

SUMMER 2024

# From The Heart



**Hall of Fame**  
Class of 2024 | 4

**Answering The Call**  
Hoffmann Ordained to Priesthood | 8

**Gremlin Pride**  
Student News | 20



# GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

When we say YES to God's call, we're not just affirming our personal faith. We're also contributing to a communal faith that profoundly shapes our lives and the lives of those around us. This collective YES is a transformative force at Sacred Heart School of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. We see its power in our alumni, whose lives reflect their commitment to the vocations God has planned for them. Their YES inspires and strengthens our community, showing us the profound impact of our collective faith.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and joy for Father Christopher Hoffmann's YES to God's call to the priesthood. His journey, shared in this issue, is a testament to the strength and courage it takes to embrace God's plans wholeheartedly. His YES signifies a lifetime devoted to serving others and spreading God's love.

We celebrate these YES moments, recognizing that each one is a step toward fulfilling God's unique plan for each of us. Over the summer, we have been able to participate in assisting each other in God's plan by saying YES to making these faith-filled moments possible throughout our campus:

- Attending and participating in Fr. Hoffmann's Ordination, Masses of Thanksgiving and reception
- Participating in the St. Vincent de Paul Corpus Christi procession
- Welcoming the National Eucharistic Procession to our campus for two Eucharistic Processions, a carry-in dinner, catechetical presentation, overnight adoration, and 6:30 am Mass

It's not just about saying YES to our vocation. It's about the everyday YESes that help us live out our vocational call to discipleship. In the pages that follow, you'll read about many YES moments. I am deeply grateful for all of you who say YES to God's call. Your YES makes a difference in the energy and vitality of our parishes and communities. It's these everyday YESes that inspire us all to listen closely and respond with open hearts.

Rev. Joseph S. Corel  
Pastor  
St. Vincent de Paul

Fr. Joe Corel gives a blessing to the Fr. Hoffmann during his ordination at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.



## SACRED HEART SCHOOL AND SACRED HEART FOUNDATION

**Sacred Heart School Administration**  
2023 - 2024 School Year

**Fr. Joseph Corel**  
Pastor

**Fr. Brad Berhorst**  
Associate Pastor

**Nikki Howell**  
President

**Nancy Manning**  
Principal

**Sacred Heart Foundation Board Members**  
Kyle Herrick '82, President  
Paul Beykirch '73, Vice President

Steve Ellebracht  
Joe Fischer  
Jorge Guevara '03  
Virgil McDonald  
Dr. Mark Register '75  
Beverly Rollings  
Bill Turner  
Fr. Joseph Corel, Ex Officio  
Nikki Howell, Ex Officio

**Development Director**  
Liz Suter-Van Leer

### On the Cover

*Father Christopher Hoffmann '11 celebrates his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Sacred Heart Chapel on the Solemnity of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ on June 2, following his ordination to the priesthood the previous morning.*

### Special Thanks

Beverly Rollings - Proofreader  
Sacred Heart School Yearbook Committee - Photography  
Angela McMullin - Magazine design and layout  
Jay Nies - Contributing photographer  
Laysha Lopez - Development intern

### Contact us:

416 W. 3rd St.  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
(660) 827-3800  
gogremlins.com

From the Heart is created and published by the Sacred Heart Foundation.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A few months ago, I had an epiphany that completely changed my perspective on serving as President of Sacred Heart School. During my first year in this role, I heard the phrase "Sacred Heart is different" more times than I can count. We don't really fit the mold of other schools in our community, our Diocese, or even around the country.

I caught myself trying to fit our Heart into a round hole. I saw our differences as obstacles. Then it hit me. Sacred Heart School's differences are its opportunities! That shift in mindset broke down barriers and created a floodgate of ideas and strategies in our continued pursuit of operational vitality, spiritual growth, and academic excellence. I enthusiastically embrace that Sacred Heart is unique and wonderfully made. (And if you have met me, you know how enthusiastic I can be!)

I share this enthusiasm with our newly appointed administration: Mrs. Suzann Jenkins, Principal; and Ms. Jane McMullin, Interim High School Principal. While new to their roles, both have been dedicated members of our St. Vincent de Paul and Sacred Heart School community for decades. Mrs. Jenkins, Ms. McMullin, and I comprise the three-person leadership team that reports directly to the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Fr. Joe Corel. Great movement in our mission is happening.

Sacred Heart may not fit any one mold, but you fit in with us! In fact, there is a place for everyone at Sacred Heart School. You are the lifeline that keeps us beating strong. A thriving community and positive culture are built when we all come together, working hand in hand. Your participation is wanted and needed! We are excited about a Sacred Heart future with you in it.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as you are in ours.

Mrs. Nikki Howell  
President of Sacred Heart School



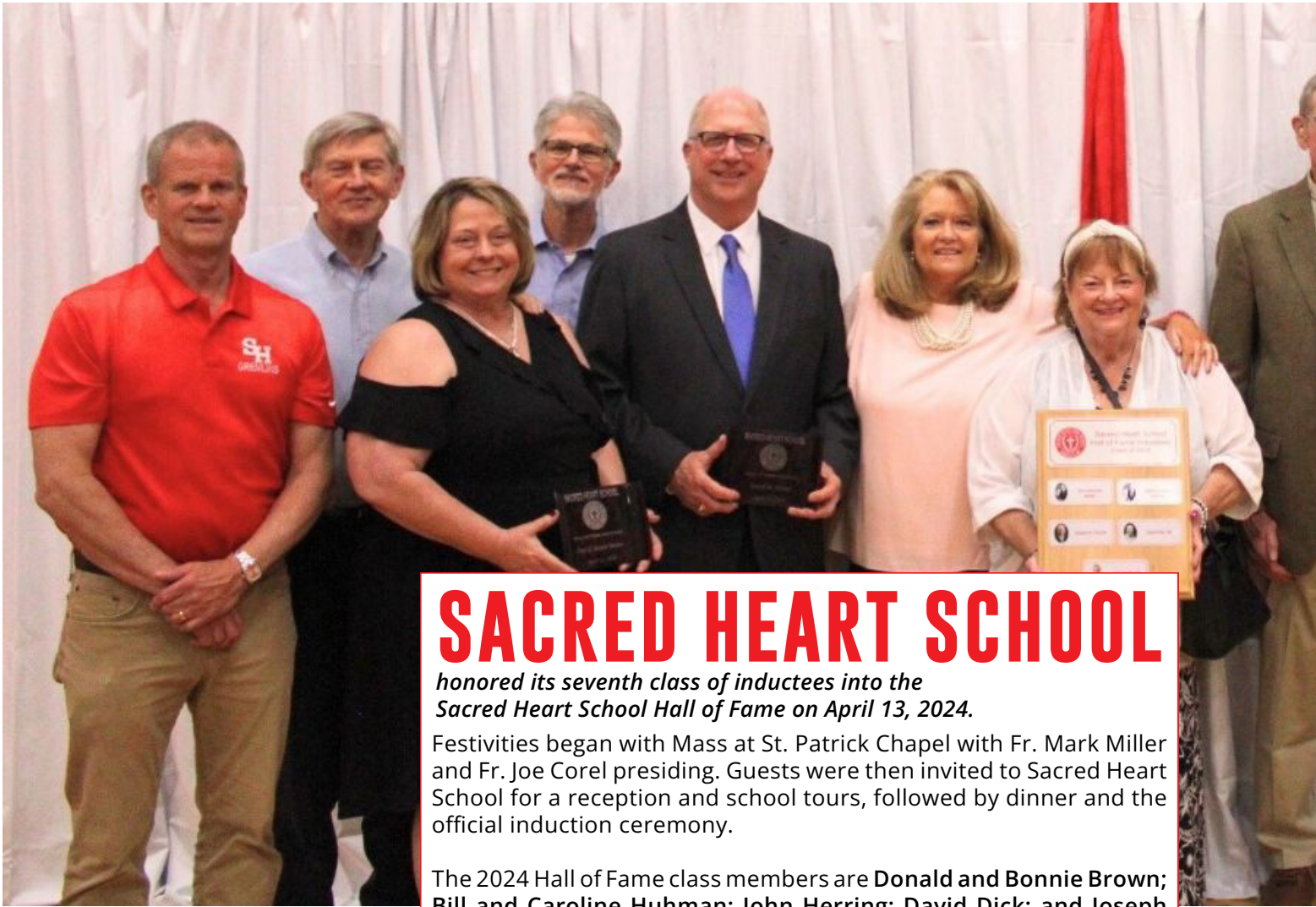
### **Mrs. Suzann Jenkins - Principal**

Mrs. Jenkins will guide and support the growth and success of our daycare, preschool, elementary (K-5), and junior high (6-8) offerings. For over 25 years, Mrs. Jenkins has been deeply involved in the life of our school and parish, contributing to various committees and dedicating six years as a member of our faculty.

### **Ms. Jane McMullin '87 - Interim High School Principal**

Ms. McMullin will concentrate on high school academics, behavior, and faculty development. In addition to her administrative duties, she will continue to teach four classes. Ms. McMullin discovered at a very early age that teaching at Sacred Heart School was where she wanted to be. She has answered that calling to the fullest, which is evident in her 33-year teaching career, her dedication to her students, and her love for Sacred Heart School.

# MEET OUR ADMINISTRATORS



# SACRED HEART SCHOOL

*honored its seventh class of inductees into the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame on April 13, 2024.*

Festivities began with Mass at St. Patrick Chapel with Fr. Mark Miller and Fr. Joe Corel presiding. Guests were then invited to Sacred Heart School for a reception and school tours, followed by dinner and the official induction ceremony.

The 2024 Hall of Fame class members are **Donald and Bonnie Brown; Bill and Caroline Huhman; John Herring; David Dick; and Joseph Fischer.** For more information about the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame or the nomination process, visit the alumni page at [www.gogremlins.com](http://www.gogremlins.com) or email [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com).

All Hall of Fame inductees and their biographies are available online on the Alumni page at [www.gogremlins.com](http://www.gogremlins.com).



## HALL OF FAME

The Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame selection committee seeks nominations for the next class of inductees. Nomination forms are available online under the Alumni page at [www.gogremlins.com](http://www.gogremlins.com). Nominations are due by **Nov. 3, 2024.** For more information, email: [HallofFame@gogremlins.com](mailto:HallofFame@gogremlins.com).

