



# THE CRUSADER

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

JMJ

FALL 2021

[WWW.HOLYNAMECRUSADERS.COM](http://WWW.HOLYNAMECRUSADERS.COM)



**Very Rev. Tim Ferguson**  
Pastor  
St. Joseph & St. Patrick Parish

Dear Holy Name Alumni,

I've been reflecting on my experience as a Catholic school student. Although I didn't have the pleasure of being a Holy Name student, I have been a Catholic school student most of my life. Kindergarten in a public school (it wasn't available at the Catholic schools yet), and then 11 years at Ss. Peter and Paul in Saginaw, 1 year at Nouvel Catholic Central (I was part of the first graduating class there), 4 years at the College of St. Thomas, 2 years at Mundelein Seminary, 2 years at St. Paul University in Ottawa studying canon law, 5 years at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit studying theology, and 2 years at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. The two consistent things in all my Catholic education have been: taking the student seriously as an individual and presenting Jesus Christ to me as an individual. That one-on-one relationship, between Christ and the student, which Bishop Baraga spoke of in his motto as the one necessary thing, ends up building the strongest community. It's strange how an emphasis on our individuality ends up binding us together, but in Christ, that's precisely what happens. It takes time, and it takes patient, loving teachers – the sort we are blessed to have at Holy Name – but the effort to get to know the individual student, to embrace each one's unicity, and to lead each one toward a loving relationship with Jesus Christ is worth the effort. As we embark on this exciting new era for Holy Name, I am honored to be a part of this adventure: a Catholic school that does what Catholic schools do best, building a strong community by building strong relationships with Jesus Christ.

## Helen Sackerson passes away at age 92. She and her brother Ed were longtime supporters of Holy Name Catholic School.

By Victoria R. LaFave

ESCANABA – Holy Name Catholic School recently lost a friend and longtime supporter of the school, Helen Sackerson. She was humble, quiet and she saw to it that her family's foundation, The Edward J. Sackerson Charitable Foundation, continued to support Holy Name.

### Sackerson Foundation helps those in need

Helen Sackerson passed away on June 3 at age 92, having served as a trustee on the Foundation that was established by her brother Edward in 1997. Paul Kangas, who was a friend of Ed's and a trustee since the foundation's beginnings, (along with Edward and Helen), said that according to Edward's wishes, the foundation's assets are to be used primarily for Catholic religious institutions and also any other tax-exempt organizations in the Escanaba or Delta County areas and/or Upper Peninsula.

Edward, a World War II veteran, who worked in the accounting department at Mead Paper Corporation (now Verso Corporation), passed away on March 25, 2000 at the age of 78. Helen worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Company for 35 years until her retirement in 1981.



**Helen Sackerson**



**Ed Sackerson**



**Helen with her dog**

Paul remembers Ed and Helen as quiet, and very giving.

"Ed and Helen wanted to give to charities and organizations that would be ongoing," Paul explained. "Ed established the foundation with the idea of providing to those who needed financial help. He wanted the foundation to continue giving to people in need in Delta County for years to come."

The Sackerson Foundation gave to charities like the Delta County Cancer Alliance, Community Action Agency's Walk for Warmth, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Youth Assistance Program, Bay Cliff Health Camp, the Delta Animal Shelter, and Holy Name Catholic School, to name a few.

Over the years, with Helen's help, the foundation's members have carried through with Ed's wishes.

The generosity of the Sackersons is staggering. For example, over the past 23 years, The Sackerson Foundation's donations to Holy Name Catholic School total approximately \$2.5 million.

As the main recipient of the foundation's funds, Holy Name Catholic Grade School is extremely thankful for The Sackerson Foundation's support over the years.

"We are very grateful for the Sackerson family's belief and support in what Holy Name Catholic School does," HNCS Principal Joseph Carlson said. "The Sackerson Foundation has had an immensely positive impact on Holy Name, and through the foundation's generosity, literally thousands of students have been able to receive a Catholic education."

According to Paul, in the case of Holy Name's portion, the money goes toward tuition for children who could not otherwise afford to attend Holy Name Catholic Grade School.

### **Friends remember Helen**

Mary Kangas (Paul's wife), who was Helen's caregiver for 15 years, said she will miss Helen's kind and fun personality. She would help Helen whenever she needed her, doing things like taking her to doctor's appointments and other errands. "Helen was very personal, in that she kept to herself," Mary said. "She was an animal-lover, always had a dog or cat of her own, and had a particular love for the birds and squirrels in her neighborhood," she smiled.

Mary also remembers that Helen was a strong Catholic, and a member of St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Parish in Escanaba. Her Catholic faith was a large part of her life. "She wanted any child whose family couldn't afford a Catholic education to be able to go to Holy Name," Mary said.

When Mary and Paul went away during the winter months, Helen's close friends Sue Aird and Pam Mileski would step in to help.

Pam, a former Holy Name teacher, agrees that Helen was spiritual, and was kind to everyone she met. "Helen was a very good Catholic, and did not miss Mass." The three would often attend Mass together at St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Parish.

In her later years, if Helen had to miss Mass due to health issues, Pam would bring Holy Communion to her.

"Whenever I brought her Holy Communion," Pam remembered, "I could tell she was speaking to God. Upon receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, she was very contemplative and reverent. Actions speak louder than words; her actions really proved what a kind, caring Christian she was."

### **Ed and Helen Sackerson — Strong supporters of Holy Name Catholic School**

Helen and Ed are now giving the gift of a Catholic education to future generations—a gift they themselves did not receive.

"They supported Holy Name because their family couldn't afford to send them there," Pam said.

The thriftiness that Helen learned as a child followed through to her adult life.

