

THE CRUSADER

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Escanaba, Michigan

JMJ

Fall 2022



Finding Joy



Joseph L. Carlson
Principal

Recently, I attended a conference by Dr. Joe Sanfello. If you have a moment, look him up. Not only does he have a great name, but he also has a great message about taking time to notice all of the good things going on around us and finding joy in our work.

The other day, I found myself thinking about all the things that needed to be done, the people that needed my attention, the responsibilities of being a dad, not to mention needing to be present to my beautiful wife. Even this article was something that I was struggling to find the time and mental energy to complete.

So, before starting this article, I took time to seek the joy in my life these past few weeks. As I reflected, I was able to identify so many blessings that have brought me joy! If I hadn't done this, I would have missed what a pleasure it was to meet so many people from the Holy Name High School Class of 1970 as they celebrated their 50th + 2 class reunion! I would have missed having watched a teacher console a new student who was insecure and missing his parents, having gotten outside during recess to play basketball with a group of middle school and 5th grade students, and having enjoyed the gift of retreat with all of my teachers before school started. I would have

missed the comradery with the high school students and staff when we took them to Mackinac Island and rode tandem bikes around the island. I would have missed how one of our preschool students was so excited to see me at the Escanaba football game and has reminded me of this everyday since. I would have missed it when, at our morning convocation, a shy student in first grade answered, "To help us get to Heaven!" after I had asked about the purpose of our school. I would have missed how a long time friend/graduate of Holy Name took time on the last day that he was able to drive a car to visit the school and make a sacrificial gift. I would have missed feeling our soon-to-be-born sixth child moving around in my wife's womb.

As I'm writing this, I realize how blessed I am to have experienced so much joy as we start this school year! It's important for all of us to take a moment and reflect on the people who have brought us joy, and to thank them. God has filled our lives with great blessings. Oftentimes, myself included, we can be weighed down by all of the distractions; we can feel at times exhausted and perhaps lonely. I really encourage all of you reading this to take a moment and reflect on a blessing you had during your day. If you look only for the problems in the world, you will find them. Similarly, if you take time to look for joy, you will find joy. And you will know that you are not alone and that we are in this together, and that the Lord is with us as are many other people too!

It's more than a school...It's Holy Name!
God Bless and Go Crusaders!

Kim Bessonen And Jodi Mutch Retire From Holy Name Catholic School After Combined 55 Years

by Victoria LaFave



Kim Bessonen and Jodi Mutch (both retiring after a combined 55 years of service to Holy Name) are pictured at the retirement party held in their honor at Holy Name.

Over the years, thousands of Holy Name Catholic School students and staff members have had the pleasure of learning from and working with Kim Bessonen and Jodi Mutch. After working at Holy Name for a combined 55 years, Mrs. Bessonen and Mrs. Mutch both retired this past school year.

Mrs. Kim Bessonen

Mrs. Bessonen, who has been a second-grade teacher for many years at Holy Name, also taught first grade during her 36-year tenure at HNCS. She says she feels grateful to have been able to teach her students about the Catholic faith, and is thankful for all of the lessons her students have taught her and the friendships she has formed with her co-workers.

Before teaching at Holy Name, Mrs. Bessonen did her student teaching in Green Bay area schools. After earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education

from Northern Michigan University in 1983, she worked as a substitute teacher for Delta County area schools until 1986.

Then, out of the blue, she received a phone call from Dr. Art Pickard, who was principal of Holy Name at the time.

"Dr. Pickard called me and told me that he felt that God had sent me to work at Holy Name. To be honest, I thought he was a bit crazy," she laughed.

But Kim says she was happy to start teaching at Holy Name, and is thankful that Dr. Pickard thought of her to be his second-grade teacher. "I now feel that he was right—this job has been a calling for me, and my faith has grown as I've worked here over the years."

Mrs. Bessonen says she will miss seeing the students every school day at Holy Name. "I will miss being with the students, their parents, and my co-workers, and I'm proud to be retiring from this great school."

"I want to thank all of my colleagues and staff at Holy Name throughout the years for their friendship, support, and socialization. I could not have had a more rewarding career," she says. "I have always tried to meet the individual learning needs of my students and have tried to encourage them in their Catholic faith."