### PAST SACRED HEART SCHOOL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

#### 2017

Richard Bahner '70  
Fr. Jack Behen (posthumously)  
Paul Beykirch '73  
Barbara (Lamy) '54 and Jim Cooney '46  
William Freund '73  
Kyle Herrick '82  
Marvella (Butler) '49 and Jay Twenter  
Rosalie (Meyers) Weller '49  
The Priests & Sisters of the Order of the Precious Blood

#### 2018

Fr. Vince Hoying, C.P.P.S.  
Chris Lawson '85  
Mary Jo (Welliver) McMullin '51  
Richard C. Pfeiffer '61  
Lee C. Redmond '57  
Col. Philip J. White, USAF, (ret.) '48  
Sacred Heart School "Pioneer" Class of 1945

#### 2019

David Brown '68  
Jamie Melchert '88  
David Rouchka '61  
Donald Stohr '52 (posthumously)  
MaryAnn (Kuhlman) Stohr '49  
Jim Wanserski '70  
Melvin "Pete" Emerson (posthumously)  
*The 1998 Cast and Crew of the musical 'Godspell'*

# 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



## DONALD AND BONNIE BROWN (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Don and Bonnie Brown dedicated over 70 years of faith-filled service to Sacred Heart and St. Vincent de Paul Parish. They made many sacrifices to ensure that their six children (Peggy '66, David '68, Bill '70, Greg '72, Jeff '75, and Julie '83) attended Sacred Heart School from first grade through graduation.

Donald Brown was born on May 25, 1927, in Sedalia, MO, the son of Howard and Bessie Brown. He graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1945 and promptly volunteered for the US Navy near the end of WWII. Shortly after, Don was hired by Missouri Public Service (the local power company) for fifty cents per hour. He held several positions with MPS until he retired upon completing 42 years of service.

LaVahn (Bonnie) Brown was born on July 16, 1926, in Pilot Grove, MO, the daughter of George and Helen Klenklen. Bonnie attended the Catholic school through grade 8 and graduated from Pilot Grove High School. After graduation, she worked briefly for the MKT Railroad and later enrolled in the Sedalia Business College, where she met Don. Soon after marrying in 1947, she began the hard and rewarding work of having and mothering six children.

Don and Bonnie were devoted members of Sacred Heart Church and invested countless hours into school and parish life. Don was a member of the Knights of Columbus. While the kids were in school, Don was active in scouting and Little League sports. He was the go-to guy for maintaining the school-wide clock system. Bonnie was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and worked in the school cafeteria for several years. Later in life, they tended to the flower gardens around campus. Don built the pedestal boxes that support the statues on the side altars at Sacred Heart Chapel.

Bonnie passed away November 11, 2018. Don preceded her in death December 24, 2017.

In 2022, Dave and Greg established the Don and Bonnie Brown Legacy Scholarship as a tribute to their parents. The scholarship, managed by the Sacred Heart Foundation, provides tuition assistance to Sacred Heart students who are members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Dave indicated that he and Greg decided to establish a scholarship in memory of their parents to help Sacred Heart School live on. "Our parents set the example to follow," said Dave. "We think the legacy they started with us should continue through other St. Vincent de Paul parish families. The endowment is a good way to do that."

### 2020/2021 (INDUCTED IN 2021 DUE TO COVID)

Marilyn (Fischer) '68 and Jack Arnold  
Fr. Andrew Brunswick C.PP.S. (posthumously)  
Bonnie Diefendorf  
Cecilia and Leo Gerke (posthumously)  
Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58  
Will Kraus '92  
Jane McMullin '87  
Fr. Mark Miller C.PP.S.

### 2022

Theresa (Twenter) Bain '74  
Francis (posthumously) and Ruth (Meyers) Mergen '46  
Tim and Sally (Fechtel) Alley '69  
Tony and Teressa Simon  
David Fall '78 and the 2007 & 2008 Missouri Class 1  
State Volleyball Championship teams

### 2023

Ken Mosier '70  
Coach Tom Jennewein  
Patricia (Ryan) '53 and James Fall '53  
Dr. Mark Register '75  
Karolyn (Lamb) Spears '65  
The Founding Members of the Sacred Heart Foundation  
(Fr. Vincent Hoying, Bill Register, Art Borgmeyer and Don V. Miller)



Scan the QR code  
to watch the Hall of  
Fame Inductee video  
tributes.

## BILL AND CAROLINE HUHMAN (POSTHUMOUSLY)



Bill and Caroline Huhman are remembered for their dedicated lives filled with service and love to their family and to Sacred Heart Parish and School. Both were born and raised in small communities in Missouri. Bill, born on October 17, 1928, was the son of William and Frances Stockman Huhman. Caroline, born on July 14, 1932, was the daughter of Ted and Kate Wilbers Rackers. Caroline finished 8th grade at St. Margaret's in Osage Bend. Bill left school early to support his family's dairy farm due to his father's illness. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Bill and Caroline were married on September 9, 1950, at St. Margaret's in Osage Bend. In 1954, they moved the family to Sedalia after purchasing the Tom's Food Distributorship, which they operated until their retirement in 1994. Caroline also ran a successful sewist business from their home. During that time, they raised five children: Ron '69, Linda '71, Karen '72, Charli '74, and Patty '81. Their family extended to include 14 grandchildren (six Sacred Heart graduates), 19 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

Beyond work, they were deeply involved in various organizations and activities throughout the community, especially at Sacred Heart Parish and School. Faith was central to everyday life. Anchored by their faith, the Huhmans were ushers and served on the Parish Council and various commissions for many years. They were instrumental in conducting the parish's first bazaar and were highly involved in the many that followed. If there was a project in the school or parish during the 1960s, 70s, or 80s, you can almost guarantee that the Huhmans were involved.

Caroline (along with Carol Register) made new stage curtains. She and Bill worked alongside many other volunteers to renovate the Hoying Gym. The Huhmans, alongside other school and parish families, knocked down the north wall of the gymnasium and added bleachers, concessions, and locker rooms. Caroline managed concessions for twenty years and inspired the Caroline Huhman Dedication Award, recognizing outstanding female athletes.

The Huhmans were known for their elaborate Nativity and Christmas village. For many years, they invited the Sacred Heart kindergarten class to their home to view the display and enjoy cookies and punch while they listened to the Christmas story.

Bill died August 17, 2006, and Caroline passed February 14, 2009.



## JOHN L. HERRING '62

John Herring embodies the spirit of giving that Sacred Heart School aspires to instill in its students. John was born in Minneapolis, MN, to Marie J. and Burnsley U. Herring. He spent his 8th grade, junior, and senior years at Sacred Heart School. While there, he was active as a crossing guard, an altar boy, and a member of the basketball team and choir. He graduated in 1962 as a Gremlin.

After graduation, John worked for the US Coast and Geodetic Survey (now the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) surveying for the Minuteman missile sites in the Central US until 1965, when he was drafted into the US Army. While in the Army, he traveled extensively, with two tours in Germany and one each in Vietnam and Korea. Some of the recognition he earned in the service of our country include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC),

Purple Heart, and Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC).

While a Second Lieutenant in Germany, John became aware of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). At that time, a person could take five tests to earn college credit. Although he hadn't yet attended college, John took and passed all five tests, earning 30 hours of college credit. After Vietnam, the Army offered to pay his way to college if he could complete the coursework in just 21 months, which he did. He said the stellar education he received at Sacred Heart School made this possible.

John earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Tampa and a master's in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. In 1992, John retired from the military and enrolled in George Washington University's Masters of Education program, earning a teaching certificate in Virginia. He then taught eighth-grade math in Fairfax County, VA, retiring after ten years of teaching.

Despite the distance, John reconnected with Sacred Heart School in a big way when he received a letter from a student, thanking him for donating a water fountain. Since then, John has connected with numerous faculty, staff, and students via letters, text, emails, and even Zoom! He has been instrumental in many capital improvements, including the restroom renovations, Little Gremlins playground, the Annual Fund Drive matching challenges, and numerous Sacred Heart Wish List items. In 2023, he offered to cover the testing fees for any student who took the CLEP tests and invested in future generations of students by establishing the Herring Legacy Scholarship Endowment with the Sacred Heart Foundation. His energetic, giving spirit and pen pal friendship throughout the years have won over many HEARTS at Sacred Heart!

## DAVID DICK '80



David Dick comes from a long line of proud and dedicated Gremlins. His mother, Anna Mae Welliver Dick, Class of 1949, attended all 12 years at Sacred Heart. His father, Donald E. Dick, graduated in 1953. Albert Dick, David's grandfather, also attended Sacred Heart School from first through eighth grades, graduating in 1920.

David attended Sacred Heart from grades 1 through 12, graduating in 1980. He earned an associate's degree in Farm Management from State Fair Community College and a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Central Missouri State University (now UCM). David is the owner/operator of Springfork Valley Farms. He has spent over 40 years serving in leadership positions in the beef industry at the local, state, and national levels. David was appointed Assistant Beef Cattle Superintendent (1989-1991), then Superintendent (1991-2022) for the Missouri State Fair. He also was appointed Livestock Superintendent from 2000-2022. He is Past President and a Missouri Cattlemen's Association member, serving on several award-winning calf-working teams. David was elected to the Pettis County Cattlemen's board, becoming board President in 1991. David joined the Missouri Cattlemen's Association State Board of Directors in 1993. He remained on the board for over 20 years. In addition to this service, David has had a long and active history with the Missouri Beef Industry Council.

As an individual with seemingly endless energy, David Dick has been an effective leader in county politics over the years. He has been Flat Creek Township Committeeman since 1982. David served on the Pettis County Soil and Water Conservation District from 2000 to 2016. He has been Treasurer of the Pettis County Republican Committee since 2002. Finally, being encouraged by friends and neighbors, David ran for and was elected as Pettis County Commissioner in 2014 and re-elected in 2018.

David is a lifelong member of Sacred Heart/St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Over the years, he has been involved with the Parish Bazaar and various committees, including the Worship and Spiritual Life Commission, Parish Council (from 1990 to 2002), Administration Commission, and School Advisory Council. David was reappointed to the Parish Council and was serving as President when the three parishes formed St. Vincent DePaul parish. David has also served in numerous volunteer roles representing our parish at the diocesan level. David has served in leadership capacities within the Sacred Heart School Alumni Association, including his work co-authoring *History of Sacred Heart High School (1941-1992)*.



## JOSEPH M. FISCHER

Joe Fischer inspires others through his service, generosity, and love for the parish, school, and community. He grew up in Sedalia and attended Saint Patrick's and Sacred Heart. He graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1976 and continued his education at Central Missouri State University, earning a degree in Marketing and Management.

Out of college, Joe worked for Castle and Cooke, Inc. (a California-based fruit and vegetable conglomerate) for five years. From there, he returned to his beloved hometown to work in his family's business, Fischer Concrete. He eventually owned and operated ten concrete plants and a Burlington limestone quarry in West Central Missouri. Today, he is one of the managing members of Prairie Hollow Development Company, LLC, and TARA Industries, LLC (a biofuels energy company). Joe is a former chairman of the Missouri Ready Mix Concrete Association, the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Sedalia-Pettis County United Way.