"She was very frugal," Pam continued. "But being frugal didn't put a dent in her generosity."

Helen's generosity was apparent in how she lived her daily life, another of her friends, Sue Aird, remembered.

"She never forgot anyone's birthday," Sue smiled. "When she couldn't get out, she would have me pick up cards for her to send. They always had to be funny. I don't think mine were quite as good as the ones she would have picked, but she never complained."

Sue also remembered how happy Helen was when she would receive cards from student recipients of scholarships from the Sackerson Foundation. "She was so happy when she talked about how the foundation was able to help students with scholarships," Sue smiled. "She would often show me the cards and letters she received from kids thanking her for their scholarships."

Sue personally experienced the Sackerson's generosity when Helen insisted on giving their grandson, Thompson, (who Sue and her husband Jim are raising) scholarship funds to attend Holy Name.

"When Thompson was starting kindergarten, Helen asked where we were going to send him. When I told her we would like to send him to Holy Name, she immediately said, 'You make sure he gets a portion of the scholarship! Tell them I said so!' That sealed our decision. Her generosity has really made a difference in our tuition cost. We are very grateful, and Thompson loves Holy Name."

The Sackerson Foundation will continue to support a number of causes in honor of Ed and Helen, who were guided by a strong Catholic faith and equally strong work ethic.

Principal Carlson appreciates the quiet strength of the Sackersons and believes that their legacy will live on through the students they have helped and will continue to help.

"The Sackersons have always been some of our most generous supporters," Carlson added. "Their legacy, even after their passing, will live on at our elementary school. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the Sackerson Foundation, along with Helen and Ed's commitment to Catholic education. The Sackerson Foundation's annual donation to our school will allow us to continue providing a high quality elementary and middle school Catholic education to children in the Delta County area for many years to come."

Paul Kangas agrees that Ed and Helen would want the foundation's money to help children to receive a Catholic education. "They [Ed and Helen] lived pretty quiet lives. This would be what they would've wanted—for the people who need it to be given a little bit of a hand."



**Sue Aird, Helen Sackerson, and Jim Aird  
at the Holy Name Spring Fling**

## Holy Name Catholic School Class of 2021



**Back row (left to right): Joseph Carlson, Cale Carter, Andrew Lord, Charley McInerney, Patton Nyquist, Cash Pangborn, Robert Oliver, Justin Polishak, Adam Prey, Eric Smith, and Noah Pendergraft. Front row (left to right): Natalie Beauchamp, Emerson Salo, Valedictorian Samantha Korpi, Salutatorian Mary Hook, Sophia Weaver, Grace Hamlin, Isabel Marenger, Victoria Mantela, Ellie Derkos, Brooklyn Pendergraft, and Elizabeth Spreitzer.**

# Meet Holy Name Catholic High School— A Chesterton Academy’s New Headmaster



**Mark A. Surrell**  
Headmaster  
Holy Name High School—  
A Chesterton Academy

ESCANABA – Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy has now opened – fifty years after it closed in 1971, welcoming 9th and 10th grade students across the U.P. It also welcomes Mr. Mark A. Surrell as its new headmaster.

As headmaster, Surrell is the high school’s educational and organizational leader and is responsible for implementing the Chesterton Schools Network’s curriculum, managing the teaching staff and the policies of HNHS – A Chesterton Academy. He will be responsible for instructional leadership, along with hiring and supervision of instructional personnel, student life, discipline and all related parent communications. Surrell also teaches science and philosophy at HNHS.

Most recently, Surrell worked as assistant headmaster at Sacred Heart Academy in Grand Rapids, MI, where he split his time between administration duties and teaching. He has also worked as a research assistant at Hillsdale College and as a communications specialist for the Michigan State Senate. Prior to these positions, he worked as an account executive at Edelman Public Relations. Surrell holds a master’s degree from Hillsdale College and two bachelor’s degrees from Northern Michigan University. In April 2014, he was awarded NMU’s Outstanding Graduating Senior.

As HNHS’s headmaster, he has many goals this school year, which all center on spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ to students, while emphasizing the classical beauty of the Catholic faith. However, one main goal rises above the others.

“The main goal of any Catholic education is to bring our students closer to God, and ultimately, to Heaven,” Surrell said. “My main goal for Holy Name High School is to show that this type of education is actually satisfying, worthwhile, and even fun. There are a lot of misperceptions about Catholic, classical education: that it’s too difficult, that it’s only for the wealthy, and that it’s humorless. We’ll succeed if we show that these aren’t true.”

As former assistant to the Headmaster of Sacred Heart Academy, he experienced how the classical Catholic curriculum inspired students.

“I have witnessed truly great education at Hillsdale College and Sacred Heart Academy,” said Surrell. “I would say that their success is due to two things: character and community. The faculty and staff are amazing people who are inspiringly dedicated to their vocations. Their model is an education in itself to the students they teach. But they are not alone,” he stressed. “The parents, religious leaders, donors and parish community all enable this work of teaching by building a foundation of trust and support.”

## Education with a higher purpose

Surrell says that he wishes every student realized how important they are, in all that they do—and realize they have a higher purpose.

“I wish every student knew that they are a child of God—that they have dignity and purpose, that life is worth living, and living well. The question becomes, ‘What are the things most worth doing?’”

Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy—is still enrolling students for fall. Please visit [www.highschool.holynamecrusaders.com](http://www.highschool.holynamecrusaders.com) to learn more, or contact Mark Surrell at [msurrell@holynamecrusaders.com](mailto:msurrell@holynamecrusaders.com) to enroll.

