



Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.



**Catholic Schools
Week 2023**
January 29–February 4

www.NCEA.org/csw
#CSW23

A LETTER FROM BISHOP PAPROCKI



Shaping minds.



Building disciples.

My dear brothers and sisters and Christ, I am proud to announce that enrollment in our Catholic schools across the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is up again this year. Since the 2020-2021 school year, we have 519 more students in our Catholic schools across the diocese (10,377 total).

This is a testament first to the Catholic identity of our schools. Parents desire a school setting for their children that is centered on God, so we must always keep that as the priority, living proudly and boldly our Catholic faith. It is also a testament to our wonderful teachers who are not only great at teaching various subjects, but who also are examples of what it means to be an authentic disciple of Christ. It is also a testament to the school community as families are welcoming to others, especially new families to the school; the joyous atmosphere inside our classrooms; how the schools rally behind causes that help those in need; among so much more.

As I visit schools across the diocese, what impresses me is seeing our Catholic faith in action. This starts with Mass and receiving the sacraments, especially the holy Eucharist. It includes starting each day and class in prayer. It includes toy drives, food drives, and clothes drives for people in need and going on mission trips to provide material help for the poor and vulnerable. It includes vigorous discussions of the faith in

religion class and praying before and after sporting events. It is these things that set our schools apart and that we must continue to do in a robust way.

We must positively work together on a mission of helping young people live a life of heroic virtue and ultimately become saints. Even if you do not have children or grandchildren in a Catholic school, you can volunteer, financially support the school, and/or pray for our children and teachers. We all play a role in the success of our schools and the faith journey of each of our students.

I thank our superintendent, principals, teachers, staff, students, parents, and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to Catholic education. Your witness is a shining example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ and a witness of hope.

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. 29-Feb. 4.

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

† Thomas John Paprocki

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL – EDWARDSVILLE

Student sings praises of her Catholic school

By HARPER DETTMERS
Student Council President

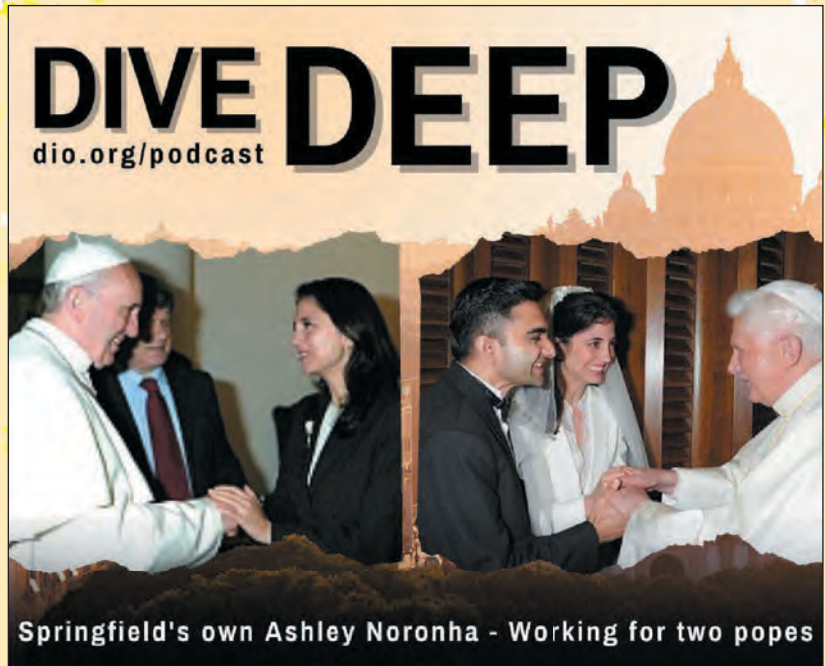
My name is Harper Dettmers and I am the president of Student Council. I have been attending St. Boniface Catholic School for nine years. The parents, staff members, priests, and students really do make St. Boniface a home for all. Over the years, they have also filled this school with vivid memories and fantastic achievements.

This year, students are asked to be “called to the table” – our theme this year. Since Catholic Schools Week is around the corner, I would like to share all of these memories and accomplishments this school has constructed that follow our motto. First, I would like to mention that we are involved in a program called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). MAP tracks the progress of students and teaches teachers what the majority of their students need to work on. There is also, however, an overall score for schools. Our school’s scores were above national and diocesan average. This was a huge achievement.

St. Boniface also has added communities. Communities are when groups of students from different grades join together to do fun, team building activities. We have eight different communities that are named after saints and are associated with different colors. Once a month, each community takes

time to do community service, fun projects, or other activities. The Student Council has also improved so much. We are finding fun and beneficial ways to support our school and community. In fact, we just recently did a food drive and bought presents for kids who weren’t going to have Christmas.