Joe and his late wife, Susan O'Brien Fischer, were capital campaign co-chairs for the 2005 Sacred Heart high school and gymnasium addition. Their dedication to the mission inspired others to join the parish's most extensive capital campaign, thereby updating facilities and investing in future generations. In his 27 years as a Sacred Heart School parent, Joe consistently helped out wherever needed (and still does, even though all of his children have graduated), whether it be serving in the concession stands, coaching a volleyball team, or leading a Sacred Heart Foundation Annual Fund Drive effort.

Joe is married to Gloria Angel Fischer and is the father of four daughters, all proud graduates of Sacred Heart School: Rachel '10, Claire '12, Mary '15, and Mariana Restrepo '23.

Joe serves on the boards of the Sacred Heart School Foundation, the Sedalia Heritage Foundation, the State Fair Community College Foundation, and the Liberty Center Association for the Arts.

According to recently retired Sacred Heart School President Dr. Mark Register, "Joe Fischer is extremely bright, highly successful, and fair and clear-thinking. He is the type of parent that Catholic Schools need to survive. Joe cared deeply about the well-being and quality of his children's education. He continues to advocate for the same high standards and benefits for all children at Sacred Heart. He is a true servant leader for Sacred Heart School, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, and the greater Sedalia community. I am proud to call him my friend and to have been able to work alongside him for so many happy years."





# ANSWERING THE CALL

## REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOFFMANN ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD

*PHOTOS AND EXCERPT OF THE STORY PRINTED WITH PERMISSION BY JAY NIES, THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN.*

Cathedral bells rang joyfully at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City on June 1, 2024, following the ordination of Christopher Hoffmann '11 to the priesthood and Mr. Gregory Clever to the diaconate. This was the first time in recent memory that a bishop in this diocese ordained both a priest and a transitional deacon at the same Mass.

"I pray that through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Diocesan Patroness, you and I may serve faithfully, along with our brother priests, to shepherd our Church in the joy of the Gospel and with a profound sense of gratitude for His merciful love," Bishop McKnight told Fr. Hoffmann before ordaining him a priest. "If your ministry is to be fruitful, it must flow from your interior communion with Christ, which makes us capable of being sent from Him to serve others — sent not from our egos or even our good intentions, but from Him."

At his ordination, like all priests, Fr. Hoffmann made promises to Bishop McKnight and to all the people of God. He vowed to be in communion with his brother priests, to be a fellow worker in the vineyard of the Lord, and to care for all the people of God. He also promised to preach and teach the word of God as it has been handed down through the Catholic Church through the ages and to continue in the unbreakable line of tradition. Understanding the Church's authority over sacramental liturgies, he vowed to celebrate these liturgies faithfully and reverently, especially the Eucharist (the Mass) and the sacrament of reconciliation, all for the glory of God and the sanctification of His people.

Fr. Hoffmann also promised to pray for the people entrusted to him, concretely doing so by praying the Divine Office daily. He vowed, with God's help, to unite himself with Christ the High Priest and to be consecrated to God, not merely for himself, but for the salvation of all. He promised respect and obedience to the current bishop and his successors as a sign of his understanding of the Church's hierarchy and traditions. By making these promises, he embraced the importance of the three offices of the priest: to sanctify (offer the sacraments and pray for the people), to teach (primarily by preaching and also by connecting the culture and happenings of the day to the Gospel message), and to govern (the administrative work that keeps the church active, relevant, and available to the people of God).

Following the procession, Fr. Hoffmann gave his first priestly blessing to Bishop McKnight. Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, who led the diocese from

Fr. Hoffmann carries the Most Blessed Sacrament down the main thoroughfare through downtown Sedalia during a Eucharistic Procession on June 2, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Photo by Jay Nies

1997 to 2018 and accepted Fr. Hoffmann into priestly formation, received Fr. Hoffmann's second blessing. "You never know what God is going to do if you keep your heart open to Him," said Bishop Gaydos.

Traditionally, on the evening of ordination or the following day, a new priest returns to his home parish to give thanks to all who have assisted him on his journey of discernment to the priesthood and to celebrate Mass for them. Fr. Hoffmann returned to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia on June 2 to preside over the 10 a.m. Mass in English at Sacred Heart Chapel and the 11:30 a.m. Mass in Spanish at St. Patrick Chapel. Since it was Corpus Christi Sunday, Fr. Hoffmann carried the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance from Saint Patrick to Sacred Heart, followed by Benediction and Reposition. After Reposition, around 300 guests gathered at Sacred Heart School for a parish picnic reception.

Fr. Hoffmann was raised Catholic in Sedalia. He attended Mass every Sunday with his parents, John and Linda Hoffmann, and younger brother, Patrick '13. He attended Sacred Heart School from kindergarten through high school. He then attended Iowa State University before enrolling at Conception Seminary in northwestern Missouri. In 2024, Fr. Hoffmann graduated from the Pontifical College Josephinum with a Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Sacred Theology, and Hispanic Ministry Field Education Certificate.

"Priestly ordination, an amazing gift and huge step, is just the beginning of the next chapter of my life," said Fr. Hoffmann. "I am still growing, learning, and being drawn more to give God my daily 'yes.' I do not know everything. I am still a sinner, and I still like to play Mario Kart, but as a priest, I am called to bring Jesus into every situation I encounter. I am called to lay down my life for my sheep and bring Jesus to others and others to Jesus. I would like to thank my biological, parish, and school families for their support and prayers over the years and all those who formed me spiritually, humanly, pastorally, and academically. Prayers from many people, some I will never know, have helped strengthen me along this difficult journey. Please continue to pray for me, for all those in formation for Holy Matrimony, the Priesthood, and for Religious Life, and encourage young people to trust God's call in their lives. Know that you all remain in my prayers!"



*The gesture of laying on of hands is the ancient sign for bestowing the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gesture by the bishop, together with the Prayer of Ordination that follows, constitutes the essential act of ordination. The laying on of hands by the other priests is a prayer for strength and grace from the Holy Spirit, and manifests the unity of the presbyteral college.*



*Fr. Hoffmann presided over the June 2 Spanish Mass at St. Patrick Chapel.*



Fr. Hoffmann receives the offertory gifts from his parents, John and Linda Hoffmann, during the June 2 Mass of Thanksgiving.

Fr. Hoffmann's first assignment as a priest in the Diocese of Jefferson City is Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes in Columbia and to assist the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia with Hispanic Ministry.

**Father Hoffmann's mailing address is:**  
Our Lady of Lourdes c/o Father Christopher Hoffmann  
903 Bernadette Dr.  
Columbia, MO 65203



Scan the QR code for more photos and articles from The Catholic Missourian



Dr. Mark Register '75, a former administrator at Sacred Heart School, was among the many faithful who received a priestly blessing at the ordination reception.

Sacred Heart High School's 80th baccalaureate and commencement ceremony, held May 19, celebrated the 28 seniors of the Class of 2024. Fr. Joe Corel presided at the Baccalaureate Mass, which coincided with Pentecost Sunday.

"At the beginning of this school year, we celebrated an all-school Mass, where we asked the Holy Spirit to come down upon us during this school year and allow us to be led by the Same Holy Spirit," said Fr. Joe in his homily. "How appropriate we ask the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the academic year and end with your graduation asking the Holy Spirit to lead us. The whole enterprise of the Catholic school is to help students become all God wants them to become and to have faith and trust in Him that He truly wants the best for them. He answers how to find joy, peace, and happiness. Follow the will of the Father as the Son did. The Holy Spirit will help us seek and know the will of the Father."

Ms. Jane McMullin '87, chosen by the class as the commencement speaker, said the only things we leave with when we depart this earth are our character and integrity. "Success is out there waiting for you," she said. "It's not measured with fame or wealth but in what kind of person you become and how you help others and improve the world around you."



**Class of 2024 Highlights:**

- 100% graduation rate
- Ten of the 28 graduates earned summa cum laude, with a GPA of 3.9 and above
- Average GPA of 3.6, surpassing the national average of 3.0
- Eight signed to play collegiate sports
- One signed to join band/choir
- 78% completed one or more college courses
- 343 hours of college credit (collectively) received by SHS graduates
- \$2,101,800 offered in scholarships and \$1,240,200 will be utilized
- 13 attended SHS since kindergarten



# SENIORS 2024

**Spencer Aeschbacher**  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Computer Science

**Samantha Altena**  
University of Missouri  
Pre-Medicine

**Megan Aonzo**  
University of Missouri  
Psychology

**George Bain IV**  
State Fair Community College  
Business

**Triston Byerly**  
State Fair Community College  
Automotive Technology

**Gavin Caldwell**  
State Fair Community College  
Animal Science

**Ellie Coruna**  
University of Missouri  
Computer Science

**Olivia Dobson**  
State Fair Community College  
Mortuary

**Brooke Epple**  
Avila University  
Nursing

**Emily Hesse**  
University of Missouri  
Health Science

**Luke Jenkins**  
Missouri State University  
Business

**Margarita Karpenchuk**  
State Fair Community College  
Business

**Vladimir Lopez**  
State Fair Community College  
Construction Management

**Ximena Lopez**  
Rockhurst University  
International Business

**Jackson Manning**  
Rockhurst University  
Mechanical Engineering

**Thomas Mertes**  
State Fair Community College  
Business/Marketing

**Alexis Owens**  
State Fair Community College  
Criminal Justice

**Faithlyn Parks**  
State Fair Community College  
Radiology

**George Perez III**  
State Fair Community College  
Undecided

**Carter Rice**  
State Fair Community College  
Mechanical Engineering

**Connor Rice**  
State Fair Community College  
Business

**Reuben Smith**  
Iowa State University  
Mechanical Engineering

**Shea Smith**  
University of Missouri  
Nursing

**Bryan Tienda**  
State Fair Community College  
Automotive Technology

**Mariah Van Leer**  
Avila University  
Psychology

**Andres Vanegas**  
State Fair Community College  
Undecided

**Marcel Walton**  
United States Marine Corps

**Traven Wheeler**  
State Fair Community College  
Undecided



## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!

*"Sacred Heart taught me how much your faith can keep you grounded. God has a kind of love that we cannot even comprehend. He will be there in a way that no one else can be. Turn to Him." - Mariah Van Leer, Valedictorian*

# 2024 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Goal \$255,000 by Dec. 31, 2024

Gifts to the Annual Fund support essentially every aspect of the school, including:

**Student Scholarships:** More than 90% of our families seek tuition assistance. Gifts to the Annual Fund Drive help bridge the gap between the actual cost of education and what a family can afford.

