Room, and St. Albert the Great Science Lab. The additions make learning that much more engaging. The space is as useful as it is welcoming.

Finally, I feel excited — not to leave this place, but to be able to continue my education and to enter my next phase at this home — as an alumni that can serve and teach others here. If you are looking for a fabulous school, St B's is the place to be! ✨

QUINCY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL – QUINCY

# New student leadership opportunities at QND

By **MARK McDOWELL**  
**Principal**

Quincy Notre Dame has adopted the House System beginning with the 2021-2022 school year to build closer community relationships within the school. This student-based leadership program has two student House Captains that help guide 32 student House leaders. Each House is comprised of two House leaders, approximately 25 students in grades 9 through 12, as well as an adult mentor. Four Houses make up one Community. Currently we have four Communities: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

House activities are led by two student House leaders, a junior

and a senior, and focus on team building, faith formation activities, and other group activities.

Senior House Captain Kaitlyn Smith said, "The best part of the House System is being able to learn about the students in my house. I also enjoy growing as a leader and working with schoolmates and staff."

"My favorite part of the House System has been creating the opportunity to make lasting connections with other students," said junior House Captain Isabella Bickhaus.

Prior to implementation at QND, a group of faculty, staff and students visited other high schools who had incorporated the House System. Their

experiences led to the initial momentum for a House System at QND.

"It really has been great to see the House System at QND take off," states QND Faith Formation Director Mike Young. "It is inspiring to see our student House leaders work so diligently to make it a reality."

Ultimately, we believe the House System will:

- build a stronger school community across all grade levels;
- foster leadership skills, expand mentorship, and focus on team building opportunities; and
- spur positive peer pressure, healthy competition and contribute to increased school spirit. ✨

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL – DECATUR

# Elective courses end day on fun note

By **BETH VANDERCAR**  
Principal

The junior high teachers at Holy Family Catholic School in Decatur have developed elective courses that aim to help students in utilizing the skills they attain each day. Therefore, each eighth hour period is devoted to activities that push students to think outside of the box and have fun. In the end, the teachers hope the students will develop skills that are applicable to everyday life.

Mrs. Kim Pena: Students in her junior high elective complete hands-on projects using science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for one quar-

ter. Some recent STEM projects include: making cars out of everyday objects and measuring the distance traveled; creating tall structures out of certain materials that will withstand an earthquake; making a robotic hand out of cardboard, string, and straws to pick up objects; and designing parade balloons.

Mr. Ryle Frey: Students working with him each quarter learn presentation, public speaking, and communication skills using theatre as the conduit. Students leave their comfort zone as they rehearse and memorize lines for shows that are performed in front of younger students. During the

first quarter, the eighth-graders performed a show that placed all of Mother Goose's nursery rhymes under one roof. Previously, the seventh-graders put on a sock puppet show explaining the significance of Christmas.

Mrs. Erin Jerabek: In the Life Skills elective class, students learned about salaries and budgeting money. They also took a career interest survey, then researched and presented their career choice to the class. Finally, they started meal planning and prepared simple recipes to teach the students how to plan and prepare healthy meals. 🍴

## ST. AGNES SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

**LOVING THEIR EDUCATION** — The St. Agnes Student Council officers show the 2022 Catholic Schools Week motto, "Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, Service." St. Agnes School is a great example of how every Catholic school should model faith, excellence, and service. To show faith, the student body goes to church once a week, has Advent prayer services in December, and celebrates the major feast days of the Liturgical Year. As an effort to show excellence, St. Agnes offers students the chance to join clubs such as Scholastic Bowl, Student Council, Code Club, and various sports teams. The students also have a chance to be on the honor roll or merit roll as recognition of good grades. Lastly, as a way to show service, the students are also required to complete service hours quarterly, in the categories of family, community, parish, and school. During the year, classes also participate in service projects for different organizations.



# ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

## Service shines at St. Aloysius

By **DEANN REAVIS**  
Teacher

St. Aloysius is an Ursuline founded school that embraces the Ursuline motto of “*Serviam.*” Conducting service through the pandemic has proved challenging with young children, but it was a challenge the school was ready to embrace.