My principal, teachers, fellow students, and friends are thrilled about these achievements and can’t wait for many more to come. ✨



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. AMBROSE SCHOOL – GODFREY



CHARACTER COUNTS — New this year at St. Ambrose Catholic School in Godfrey is the Character Counts Program. This program emphasizes character traits or six pillars of character, including respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, caring, fairness, and citizenship. We have also added a seventh trait that ties them all together, integrity. All year long we emphasize these different character traits and students attend class weekly to complete lessons that help expand on these ideas. At a monthly assembly students and staff are recognized for displaying these characteristics and a guest speaker talks to the students about the importance of the month's focus. In this photo, Timothy Harmon, Marquette Catholic High School principal and Jerseyville volunteer fireman, talks to the students about responsibility and with the help of a St. Ambrose student, provides a demonstration of fireman's equipment.

QUINCY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL – QUINCY

Introduction to computer coding

By **MARK MCDOWELL**
Principal

Quincy Notre Dame was excited to partner with Google software engineer Mark Schmidt who spearheaded an opportunity to offer computer coding during the fall semester as part of our Freshman Seminar course. Schmidt, who is married to 2013 QND graduate Jamie (Ehrhart) Schmidt, led the four-week exercise for QND students, using various Python programming projects.

QND students started with a few simple programs to learn basic concepts, then moved on to a series of fun projects, including a calculator, a clone of the popular *Wordle* game, and a virtual assistant that collects content from the internet.

"I hope that this course gives the students a better appreciation and understanding of the

technology that makes up such a large part of our world," said Schmidt. "My goal is to guide students through that initial learning curve so they can create projects that bring them joy."

This initiative was designed to give students a foundation in software engineering and provide them with an experience that may spark a potential career opportunity.

St. John School, Carrollton • 2023 Daily Drawing

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

A Winner Every Day!

ST. MARY SCHOOL – BRUSSELS

DANCE FOR SERVICE PROJECT — The St. Mary School eighth grade hosted a fall dance on Oct. 7, 2022 as a class service project. This dance was conducted to collect toys and raise money to be donated to the Calhoun Angel Tree. The students' creativity and artistic talents were seen in their "Neon Lights" themed decorations. Students painted cut-outs and used black lights for the photo backdrop. The dance was a success, thanks to everyone's help. The class raised a total of \$409 and a cart full of toys.



ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL – GRANITE CITY



BUILDING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST — St. Elizabeth School is building disciples of Christ. The sixth-graders helped decorate the giving tree in the church. The giving tree had tags from over 500 children in our local public school. As a school our students collected personal care items along with crayons and coloring books. Our parish and our school worked to provide hope to those in need during the holiday season.

ST. PETER SCHOOL – QUINCY

LEARNING ABOUT MASS — As part of the emphasis on our Catholic identity this school year Msgr. Leo Enlow, pastor, (known to his parishioners and the school children as Father Leo) is celebrating a special Mass with each grade level in grades 4-8. During the scheduled Mass, Msgr. Enlow will teach the students about Catholic traditions, explain the reasoning behind parts of the Mass, and the significance of what is happening or why we do this as part of our Catholic faith. Teachers are preparing the students with various components of the Mass prior to the scheduled Mass during their religion classes. Shown with Msgr. Enlow is Father Zach Samples, parochial vicar at St. Peter Parish, and some of the school children.



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

FAITH, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY — With their hearts in it, St. Patrick School students in Springfield celebrate faith, education, and community in a sweet photo that shows their true joy.



Project Rachel
Post Abortive Healing

Divine Mercy

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CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS — During the 2022-23 school year, students at Christ the King School are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Christ the King Church.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL – EFFINGHAM



LEARNING ABOUT FAMILY LIFE — Father Michael Berndt, parochial vicar at St. Anthony of Padua St. Anthony Grade School, provides instruction on his weekly visit to the junior high Family Life Character Education Class.

CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

Highlighting HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital



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So you can focus on what matters most.

Giggles fill the air as eyes widen in wonder. In a blink, he'll be grown, and you don't want to miss a minute. We'll be with you at every stage with expert care so that you can focus on what matters most, savoring memorable moments.

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



BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL – QUINCY



GOOD BUDDIES — Blessed Sacrament students are matched up at the beginning of the year as buddies! An older student is paired with a younger student, then once a month they gather to complete a service activity together. Activities range from service projects out in the community to making cards for nursing home residents or completing something in our school neighborhood. In November, they shared a “blessing mix” snack while writing letters to their grandparents and other special adults telling them why they are thankful to have them in their life. Here, buddies Cheney Flesch, kindergarten, and Sofie Hale, fifth grade, compose their letters together.