**Faculty Recruitment and Retention:** Fair and competitive salaries are essential to be able to continue to provide the best education for our students.

**Facilities and Resources:** Funding to address immediate needs and future capital improvements is necessary to keep our 140-year-old campus healthy, vibrant, and poised for the next generation of scholars.

A gift from you in any amount will be honored by placing your name in a future publication of our From the Heart magazine. Scan the QR code, use the enclosed envelope, or give online at [www.gogremlins.com/donate](http://www.gogremlins.com/donate).



# PLANNED GIVING

## YOUR LEGACY IS VALUABLE; WE WANT TO HELP YOU SECURE IT EFFORTLESSLY!



The Sacred Heart Foundation has partnered with MyLegacyWill.com – an online will-writing tool that shares the values of our mission – to allow you to write your legal will for FREE. This partnership enables you to take the necessary steps to protect your family and ensure your legacy is passed on to future generations.

Creating a legal will is a simple yet impactful way to provide for your loved ones and make a lasting difference. With this user-friendly online tool, you can leave a meaningful legacy without any stress or need for complicated documentation.

To write your legal will FREE of charge, please visit [mylegacywill.com/GOGREMLINS](http://mylegacywill.com/GOGREMLINS)

By using the referral code (GOGREMLINS), you can write your legal will for FREE and pass on what you value most in an incredible way. While we encourage you to consider including a gift to Sacred Heart Foundation and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in your will to support our work, please remember that this is entirely optional.

The process is straightforward, and you can update or finish your will anytime. Visit [mylegacywill.com/GOGREMLINS](http://mylegacywill.com/GOGREMLINS) to start your will today and take the first step toward preserving your legacy. If you have any questions, please contact me or Liz Van Leer at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com)

Sincerely,

Kyle Herrick  
Sacred Heart Foundation President



## WISH LIST

Turn wishes into reality! Educators frequently dip into their own personal funds to buy items that enhance their classrooms and support student learning. In addition to facility needs, we invited teachers to submit their wish lists so that parents, parishioners, and community members might bless them with a gift for their classroom.

Your gift is 100% tax deductible. Thank you for your consideration of these requests. For more information, please contact Liz Van Leer at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com).

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUND DRIVE = NO LIMIT!

Our Annual Fund Drive remains our top need and priority as it supports the long-term and immediate operational needs of Sacred Heart School.

### INSTRUMENT REPAIRS = \$200

It's time for a tune-up! Our band department has saxophones in need of repair. Your support would be music to our ears!

### RECESS REFRESH = \$200

Your gift would cover the costs of playground balls (5), ankle skip toys (6), pickleball racquets (4), and soccer balls (6).

### KINDERGARTEN KARE PACKAGE = \$550

Kindergarten is a glorious time of exploration and discovery! Be a part of this exciting journey by investing in our new kindergarten teacher and her classroom. Your gift would satisfy a wish list of books (including bible story classics), magnetic tiles, a bean bag chair, counting games, and a variety of sensory toys.

### VOCAL MUSIC = \$3,000

A gift to our K-12 vocal program would hit a high note! Our vocal music library needs expansion and updating. Immediate priorities include purchasing vocal music for Christmas and Elementary concerts.

### WOBBLE STOOLS = \$500

When our kids get the wiggles, these wobble stools provide the sensory input needed to move their bodies while keeping them on task.

### SACRED HEART SECURITY = \$19,000

We are taking proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of everyone on our campus. Your generous donation will fund state-of-the-art safety enhancements, such as upgraded video cameras and OpenEye surveillance. Join us in prioritizing the safety of our campus.

*Editor's note: If donations toward a wish list item exceed the needed amount, donors will be notified and funding will be redirected toward another priority item. Thank you!*

# WINTER/SPRING SPORTS



## BASKETBALL

The hoops were hot as the boys basketball team wrapped up another successful season that ended in a Sweet 16 sectional match against Bunceton Prairie Home. MSHSAA class-determinant championship factor points from previous years' teams expired, moving the Gremlins back to Class 1. The Class 1 District 9 champions ended the season 23-6. The Gremlins also took 1st place in the Pilot Grove Tournament and 2nd place in the Kaysinger Conference Tournament.

The girls basketball team continues to show perseverance during a season of rebuilding. Despite being a very young team with just one junior and one senior player on the roster, the girls showed commendable growth, which goes beyond their win-loss record. The team has been working hard in the offseason with a strong roster of freshmen eager to support the team. The Gremlins are optimistic and aiming high for the upcoming season, determined to build on their progress.

The junior high boys and girls basketball programs both enjoyed successful seasons, finishing 14-1 and 11-5, respectively. Both teams took second in the Kaysinger Conference Tournament. The enthusiasm for the game continues as an energetic group of Gremlins take to the court at the elementary level.

Coaches: Steve Goodwin (HS Boys), Michael Schwartz (HS Girls), Cole Scott (JH Boys), Desmon Carl (JH Girls)

## GIRLS SWIM



The Gremlins had a strong presence on the swim team competing in every meet with strong finishes. Co-op teammate, Camille Shear, was a state qualifier. Paige Diller narrowly missed the mark to qualify for state in diving. The 200 freestyle and 200 medley relays teams of Camille Schear, Ximena Lopez, Paige Diller, Olivia Jones, and Andrea Granados achieved state consideration times.

Coaches: Samantha Yewell and Victoria Linderman



## TRACK

High school track continued to set the pace, once again establishing new school records and reaching the podium at State. Senior Jackson Manning set three new individual school records in the 800m (2:04.60), 1600m (4:36.04), and 3200m (10:55.92), and was the anchor of the 4x800m relay team. The other relay members, all sophomores, were Logan Howell, Max Van Leer, and Jared Owens. The relay team set a school record time of 8:23.06 at the Class 1 Missouri State Track and Field meet, where they placed 3rd for the second consecutive year. Senior Jackson Manning also set two of his school records at State, finishing 5th in the 1600m run and 10th in the 800m run. Sophomore Max Van Leer set a new school record in the 400m dash with a time of 52.93. Special thanks and a victory lap go to retiring Coach Carrie Smith, who reignited track and field at SHS after a long hiatus. The Junior High team is also racing to win. The boys took home four individual gold medals and the championship team trophy in the Kaysinger Conference track meet, while the girls took home three gold medals. Eighth-grader Eri Steeves broke the high school record for the 400, 800, and 1600-meter runs.

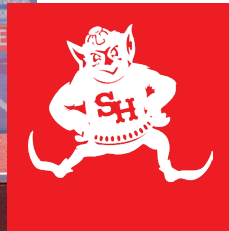
Coaches: Carrie Smith (HS), Michael Schwartz (JH)



## GIRLS SOCCER

The 2023 season was a success for the girls soccer team in its second full year. With strong leadership in offense, defense, midfield, and goal, the team built on last year's experience to become more tenacious and improved. Their efforts resulted in seven regular season wins and a first-round district victory against the fourth-seeded team.

Coach: Nick Turner





## GOLF

The golf team had several shining moments this season, and with the help of three dual-sport athletes, increased their roster from nine to 12 members. Led by senior captain Luke Jenkins and juniors Grant Goodwin and Zander Jackson, the Gremlins captured 2nd place in the Kaysinger Conference tournament, earning 2nd, 7th, and 9th, respectively. At the 24-team Sacred Heart Invitational, the team carded a personal record (PR) of 330, with Jenkins firing a 1-under-par 69 for the overall tournament win. Competing at the 14-team Versailles Classic, the Gremlins brought home a 2nd place win, with Jenkins shooting a PR of 2-under-par 69 for 1st place and Jackson placing 6th. The boys traveled to Clinton for Districts, where Jenkins and Jackson placed T-3rd and T-13th respectively, advancing them to State. Jenkins made his fourth appearance at State, having previously placed 27th, 6th, and 2nd, and this time brought home a 3rd-place finish. Jackson ended his season with his 2nd trip to State competition, bringing home a 57th-place finish.

Coach: Bryan Jenkins



## BASEBALL

The 2024 Class 1 state runner-up Gremlins stepped up to the plate, ready to swing for the fences. Despite strong competition against Class 4 and state-ranked teams, the Gremlins brought the heat and excitement all year, going 25-5, the most wins in school history. They ended the season with a loss at the Class 1 State Championship game against Oran. The season was full of major highlights including second place in the Marshall and Kaysinger tournaments, a Class 1 District 10 championship title, victories in sectionals and quarterfinals, and numerous individual milestones and accolades.

Coach: Nick Brashear



# POST SEASON AWARDS

## All State

Connor Rice (SR), 1st team, Baseball (infield)  
Carter Rice (SR), 1st team, Baseball (catcher)  
Gavin Caldwell (SR), 1st team, Baseball (pitcher)  
Joleen Frost (JR), 2nd team, Soccer  
Jackson Manning (SR), Track  
Jared Owens (SO), Track  
Max Van Leer (SO), Track  
Logan Howell (SO), Track

## All Region

Margo Karpenchuk (SR), Soccer  
Joleen Frost (JR), Soccer

## All Conference

Connor Rice (SR), Baseball and Basketball  
Carter Rice (SR), Baseball and Basketball  
Gavin Caldwell (SR), Baseball  
Noah Damlo (SO), Honorable Mention, Baseball  
Max Van Leer (SO), Track and Honorable Mention, Basketball  
Bailee Vogel (SO), Basketball  
Jackson Manning (SR), Track  
Jared Owens (SO), Track  
Logan Howell (SO), Track

## All District

Connor Rice (SR), Baseball and Basketball  
Carter Rice (SR), Baseball and Basketball  
Gavin Caldwell (SR), Baseball  
Miles Johnson (FR), Honorable Mention, Baseball  
Conner Brown (JR), Basketball  
Margo Karpenchuk (SR), First Team, Soccer  
Joleen Frost (JR), First Team, Soccer  
Ximena Lopez (SR), Second Team, Soccer  
Ebrinn Cahill (SO), Second Team, Soccer  
Ellie Coruna (SR), Honorable Mention, Soccer

## Academic All State\*

2023-2024 Baseball Team  
Carter Rice (SR), Basketball and Baseball  
Ellie Coruna (SR), Basketball and Soccer  
Sophie Anderson (JR), Cheer  
Sarah Hill (JR), Cheer and Cross Country  
Cassidy Bentch (SO), Cheer  
Jackson Manning (SR), Cross Country and Track  
Reuben Smith (SR), Track  
Mariah Van Leer (SR), Cross Country and Soccer  
Ximena Lopez (SR), Cross Country  
Logan Howell (SO) Cross Country and Track  
Ebrinn Cahill (SO), Track  
Max Van Leer (SO), Track  
Kyler Downing, (FR) Cross Country  
Jacob Velando (FR), Track

## Highlights

Carter Rice exceeded 1,000 career points in basketball  
Connor Rice exceeded 1,000 career points in basketball  
Carter Rice exceeded 200 career strikeouts in baseball  
Gavin Caldwell exceeded 200 career strikeouts in baseball  
Jackson Manning set three new individual school records in the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m  
Jackson Manning, Jared Owens, Max Van Leer and Logan Howell set a new school record in 4x800m  
Max Van Leer set new school record in the 400m  
Eri Steeves set new school records in the girls 400, 800, and 1600m  
Steve Goodwin was recognized as the Class 1 District 9 Boys Basketball Coach of the Year  
Nick Brashears was recognized as the Class 1 District 10 Boys Baseball Coach of the Year  
Connor Rice, Carter Rice, and Gavin Caldwell signed to play baseball at State Fair Community College  
Jackson Manning signed to play soccer at Rockhurst University  
George Bain IV, Traven Wheeler, and Andres Vanegas signed to play soccer at State Fair Community College  
Olivia Dobson signed to sing in the choir and play flute in the band at State Fair Community College  
Margarita Karpenchuk signed to play soccer at State Fair Community College

**Academic All-State Honors** are managed by the coaches association of each sport. Criteria for Academic All-State are as follows:

**Baseball:** Athletes must have a 24 or higher on the ACT or be ranked in the top 25% of the class. Team awards are based on the GPA and ACT scores of sophomore, junior, and senior players.