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*Holy Name offers a rigorous, integrated high school curriculum centered on the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. A member of the Chesterton Schools Network, HNHS develops complete thinkers who learn to draw on faith and reason for the purpose of building a culture of life. For more information on HNHS, call (906) 786-7550 or search Holy Name Catholic School Escanaba on Facebook. For more information on the Chesterton Schools Network, visit <https://chestertonschoolsnetwork.org/>*

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## Help Us Stay Current

If you are on the move, changed your name, or updated your relationship status, we would love to hear from you. Help us save costs and stay current by emailing updates to Michelle Bink, Alumni/Development Director at [alumni@holynamecrusaders.com](mailto:alumni@holynamecrusaders.com)

# Meet One Of Holy Name High School's New Teachers, Miss Bella Wedig

By Victoria R. LaFave



**Bella Wedig**  
HNHS Teacher  
History, Theology, Art

The new Holy Name Catholic High School would like to welcome Miss Bella Wedig as its new part-time history, theology and art teacher this school year.

Bella earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy in 2018 from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, where she also played volleyball and lacrosse. While at Franciscan University, she worked for the events office, setting up and coordinating events on campus such as the Steubenville Youth Conferences.

In addition to teaching at HNHS this fall, Bella will be student teaching with Holy Name's middle school social studies teacher, Mrs. Amy Prey. She has already taken the Michigan Teacher Certification Test in social studies; the last step for her is to complete a half-year of student teaching. At the end of this year, she will have her certification in secondary social studies through Northern Michigan University.

## Encouragement from family

Bella's grandmother first made the suggestion to Bella that she contact HNHS and inquire about a teaching position. (See next page for story on Bella's grandmother's donation to HNHS.)

"My grandmother had read about the high school opening, and encouraged me to call Holy Name. It took a bit of coaxing, but eventually, I did," Bella laughed. "My grandma is a beautiful lady, and is always encouraging me.

"My grandparents have always been the center of our family, and I am extraordinarily fortunate to be able to have that Catholic culture in our family."

## Honored to be a part of HNHS

Bella says she is excited to begin teaching at the only Catholic high school in the Upper Peninsula. Having lived in the U.P. most of her life, she graduated from Gwinn High School in 2014, and currently lives in Trenary.

"I am honored to be a part of the new Holy Name High School," she smiled. "I see a need in society for a Catholic High School. I think we all can see a disintegration of culture that finds its new home in the comforts of the world, but hasn't Christ called us to something much greater? At Holy Name High School, we will be digging deep into the roots of our Catholic traditions whose very source and ultimate end is Christ; I can't think of a more honorable way to spend my time."

In her free time, Bella enjoys creating leather items, including handmade wallets, clutches, ID holders, watch bands, belts and even custom-designed leather bible covers. To browse her items for sale, visit <https://www.etsy.com/shop/forceofhabitleather>.

In her daily life, Bella is inspired by many of the saints, particularly by St. Augustine, her favorite saint.

"Saint Augustine's story is one that shows us the reality of laboring toward holiness, but also the infinite depths of God's mercy and love as we constantly stumble in that labor. His poetic writing speaks to the heart and expresses the real beauty and truth that is found in God alone."

[St. Augustine famously wrote in his *Confessions*: 'Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new. Late have I loved you! Lo, you were within but I outside, seeking there for you, and upon the shapely things you have made I rushed headlong -I, misshapen. You were with me, but I was not with you. They held me back from you, those things which would have no being, were they not in you. You called shouted, broke through my deafness...']

Bella said she is inspired not only by St. Augustine's beautiful words and writings, but also the fact that he is a church father. "When we talk about rediscovering the roots of our faith, figures like Augustine—who lived around the year 350 A.D.—play a huge role in understanding how the church has developed and influenced culture since the time of Christ. These aren't irrelevant ramblings of antiquity, but first-person testimonies of the reality of our Catholic tradition."

Principal of Holy Name Joseph Carlson said he could tell in his interview that Bella would be a great addition to the Holy Name family. "When interviewing, I look for people that I would like our school to become more like. Bella certainly fits this bill. She is joyful, faithful, smart and has a great sense of humor. Who wouldn't want their school to become more like that? She brings a unique background and skill set that will serve her well for her new position. More importantly, she exhibits a deep love for our Lord and for serving others."

**MIRACLES DO HAPPEN—AT THE PERFECT TIME  
ST. JOHN BOSCO RELIC GIFTED TO HOLY NAME BY BELLA'S GRANDMOTHER**

On a seemingly normal school day in winter 2020, Principal Joseph Carlson received a call from Bella Wedig's grandmother Sharon Dani of Gwinn.

That day proved to be another miracle on the road to Holy Name High School opening.



**Sharon Dani smiles next to the St. John Bosco relic she donated**

"I remember very clearly the day Mrs. Dani called me and told me that she wanted to donate a first-class saint relic to Holy Name High School," Principal Carlson recalled. "When she told me that the relic was from St. John Bosco, I couldn't believe my ears! The day she called was the feast day of St. John Bosco! For me personally, it was as if St. John Bosco was saying, 'I hear you and I want you to know that I'm with you; keep going.'"

Sharon said she obtained the relic of St. John Bosco through a friend who had acquired some relics of the Saints.

Sharon told the story of how she ended up gifting the relic to Holy Name:

Before I get up for the day, I say my morning prayers," Sharon explained. "I say the Secret of Sanctity prayer where I pray to the Holy Spirit asking what I should do for that day. Then, for five minutes, I quietly listen to the Lord so I can hear him telling me what to do."

Sharon said she had already known that Holy Name was opening a Catholic high school, and had met Joe Carlson years prior.

"As I was listening to the Lord that morning, I heard Him tell me that I should give my St. John Bosco relic to Joe Carlson. At first, I didn't do anything about it, but it was in the back of my mind. I kept putting it off—but I kept thinking about it."