In her retirement, Kim says she is planning on gardening and volunteering at All Saints Catholic Church in Gladstone, where she is a member, and spending time with her husband Eric and her two children, Rachel (HNCS Class of 2015) and David.

Principal Carlson thankful for dedication of Mrs. Bessonen and Mrs. Mutch

To thank Mrs. Bessonen for her time at Holy Name, Principal Joseph Carlson gifted her with a Wine Club membership at a retirement dinner on May 17 that the school held for her and Mrs. Mutch. In addition, a Holy Name locker was dedicated in her honor.

Speaking of their dedication to Holy Name, Mr. Carlson said, "The staff will surely miss Mrs. Bessonen and Mrs.

Mutch, who both brought a great deal of knowledge and experience to Holy Name, and, most importantly, love for their jobs and the students.”

At the dinner, Principal Carlson spoke about Mrs. Bessonen’s dedication to the school: “Mrs. Bessonen has sacrificed her time over the past 36 years for the mission of educating children and bringing them to know the Lord. She has put in so much time for her students and our mission to touch their hearts, minds and souls” Carlson said. “What a beautiful gift.”

“Mrs. Bessonen and Mrs. Mutch were both very dedicated to our Mission at Holy Name,” he added. “They went above and beyond for the students, and will be missed.”

Mrs. Jodi Mutch

Jodi Mutch, who worked at Holy Name for the past 19 years, started her HNCS career as an aide for Mrs. Pam Mileski, who taught first grade. Then, when the office manager position opened up in 2006, Jodi says Mrs. Mileski was the one who “nudged her” to apply for it. Jodi held this position for the past 16 years.

Along with speaking about Mrs. Mutch’s dedication to Holy Name at the retirement party, Mr. Carlson also thanked Jodi’s family, who attended the dinner with her:

“Thank you for sharing Jodi with us,” he smiled. “She is such a dedicated individual. When things got busier [in the school office], Jodi got better. But above all, her super power is love; she did all things with great love.”

To show his appreciation for Jodi’s service to the school, on behalf of HNCS, Mr. Carlson gifted her with a journaling Bible and journaling pens, so that she can make notes and journal in it with her thoughts. He also gifted her with an annual pass to the Federal parks and a Kindle E-reader so that she can read on the road when she and her husband Scott travel in their RV across the U.S.

Along with traveling with her husband to visit their two grown sons, Ian (HNCS ‘04) and Logan (HNCS ‘06), Jodi plans on boating, fishing and camping in her retirement years.

Both Mrs. Bessonen’s and Mrs. Mutch’s kind spirits filled the hearts of HNCS students over the years, and their smiles and patient personalities will be missed.

For more information on Holy Name Catholic School, located at 409 So. 22nd Street, please call the school office at (906) 786-7550, search the school on Facebook or visit holynamecrusaders.com.



HNCS retired teachers and staff members attended Holy Name's retirement party held for Kim Bessonen and Jodi Mutch. Pictured left to right: Cindy Johnson, Polly Groos, Kim Bessonen, Amy Carbonel, Judy LaMarch, Barb Mead, Pam Mileski, and Jodi Mutch. Back row: Carol Kersten, Henry Seymour, and Beth Severinsen.

Holy Name Class of 2018 Visits Former Elementary School

by Victoria LaFave

ESCANABA – Members of Holy Name Catholic School’s Class of 2018, who will be graduating from high school this spring, visited Holy Name on Thursday, May 5, and attended a special Mass celebrated by Father Francis DeGroot, pastor of St. Anne Parish in Escanaba.

In his sermon, Father DeGroot encouraged the students to stay strong in their Catholic Faith, specifically by continuing to attend Mass on Sundays and partaking in the Holy Eucharist, as they move on in their lives. Doing this, he said, will keep them connected to Jesus Christ and help them as they face decisions in their lives.