**Basketball:** Athletes must be a senior, in good standing with the team, possess outstanding moral character, and have met one or more of the following: 27 or higher ACT, 1280 or higher SAT, PSAT of 185 or higher, and or 3.25 or higher GPA.

**Volleyball:** Varsity teams must average a 3.30 GPA on a 4.0 scale or better for the entire 2022-2023 academic year.

**Track:** Athletes must have competed in a state series meet and have met one or more of the following: 25 or higher ACT, 1150 or higher SAT or 3.6 or higher GPA.

**Girls Soccer:** Athletes must be seniors and in good standing with the team and school. They must have participated in at least two additional extra-curricular activities. The academic score is a combination of GPA and ACT. The top players on this objective ranking are placed on the Academic Team.

**Swim:** Academic All-State is not awarded.



Fifteen members of the SHS Key Club (the student chapter of Kiwanis International) showed up bright and early on the first day of Christmas Break to assemble and deliver over 150 stockings to members of the Armed Security Forces stationed at WAFB who could not make it home for Christmas. This service project is made possible through a partnership with the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce and its Military Affairs committee.

All aboard! Ms. Keele's age four preschool class took a ride on the Polar Express at Kehde's BBQ to kick off their Christmas season. The conductor, Dr. Jim Davis, punched each passenger's ticket before they boarded the famous Kehde's "Polar Express" train, where they enjoyed hot cocoa, donut holes, cookies, and candy canes. Santa arrived with a candy cane and silver jingle bell for everyone!



The freshman religion class assembled over 150 blessing bags filled with socks, toothbrushes, granola bars, hand warmers, water bottles, and other comfort items. The blessing bags were distributed to the warming shelter, fire stations, libraries, and Open Door. Students also took some to keep on hand when they saw someone in need. **"Charity is the form, mover, mother, and root of all the virtues." St Thomas Aquinas**

The National Honor Society gave back to the community with its 42nd Annual Christmas Eve Dinner. Over 900 meals were cooked and delivered with the help of many dedicated NHS students, teachers, parents, and alumni.



Alumni of the Sacred Heart Kids Club Choir reunited with their beloved former teacher and Kids Club Choir director, Jeannine Dove, to lead the music at the Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel. Choir members ranged from ages 6 to 18, but sang as one harmonious voice. The tradition included the adored choir loft wave and "Merry Christmas" cheer.

# STUDENT NEWS



The high school speech program enjoyed another successful season, with a highlight being the Adrian Speech tournament. All performers made it to the finals and placed in the top five of their events. Go talking, Gremis!

Students in Ms. Blades-Reed's anatomy class participated in a lab examining beef hearts to see up close and personal the structures of a heart and how they function.



Our little authors! Fourth graders from Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Baldwin's classes each wrote a report on a saint, which were building blocks to a book they authored through a program called Student Treasures. The book included a photo of each student dressed up as their chosen saint.

Ms. Keele's preschool students enjoyed an interactive lesson about Groundhog Day. They were introduced to Punxsutawney Phil and made predictions about whether Phil would see his shadow. The students learned fun facts about groundhogs, sang a groundhog song, and went outside and looked for their shadows.



Fifth-grade students visited the preschool classes for a special visit during Catholic Schools Week to discuss why they love attending a Catholic School. Responses from Little Gremlins included "singing about Jesus, going to Church, and learning about God." It was a fun time and a great moment to reflect on our gift of Catholic education.



Check out the baby chicks that hatched under the watch of Mrs. Bentsch and her second grade class!

Oklahoma City was the destination for this year's Senior Class mission trip. Community service projects included clearing trash (including digging out an old trampoline!) at a neglected site that has now been transformed into a basketball court for underprivileged kids. At a women's shelter, they sorted clothes into outfits and organized hygiene items. The group took in an NBA game and also visited the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, honoring the American priest martyred in Guatemala in 1981.

"Love and charity, are service, helping others, serving others. There are many people who spend their lives in this way, in the service of others. ... When you forget yourself and think of others, this is love!" - Pope Francis



Sacred Heart's Lego League hosted its inaugural Minecraft Tournament. The tournament promoted Lego Leagued through a shared enjoyment of the Minecraft interactive video game. All students were invited to participate for a chance to win the Golden Prize.

Tradition ... TRADITION! This year's highly anticipated spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* performed at one sold out show and one nearly sold-out show at the Hayden Liberty Center! Bravo to Ms. Turner, Mr. Hartman, and the entire cast and crew!



Sacred Heart's National Junior Honor Society Chapter walked to St. Patrick's Church, where they cleared out the choir loft, replaced old rocks in the garden beds, and spruced up several outdoor areas. They concluded the school day at Heckart Community Center with lunch, swimming, basketball, and pickleball.



News nugget! Our cafeteria staff challenged students to guess how many chicken nuggets they prepared this past school year. The answer? A whopping 13,250 nuggets! These students earned clucking rights for submitting the closest guesses: Andres Vanegas (12th), Ireland Weller (7th), Angelo Caraballo (5th), and Gabriel Whittington (1st).

Our 8th graders traveled to Laurie, MO, for a retreat at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church. It was a faith-filled day of community service, prayer, and fellowship. The prayer component centered around the Eucharist as the source of all divine mercy. Consequently, students had the opportunity to reflect and pray in front of Jesus in the Tabernacle and to worship Him in XLT Adoration. Students took home cards with a group picture that they would later use to celebrate Mother's Day.



Our kindergarteners are Hot Rod ready to read! Just like Hot Rod, a character in their Superkids reading program, each student built their own race car to use as they raced around the gym to the 5th graders. Each of these students held a different sentence for the kinders to read. Once all students had read their sentences they made their way to the finish line!

"You look good, you do good," is what Zach Parsons liked to say. Each year since Zach's tragic passing in 2016 (his junior year at SHS), students are encouraged to Dress UP and stretch beyond their comfort zones to lift others up in respect and kindness.



Our elementary students attended a Ragtime showcase by Royce Martin in honor of Scott Joplin. Mr. Martin played classical pieces from Scott Joplin with his twists, keeping students entertained and moving to the rhythms of Ragtime.



Elementary students dazzled on stage for their “A Night on Broadway” themed Spring Concert! They hit every beat and every step of their choreographed dances, making the night memorable for all in attendance.

The Sacred Heart Envirothon team recently competed in the Central Region Envirothon. The team of freshman and sophomores—most new to the competition—competed against schools of all sizes (2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A) in aquatics, soils, wildlife, forestry, oral presentation, and current events. The team came in second in the current event category and third in the oral presentation section.



State speech marked a three-peat for senior Mariah Van Leer and a return visit for junior Sophie Anderson. Competition is against performers from schools of all sizes in Missouri. At the culmination of a successful season, Mariah placed 17th in Humorous Interpretation and Sophie placed 13th in Storytelling prelims.

Two Gremlins were privileged to compete at the state music festival on April 27. Logan Howell earned a gold award (highest honor), and Sophie Anderson took home a silver award (second highest honor)! These talented teens, instructed by Mr. Darrin Hartman, are music to our ears!



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish had the honor of being a stop along the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Junipero Serra Route. This dynamic journey provided countless opportunities for pilgrims to walk closely with our Eucharistic Lord, following him just as the first apostles did throughout his earthly ministry. The stop in Sedalia included a dinner, Eucharistic process, penance service (with over 300 attendees in attendance!) and multiple opportunities for prayer. Pictured: Students lead the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



Our annual elementary Field Day brought the fun with indoor and outdoor games, a cotton candy station, and a surprise appearance by our faculty in wild inflatable costumes. Thank you to our Active Parents Club, elementary teachers, and the 8th-grade class for their help in organizing this fun-filled day.

The Community Blood Center honored Mrs. Barb Hagebusch for her years of dedication to organizing blood drives. Sacred Heart School was recognized as one of the top schools in the area for blood drives and donations. President Mrs. Nikki Howell and her daughter, Piper, had the honor of receiving the award while Mrs. Hagebusch was traveling.



On May 4th and 5th, our second-graders received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. This marked the beginning of a special relationship with Jesus, a relationship that is now even physical. When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we receive his Body, Soul, and Divinity. Let's pray for our second graders so that they keep this relationship alive and in an ever-growing state.

Congratulations to our 2024 SHS Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Jill Bentsch! Mrs. Bentsch has been in education for 22 years, 18 of which have been at Sacred Heart. She earned a degree in elementary education and Spanish and made the Dean's List. She also has a master's in curriculum and instruction. "When we had virtual learning during COVID, Mrs. Bentsch would schedule after-hour zoom calls with a student when they needed help with a lesson," said Mrs. Nikki Howell, SHS President. "Other times, she intentionally scheduled classroom show-and-tell days to keep students connected. The patience she has to organize kids whether it be in person or through a virtual classroom is quite a gift. She proves that you don't have to have a big voice to have a big presence." A few of Mrs. Bentsch's former students celebrated the moment with a group picture at the end of the Catholic Schools Week all-school Mass.



Little Grems are our biggest fans! Sacred Heart celebrated "Little Gremlins Night" with face painting, popcorn, pom poms, and a special cheer performance. Our preschool and elementary fans were also invited onto the court to welcome the starting line up.