Then, again, on the morning of January 31, I was listening to the Lord after saying the Secret of Sanctity prayer. I heard Him tell me, 'Okay, it's time. You need to give him the relic today.'"

This time, Sharon took action.

"I found Holy Name School's phone number, and called Joe Carlson. After I did, when I looked on the calendar, I realized that it was St. John Bosco's feast day! I called Joe, and told him that the Lord told me it was time."

Sharon and Joe were amazed.

Not only had Sharon been told by God to call Holy Name on that specific day, but during the school-wide Masses that school year, the students and staff had been praying to St. John Bosco—who is the patron saint of students and builder of schools—in the Holy Name High School Campaign Prayer.

"On that day, I didn't realize that following God's plan would be such a blessing to Holy Name," Sharon said.

"I've watched documentaries on St. John Bosco, so I knew that he started many schools; when that thought came to me, I thought, 'I will let go of that relic,'" Sharon smiled.

"I'm so thankful that I started saying that [Secret of Sanctity] prayer, because when God calls me to do something, I know to listen.

All of these occurrences are signs that the Holy Spirit is at work in the re-opening of Holy Name High School.

"This is just another affirmation that we are following God's will in re-opening Holy Name High School," said Michelle Bink, Holy Name Alumni/Development Director. "The fact that Sharon called on the feast day of St. John Bosco is one of many miracles that we have encountered on this journey."

One more amazing fact: On the day the relic was delivered to Holy Name, the students' lunch item on the menu: Bosco sticks!

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For more information on Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy, or for a tour of Holy Name High School, please call (906) 786-7550, visit, or visit the new high school at 2203 7th Ave. South, Escanaba.

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# Save the Date – Class of '70 Turning 70

September 9 & 10, 2022. Contact Ann Ford, [afordo70@gmail.com](mailto:afordo70@gmail.com)

# Meet one of Holy Name High School's new teachers, Mr. Steve O'Driscoll



**Steve O'Driscoll**  
HNHS Teacher - Math

The new Holy Name Catholic High School—A Chesterton Academy would like to welcome Mr. Steve O'Driscoll as its new math teacher this school year.

Steve will be teaching Euclidean Geometry to the freshmen and sophomores at HNHS. "Euclidean Geometry involves a direct study of the writings of Euclid, specifically the first book of his geometric definitions, postulates and proofs, Elements," Steve said. "The difference that HNHS students will learn is the WHY behind the workings of basic geometry, which will prepare them for every advanced subject in mathematics that will follow."

Steve earned his bachelor's degree in Paper Engineering (process) from Western Michigan University in 1996. He graduated from Escanaba High School in 1990 and he and his family are currently members of All Saints Parish in Gladstone, where he does several ministries, including the weekly live-stream Mass. Steve has also owned Bramco Containers in Gladstone with his brother John for the last 23 years, where they currently employ 10 local workers. He also continues to work as a bus driver for Gladstone Schools, since his teaching assignment is only one section for this first year of HNHS.

This past June, Steve took the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification in Mathematics; the last step for him is to complete a teaching methods education over the next couple of years, which he plans on doing on nights and vacations. At the end of this process, he will have his permanent certification in Secondary Mathematics Education through Professional Innovators in Education. Steve

feels like his business and industry experience gives him a unique perspective that makes up for his lack of teaching experience.

## Faith in this calling to be a teacher at HNHS

Being a teacher at HNHS turned out to be a calling for Steve. He had been pursuing his teaching certificate to help alleviate a shortage of secondary math teachers in Gladstone. However, he says, Gladstone's needs were filled before he passed his certification test. At that time, Steve says, he was aware of the plans for Holy Name High School to reopen, but did not know details. "A message to Michelle Bink put me in contact with Headmaster Surrell, and the rest was the discovery of a perfect fit that only God could orchestrate," he says.

Now that he has started teaching at HNHS, Steve says, "I hope to be the best first year teacher that I can be, while inspiring, educating and preparing this first group of students in a way that makes their families ecstatic that they took the leap of faith in enrolling at HNHS—A Chesterton Academy."

## An education parents appreciate

A parent of two of Steve's students at HNHS, Tricia Pendergraft, said the Classical Catholic Curriculum at the new Holy Name High School is one she is familiar with—and appreciates.

"This is an education I recognize. It pursues the beautiful, the good, and the truth. This education also promotes happiness in a very currently unhappy world."

Specifically, she feels that Steve's positive attitude will be invaluable to her children during their high school years.

"Steve O'Driscoll's excitement at the opportunity to teach our kids is reassuring," she said. "It's something that not all teachers have. He recognizes the value in this opportunity, and we are just so grateful."

## Thankful to be a part of HNHS—A Chesterton Academy

Steve says he feels blessed to be teaching at the only Catholic high school in the Upper Peninsula. "To be part of that first High School staff picture in fifty years is something special that we won't be able to process for quite some time," he says. "We are bringing back a home for a faith-based high school education without having to finish at a public school. I only wish my own kids would have had this opportunity, so providing it to our neighbors is an honor.

In his free time, Steve enjoys quiet weekends at camp with his wife Kelly and their dogs, cornhole and poker nights with friends, pontoon boat rides, and getting lost in the woods while 'Jeeping'.

In his daily life, Steve is inspired by many of the saints, particularly by St. Teresa of Calcutta, his favorite saint.

"Mother Teresa lived during my lifetime and was a quintessential image of a saint in the twentieth century," he says. "What impresses me the most is that she served with such persistence, despite her doubts about her faith for nearly fifty years. Anybody who has ever had a doubt in God's plan at some time can identify with that in a small way."

For more information on Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy, or for a tour of Holy Name High School, please call (906) 786-7550, visit, or visit the new high school at 2203 7th Ave. South, Escanaba.