ST. JOHN NEUMANN SCHOOL – MARYVILLE



CHANGING THE WORLD WITH KINDNESS — This little boy and girl are learning the value of kindness and friendship at St. John Neumann School.

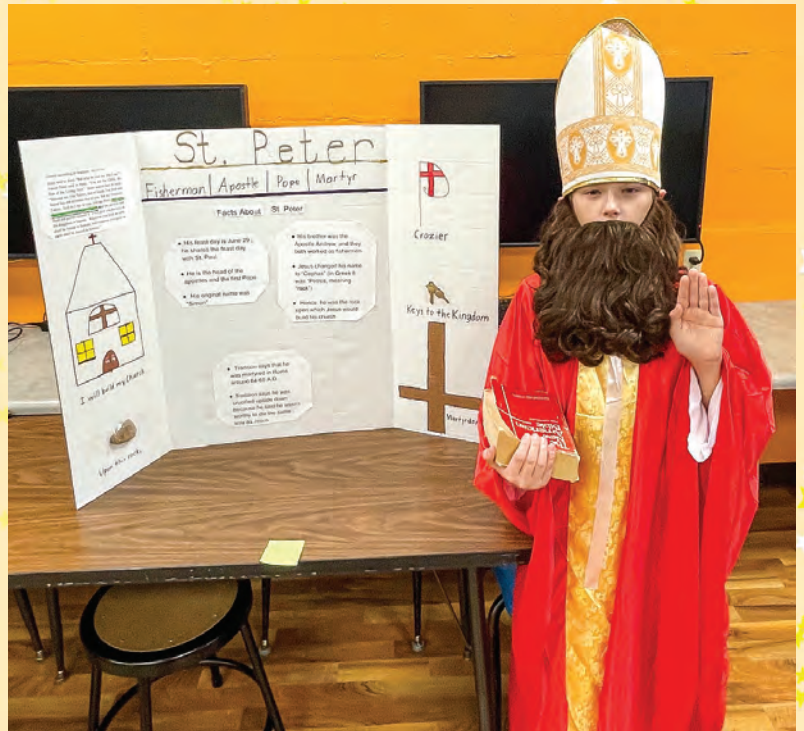
ST. LOUIS SCHOOL – NOKOMIS

ALL-SCHOOL ROSARY — The seventh- and eighth-grade students at St. Louis Catholic School in Nokomis lead an all-school rosary each month. The junior high students carefully consider intentions for each month’s rosary. All students have a part in this powerful prayer while guiding the younger students to learn how to say the rosary. Here, eighth-grader Mackenzie Mehochko is reciting her part of the rosary.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL – DECATUR

LIVING MUSEUM OF SAINTS — Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School students in grades 6, 7, and 8 presented a *Living Museum of Saints* on All Saints Day. This project was assigned and organized by Erinn Sweeley in religion class. Students dressed as their saint, and answered questions. Elementary students, staff members, families, and parishioners attended. It was a fabulous event full of learning and fellowship. We love having visitors in the building again!



THE LEGION OF MARY (Springfield, IL)

Founded in 1921, the Legion of Mary is a world-wide organization of Catholics who offer their service - in union with Mary, Mother of the Church - for the spiritual welfare of souls. Join the Legion and see how Our Blessed Mother will enrich your spiritual life. **MARY'S LEGION NEEDS YOU!**

Come pray at any Legion meeting or for more information, call one of the contact people listed below:

Christ the King Parish
Meets Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
Mary Jo Lobmaster (217) 698-4322

St. Katharine Drexel Parish
(English Group)
Meets Mondays at 9:00 a.m.
Rosemary Oldridge (217) 529-9416

St. Frances Cabrini Parish
Meets Mondays at 8:45 a.m.
Patricia Wright (217) 415-4928

St. Aloysius Parish
Meets Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.
Mary Ann Patrick (217) 498-8152

St. Katharine Drexel Parish
(Spanish Group)
Meets Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
Norma Cardenas (217) 364-4077

St. Patrick Parish, Decatur
Meets Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m.
Jan Mudd (217) 864-5275



ST. ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL – EFFINGHAM

Small faith groups growing in popularity

By GREG FEARDAY
Principal

In 2020, a young men’s small group started at St. Anthony High School. Two years later, the group is still meeting, led by SAHS teacher Tony Kreke and St. Anthony parish missionary Jeremy Nice. “Our group name is Iron Sharpens Iron. This represents how each person in the group keeps each other going and keeps everyone accountable. We all push each other to do better and to strengthen our faith. Overall, the group has helped us all grow closer to God and stand up for our faith,” states one of the junior guys

in the group.