Two Gremlins competed at the district musician festival. Senior Olivia Dobson (flute) and freshman Olivia Dillon (tenor sax), both competed with band selections earning silver ratings.



Family Consumer Science students planned and participated in the Ultimate Burger Challenge! Donned in their custom-made aprons, the teams created recipes, identified nutrition content, total calories, and presented the judges with a tantalizing menu. Competition was fierce but it was the Sunrise Sandwich that rose to the top against The Heart Attack, Breeze Burger, Mediterranean Burger, and BBQ Mac Stack.



Sedalia City Council presented Life Save awards to three lifeguards from the Heckart Community Center who rescued a drowning teen March 25. Jacob Cordia '25 (pictured far right) was among the group of lifeguards recognized for quick thinking and life-saving care. "I'm extremely grateful to those who acted quickly and effectively to change the outcome to a positive result rather than heartbreak and sorrow," said Fire Chief Matt Irwin. Scan the QR code to view the powerful story of the lifeguard team that saved his life.

# MORROW AND HAGEBUSCH RETIRE



Some of Mrs. Hagebusch's favorite things about Sacred Heart are the students, families, and faculty. They became extended family members. She and her husband can always be found cheering on Gremlin athletics, attending plays, or any other place our students are involved.

Mrs. Barb Morrow grew up just a block and a half away from Sacred Heart School. Although life has taken her down different paths, she said God had a funny way of bringing her back to Sacred Heart.

Mrs. Morrow's dedication to education spans an impressive 50 years, with a quarter of a century devoted to Sacred Heart. Her teaching journey began at Sacred Heart in 1976, and she returned four times between 1976 and 2024. Throughout her tenure, she taught students across all grade levels, from kindergarten to 12th grade, and served as a cheer and volleyball coach. In her latter years, Mrs. Morrow focused on helping junior high and high school students become better writers and critical thinkers in her English and literature classes.

One of her fondest memories was being on the volleyball coaching staff in 2007 and 2008 when the teams won back-to-back Class 1 state volleyball championships. Other memories included attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C., for 14 years, and learning how to use Zoom technology (for online teaching) in Spring 2020, when class had to be taught remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I've enjoyed watching my students grow academically, socially, and emotionally," said Mrs. Morrow. "I'm so grateful for my Sacred Heart family for making my teaching career so much fun."



## CONGRATULATIONS!

We send heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Mrs. Barb Hagebusch and Mrs. Barb Morrow who retired at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Hagebusch joined the Sedalia community in middle school. At this age, her love for animals was already growing. She graduated with a degree in education and an additional degree in science. She later went on to earn her master's degree in curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Hagebusch taught in public schools for 26 years before joining the faculty at Sacred Heart School as a junior high and high school science teacher.

For the past 17 years, Mrs. Hagebusch has created one of the most memorable learning environments. Her classroom has been filled with animals that she loves, and her students have

grown to feel the same way. She believes that giving her students the responsibility of feeding the animals has taught them several invaluable lessons. One of those lessons is that just because you are not comfortable with something (like a lizard, snake, or rat), doesn't make that thing bad.

During her time at Sacred Heart, Mrs. Hagebusch's love and knowledge of animals extended beyond her classroom. She taught a variety of high school and junior high science classes, including zoology, biology, life science, and anatomy. Her creative ways of educating beyond traditional methods were evident in her leadership of the school garden, the Envirothon team, and the annual school blood drive.



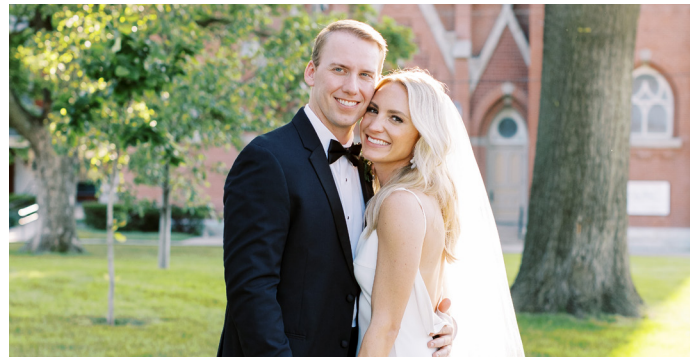
# THE SACRED HEART CLASS OF 2004

Back row (from left): Cory City, Brett Martin, Jeff Dick, Aric Jarvis, Matthew Peters, Andrew Turley, Sean Paul, Jessica (Stewart) Cox, Dustin Bailey. Front row (from left): Ciera Lawson, Lindsey (Smith) Benson, Shauna (Lightner) Cecil, Meredith (Beykirch) Jarvis, Patrick Hart, Faye (Monahan) Woolery, Zarah Melville, Janet (Phelps) Goodman, Tabitha (Hughes) Woolard.



**Scott Christopher '00** was recently named Director of Partnerships with MyCatholicWill.com and has assisted the company to become “the fastest-growing Catholic start-up empowering individuals to create a Catholic Legacy that spans generations.” Scott played many sports at Sacred Heart but the highlight was being selected by his peers as captain of the soccer team under Coach Bahner. Scott joined the Navy after graduation and served as a Mass Communication Specialist from 2003-2007 on an aircraft carrier. Scott went on to attain a master’s degree in mass communication and taught public speaking at Daytona State College as an adjunct professor. Scott lives in Ormond Beach, FL with his wife Tatania and daughter Adelaide, who is named after Scott’s grandmother Adelaide “Mary” Bopp, the mom of Lucy (Bopp) McRoy '77, Carl Bopp '68 and Judy (Christopher) Garner '74. Fun Fact: Scott will be portraying Fr Francisco Lopez for the sixth time as one of the main characters in “Founders Day” for the Diocese of St. Augustine.

**John Beykirch '12** and Meredith Norfleet were married on May 18, 2024, at Sacred Heart Church. John graduated from the University of Mississippi with bachelor’s degrees in marketing and managerial finance. He currently works at County Distributing as a sales team leader, and Meredith is a family medicine physician at Bothwell Family Medicine Associates in Sedalia.



## NEWS FROM YOU

Have you changed jobs, gotten married, had a baby, received an award or recognition, or moved? Let us know. Share your update using the envelope enclosed or email [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com) or visit the alumni page at [www.gogremlins.com](http://www.gogremlins.com).

# ALUMNI NEWS

**The Sacred Heart Class of 2004** celebrated its 25th reunion on May 11. Classmates gathered for a school tour guided by Sacred Heart School parent Carla Lucchesi. Families enjoyed spending time catching up with their beloved teachers, Ms. Jane McMullin, Mrs. Julie Sobaski, Mrs. Becky Munson, Mrs. Sherry Walker, Mrs. Marlo Siron, Mrs. Mary Kehl, and Mrs. Louise Rouchka. A great time was had by all, reminiscing on memories from the old classrooms, and seeing the new (to them!) school building.

The festivities continued at County Distributing with a catered meal from El Tapatio, a viewing of the Class of 2024 senior video, and a nostalgic slideshow that took classmates down memory lane. A memorabilia table was filled with lots of photos and every year book from kindergarten to senior year!

The evening was filled with laughter, shared memories, and the rekindling of old friendships. Time quickly flew by, recalling funny stories and cherished moments reminding classmates of the strong bonds they formed during our school years.

“The reunion was a perfect blend of reflection and celebration, leaving us all with a renewed sense of connection and gratitude for our time and our teachers at Sacred Heart School,” said Meredith (Beykirch) Jarvis. Classmates promised to stay in touch and hope to meet again soon. Before they parted ways, the Class of 2024 came together to raise \$600 **to be donated to the SHS Foundation**. Go Gremlins!

**The Class of 1984** celebrated its 40th anniversary on July 12 and 13. Sixteen of the 24 classmates attended the reunion. Several of their teachers joined them, including Ms. Sharon Dey (math and religion), Mr. and Mrs. Bahner (Mr. Bahner taught high school math), and Mr. Monty Holder (science). On Friday night, the group enjoyed dinner and visiting at El Tapatio. On Saturday, everyone gathered for a catered lunch from Kehde’s Barbecue and more visiting. Classmate George Owens, who owns a school bus, drove everyone to Liberty Park to recreate a picture taken on the bridge during their senior year. They then attended the 4pm Mass at St. Patrick Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul, followed by a school tour led by Mrs. Diefendorf, their 3rd-grade teacher. The weekend was full of lots of laughs and catching up. The group had a great time reminiscing about their high school memories and looks forward to getting together again soon.



Front row L to R - Kevin Jones, Rodney Bankovich, Margaret (Hoskins) Ward, Denise (Buso) Hanlon, Christy (Tippie) Cox, Susan (Rialti) Staus, Bonnie Diefendorf. Back row - Patrick Linsenbardt, Rodney Collins, Brian Dick, Rose McMullin, George Owens, Tom Schwalie



Known to be ornery and mischievous around planes, these Gremlins certainly were a most welcome addition at the Wings Over Whiteman Air Show held July 13-14 at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, MO. Nearly 40 current Gremlins and their families had the opportunity to work concessions at the show with Lenny Freund '78, the owner/operator of Freund Family Foods. Brother Bill Freund '73 (left) also came out to help. Lenny (second from left) said his story in the food business started at age 14 when he took a job at the Missouri State Fair. In 2006, he launched his award-winning concession stand business, which operates all over the country. “Every time I come back to Sedalia (Sacred Heart) I’m reminded of how special the people are,” said Lenny.



Back row (from left): Jim Wulff, Mark Felten, Kevin White, Kevin Borgmeyer, Tom Simon, Steve Elliott, Bo Kinner, Jim Twenter, Paul Chancellor, David Trotter, Steve Bahner, Mike Dick, Howard Simon, Vernon Cook and Jamie Royton. Front Row (from left): Mary Haulotte, Cindy (Stephens) Cook, Marcia (Letourneau) Cook, Dawn (Herrick) Elliott, Ellen Bellmer, Jackie (Adams) Perkins, Cheryl (Lutjen) Schultz.

**The Class of 1979** gathered at the Sedalia American Legion Hall on Saturday, July 20, for its 45th class reunion. For many of the attendees, this reunion marked the first time seeing classmates since graduation! A great time was had by all catching up, sharing stories, and enjoying a wonderful dinner cooked by classmate, **Bo Kinner**. Sunday's activities included 10 a.m. Mass followed by a school tour led by **David Dick '80**. It was fun to see what had changed and what had not! The class also made a donation to the Sacred Heart School Foundation to help fund items on the school's wish list. The class is looking forward to its next reunion.