# New Elementary Teachers at Holy Name Catholic School



**Cori Towns**  
Kindergarten Teacher

Holy Name Catholic School has new teacher placements in the elementary school this 2021-22 school year.

Holy Name welcomes **Mrs. Cori Towns** as the new kindergarten teacher. Cori had previously worked as a Quality Improvement Specialist with Great Start to Quality (under the office of Great Start). In this position, Cori worked with licensed childcare programs in Delta, Menominee, and Schoolcraft Counties. Cori holds a master's degree in early childhood education and has extensive experience working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children. She and her husband Jake have three sons, Jonah, Blake and Levin, who are all students at Holy Name.

**Mr. Mike Lepisto** has returned to Holy Name as the fifth grade teacher. Lepisto had taught fifth grade at Holy Name through the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Lepisto has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northern Michigan University. He also attended Emmaus Bible College for one year and has a master's degree from Central Michigan University. He worked at Wells Township School in Arnold, teaching sixth through eighth grades for 11 years, and then at Bark River-Harris School for 19 years, where he taught fourth grade, sixth grade and junior high science. He retired from BR-H in 2017, but found he missed teaching, so he applied for a teaching position at Holy Name. He and his wife Kathy have two daughters.



**Mike Lepisto**  
Fifth Grade Teacher



**Vicky LaMarche**  
Readiness  
Kindergarten Teacher

Holy Name also welcomes **Mrs. Vicky LaMarche**, the new readiness kindergarten teacher. Previously, Vicky worked at Holy Name as a teacher's aide, substitute teacher, and also taught Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Her experience in teaching also includes being the lead teacher for specials, a lead teacher at a local daycare, and a director at a local day care. Vicky says that these positions have provided her with many wonderful opportunities to gain teaching experience. She has an associate's degree in early childhood education through Bay College, and is currently working toward her bachelor's degree through LSSU. She is married to Louis LaMarche; they have recently adopted their first child, Norman. Vicky says she is very excited to start this new journey with the amazing students and staff at Holy Name.

**Ms. Yolanda McDevitt** is now Holy Name's fourth grade teacher. Yolanda studied elementary education at Northern Michigan University. She has a master's degree in education with a reading specialist endorsement. She worked for Escanaba Area Public Schools for 20 years as a substitute teacher, teacher assistant, and for the last seven years, she has worked at Holy Name as the Title I reading and math teacher. Yolanda has four adult children—two girls and two boys. She says she is very excited about her continued employment in education, as well as working with a great staff.



**Yolanda McDevitt**  
Fourth Grade Teacher

We are blessed to have these and all of our wonderful teachers at Holy Name Catholic School, where 'It's more than a school... It's a way of life!'

**Holy Name Catholic School**  
*Nifty Fifty*  
*Crusader Cash Raffle*  
**Tickets:** \$25 each or 5 for \$100  
License Number: C30094  
Drawings to be held at Holy Name Catholic School  
**\$550 Early Bird Drawings**  
February 9, 2022 & March 9, 2022 @ 1 pm est  
**Final Drawing**  
April 30, 2022 @ 8 pm est (Spring Fling)  
**1<sup>st</sup> place: \$5,050**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> places: \$1,050 each**  
\*Need not be present to win\*

Enclosed in the newsletter is a Nifty Fifty raffle ticket. If you would like to purchase this ticket, please send ticket with payment made out to Holy Name Catholic School and mail to 409 South 22nd Street Escanaba, MI 49829. The first drawing is February 9th. Tickets are \$25 or 5 for \$100.

If you would like additional tickets contact the office at **(906) 786-7550** or visit our website **[www.holynamercrusaders.com/donations](http://www.holynamercrusaders.com/donations)** and scroll down. Thank you for all you do to support Holy Name. Go Crusaders!

# HNHS Class of 1971 donates \$1,680 to HNHS through B.J. Stupak Memorial Fund

By Victoria R. LaFave

ESCANABA –The graduates of the Holy Name High School Class of 1971—the last graduating class of the former Holy Name High School—recently raised \$840, which will be matched by the B.J. Stupak Memorial Fund.

Seven of the members of the HNHS Class of 1971 attended the special Mass and re-opening ceremony on August 30 and were at the high school to welcome the new HNHS students for their first day of school. One of the members of the Class of '71 Reunion Planning Committee who attended, Paula (DeMars) Johnson, said, "I was really happy to be a part of the first day of school for the new Holy Name High School students. It was a really special day, and it was nice to see that there was a huge showing of support from Holy Name High School alumni."

Not only are the alumni looking forward to the success of HNHS, they're also hoping the students will make lifelong friendships as they have.

"Hopefully, the students will be just as close as we are," HNHS 1971 Graduate Pauline (Anderson) Sarasin said. "We're more than just classmates; we are also friends. I hope the new high school students will have it just as good as we do."

To help the new high school, the Class of 1971 decided to have a fundraiser at their 50-year HNHS Class Reunion in August.

One of the members, Beverly (Reiffers) Lee, made a quilt to raffle off. Some of the class members offered to sell raffle tickets for a chance to win it for \$5 each. "People started buying tickets, and when we said that the money was going toward the new Holy Name High School, people started throwing more and more money into the bowl," Pauline laughed. "By the end of Saturday night, we had raised \$660! People were so happy to give to the new high school!" (Weeks later, several other class members donated \$180 to the donation pool, bringing the total up to \$840.)

Thanks to Bart and Laurie Stupak, this \$840 was doubled, for a total donation of **\$1,680**.