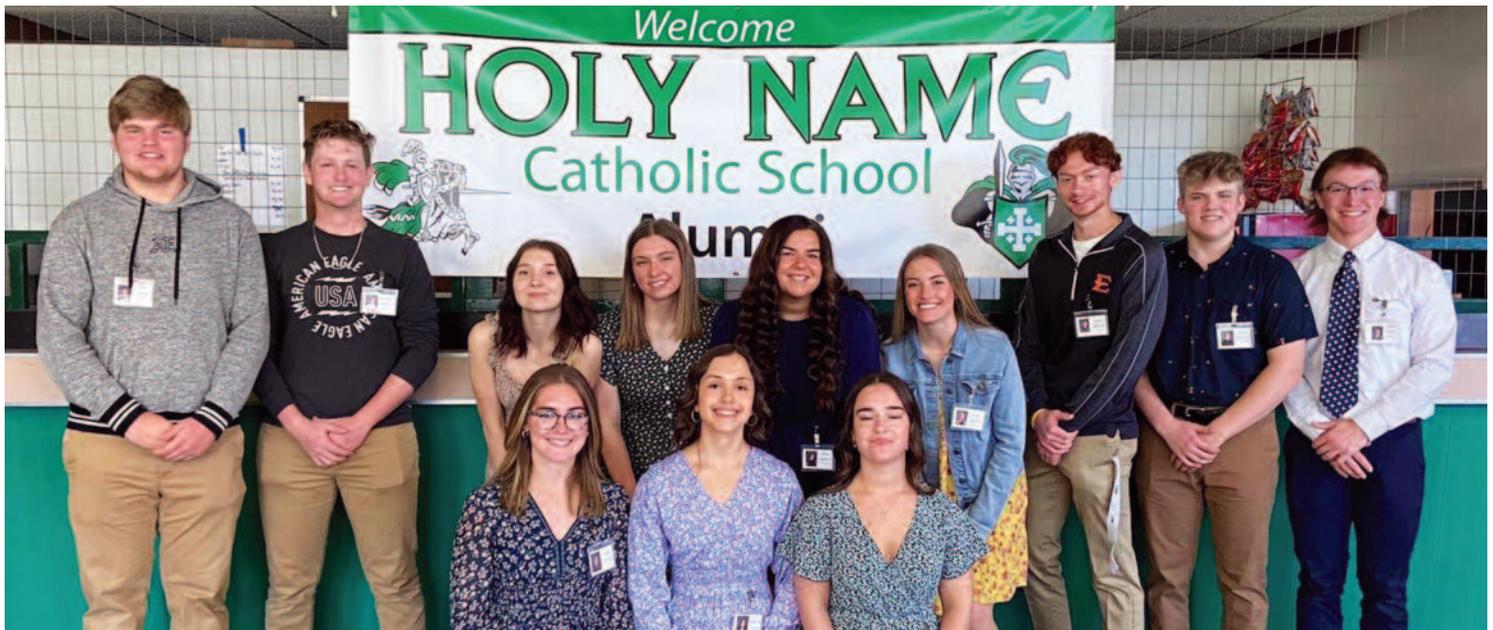
Holy Name Principal Joseph Carlson then spoke to the graduates after Mass, describing them as a very kind, close-knit group. Carlson shared memories with the students and reminded them of their votes for Class Favorites. He thanked the students’ parents and other family members who were present for the Mass. “You’re a great group, and I know you will go on to do great things,” Carlson said, assuring them that he is proud of their achievements. He summed up by encouraging the graduates to always remember Holy Name as they go on in their lives.

Holy Name’s alumni/development director Michelle Bink also spoke to the students and gifted them—on behalf of HNCS—with San Damiano crosses (with “J.M.J. Holy Name Catholic School Class of 2018” printed on the back) and personalized gourmet cookies made just for them.

Students and their families then watched a short slideshow video showing photos from their time at Holy Name. The graduates enjoyed lunch together and were invited to walk through the school to see their former teachers and the improvements that have been made to the building since they graduated.

Five of the graduates: Morgan Gartland, Savannah Kobasic, Allison Korpi, Joey Kositzky (all Escanaba High School students), and Stephen Weinert (Ludington High School) are in the Top 10 academically of their graduating classes.

Holy Name Catholic School, located at 409 So. 22nd Street, is currently offering open registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Please call the school office at (906) 786-7550 for more information.



Pictured in the photo is the HNCS Class of 2018, including the following students:

In the back row (standing, from left to right) are: Adam Willette, Matthew Zimmerman, Jordan Dagenais, Allison Korpi, Morgan Gartland, Bailey Barron, Joey Kositzky, Braden Beauchamp, and Stephen Weinert. Pictured in the front row (from left to right) are: Abigail Rexford, Savannah Kobasic, and Breeanna Gestwicki.