Cast and crew from Sacred Heart's 2003 and 2013 productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* attended a special reception prior to the 2024 production of *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* Alumni reunited with musical director Mrs. Jan Bahner and shared memories and theater tips with current students and their families prior to the curtain call. From left: **Connor Simon '13** and **Nathaniel Edwards '13** were cast as Lazer Wolf and Tevey, respectively, in 2013. Mrs. Jan Bahner directed both shows. **Aric Jarvis '04** and **Devin (Stevens) Lake '05** were cast as Fyedka and Shaindel in 2003.



**Logan Sunnarborg '16** recently graduated with a master's in international law from the University of Helsinki in Finland. His research focused on international organization law, financial governance, and safeguarding human rights. He now lives in New York City and works on social and human rights issues with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

**Ted Meyer '57** and his late wife, Betty, founded Meyer Music in 1966 as a way to supplement their income. Nearly six decades later, three generations of Meyers can be found working at any of the three locations in the Kansas City area. Ted is particularly fond of Band of Angels, a partnership he formed with Fox 4 TV. Band of Angels collects used musical instruments and cash donations to purchase instruments and put them in the hands of children who want to study music. Through this program over 1,600 instruments have been given to students in need.





**Bob Pfeiffer, John Herring, and Bill Dunham** from the Class of 1962 reunited at the 2024 Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This reunion marked the first time all three had returned to Sacred Heart School since their graduation. "I had so much fun," said Bill. "Seeing the old gym brought back memories of basketball games. The students who gave us a tour were very knowledgeable. I was so impressed with the people, programs, and how the school has expanded and progressed." Bill and his five siblings attended Sacred Heart. After graduation, he was drafted and served as a hospital med technologist. He found the job suited him, so he made a career out of it for 36 years. He and his wife raised their three kids on the farm that he still operates outside of Pleasant Hill, MO.



A trip to the Missouri State Fair isn't complete without a visit to Dick's Corn Dogs, which was started back in 1968 by brothers **Frank Dick '59** and **Leo Dick '59**. **Chuck Mergen '72** and his wife, Rita made a stop by the iconic concession stand and ran into Frank and Leo.



**Holly (Walker) Dow '99**, takes in a concert with her husband Tyler, son Asher, and sister **Marlo (Boots) Siron '91**.

## REMEMBER WHEN?

Whether it's that unforgettable field trip, a team victory, or simply moments with friends, we'd love for you to share your pictures from your time at SHS. Email your high-resolution pictures to Liz Van Leer, SHS Development Director, at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com). Submit your photos for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of our From the Heart magazine. Take a look at these blasts from the past.



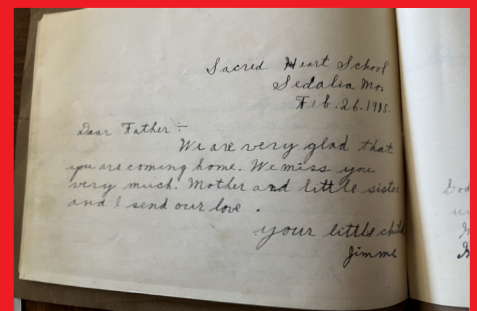
Members of the Class of 2016 show their Gremlin pride during the Homecoming parade held Oct. 16, 2015. The class created a float, "Destination: Barbecue." The class members said they were hoping to grill up the Albany Warriors, their opponents in the homecoming football game.



Bill Labus, Jim Cooney and Bob Lennartz - 1946



Fr. Kalaf in 1965. He is credited for writing "A History of Sacred Heart Parish (1882-1968)".



Select work from the 1912-1913 school year by James Quinn when he was in second grade.



# 2023 ANNUAL

## Thank You

### \$223,645.02

Thank you to everyone below for supporting our 2023 Annual Fund Drive. Your continued support each year is the lifeline to our school and foundation.

**The following list includes donors whose gifts to the Annual Fund Drive were received between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.**

Hayden Freedom Foundation  
 Carol (Cooney) '70 & John Fischer '68  
 Steve & Karen Ellebracht  
 Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58  
 Fischer Materials  
 Wayne & Gayle Lamb  
 Beverly & Robert Rollings  
 John Herring '62  
 Roxanne (Dick) '82 & Kyle Herrick '82  
 Jack & Marilyn (Fischer) '68 Arnold  
 James Buckley  
 Joe & Gloria Fischer  
 David & Helen Gillespie - In memory of  
 Joey Gillespie '91  
 William & Carol Turner  
 Bob '77 & Jean Simon  
 Mike & Carrie Smith  
 Deacon Turf & JoAnn Martin  
 Richard '70 & Janice Bahner  
 Richard Stohr '54  
 David Lamb '78  
 Dr. Mark '75 & Julie Register  
 Kathy Tippie '87  
 Virgil & Michelle McDonald  
 Mary R. & Gregory E. Damlo  
 Brandon '07 & Allison Martin  
 Col. Philip J. White '48, USAF (Ret.)  
 Culligan Water Cond. - Stuart & Colleen Smith  
 Harv & Judith Ebers  
 Jill (Arnold) '95 & Matt Jones  
 Rita Geiser '59  
 Robin & David C. Donelson '74  
 Shelly Register '81  
 Tim & Sally (Fetchel) '69 Alley  
 Vincent & Sharon Sauser  
 Wood & Huston Bank  
 Lisa C. (Register) Kelley '80  
 Chicara & Brandon Grose '95  
 David Fall '78  
 Joyce & Larry Grinstead '57  
 Joe & Donna Beykirch  
 Mary Jean Suter - In memory of John T. Suter  
 Jennifer & Joseph Sauser  
 James & Mary Lou Grose  
 Lacy & Adam Judd  
 Patricia (Huhman) '81 & Wes Jordan  
 Patty Wagenknecht  
 Danny & Barbara Primm  
 Liz & Tom Van Leer  
 Danielle Sawford

Stephani & Rusty Marshall-Rice  
 Bernie Bahner '64 - In memory of Phyllis (Lock)  
 Bahner '65  
 Desmond & Jenny Carl  
 Harriet (Schmitt) Morris '55 - In Memory of Jas  
 A. Morris  
 Irma (Mitzi) Linsenbardt  
 James Menefee  
 John & Lori Swearingen  
 Lisa (Payne) Stokan '87  
 Michelle A. & Justin R. May  
 Rebekah Full '15 - In memory of Donald Full  
 Richard Grinstead '61  
 Ruth & Bill Ferguson  
 Terri & Dennis Paul  
 Tina (Cummings) Kirwan '81  
 Treuner Masonry Co.  
 Mary Anne (Cummings) Reece '85  
 Chuck & Tina Mattingly  
 Dianne (Behen) '87 & David Withers  
 Johannah Hohne '12  
 Olivia Borgmeyer  
 Patricia Rose Menefee '56  
 Esther DeGraff - In Memory of Mike DeGraff  
 Bryan & Suzann Jenkins  
 D Michael & Nancy Hauswald - In honor  
 of Shea & Reuben Smith  
 Doug Kneibert  
 Jinny O'Donnell  
 Karen (Arens) Tippie '68  
 Michael Hohne '14  
 Patrick O'Neill  
 Society of the Precious Blood  
 Terri (Dick) '66 & Mike Maple '66  
 Advance Building Supply Co  
 Lisa & Christopher Diller  
 Tara & Bruce Aeschbacher  
 Carolyn & Andrew Wolf '60  
 Cindy (Bankovich) Garretson '80  
 Eileen Coffey '52  
 Elaine & Terry Smith '68  
 James R. Marcum  
 James & Amanda Trelow  
 Jeff & Robyn Wadley  
 Mark & Dana Kelchner  
 Mark Felten '79  
 Mary Ann Donelson '49  
 Mike & Jileen Wingerter  
 Robert Burch '55  
 Suzie (Chmelir) Brodersen '87

Thomas E. & Lydia A. Rouchka  
 Valerie & Steve Bloess  
 Virginia Stohr '63  
 David '61 & Louise Rouchka  
 David & Rachel Kramer  
 Ed Montgomery  
 Rita & Chuck Mergen '72  
 Amanda & Paul Blackburn  
 Brye A. & Geoffrey M. Steeves  
 Jessica (Kehl) Kiel '07  
 Cheryl Millsap  
 Tim & Candi Mertes  
 Kim & Rod Perez  
 James Downs '65  
 Anne Lamm  
 Craig & Jenny (Lujin) Davied '95- In  
 memory of Agnes Lujin  
 Dallas & Carla Baldwin  
 Erika (Beykirch) Kelley '12  
 Fr. Mark Miller C.P.P.S.  
 Gary & Nancy Manning  
 Gary Weller '66  
 Jack & Glenda McGinnis - In honor of  
 Ebrinn & Kieran Cahill  
 Janet (Gonser) Fillman '71 - In memory  
 of K. Edward Gonser '70  
 Joe & Lisa Wingerter  
 Mark & Elizabeth Mothersbaugh  
 Mary Ellen (Fall) '72 & Jim Davis  
 Mike Wolf '72  
 Patrick & Deborah McKinzie  
 Sherry (Shanahan) Walker '65 & Ralph Walker  
 Steve & Valerie Bloess  
 Mary (Hoffmann) '73 & Roy Kehl  
 Amy & Timothy R. Carr  
 Charles & Beverly Wilkerson - In memory  
 of Lucille Orscheln & Kathryn Wilkerson  
 Julie E. & Daniel Cahill  
 The Hoffmann Family - John, Linda,  
 Christopher '11 & Patrick '13  
 Angela McMullin  
 Ben & Jennie Vanderlinden  
 Caddell Project 1078  
 Catherine & Kent L. Korthas  
 Chad & Casey Damlo  
 David & Anna Groner  
 Lucille Akeman  
 McLaughlin Funeral Chapel  
 Paul '79 & Cathy Chancellor  
 Sarah Kramer