In January 2021, after the announcement that Holy Name High School would re-open this fall, The B.J. Stupak Memorial Fund (established in memory of Bart Stupak, Jr.) donated \$50,000 to the HNHS Tuition Angel Endowment Fund within the U.P. Catholic Foundation.

Established in 2000 by Congressman Bart and Laurie Stupak, the B.J. Stupak Memorial Fund is a donor-designated fund held within the M&M Area Community Foundation. Since its inception, the B.J. Fund has provided over \$500,000 in grants and scholarships throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Since the \$50,000 donation, the Stupaks have encouraged other donors to "keep the momentum going" and give to HNHS as well. Therefore, the B.J. Stupak Memorial Fund offered a match challenge of up to an additional \$50,000 (for a total donation of \$100,000) to individuals, families, businesses, and foundations willing to join in this effort.

The Class of 1971 stepped up to this challenge.

Specifically, the B.J. Stupak Memorial Fund is matching dollar for dollar up to an additional \$50,000. (Qualifying donations must be new gifts of \$1,000 or more, or raised through special fundraising events designated for this challenge.)



Some of the members of Holy Name Class of '71 and their spouses at Mass

According to HNCS Alumni/Development Director Michelle Bink, to date, the fund has raised nearly \$95,000 toward the \$100,000 goal. Gifts are still being accepted now through Sept. 30, 2021.

Qualifying donations eligible for the match may be made to any of the three Holy Name High School endowment funds: Crusader Loyalty Fund, Tuition Angel Fund, or Crusader College Scholarship Fund.

The Stupaks, who recently moved back to the Escanaba area, are pleased that students from throughout the Upper Peninsula are once again being given the opportunity to attend Catholic high school.

"We are thrilled to support Holy Name High School and find it very satisfying that this high school will welcome students from all across the Upper Peninsula," Bart said. "We are happy to give to this cause. It is humbling to support students who will be educated in an environment where the teachings of Jesus Christ are woven throughout the entire curriculum."

Bart Stupak, a former Escanaba police officer, Michigan State Police trooper and attorney, served one term in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1988 to 1990, and nine terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 2011. Laurie, a former mayor of Menominee, is an Escanaba native who attended Holy Name High School from 1969 through 1971. She would have graduated in 1973, but the original HNHS closed before she reached her senior year. Laurie graduated from Escanaba High School in 1973.

Joseph Carlson, principal of Holy Name Catholic School, is thankful to the Stupaks and all of the donors for their generosity.

"We are extremely grateful to Bart and Laurie Stupak and all of the donors for their belief in our vision for Holy Name High School," Carlson said. "I appreciate their support and am amazed how God has called Laurie, a student who was at Holy Name High School when it closed, to now be a big part of its reopening!"

For more information on how to donate to Holy Name High School, please visit [www.highschool.holynamecrusaders.com](http://www.highschool.holynamecrusaders.com) or [www.upcatholicfoundation.org](http://www.upcatholicfoundation.org), or call Michelle Bink, Alumni/Development Director at Holy Name, at (906) 786-7550, Ext. 20. Donations can be mailed to: Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy, 2203 7th Ave. South, Escanaba, MI 49829.

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# HNHS Reopens 50 years after closing in 1971

By Victoria R. LaFave

The first day of high school: Just the thought of it can be enough to bring back the jitters for many – making new friends, learning new subjects, getting to know new teachers... The list goes on. The new students at Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy, had not only that; they're pioneers.

On Monday, Aug. 30, 13 students from across the U.P. became the first students to walk through the doors of the newly reopened HNHS and will now have the privilege to say that they were the first students in the Escanaba area to have attended a Catholic high school—in 50 years.

While this might sound like a lot to deal with at just 14 or 15 years old, the graduates who went before them—even though their first day was decades ago—want them to know they are praying for them and understand what they are going through. The school reopened with freshmen and sophomore classes, with plans to add a junior, then senior class over the next two years.



Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy 9th and 10th graders on their first day

HNHS graduates were among the hundreds of attendees at the first day of school reception. One of them, Bonnie Pepin (HNHS '65), said, "I remember my first day at Holy Name High School. I came from Flat Rock to attend Holy Name after eighth grade, so I was meeting a whole new group of people, which, at the time, was really difficult. I remember being apprehensive before I went."

One thing's for sure: The new HNHS students have a huge support system.

"We are all here to support them—the alumni, the administration, and their parents," Pepin added. "If I could tell the students one thing, it's to be patient and pray. We will be praying for them."

"I've been praying for this since after the kids graduated from eighth grade," Tricia Pendergraft, mother of HNHS students, Brooklyn and Noah, said. "This is God's will, and the fact that Holy Name has partnered with Gladstone High School for athletics and extra-curricular activities makes it even better."

While most of the students were a bit nervous to start their new classes at their new school, one student summed up her feelings on her first day. "I'm excited," said sophomore Katelyn Rexford. "I'm just really excited."

"I don't think they realize right now how momentous it is to be re-opening Holy Name High School," Pendergraft said. "I think ultimately, though, it's going to strengthen their character. Doing hard things – and doing them successfully – makes it easier to face life's challenges."

Holy Name High School first opened in Escanaba in 1954. One of the members of the first class to attend HNHS for all four years, Bob Bink, said he has faith that the new students will have a great experience, as he did.

"I know it's going to be a tremendous opportunity for the students," Bink, who graduated in 1958, said. "I would like to tell the new students that they're starting a new school just like we did, and it will be a unique experience for them. You will have the opportunity to have an intimate education in the sense that you will get one-on-one assistance from great teachers."