Five of the graduates, Eila Couchene, Nicholas Derkos, Vanessa LaPalm, Tony Liss, and Rory Schroeder were not in attendance.

HNCS Grads graduate in Top 10 of 2022 Graduating Classes

Holy Name Catholic School Class of 2018 had five Top 10 academic graduates from both Escanaba Area High School and Ludington High School this year. Here, in their own words, is an introduction to these impressive students.



Allison Korpi

Allison Korpi

Class ranking: #2, Escanaba Area High School Class of 2022 (Allison was also valedictorian for Holy Name Catholic School's Class of 2018.)

College attending: Trine University in Angola, Indiana, to receive an accelerated master's degree in biomedical engineering.

Favorite memory of Holy Name: My eighth grade year; our class was very close and like a family. We even had pets! We insisted that we get fish, and one day our entire class went to Meijer for Starbucks and fish tank gear.

Allison would like to thank: My parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and family. I would not be here today without their support and guidance.

Allison's family: Parents: Christopher and Corrie Korpi
Siblings: Samantha and Chase Korpi



Savannah Kobasic

Savannah Kobasic

Class ranking: #3, Escanaba Area High School Class of 2022

College attending: St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin. I am planning on pursuing a major in biology and possibly going on to medical school.

Favorite memory of Holy Name: Going to Meijer as a class to buy fish for the science classroom and getting Starbucks after.

Savannah would like to thank: All of my past teachers at both Holy Name and the High School, my parents, and all of my friends that made school something to look forward to.

Savannah's family: Parents: Steve Kobasic and Diane Kobasic.
Sibling: Isabel Kobasic, HNCS Class of 2022



Joey Kositzky

Joey Kositzky

Class ranking: #4, Escanaba Area High School Class of 2022

College attending: St. Norbert College where I will study business and play football.

Favorite memory(ies) of Holy Name: Getting our eighth grade class pets (fish) at Meijer, Reading Buddies with the kindergarteners, and winning track GNCs in eighth grade.

Joey would like to thank: My family, friends, coaches, Mr. Carlson, and the great teachers I had at Holy Name and Escanaba High School.

Joey's family: Parents: John and Lisa Kositzky
Sibling: Johnny Kositzky, HNCS Class of 2013



Stephen Weinert

Stephen Weinert

Class ranking: #4, Ludington High School Class of 2022

College attending: Lake Michigan College to study physical education and wellness and play baseball. From there, I plan to transfer to a four-year school to study exercise science or biomechanics.

Favorite memory of Holy Name: Having pet fish in Ms. Chartier’s classroom during eighth grade.

Stephen would like to thank: I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, and coaches who have helped me along the way. The impact they have had on me has been tremendous, and I would not be where I am without their unwavering support.

Stephen’s family: Parents: Jamie and Kim Weinert

Siblings: Justin, Nicholas, Lucas, Jonathan, Rebecca, and Thomas



Morgan Gartland

Morgan Gartland

Class ranking: #8, Escanaba Area High School Class of 2022

College attending: Grand Valley State University to major in biochemistry.

Favorite memory of Holy Name: How close me and all of my classmates and teachers were. Every time I think back to Holy Name, I remember it being like a family.

Morgan would like to thank: I would like to thank my mom for always pushing me to do my best. She always believed in me, which helped me to believe in myself.

Morgan’s family: Parents: Kevin Gartland and Brenda Soper

Sweetheart Alum

Holy Name sweethearts Brooke & Tyler Myrick, best friends since sixth grade, have advice for other married couples

by Victoria LaFave

Holy Name Catholic School sweethearts Brooke Mortl and Tyler Myrick, both 2008 HNCS graduates, first became friends at the young age of 11. Tyler had just transferred to Holy Name at the beginning of fifth grade after the school he had been attending, Ford River Elementary School, closed in the spring of 2004. Brooke, however, was in a different fifth grade class with a different teacher, so they didn't really get to know each other until the next school year.

“In sixth grade, we became close friends, eventually becoming best friends,” Brooke smiled. Though they were very close in middle school, they said they never really attended Holy Name dances together, though Brooke says, “we would definitely hang out at them once we got there.”

Funny Holy Name memories

Because their lockers were in alphabetical order for the three years of middle school, Brooke’s locker was always in between Tyler’s and his friend Ryan Meintz’s lockers.