# FUND DRIVE DONORS

Ashley Smith  
Jim Schwalie  
Lakisha Williams Eckhoff  
Donna & Dale Van Leer  
Jill A. & Mark Bentch  
Alysson C. & Lance W. Miller  
Ben & Aimee Jackson  
Nikki Howell  
Rod & Kim Perez - In memory of Penny Parker  
Alison Headley  
Carla & Jeff Lucchesi  
Glenn & Shawn Walton  
Sally Hayden  
Aimee & James Caldwell  
Al Letourneau  
In memory of Marie Wiltz DeChant  
Beth (Bazin) '70 - In memory of  
James T. Buckley  
Beth & David E. Bahner '66  
Bonnie & Larry F. Diefendorf  
Cecil '64 & Linda Gerke  
Charles '65 & Beverly Gerke  
Charles Bahner '60  
Charli (Huhman) '74 & Mike Ackerman  
Chuck & Susan Register  
Daisy & Charles Coxon  
David '68 & Cheryl Brown  
David & Rhoda Moore - In honor of Ralph  
Shanahan & Sherry Walker  
David & Rachel Kramer  
David Baldwin '12  
Dawn (Herrick) '79 & Steve Elliott '79  
Debbie (Schneider) '73 & Kentis M. Casto '73  
Deborah ('72) & Fred Smith  
Dennis & Terri Paul  
Don & Janie Utlaut  
Dorothy Simon  
Ellen Stohr Hall  
Emma & David Curry '58  
Evelyn (Stohr) Hansen '65  
Everett '64 & Marlene Koechner  
Fred Ressel '56  
Gerald & Joyce Wiltz  
Gerald Horst '57  
Hannelore (Taylor) McKenzie '59  
James E. Weimholt '48  
James Farris  
Jeff Smith '74 - In honor of  
Mary (English) Cope '74  
Jennifer & James Cordia  
Joe & Jeannine Dove  
Julie & Mark Butner  
Karen & Jay P. Hohne  
Karolyn (Lamb) '65 & Bob Spears  
Loretta (Grinstead) Kendrick '55 - In  
Memory of Joyce Brossch '56  
Lorraine (Johnson) McGinty '54 -  
In honor of Class of 1954 & the  
Volleyball Team

Martha (Martin) Winger '60  
Mary (Walje) Wiseman '63 - In memory of John  
& Mary Jeanne Walje  
Mary & Reinaldo "Sonny" Buso '55  
Michele & Kurt Johnson '81  
Missouri Pressed Metals  
Moore's Flower Shop & Greenhouse  
Nanci & Randy Johnson '74  
Pat (Ryan) '53 & Jim Fall '53  
Paul '58 & Delores Bahner  
Ronald Dunham '61  
Sandy & Bill Mayfield '59  
Sedalia Strings Academy - Elizabeth Kehl  
Stephanie & David W. Scheid  
Teresa (McGrath) Aldrich '65 - In memory of  
Michele McGrath-Cusick  
Virginia (Rabourn) Miller '59  
Wayne A.'73 & Karen M. Simon  
Donna Ferguson  
Eriane L. De Guzman  
Gianfranco Guevara & Gabriela Rodriguez  
Carol & William M. Turner  
Deacon Turf & JoAnn Martin  
Katelin (Beykirch) '02 & Robert Hladik  
Alexandria Allen  
Karen Ellis  
Pam Ragar  
Perry Byerly  
Andreina Rodriguez Anzola  
Candice Mitchell  
Doug Kaer  
Kim & Phil Vogel  
Laila Kaer  
Mandy (Bain) Belsha '99  
Maria Villafana  
Mark & Joanne Fuchs  
Mariela Messina  
Bruce & Jacque Gabriel  
Cathy Kippenberger  
Christine & Melvin Simon '77 - In honor of  
Andy Simon  
Dr. Larry Ellis '62 - In memory of Marie  
(Anderson) Ellis '62  
Gina (Ziegerer) Jones '83  
Gloria Close  
Jack & Judy Robinson  
James & Susan Van Horn - In honor of  
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Twenter  
Joan (Simon) '76 & Jack Anderson  
Joseph & Margaret Ellebracht  
Joyce Lightner  
Kristy (Linsenbardt) '87 & Thad Henderson  
Linda Wiesing Jantsch '58  
Lois & Donald Welliver '58  
Teresa Simon - In memory of Tony Simon  
Tom & Christy Butner  
Victor Jarvis - In Memory of Carol S. Jarvis  
Matt McMullin '01

Barbara & David Hagebusch  
Barbara Lawless  
Lorene Downing  
Carrie French  
Margaret Baltar  
Anthony Sierra  
Rachel & Joseph Anderson  
Brad & Kelli Anders  
Brenda & Jamie Melchert '88  
Gail Wilkening  
Herschel Whited  
Jennifer & Nathaniel Schaffer  
Jonathan Mullins  
Joylynn Allard '10  
Rita Burkholder  
Anonymous - In Memory of William V. Doogs  
Brian & Sydney Leftridge  
Brooke & Chad Reid  
Caroline (Lowe) '99 & Jason Knox  
Connie & Donald Thompson '66  
James & Michele Muin  
Jennifer Owen  
Melody Mertes  
Ralph Vickers '58  
Rebecca & Gerald Seelinger - In honor of  
Mallory & Bryce Stephens  
Robert Scherer '66 & Jill Scherer  
Rosemary (Sedlak) Hodges '53  
Sharon Dey  
Tawnya Blades Reed  
The John R. Brauer Family '99  
Tom & Marianne Hunter  
Carianne & Joel Chappell  
Kathleen Reusch  
Ryan & Kathleen Kincaid  
Cortnie & Cory Sanders  
Kimberly Thomas '00  
Chicara & Brandon Grose '95  
Jacqueline & James D. Russell  
Linda Y. & Andres Caraveo-Leon  
Norma (Gunn) Szumigala '56  
Olivia Dobson  
Jessica Wheeler  
Amanda Burdick  
Bradley & Wendi Burch  
Ellie Coruna  
Katherine & Robby Paul  
Jessica & Josh Twenter '03  
Our Many Anonymous Donors

Sharing a list of contributors is just one way we can express our gratitude and publicly acknowledge the generous support of those who have given to our Annual Fund Drive. We strive to ensure every gift is recognized. If you notice your name missing or any error in the recognition, please don't hesitate to contact Liz Van Leer at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com) or (660) 827-2311. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and understanding!

## JOE AND FLORENCE WESTERMIER – SOWING THE SEEDS OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Catholic education was a deeply rooted value in Joe and Florence Westermier's lives, a tradition that began with their own parents and continued through generations.

Florence's parents, Henry Amil and Margaret Mary Bonen Martin, sent their four children to St. Martin's Catholic School in Martinsville MO, for grades 1-8. She continued her education at Pilot Grove High School, graduating in 1948.

Joe's parents, John and Susie (Seifner) Westermier, raised their nine children on a farm south of Sedalia. Joe attended St. John's at Bahner from grades 1-8 and received his high school equivalency diploma while working the family farm. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. Four of Joe's siblings (Edna '45, Agnes '51, Matt '58, and Jane '65) graduated from Sacred Heart.

Joe and Florence were married on Nov. 14, 1953, at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Tipton. They raised their family on a farm near LaMonte and were highly active in parish life at Sacred Heart School and Parish (now St. Vincent de Paul Parish). Joe served on the Parish Council, the School Board, and several other committees and commissions. Florence saw to raising the children and would lend her gardening, quilting, and artistic abilities to various school and parish functions.

Mary Jo Ballenger '73, recalls how committed her parents were to ensuring their children received a Catholic education. "Every day, regardless of weather conditions, my dad would drive us from LaMonte into Sacred Heart School," she said. "Snow and ice never deterred him from making sure my siblings and I (the late Mike Westermier, Anna Mae Clawson '77, and Rita Jennings '75) arrived at school." Their granddaughter Courtney (Ballenger) Moon '02 also graduated from Sacred Heart School.

The Westermier's commitment to Catholic education extended beyond family lines. Susie Westermier initiated a fund with the Sacred Heart School Foundation to support students at Sacred Heart. Inspired by her gift, Joe and Florence established another fund to support the school library in memory of their son Mike, who passed away in 1978. They also created a scholarship to support children attending Sacred Heart School. Over the years, through numerous donations, scholarships, and committee work, many students benefited from the Westermiers' generosity, whether it was by reading a new book or attending Sacred Heart School.

Paul Beykirch '73, who currently serves on the Sacred Heart School Foundation board, recalls serving on the Parish Council with Joe. "Joe was enthusiastic about supporting Catholic education with hard-earned dollars," said Paul. "A statement he mentioned that will be forever in my mind was: 'These buildings were not built with my dollars; they were from good people before me. The least I can do is show gratitude by funding future generations. We must invest in those young people and pass the gifts of quality education and the Catholic faith.'"

The Westermiers anchored themselves in faith and family throughout their lives. Joe passed away on January 11, 2008, and Florence on March 29, 2024. The Westermier's unwavering commitment to Catholic education extended beyond their own lives, with their top priority being to leave a bequest to St. Vincent de Paul Parish and Sacred Heart School. Through this generous legacy, they ensured that future generations would continue to experience the benefits of Catholic education and a strong faith community, fostering spiritual growth long after their passing.



# SHOOTING FOR THE HEAVENS

## THE COEN BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Coen Brown Memorial Scholarship was created in 2024 to recognize and financially support deserving Sacred Heart High School graduates. The scholarship was made possible by the generosity of Coen Brown's grandparents, John and Lucy Brown, and his uncle, Jason Brown.

The scholarship honors the memory of Coen Brown, Class of 2022, a remarkable young man, student, son, brother, grandson, nephew, friend, and athlete. Fondly called "CoCo," he was renowned for his remarkable achievements with the Gremlin basketball team, leading them to the Elite 8 in his senior year, and setting a high school record with 2210 career points. Coen secured the 25th position among Missouri's all-time scorers in an illustrious list spanning over 80 years. Graduating with a 3.8 GPA, he had plans to continue his basketball journey by playing college ball.

Shortly after graduating, he met his greatest challenge in the form of a rare and aggressive cancer called Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumors (DSRCT). In true CoCo form, he fought courageously with extraordinary faith until he passed away on May 24, 2023. Coen knew the ultimate game plan was heaven. His remarkable, unshakeable faith, and that of his family, inspired tens of thousands of people across the country to turn to God in prayer. He still inspires us today.

Coen felt deeply about the Sacred Heart teachers, staff, coaches, students, and the great opportunities the school provided. John, Lucy and Jason feel it is only fitting that they provide students the opportunity to pursue their education in his name.





Sacred Heart School Foundation  
 416 W Third Street  
 Sedalia, MO 65301

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT #349

**SAVE THE DATES**

**SACRED HEART  
 HOMECOMING**

**JAN 17** **20 25**

★ ★ **GREMLIN RECEPTION** ★ ★

Welcome, all alumni and Gremlin fans!  
 Join us for a reception immediately following the games. Post-game activities include food, drink, music, and fellowship.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
 2025 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE KICKOFF**

**BATTLE OF THE BRAINS**

**MARCH 1  
 MCGREMLIN GYM**

**NEW TWISTS!**  
 Same mission to support SHS

**TICKETS**  
 \$30 -dinner | game purchase 6 to form a team

**TIME**  
 5:30 check in  
 6 pm dinner  
 7 pm trivia time

**QUESTIONS?**  
 Contact Liz Van Leer  
 shfoundation@gogremlins.com

**REGISTER**