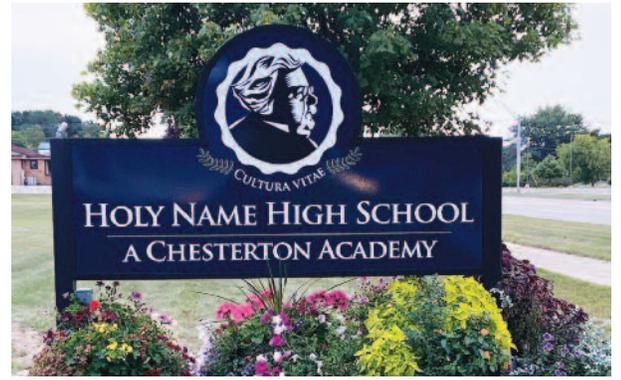
"I think that this school is wonderful for this community," Bink said assuredly, "and I'm confident that God will continue the growth of Holy Name High School."

The new HNHS students started their first day as they will every day—with Mass. The opening day Mass was celebrated by Father Fran DeGroot, and concelebrated by Fathers Rick Courier and Timothy Ferguson, and assisted by Deacon Terry Saunders. After Mass, the Delta County Ambassadors celebrated the re-opening on HNHS with a ribbon cutting by Father Courier, followed by a reception in the St. Anne's Parish Hall.

HNHS alumni also attended an Open House for the new Holy Name High School—A Chesterton Academy on Thursday, Aug. 26. Attendees toured the new school and classrooms, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, and met the teachers and the new HNHS Headmaster, Mr. Mark Surrell.

"We appreciate the support of the community, alumni and everyone who has helped make this high school possible," said Michelle Bink, Holy Name alumni/development director. "It was inspiring to see so many of our Holy Name High School alumni attend the open house and also welcome the incoming ninth and tenth graders on their first day of school. From the very beginning of this campaign, we knew this was God's project, and he guided us when the time was right to reopen the doors to Holy Name High School. He couldn't have chosen a better time—fifty years later. Now is the time!"

For more information on Holy Name High School, visit [www.highschool.holynamecrusaders.com](http://www.highschool.holynamecrusaders.com), e-mail Headmaster Mark Surrell at [msurrell@holynamecrusaders.com](mailto:msurrell@holynamecrusaders.com) or call Michelle Bink, Holy Name's alumni/development director, at (906) 786-7550, ext. 20. The school is located at 2203 7th Ave. South (former St. Anne's School), Escanaba, MI 49829.



**Holy Name High School Escanaba Open House**

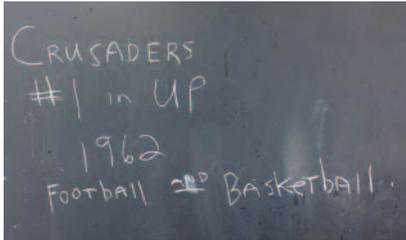


**Mark Surrell, Headmaster, and son Matthew visiting with guests in Parish Hall**

# Holy Name High School Capital Campaign Update

Wow! It has happened! Holy Name High School officially reopened August 30th! In 1971, the doors to Holy Name High School closed and never in a million years did anyone think it would reopen fifty years later, except for God. Through an abundance of prayer, financial generosity from our Holy Name family, friends and alumni and most importantly God's will; It has been done!

THANK YOU to everyone who attended our open house and first day of school celebration! It was an amazing turnout with alumni, family and friends, but the sight of seeing the joy of the guests' faces as they toured the high school was priceless.



To the left is a picture of the Science chalkboard in the High School where some members of the Class of 1962 had left a note during the open house. This is just one of many examples of the love and spirit our alumni have for Holy Name. Holy Name alumni have truly been an inspiration during this endeavor. Thank you to all of our alumni!

(I would love to know who wrote this...I have an idea ☺)

The capital campaign was launched in January of 2019 and the goal of the high school planning committee was to reopen in the Fall of 2020, but God had other plans. He knew that September of 2021 was the TIME! Just as Bishop Doerfler said prior to the launching of

the capital campaign, "If God wants this to happen, it will, but we all have to do our part".

This quote guided the high school planning time and time again. Especially during times we were feeling defeated and questioned if this was what God really wanted. Every time we thought about giving up, God kept opening doors for us and we continued to listen to Him and kept moving forward.

Now students and families across the Diocese will have the choice to have a Catholic education past 8th grade!

Even though Holy Name High School has opened, we still have work to do! Currently, we have a couple years of general operating expenses, but the three endowments created to produce long term stability need to grow. Our goal is to raise \$6.25 million and below is an explanation of each endowment as well as a graph that shows details on where we are. As of 8/31/2021 we have raised a total of \$1,172,095.

If God is calling you to be a part of Holy Name High School capital campaign, there are three ways you can help.

**1. Be a Crusader Connector** - Being a Crusader Connector means connecting us with potential donors to help reach our endowment goals. Do you know of someone who has a vested interest in Catholic education who would be willing to financially contribute? If so, please let me know.

**2. Financially support the capital campaign** - Can you give a cash donation, make a pledge, or donate financial securities which provide many tax advantages? If so, please contact me.

**3. Pray** - Can you pray for the successful capital campaign to keep the doors open to Holy Name High School? If so, our capital campaign prayer is on the next page.