As a typical middle school boy not sure how to woo a girl, Tyler says he would often “drop” books, sometimes hitting Brooke, so that he would have to apologize to her, as he sheepishly picked up his books.

“I remember always being stuck between the two of them,” Brooke laughed, “and a lot of books being dropped near me.”

Their funniest Holy Name memory, though, was the night before their eighth grade class trip to Minneapolis.

The memory starts when Tyler texted Brooke, asking her to be his girlfriend.

“She replied, ‘Yes’,” Tyler smiled.

Then, things got awkward.

“The next day, we basically completely ignored each other because we didn’t know what to do as ‘boyfriend/girlfriend’,” Tyler laughed.

“That night, not even twenty-four hours later, I texted Brooke and broke up with her. The next day, we were best friends again, and talked and hung out for the rest of the trip.”

Re-kindling their friendship

The couple then took some time off from their friendship to focus on school, but eventually re-kindled their relationship and started dating again during the summer between their sophomore and junior years at Escanaba High School. One fun memory they had as a young couple was when they went to their senior prom together and wore matching five-toe salmon-colored “shoes” (the color of Brooke’s dress). “We had a great time taking a limo bus with all of our friends to prom,” he remembered, “and the shoes were a hit.”

After graduation, Brooke went to Bay College for one year, and then transferred to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, where she graduated with an Associate’s Degree in dental hygiene in May 2015.

Tyler went to Bay College for two years after graduating from high school. He then transferred to The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, graduating in December 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in drama.

Soon after graduating from college, in 2017, Brooke moved to Iron Mountain, working as a dental hygienist for a year and a half.

After they got engaged, Tyler moved to Los Angeles, from 2016 through 2018, where he worked on Jimmy Kimmel Live as a production assistant.

“It was a difficult process being apart for so long, but we made it through. Our visits were short, but they were important.” Brooke later joined Tyler in LA, where she worked as a dental hygienist until 2018.



THEN: Brooke Mortl and Tyler Myrick on their "first date" at the Wallace Zoo in 2010



NOW: Tyler and Brooke Myrick with their daughter Isla

They got married in Escanaba in 2017, stayed in LA for another year and a half, and then moved to Milwaukee in Fall 2018, where Tyler worked in media production, eventually starting his own business, Portage Point Productions, which he still runs today.

After their daughter Isla was born in January 2020, the couple moved back to Escanaba in April 2021 to be closer to family and friends.

Catholic faith at the core of their marriage

The couple says that, having both been raised Catholic, their faith plays a large role in their marriage and in raising their daughter.

“When we were going through marriage preparation, we learned the importance of communication and keeping our Catholic faith at the core of our relationship,” he said. “I think the Catholic Church did a great job with our marriage preparation. And we live by that, especially when disagreements come up.

“We continue to use those core principles—and we don’t argue much,” he smiled. “so it’s obviously worked well for us.”

After being married for five years, their advice for other newly married couples is simple: “Be each other’s best friend. Laugh with each other, communicate, and of course, love each other.”



CRUSADER CASH
HOLY NAME
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
RAFFLE



Tickets: \$25 each or 5 for \$100
License Number: C30520
Drawings to be held at Holy Name Catholic School

\$500 Early Bird Drawings
February 15th, 2023 & March 15, 2023 @ 1 pm est

Final Drawing
April 15, 2023 @ 8 pm est (Spring Fling)

1st place: \$5,000
2nd - 5th places: \$1,000 each
Need not be present to win



Did you know?

The actual cost to educate an **elementary student** for the 2022/23 school year is **\$9,801**

- Rate for Catholic families is **\$3,425**
- Rate for Non-Catholic families is **\$6,750**

The actual cost to educate a **high school student** for the 2022/23 school year is **\$22,100**

- Rate for Catholic families is **\$4,150**
- Rate for Non-Catholic families is **\$5,150**

Help keep tuition costs low and support the Crusader Cash Raffle

(ticket enclosed)

Additional tickets available online, at the Holy Name Catholic School office or supporting parish office.