Since then, young women’s groups have formed and are led by campus ministry coordinator Amy Blanchette and teacher, Ashley Jansen. They have started The Backpack Program, helping students learn how to view themselves positively as a spiritual person with choices. It is accomplished by looking at their relationships with themselves, others, and with God. “I do not judge myself as often as I used to, and when I catch myself, I realize that I have unrealistic expectations for myself that I would not have for others. I am a happier person,” says a freshman girl in the

program. “It’s a safe space where I can express myself without the fear of judgment, and I find out that others are feeling the same way,” says a junior girl.

Small groups have the potential to be more than just another program. Small groups create an environment where students can experience authentic community and encounter the person of Jesus Christ. The small group program at SAHS creates the opportunity to not only share content but to also share life. Currently, there are six different groups meeting weekly during lunch consisting of 20 young women and about 25 young men.

ST. PAUL SCHOOL – HIGHLAND



HOUSE DAYS — St. Paul Catholic School students join their community of friends in the school’s newly formed “House System.” A mix of students from each grade level meet in their “houses” as part of a Christ-centered experience where students grow in wisdom, courage, and character. Students meet with their communities for House Days multiple times during the school year to build lasting bonds through connecting with other students and teachers within the school.

FATHER MCGIVNEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – GLEN CARBON

MISSION TRIP — Last July, a group of 62 students and chaperones traveled from Father McGivney Catholic High School to the city of Laplace, La., for a weeklong opportunity to work with families impacted by the recent hurricanes. The students were teamed up in groups, paired with a chaperone, and assigned to repair one of six homes. The teams completed projects ranging from ceiling and floor repair to building a 120-foot backyard fence. After morning Mass and breakfast, they headed out each morning for the day. Each evening, the mission leaders provided an opportunity for prayer, group reflection on the day's experiences and the way the Lord was present to the group. On the last day, the group split in half to spend the morning in New Orleans or on a pontoon boat touring a bayou full of alligators. Both on the way down and the way back, the group was hosted by St. Benedict High School at Auburndale, just outside of Memphis.



Sacred Is the Call

A Taizé Prayer
in celebration of
Consecrated Religious Life

7 p.m. Thursday, February 2
Sacred Heart Chapel
1237 W. Monroe Street, Springfield

Facility is fully accessible and has free off-street parking. Join in person or online. For more information call 217-787-0481 or visit: springfieldop.org/150years.



DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Celebrating 150 Years For the Life of the World

ST. MARY SCHOOL – ALTON



SHARING GIFTS — The students of St. Mary School in Alton hold some of the Christmas bags that the school filled for homebound parishioners. The school collected items for several charities during Advent.

ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS SCHOOL – QUINCY

Focusing on growing in our faith

By **JULIE RADEL**
Principal

St. Francis Solanus School has focused on increasing the awareness and practice of our Catholic faith. During the opening of our school day, we have prayed different prayers. Some months we have themes of prayers. For example, in October, we said prayers of the Blessed Mother. A statue of St. Francis of Assisi was refurbished and placed in our school. Two wall rosaries and a picture of Jesus were hung in our school. Earlier this fall we trained many new altar servers. In November, we began student and staff eucharistic adoration after weekly school Mass. The staff is participating in faith formation in explaining and defending the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Every classroom has a set of rosaries and Bibles for students to use.

Each month our school has a Spirit Day. We wear our school Alex's Wish T-shirts, supported by the family of Alex Kemner, and students make a monetary donation toward a charitable cause. A different grade level selects the cause each month. For example, eighth grade chose to have us donate to the National Pediatric Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

In December, we planned a joint service project with our PSR. Families came together to create handmade Christmas cards for members of our parish in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. There were three items sent home to school families during Advent: a prayer card, a table tent, and a paper Nativity set. Jesse trees and Nativity scenes were part

of classroom decorations during Advent. Our Catholic faith is the center of our mission as we develop and form future leaders of our Church. ✨

St. Jude Thaddeus Novena

May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever, Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude Thaddeus, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day, on the ninth day your prayers will be answered. Publication must be promised. B.H.

Thank you, Jesus and St. Jude Thaddeus, for prayers answered.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD



BAND PROGRAM GROWING — The Blessed Sacrament School band, led by B.S.S. music teacher Jenny Triphahn, performed a Christmas concert at the school in December. The band program, in its third year, continues to grow. The school has both a beginner and an intermediate band, with students from fifth to eighth grade participating. We look forward to the continued progress of our musicians, many of whom will be back on stage in the Blessed Sacrament junior high musical this spring.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL – NEWTON



PENNY WAR — The St. Thomas Saints raised over \$1,800 for the Jasper County Ministerial Association to put together food baskets for families in Newton. Their Penny War was won by the seventh-grade class for the second year in a row. They are pictured presenting the check to Dr. Steve Willis of the First Baptist Church.