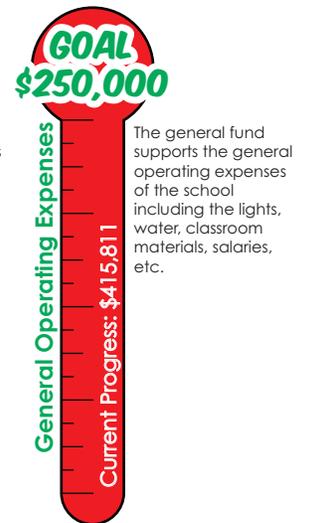
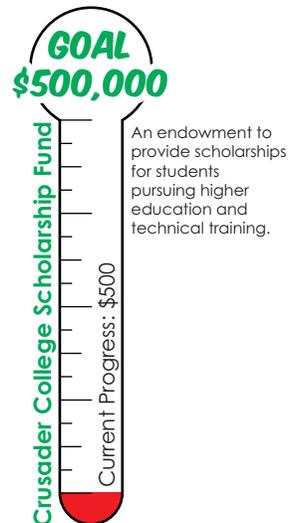
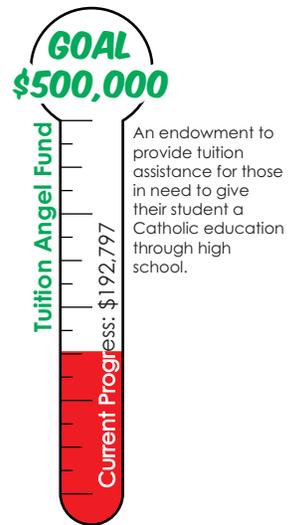
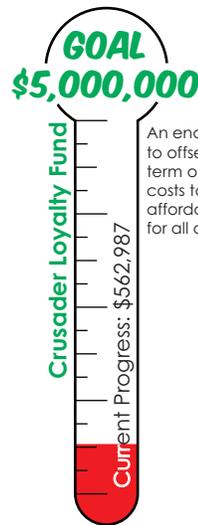
I know God will touch potential donors in reaching our goal so Holy Name High School will never have to close again! I humbly beg you first and foremost to pray for the continued success of the capital campaign, but listen to what God is asking you to do. Is he asking for you to pray? Is he asking you to be a Crusader connector, or is he asking you to financially donate money, stocks, etc.? Whatever it is...listen...Now Is The Time!

Feel free to email me at [alumni@holynamecrusaders.com](mailto:alumni@holynamecrusaders.com) or call (906) 786-7550 ext. 20 if you would like to set up a meeting or have any questions.

May God bless all of you and thank you for all you do to make Holy Name a great school!

*Michelle Bink, Alumni/Development Director*

*[alumni@holynamecrusaders.com](mailto:alumni@holynamecrusaders.com) • (906) 786-7550 ext. 20*

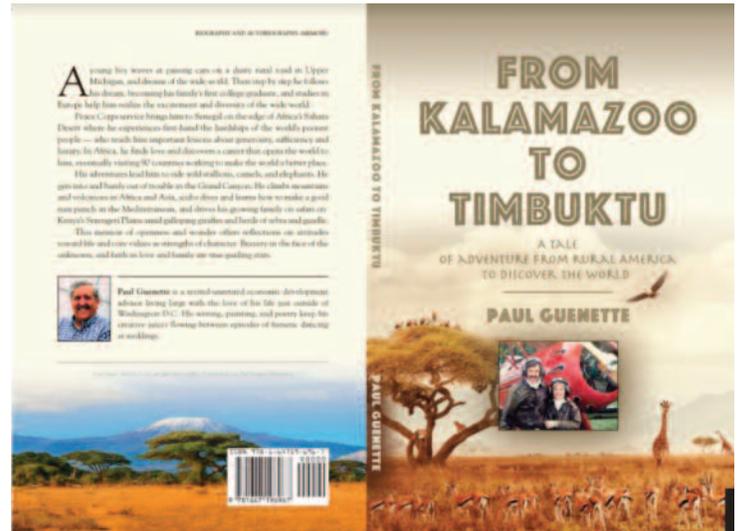




### Campaign Prayer

Dear Holy Mother and Good St. Joseph, cover us with your protective mantels and lead us into the Sacred as we begin this prayer. We trust you will place it before the holy throne of God and upon His high altar and that He will receive and sanctify our petition.

Eternal Father, thank you for the gift of children and the parental right to educate them. You always provide for our needs. Please bless our fundraising efforts to reopen Holy Name Catholic High School. We ask for patience and perseverance as we pursue the funds necessary for our school. Please open the hearts of generous donors. We beg the intercession of St. John Bosco, patron saint of students and builder of schools, and St. Thomas Aquinas, Angelic Doctor of the Church, patron of schools and wisdom for students. Pray for us! Thank you Lord ahead of time for all you are going to do. Holy angels and St. Michael, pray for us! We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Congratulations to Paul Guenette '70 on his recently published memoir *From Kalamazoo to Timbuktu*. Order your copy now from your local bookstore, online at Amazon or BarnesandNoble.com



## Crusader Connections

Our alumni, spread throughout the world, share a common bond when it comes to Holy Name Catholic High School and Holy Name Grade School. We want to hear your stories, special anniversaries, births, marriages and reunion dates. Please email **Michelle Bink, Alumni/Development Director** at [alumni@holynamercrusaders.com](mailto:alumni@holynamercrusaders.com) to be featured in upcoming newsletters.



## Class of 1966 celebrates 55th Reunion



(Back) Patti (Long) Hengesh, Mike Kobasic, Pamela (Malinowski) Zell, Jan Lavigne, Charlie McCarthy, Betty (Hemming) Breclaw, Paul Pineau, Tim Dailey, Penny (Salminen) Furniss, Valerie (Oslund) Rose, Cheryl (Toushak) Kobasic, Mary (Snyder) Niemela, Sandy (McDonough) Albrecht, Kathy (Berish) Puddy, Kathy (Trotter) Dubord, Judy (Pendergraft) Deloria, Pauline (Germain) Gorenchan, Rick Dubord, John Gorenchan  
(Front) Ruth (Wise) Aker, Don Curran, Jim Crawford, Bob Metivier, Elaine (Schultz) Wils, Dan DeGrand, Dennis Koehler



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reopened after 50 years!



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