Our students have continued to be involved in food drives, coat drives, and clothing drives. We also wanted the students to see the first-hand effects of

what their service could do for the community. Therefore, this past Advent season, we took on the challenge of defining our community and finding ways to serve it. Our students discovered that their community was all those around them, from their friends next to them to the larger community of Springfield. They learned that service could be performed in small and large ways.

Our younger students made special Christmas cards for the eighth-grade class and delivered them with warm smiles. Our preschool and

pre-kindergartners made cards for our homebound parishioners. Our fifth-grade class put together “birthday boxes” for Catholic Charities. Our junior high made blankets for the pregnancy care center and our third- and fourth-graders filled the blessings boxes across the street that our wonderful neighbors built for the community to use in this time of need.

Our students have learned that serving others is about the love and care we show them, just as Jesus showed us love and care, in both small and large ways. ✦

# ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS SCHOOL – QUINCY

## Global learning at St. Francis Solanus

By **LORI SHEPARD**  
Principal

My social studies classes partner during the school year with classes around the world through the JDO Foundation. The students work together on collaborative projects and get to meet with their partners in a video call at least once a month using Google Meets. They meet in small groups to talk about their ongoing project, and to discuss other topics like favorite musical groups, extracurricular activities, etc. The topics depend on student interest and ties between our cities or countries:

The sixth-graders are partnered with a school in Dublin, Ireland this year and they discussed Irish immigration

in the 1800s. The students in Ireland researched the causes, and how Irish immigrants left the country. My students looked at the immigrant experience in the United States — their arrival, where they settled, jobs they took, and obstacles (racism, anti-Catholic feelings, poverty) they faced in America.

My seventh-graders are partnered with a school in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and they created a collaborative “choose your adventure” Google Slide. The students were to create an immigrant experience in each other’s city — researching topics like exchanging money, public transportation, where to eat, finding lodging and jobs, etc. My students helped

their partners learn about Quincy, while their partners helped them learn about Rio. We look forward to learning more about the celebration of Carnival in Rio next semester.

My eighth-graders are partnered with a school in Glina, Croatia, and they worked with their partners to compare our Revolutionary War to Croatia’s Homeland War in the 1990s — many of you will remember it as the Balkans War. It was an interesting comparison talking to students whose parents and grandparents helped to fight for their country’s independence.

I love the real-world learning experiences that happen during our international connection! ✦

## ST. MARY SCHOOL – MT. STERLING



**BINGO!** — One of our favorite activities during Catholic Schools Week is all-school Bingo. Once the students get Bingo, they hurry to the office, pick a prize, and return to their classroom to start at new game. The older students help their preschool and kindergarten buddies. It's a blast!

## HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL – GRANITE CITY

# Remembering beloved teacher

By **MARGARET PENNELL**  
Principal

Holy Family Catholic School students in Granite City are dedicated to keeping

the memory of beloved music teacher, Miss Judy Barnum, alive. For more than 25 years, Miss Barnum inspired, loved, and gave our students the gift of music. Fourth-grade teacher, Miss Cindy

Reber, and her students began a project to purchase a bench made of recycled plastic bottle caps to be placed on our campus in Miss Barnum's honor. Enlisting the student body, parish, and community members for their assistance, more than 800 pounds of plastic bottle caps have been collected.

The class, under the direction of Miss Reber, has sorted and cleaned the contributions. Gigantic plastic bags filled with bottle caps line the perimeter of the classroom, have taken up residence in the storage areas of the school, and have invaded the Parish Community Center. Not realizing the magnitude of this undertaking or the commitment of space involved in this project, everyone agrees that it has been worth the effort. Parents, parishioners, retired Holy Family School teachers and friends of Holy Family have spent volunteer hours on weekends and in the evening assisting in our mission.

To culminate this endeavor, the bags of bottle caps will be loaded into trucks and delivered to a recycling company in Indiana. When the recycled bottle cap bench is delivered, an all-school dedication ceremony and prayer service will be held in Miss Barnum's memory.

The angelic choirs of heaven have gained "our angel." We miss you! ✨

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

# Mission club fosters spirit of volunteerism

By **JENNIFER KILLIAN**  
**Director of Development**

“We endeavor to prepare students for commitment to their Catholic faith, responsible citizenship, and future academic success.” At Little Flower School it is not only our goal to strive for academic success, but it is of equal importance to foster a spirit of volunteerism in each of our students. There is no greater place to witness this spirit than in the actions of the LFS Mission Club.