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HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL – DECATUR

BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY — On Dec. 9, the entire student body at Holy Family Catholic School worked together to host a Balloons Over Broadway event. The junior high STREAM students created paper mâché balloons to look like the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons, the eighth-graders drew scale drawings of famous buildings in New York, seventh-graders designed and created their own cathedral out of cardboard, the third- through fifth-graders worked together to recreate the New York City skyline, students in grades K-2 were assisted by their “buddies” in grades 6-8 to create their own balloons, and the PK classes kicked off the event with a few songs. It was a great collaborative event for our school!



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SCHOOL – SIGEL

A bright future for St. Michael the Archangel School

In its 155th year, St. Michael the Archangel School in Sigel continues to break barriers in enrollment and staff. In the past 10 years, SMS has worked tirelessly to show the benefits that come from a Catholic education in a small, close-knit community. And in that time, the school’s enrollment has nearly doubled. The surrounding areas near this rural town have been seeking a challenging academic, yet family-like environment and have been pleased to have found that within St. Michael School. Aside from the town of Sigel and its countryside perimeter population, SMS has gained students from other rural areas such as Lillyville, Greencreek, Neoga, and even Teutopolis. Many believe this is in large part of having been a part of the joining of their respective churches and becoming The Four Parishes. By making these small rural parishes a cohesive unit, that shared 1-2 priests at any given time, it made these rural communi-

ties feel like one big family.

Andrew and Jody Deters, who are from the Greencreek area of Effingham, currently have three of their four children enrolled at SMS. Andrew, an alumni, and Jody, a graduate of a nearby public school, said the decision was easy when deciding which school to choose for their family. “We ultimately chose St. Michael School for our four children due to the considerable changes in public education. We were drawn in by the smaller class sizes, seeing that God was at the center of all aspects of their daily education, and the ability to be so involved in that education through volunteer opportunities within the school. The open-door policies within each staff member and administrator make the school a welcoming experience for both students and parents.”

This school year, the parochial school embarked on a new endeavor with hiring for a second

section of kindergarten — the first time in the school’s history. With 35 students in this year’s kindergarten class, the school knew the time had come to prepare a new room and a new teacher for their growing school. Now in PreK-8th grade, SMS has 11 certified teachers, two teacher’s aides, and several support staff members employed at the school — a record number.

As the student enrollment continues to grow, St. Michael School looks to the future with hope and pride as they set forth to embark on perhaps their biggest endeavor, yet — building a new school. As the oldest portion of their school looks to turn 100 years old in the next few years, the parish has formed a committee who has put countless hours into preparing a school for this growing community of faith. With effort, determination, donations and prayers, the school family of SMS hopes to make this dream a reality in the near future. ✨

ST. MARY SCHOOL – EDWARDSVILLE



SERVICE SAINTS — Students from St. Mary's School, Edwardsville created "Saint Communities" (grades K-8) to foster growth in faith, service, and fun. Our first service project was raking leaves on campus. We raked more than 100 bags of leaves and had a great time doing it! "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:11).

ST. AGNES SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

St. Agnes students answer the call to serve others

By **RACHEL CUNNINGHAM**
Principal

This school year, St. Agnes students have focused on answering the call to serve others. The students have concentrated on two significant service projects, supporting the Catholic Charities food drive and Folds of Honor.

When responding to the call for assistance from Catholic Charities, students rallied together collecting over 6,000 pounds of provisions for this annual food drive. This highly organized effort led to students walking into school every day with bags filled with groceries and pack-

ing the hallways. This effort continues a longstanding tradition of serving those in need, as St. Agnes has contributed the most food for this annual food drive competition for the fifth year in a row.

St. Agnes students answered a new call for aid this year, raising over \$2,600 for Folds of Honor, a nonprofit organization that provides educational scholarships to spouses and children of military members who have fallen or been disabled while serving in the United States Armed Forces. St. Agnes' efforts will assist one student with a half-year scholarship at a private

school, such as St. Agnes. During this charitable action, St. Agnes students walked and talked with local veterans. They purchased event shirts, baked cookies, participated in a dress-down day, and competed by running as fast as possible toward a radar, or speed trailer, all with the goal of helping other students acquire an education.

In the end, through answering the call to serve others, St. Agnes students comprehend how a little act of kindness combined with other acts of kindness can make a significant impact in this world. ✨

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE SCHOOL – BETHALTO



FUN WITH A MISSION — One way we achieve our mission of serving others here at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School is with our annual Fall Mission Carnival. The carnival starts off with a parade around the block with students showing off their Halloween costumes, and then the carnival games begin. Every class organizes a booth. Students buy tickets for 25 cents with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the Holy Childhood Association. Students are then able to visit from booth to booth while parent volunteers run the games and the concession stand. This great tradition is a great way the OLQP school community comes together and helps people in need. This year our school raised about \$700 to help support the efforts of the missions. Here Steve Menke, principal, visits the hair spray booth.