\$500 Early Bird Drawings
February 15, 2023 and March 15, 2023 at 1 pm EST



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

On My Shoulder and At My Side



Mark A. Surrell

Headmaster

Holy Name High School—
A Chesterton Academy

We've all seen the classic cartoons where the character is tempted by a good angel on one shoulder and a bad angel on the other. Interestingly, these angels are often depicted as miniature versions of the character themselves. It's easy to think of these episodes of moral dilemma as merely the psychological manifestations of a person's conflicting interests, but this superficial understanding leaves out the real possibility of wicked temptation and divine help in our moral conundrums.

Jesus himself was tempted by a shoulder devil, and he relied on God and scripture to fend off the attack. Satan brought him to a precipice and offered him the entire world and all of its delights:

"All of these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me," he said.

Jesus replied, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve.'*"

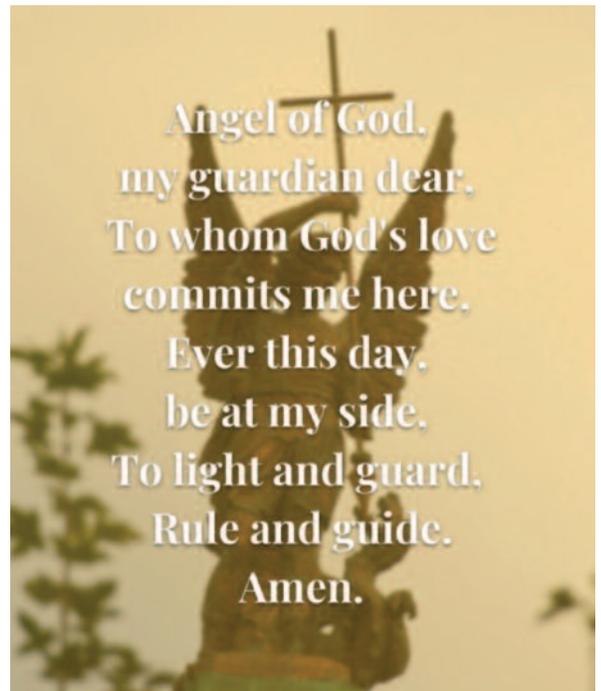
The gospel continues, "Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him."

This summer some of our students read *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. This book is a quirky dramatization of a spiritual battle for the human soul - set from the perspective of the bad angel. It's a

short book and well worth reading. It shows many of the ways that tempters are flummoxed by God's help: chief among them a person's earnest, humble prayer. It also shows that we shouldn't blame ourselves when we inevitably fail and succumb to sin. Instead we should realize that our greatest weapon against the forces of evil is not our own willpower (an exhaustible and easily misled resource); it is a deep trust and reliance on God.

The battle between good and evil is happening in our hearts and minds all the time. If we insist that this is merely a personal conflict of competing psychological interests, we squander the divine ministry which seeks our well-being. Instead, let us pray for God's help, for the intercession of our Blessed Mother, for the persistent aid of our guardian angel, and for the righteous support of St. Michael the Archangel.

Join us as we continue to study these important subjects. Enrollment is now open for grades 9-11. If your family would like to arrange a tour of our academy or a shadow day for your student, please contact the front office at office@holynamecrusaders.com.



"The Class of '70 Turns 70" Reunion

The Class of '70 enjoyed their reunion September 9th & 10th celebrating Friday evening at Holy Name Catholic School in the multi-purpose room and Saturday evening at the Highland Golf Course. If any alumni would like to host their reunion at your beloved school, contact Michelle Bink at alumni@holynamecrusaders.com or (906) 786-7550. We love our alumni!



Holy Name High School seeks to grow College Scholarship Endowment

Would you like to create a lasting family or personal legacy and help build the workforce of our communities? If so, please consider investing in an endowed scholarship or regular scholarship for Holy Name High School graduates. Now Is The Time!



**Holy Name High School – A Chesterton Academy
Class of 2025**

To the left is a picture of the class of 2025, which will be the first class to graduate since the high school closed more than 50 years ago. You can change a life forever by sharing the gift of a higher education or technical/trades training not only for these graduates, but also for graduates for years to come.

Please consider investing in our endowed scholarship fund or developing your very own scholarship.

An endowed scholarship fund is held in perpetuity and invested for long-term growth while providing an income for the purpose designated by the donor(s). This fund is meant to be permanent, so the money donated is never actually spent. Instead, investment income earned from the endowment fund is used to fund a scholarship for years to come. An endowed scholarship does not have to be fully funded immediately; the donor can add to the endowment over time. A donor can also set up a

scholarship endowment to be created after their death through a trust or will.