During the past year the Little Flower School Mission Club has had many

chances to help all LFS students put their faith and good works into action, not only in just the Springfield community, but internationally as well. Through various events, such as dress down days and bake sales, the LFS Mission Club has been able to raise funds for our sister school, Our Lady of Nazareth in Nairobi, Kenya and also send a donation with a teacher on a mission trip to Promise Home Orphanage in Honduras.

LFS Mission Club members also lead the school in local projects to help those in need in the Springfield community. The Christmas before

last the club sold over 1,000 candy cane grams to have a special catered Christmas Eve dinner for the Salvation Army Warming Center. Throughout the year they also make blankets and hygiene kits for the Springfield homeless. And finally, the students meet weekly to reflect and pray for the intentions of all those in need.

The LFS Mission Club aims to humbly serve others and truly lives by the words of St. Therese of Lisieux, the patron saint of Little Flower School: “Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.” ✠

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PRESCHOOL – CHATHAM

# St. Joseph the Worker Preschool celebrates 25th year

St. Joseph the Worker Preschool in Chatham is enjoying its 25th year of providing a quality religious educational program for young children. We have a 3-year-old class and a 4/5-year-old class. This year we have been blessed to add a second afternoon 4/5-year-old class. The 3-year-old class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The 4/5-year-old classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. St. Joseph the Worker Preschool strives to help our children develop a positive attitude toward God, others, and learning.

In the summer of 2021, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church was thrilled to welcome our new priest, Father Joe Molloy. Father Joe says, “Our preschool

program is outstanding, providing our young children with a firm faith foundation, as well as enabling them to grow in the talents God has given them. Our teachers share the love of Jesus with them daily, and it is such a privilege of mine to visit and be with our preschoolers each day.” The preschool children have enjoyed Father joining them for prayers, play, and story time.

St. Joseph the Worker Preschool offers a variety of other learning opportunities that help prepare each child for kindergarten. Daily activities include prayer and religion, circle time, learning and exploring centers, gross motor play, and story time. The children explore and learn about letters, shapes, numbers,

and nursery rhymes through engaging lessons and hands-on activities.

Once a month, students journey across the parking lot to the Chatham Area Public Library for reading and other activities with librarians. Each year the teachers and children prepare special programs to celebrate Christmas, Mother’s Day, and graduation. The preschoolers enjoy sharing what they have learned throughout the school year with their family and friends.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please visit, [stjoschatham.org/](http://stjoschatham.org/) Preschool, or contact the parish office at (217) 483-3772 for more information. ✠

ST. PAUL SCHOOL – HIGHLAND

Lifelong learners seek truth, soar with the Spirit

By HEIDI TODORA  
Principal

Here at St. Paul Catholic School all God's children are a valued treasure, and our hope is that one day our students will become future leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. Much has changed over the past several years, but one constant remains: our com-

mitment to God and His will for us. As parents, leaders, and faithful followers of Christ, it is our responsibility to guide our children on a path of holiness and in the pursuit of truth.

Our children are forever searching for new ways to discover and learn something new. At SPS we provide invaluable opportunities for students to expand their knowledge while encouraging

them to explore their passions and strengthen their sense of self. We are living in a society where change and societal pressures are inescapable, which is why it is imperative that we be present and really listen to our children. Truth cultivates strength; therefore, we must always be attentive and guide our children to search for truth in goodness and beauty of all God's creations. ✠

ROUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – JACKSONVILLE

Memorial gift to Routt sparks new service club

BY COLLEEN DOYLE  
Development/Enrollment Director

Here at Routt Catholic High School we stress the importance of giving back to others. We require students to complete no less than 15 hours of community service every year and their families to complete no less than 10 hours of community service every year. We find that many students (and their families) complete far more than the requirement, giving us reason to believe that all of Rocket Nation is "buying in" to the "Enter to Grow... Leave to Serve" mindset that we remind them of every single day.