ST. FRANCIS/HOLY GHOST SCHOOL – JERSEYVILLE

Eighth-graders create veterans map project

By REESE CROTCHETT
Eighth-grade Student

This year, eighth-graders at St. Francis/Holy Ghost Catholic School traveled to St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Jerseyville to place flags on the graves of veterans. While there, the students found they would not have enough flags and ran short after completing a couple of rows. They quickly realized they needed to find a way to remember all of the veterans for their service and sacrifice. This inspired them to develop a digital map and website of the resting places of our veterans in this cemetery.

Based on a model project completed by local Eagle Scout Daniel Schaaf, eighth grade students collected coordinates and any information they could find about the veterans to populate the map. St. Francis student Emma Edwards explains, "Creating this map will help people find veteran gravesites without difficulty — just pull up the map. This project has helped us build a bridge

to the past. We have learned about our veterans and connected to our own history. We have also grown in gratitude and respect for their sacrifice. We hope it will help our parishes remember and honor our veterans."

St. Francis student Charlie Maag also mentions, "The map is a first

draft, based on information available at the cemetery. We really need parishioners who know veterans interred in the cemetery to review the list and provide missing information to complete the current map."

Parishioners may find more about the project and how to help at <https://sfhg.org/>.



Paid Internship

The **Office for Pro-Life Activities and Special Ministries** is offering a paid internship. The intern will complete tasks promoting social justice, working on behalf of the marginalized, developing relationships with community leaders and practicing Catholic social teaching. The internship starts September 2023 with an hourly rate of \$16 per hour. Catholics with good writing abilities, able to drive, and who have an interest in Catholic social justice are encouraged to apply.

Visit <https://dio.org/office-for-pro-life-activities-and-special-ministries/> to download the application. Application and resume must be submitted by Feb. 28.

Contact Donna Moore with any questions: dmoore@dio.org, (217) 321-1161.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL – EFFINGHAM



DIVINE MERCY — Father Michal Rosa, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Effingham, joined first-grader, James Albert, of Sacred Heart School, and some parishioners, in recording the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* for Covenant Radio Network. You can hear them on Mondays and Thursdays on Covenant Network stations in the Springfield diocese at 3 p.m. If you're in Effingham, you can also come to the church to pray the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* (3:15 p.m. Monday-Friday and 3 p.m. on Saturday).

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

School appreciates parent support at Little Flower

By **WILLIAM MOREDOCK**
Principal

One of the foundational elements of a great Catholic school is parent support. At Little Flower School we are blessed and grateful to have many parents (and grandparents) that contribute in a myriad of ways to our academic and social community.

It was not so long ago that parents had a less active role at Little Flower due to the restrictions and lack of access caused by COVID-19. During that time parents were not able to volunteer to help in our cafeteria and on our playground. Parents could not be drivers on field trips because there were no field trips. Parents could not help with our Men's Club Fish

Fry's because they were carry-out only. Parents could not attend our Christmas program because we did not have one.

Despite the hardships brought on by the pandemic restrictions, our parents found ways to sustain their support of Little Flower. Many parents were teachers during remote learning. Many parents communicated with our teachers frequently regarding the progress of their students. The Friday before Easter of 2020 we informed our parents that Father Allen Kemme would conduct an *Easter Blessing* in our school parking lot for any parent and student that would like to attend. Remember, that during that time we were not allowed to be in church or school. We did not know

what to expect in terms of numbers. Our parking lot was packed! Parents arrived early and stayed late. Our teachers so appreciated all the parents showing up in a sign of solidarity and unity among family, church, and school.

Thank God things have returned to a more normal situation so that our LFS parents can be more visible in our school and at our events. We will never take for granted their contribution to our mission of educating this generation of students in our Catholic school. That is exactly what Catholic education is all about — a partnership between home and school. ✨

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD

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STUDENTS, AND PASTORS:
SUBMIT A NARRATIVE OF THE
TEACHER YOU WISH TO NOMINATE
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ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD

ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED TO
THE DIOCESE AT

www.dio.org/schools/eas

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE TO THE DIOCESE BY MARCH 5TH
WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN THE SPRING



Pictured is 2022 winner, Maureen Tepen, from St. Mary Catholic School in Brussels with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL – GRANITE CITY

LOVE, FAMILY, AND KINDNESS
 — Throughout the school year, Holy Family Catholic School students and families come together to help our community, and neighboring cities, to give back for all the wonderful blessings we have in our lives. We give our hands to work and our hearts to God.



ROUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – JACKSONVILLE

2023 Illinois State Scholars



Isaac Anderson



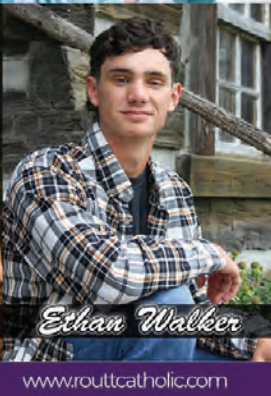
Daxton Baptist



Julia Beeley



Lilly Geirnaeirt



Ethan Walker

217-243-8563

#WeAreRouttCatholic

www.routtcatholic.com

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS — Routt Catholic High School is proud to announce that five members of their senior class have been named Illinois State Scholars. These high-achieving students have been selected based on their ACT and SAT scores, class rank, and exceptional academic achievement. They rank in approximately the top 10 percent of graduates from Illinois high schools. Even more exciting, this honor has now been earned by 20 percent of Routt Catholic seniors over the last two years, with seven honorees from the RCHS Class of 2022 and five honorees from the RCHS Class of 2023. Congratulations to Isaac Anderson, Daxton Baptist, Julia Beeley, Lilly Geirnaeirt, and Ethan Walker!

ST. NORBERT SCHOOL – HARDIN



HELPING FOOD PANTRY — St. Norbert School grades 6-8 regularly help unload food at the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in Hardin. Here they are recently, presenting the pantry with a donation of \$300 raised at their annual holiday gift shop.

MARQUETTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – ALTON

MASS IN GYM — Marquette Catholic High School was very fortunate on Thursday, Dec. 8 to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Mass in the Marquette gymnasium. Furthermore, we were also very pleased to be able to celebrate Father Paul Kallal's birthday on Dec. 8 as well! Pictured distributing Communion to the Marquette Catholic students are Father Kallal and Theology Department Head Paula Mattix-Wand.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL – PANA

Coming together to create lasting memories

By **DEB ZUECK**
Principal

Sacred Heart School in Pana is excited to be celebrating another Catholic Schools Week. Students, teachers, and parents look forward to this week every year. Our attendance may be small, but we are a large family who prides itself on educating our children in the Catholic faith.

This school year has been filled

with activities where students, staff, and families have come together creating lasting memories that help create our well-rounded students. The year began with the 2022 Sacred Heart School auction. It was successful and everyone enjoyed listening to the talents of Lake and Lyndale afterwards. Grandparents Day Bingo and Holiday Music Bingo offered families the opportunity to come together as

a school and create fun memories.

Along with fun events, the students have been busy in class learning, and giving back to the community. The third- and sixth-grade classes worked together to create 25 blankets to donate to the Pana Mission and Quad County Hospice this winter. Our teachers do an outstanding job of educating the students about Christmas and a season of giving. 🙏

ST. MARY SCHOOL – MT. STERLING



MIRACULOUS MEDALS — All students in Hannah Heldt's third/fourth-grade classroom receive Miraculous Medals. The students wear them and share them with their families. One student prayed the commission and presented her family with the medals. During Lent last year, each student gave a Miraculous Medal to an adult in the school and asked the adult to be his/her prayer buddy. Many students still wear their Miraculous Medals daily.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL – CARROLLTON



HONORING VETERANS — The students of St. John the Evangelist School honor the veterans of the community by hosting a parade on Veterans Day. The students stand on the sidewalks around the school block and cheer on the veterans as they drive by in their vehicles led by a police escort. This is just one example of the ways the students practice the virtue of patriotism throughout the school year.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PRESCHOOL – CHATHAM

St. Joseph the Worker Preschool continues to flourish

St. Joseph the Worker Preschool in Chatham is enjoying its 26th year of providing a quality religious educational program for our young children in and around the Chatham area. We have a 3-year-old class and a 4/5-year-old class. St. Joseph the Worker Preschool strives to help our children develop a positive attitude toward God, others, and learning. The children look forward to a daily visit from Father Joe Molloy, who joins 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 our students journey across the parking lot to the

Chatham Area Public Library for reading with our 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.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please visit our website, www.stjoschatham.org/Preschool, or contact the parish office at (217) 483-3772 for more information.

ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD

HOLY BIRTH REDEEMED WORLD — This year, the students at St. Aloysius prepared for the birth of Jesus by participating in the *Stations of the Nativity*. During Lent, students recount how the death of Christ saved the world from sin and death through the *Stations of the Cross*. The *Stations of the Nativity* retell the story of Christ's birth and reflect on how His birth also saved us from sin and death. Each grade worked to create an artistic representation of a Nativity station while learning the story of the Nativity. Our eighth-grade students led groups of younger students throughout the school, stopping at each station for prayer and reflection. To encourage deeper understanding, students were also invited to dress as someone from the Nativity.