A regular scholarship is where the donor sets aside a certain amount of money to fund a scholarship. All the money donated goes directly toward funding that scholarship that same year. A regular scholarship can be a one-time donation or can be an annual commitment.

Creating a scholarship endowment is a wonderful opportunity to honor a loved one or give back to your community. I invite you to invest in our mission, in our students, and in our community! Endowments may be funded by an outright gift of cash, securities, a charitable trust, gift annuity, retirement accounts, paid-up insurance policies, or a bequest, many of which can maximize tax benefits of your donation.

The options are endless. You can name your scholarship, set criteria, or specify eligibility (need or merit-based). We will do our best to honor your wishes as to how you want the scholarship to be awarded.

Currently, Holy Name High School has three endowments:

1. Crusader Loyalty Fund

Purpose: To offset the long-term operating costs.

Goal: \$5,000,000

Current Amount Raised:

\$616,000

2022/23 Distribution: \$16,327.96

2. Tuition Angel Fund

Purpose: To provide tuition assistance for those in need.

Goal: \$500,000

Current Amount Raised:

\$107,000

2022/23 Distribution: \$3,167.13

3. College Scholarship Fund

Purpose: To provide scholarships for students pursuing higher education and technical training.

Goal: \$500,000

Current Amount Raised: \$11,000

2022/23 Distribution: \$0

The annual distribution rate is 4.75% of the fund balance less the .0075% administrative fee. However, in order to receive a distribution, the fund balance needs to be a minimum of \$50,000. We are \$39,000 away from being able to have a distribution from the College Scholarship Fund.

If you are interested in changing a life forever by donating toward any of our endowments or by investing in a regular scholarship, please contact Michelle Bink at (906) 786-7550 ext. 20 or email at alumni@holynamecrusaders.com

Be the one to change a life forever. Now Is The Time!

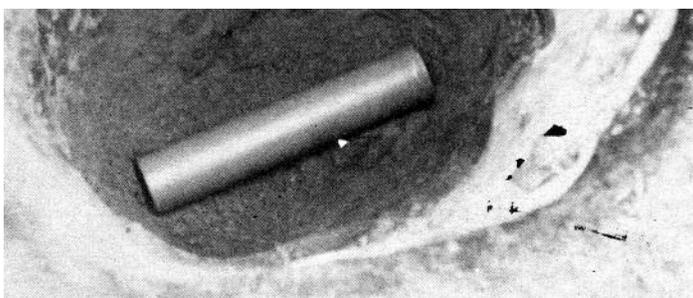
"Then and Now" Time Capsule Update

In 1976, in honor of Arbor Day, a time capsule was buried in the courtyard at Holy Name Catholic School. The capsule was to be opened in 2076. Pictured (on the left side) is principal Joe Sarasin placing the time capsule in the hole where a maple tree was placed on top. Because the maple tree is no longer there, we have a mystery as to where the time capsule is located.

Following a tip from a HNCS alum on where the time capsule was located, some hard-working Holy Name families searched, dug, and dug some more this past June. Though they didn't find it, a great time was had by all! With playground construction beginning, we hope to dig it up in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Pictured (on the right side) digging for the time capsule are Todd LaFave and Henry Trottier. Matt Marenger and Joe Carlson also dug for the capsule. Assisting in the efforts were Mickey Trottier, Mark and Virginia Hallfrisch, Holly Marenger, Anne Carlson, Michelle Bink and Vicki LaFave.

The Trottier and Carlson kids even joined in the efforts!



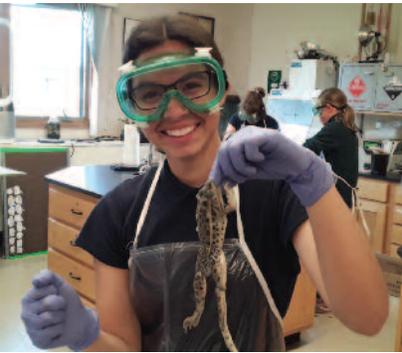


HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL
A CHESTERTON ACADEMY

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*Joy is prayer. Joy is strength.
Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by
which you can catch souls.
- Mother Teresa*