When Randy Wright passed away in January 2021, his family asked that memorials be made to Routt Catholic High School. In an overwhelming show of support to Randy and his family, we soon received a large sum of gifts. Such a large sum, in fact, that we contacted his wife Margaret ("Marty") for some guidance on how those gifts could be used to best honor the life Randy lived. Considering Randy dedicated so much of his life to serving others, and the fact that their grandson, Carter (a sophomore at Routt) was often performing acts of service due to his commitment to Routt, the family asked — and received — approval for the funds to be

used to start the RCHS Service Club.

The group provides students and parents at least one opportunity every month to give back to Jacksonville and the surrounding area, just as Randy did so often. Although the group is still young, its impact has been felt immediately, having already provided students with the

opportunity to ring bells for Salvation Army, and also to help at the New Directions Warming and Cooling Center. The Wright family and the students/parents who have joined this important ministry have allowed the positive impact of Routt students be felt far and wide. And they are just getting started! ✠

Catholic Grade School Principal

Applications are being accepted for the position of principal for Holy Family Catholic School in Decatur, Illinois. We are seeking a practicing Roman Catholic who is a faith-filled leader committed to promoting Catholic identity, has proven school administrative skills, and is experienced in managing a staff. Candidates must possess or be working towards a master's degree in administration and Illinois certification. Scan the QR codes below for a full job description and application.



Send resume and application to Father Mark Tracy at: [holyfamilychurch1@comcast.net](mailto:holyfamilychurch1@comcast.net)



Job Description



Application

**Holy Family Catholic School**  
2400 South Franklin Street  
Decatur, Illinois, 62521  
(217) 429-7049  
[hfcschool.org](http://hfcschool.org)

# OUR SAVIOUR SCHOOL – JACKSONVILLE

## Putting on armor of God

By **STEVIE VANDEVELDE**  
Principal

As schools continue to battle the pandemic, Our Saviour School is armored in our faith. This year, our theme is “Armor of God,” using the Scripture reading from Psalm 28:7, “The Lord is my strength and my shield.” The OSS Theme Committee incorporated a morning prayer, a photo booth, a theme T-shirt (to be worn on Wednesdays), and a worship song to go along with the theme. The Armor of God is protection we use to shield our words, actions, and feelings from ideas or attitudes that

go against our faith. By putting on the Armor of God, we will be able to stand up to these things and do what is right!

Throughout the year, faculty will educate the students on the various pieces of the Armor of God:

- Belt of truth — Remembering the truth we know about God;
- Breastplate of Righteousness — Protecting our heart by confessing sins we have or saying sorry to God for things we’ve done wrong;
- Sandals of Peace — Going where God would want us to go and needing to be peaceful with others;

- Shield of Faith — Using the shield when bad things come our way like temptations or doubt;
  - Helmet of Salvation — Remembering that we’re God’s children and He loves us and will help us;
  - Sword of the Spirit — Remembering God’s word to tell what is good and bad.
- While prayer is not a particular piece of armor, it holds all our armor together! By talking with God, we can do amazing things. ✨



### A BEACON OF LIGHT pregnancy help center

JOB OPENING

## *Executive Director*

ABL Pregnancy Help Center in Maryville, IL is seeking an Executive Director. The ideal candidate will have a Pro-Life heart and a genuine love and vision for a woman and family experiencing an unexpected pregnancy.

The Executive Director will oversee the daily operations of the center, its programs, and staff in keeping with ABL’s mission and vision as established by the Board of Directors. Experience in management, medical, and/or non-profit fields as well as a bachelor’s degree are preferred but not required.

Position requires at least 20 hours/week.

The leader we seek will have excellent oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills and the ability to be a team leader. Please send a letter of interest, resume and references to [resume@ablpregnancyresource.org](mailto:resume@ablpregnancyresource.org).

[www.ablpregnancyresource.org](http://www.ablpregnancyresource.org)

### Courage, Encourage and Same-Sex Attraction

Courage is the only national, ecclesiastically approved Catholic Ministry to men and women living with same-sex attraction. Our approach is primarily spiritual support for those who wish to live chastely in accordance with the teachings of the Church. Courage is not an orientation change group or therapy. To speak with the priest chaplain who works with Courage, please email:

[courage@dio.org](mailto:courage@dio.org).

Your confidentiality is respected. More information about Courage apostolate can be found at:

<https://couragerc.org/>