ST. MARY SCHOOL – TAYLORVILLE



HONORING VETERANS — St. Mary School in Taylorville honored veterans during an all-school assembly on Nov. 7. The Honor Guard from VFW #4495 led a flag raising ceremony, then the entire assembly recited the *Pledge of Allegiance* together. Principal Joanne Coady offered a special prayer for all veterans followed by a reception. The students then read a portion of their essays. The essays had been submitted to the Patriots Pen contest, sponsored by the VFW. The students then had the opportunity to interview the veterans in attendance. For a follow-up activity, the sixth-graders learned how to write a newspaper article based on the information they gathered from the veterans. In this photo, Macyn Brotherton interviews veteran Chuck Schneider for the school project.

ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL – QUINCY

Works of mercy in action

By EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS

This year our theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Works of Mercy in Action." Our eighth-grade class is leading the school in prayer during Catholic Schools Week. We will have a day dedicated to praying for the living and the dead and vocations.

We enjoy Jesus' presence in the Eucharist during adoration in our classroom. Marie Eversman says, "I love being able to pray and know that He Himself is right there in front of me listening to everything and anything I have to say." Lakin

Allensworth says, "Adoration has changed me in many ways. I have grown closer to God, and being able to talk to Him has helped me trust Him more. I am also so thankful for being able to go to St. Dominic because I have the opportunity to have adoration." Dominik Desvaux says, "Having Jesus with us in the room with all the lights off and nothing to produce light other than candles around the Eucharist paints this image of Jesus being the light of the world, shining through all the darkness." Adelia Untiedt says,

"Adoration gives me a sense of relief and just makes me feel closer to God. It's honestly one of the best feelings I've ever felt." Abby Reichert says, "Before I had ever done adoration I was scared and thought it would be boring — but it wasn't. In my opinion, it is very comforting and I am interested in it. I am glad we do it quite often in my class, and I hope to continue it."

Our class is looking forward to teaching our younger students to pray with Jesus this way during Catholic Schools Week! 🙏

SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN HIGH SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD



SPECIAL EVENT — On Dec. 10, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School hosted a Christmas event, Season's Holiday Greetings, at SHG. The event was free and open to all members of the Springfield community.

ST. TERESA HIGH SCHOOL – DECATUR

Community service: Operation Warm Fuzzy

The community service team of St. Teresa High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization decided to participate in Operation Warm Fuzzy. Operation Warm Fuzzy is a non-profit organization that was started by one of our teachers as a class project at Millikin University. The group realized that hospitals, police, fire, and other similar groups see people at some of their worst times. The founders of the non-profit wanted to make those times a little easier by supplying teddy bears (a warm fuzzy) and other items to children and fami-

lies in need.

St. Teresa's FBLA has sold hot chocolate at football playoff games, sweets during lunch, and candy canes at Christmas. All of this was done in an effort to reach our goal of 50 teddy bears. Currently, we have raised enough to purchase 30 teddy bears. In addition to the teddy bears, Operation Warm Fuzzy supplies other toys and diapers to hospitals or other groups in need.

Recently, the community service team, headed by senior Henry Reising, made a trip to Operation Warm Fuzzy's storage facilities.

The team spent a few hours separating all the current inventory into age groups. The team will be returning to finish the inventory of the items. Other goals for the project are to develop a better website, develop coloring books based on themes, and to bring better awareness to this little local charity in Central Illinois.

St. Teresa's FBLA hopes to bring a little joy in the lives of others in our community. If you would like to help us reach our goal, please contact Sandra Bronson at St. Teresa High School.

OUR SAVIOUR SCHOOL – JACKSONVILLE



GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY — Starting our day in prayer helps keep us rooted in His love. Our Saviour School is celebrating 150 years this year with our school theme of “Rooted in Faith — Growing in Love.”

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL – DECATUR

STREAM CARNIVAL — In October, St. Patrick School in Decatur hosted a Fall STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) Carnival. Students and families gathered to play games, enjoy carnival-style food, and solve various STREAM projects. Here’s just one scene from that fun day.



SS. PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL – COLLINSVILLE



GOOD BUDDIES — Preschoolers at Ss. Peter and Paul School in Collinsville love spending time with their eighth-grade buddies to build loving relationships and learn from their example. The schools seek to build connections rooted in Christ throughout their school, particularly in ways that may not happen otherwise. This teaches the students the value of our diversity of life, culture, and experience. Though many diverse parts, we are one body in Christ!