

MARCH 2023



CIRISH Connections

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION • ST. AGNES • ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON • SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



— SPRINGFIELD — CATHOLIC — SCHOOLS —

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

3555A S. Fremont
Springfield, MO 65804
417.881.7000
Principal: Mike Johnson
Assistant Principal: Ashley Harris

ST. AGNES SCHOOL

531 S. Jefferson
Springfield, MO 65806
417.866.5038
Principal: Paige Duda

Springfield Catholic Schools
Central Office
2340 S. Eastgate
Springfield, MO 65809
417.865.5567
SpringfieldCatholic.org

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

2200 W. Republic Rd.
Springfield, MO 65807
417.887.6056
Principal: JoAnne Bailes

SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2340 S. Eastgate
Springfield, MO 65809
417.887.8817
Principal: Jeanne Skahan

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



IMPORTANT DATES 2023-2024 STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration is required for each student every year.

APRIL 12TH

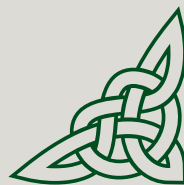
6:00 p.m. Missouri's MOST 529 virtual presentation
www.MissouriMost.org/home.html

APRIL 14TH THROUGH MAY 1ST

It is enrollment time!
Login to your parent portal at sis.scsapk12.org

MAY 3

- Open Enrollment for new families



IRISH Connections

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Stories written and edited by
SCHS Journalism students.



Bishop Rice celebrates Ash Wednesday
Mass with SCHS students.

Spring adds new life and new joy!

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD- CAPE GIRARDEAU

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



DEAR FRIENDS,

March is a fun month! Of course, we have Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th, and all things Irish that go along with it. I will spend the afternoon driving to Saint Leo's, Ava, Missouri, for their potato soup and soda bread, then onto Saint John Vianney, Mountain View, for corned beef and cabbage. Earlier that day the diocesan staff will have a Mass and lunch with Bishop Leibrecht, the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau, as he celebrates his 67th anniversary of priesthood ordination. He has been a priest longer than I've been born!! Congratulations, Bishop Leibrecht!

St. Patrick's Day is followed immediately by Saint Joseph's Day, March 19th. Saint Joseph is the, "Protector of the Universal Church," the "Terror of Demons," "Lover of Poverty," "Model of Workers," "Head of the Holy Family," and has so many other titles. My dad passed away on the Feast of Saint Joseph March 19, 1977. At the time I wasn't really aware of what a beautiful day on which to pass away as Saint Joseph is also the "Patron of the Dying" and invoked for a "happy death." I will be at Saint Benedict, Doniphan, Missouri to bless their Saint Joseph Table and join in their feast day celebration. The practice of having a Saint Joseph Altar, filled with breads and pastries, is a very strong Italian tradition.

At my home parish, Saint Cecilia, in Saint Louis, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet were assigned to the school. On the Feast of Saint Joseph the sisters would

renew their vows during Mass. I remember as a student being so fascinated as the sisters stood up and renewed their vows after the homily, followed by the singing of a beautiful Latin hymn, "Sancte Joseph." As an adult I learned that song myself and sing it often. As you can tell, the month of March has great memories for me.

And of course, I must highlight March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. It is on this day that we commemorate the Blessed Mother's "yes" to be the Mother of God. Nine months from now we will be celebrating Christmas! On March 19th and on March 25th, I break my Lenten disciplines and I will have ice cream! Another reason why March is a fun month!

We will soon be in Holy Week. I encourage you to make your own family memories! Go to Palm Sunday Mass as a family. Disrupt your nightly routine and attend Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper together. Celebrate the Good Friday Liturgy as a family, walking up together to kiss the cross. And let it all culminate by attending Easter Sunday Mass together as a family. This year it is my turn to celebrate Holy Week over in Cape Girardeau, so I will not see any of you during these beautiful days. But in my absence, I offer you my prayers for the remainder of the Lenten Season along with my prayers for a joy filled Easter!

+ Edward M. Rice

“AND THEY CAME TO KNOW HIM IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD.”

LUKE 24:35



DEAR SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS,

BY SISTER CECILIA ANN REZAC, M.S.



In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24 we read the story about two of Jesus' disciples on their way to Emmaus after Jesus' crucifixion. They are lamenting His death and the loss of their hope that Jesus was the one to bring about the redemption of Israel. As they walked Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize Him. He asked what they were discussing as they walked and they replied, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "About Jesus of Nazareth," "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:20-22)

As evening came on Jesus acted as if he was to continue his journey but the disciples beckoned Him to stay with them for the night. As they sat down to eat Jesus blessed the bread and broke it. This was an action they had witnessed on countless occasions. Thus, it was at that moment they recognized Jesus! And...then Jesus vanished from their sight.

When I reflect upon this story, I have to wonder if others recognize Jesus in us by the actions we perform? What are our actions telling others about us – about what we believe? Are we kind, charitable, patient, loving, helpful, forgiving? Do we reflect Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds?

As I walk the halls of our schools, I am grateful for the wonderful teaching and learning going on. Teaching requires the actions of planning, preparing, and sharing knowledge. Learning manifests itself in the actions of listening, studying, and demonstrating knowledge obtained. However, academics are only one aspect of our schools. Spiritual and human formation are vital aspects as well. How do our students act on the playground, in the hallways, lunchroom, when they text, use various forms of social media, etc...? Do our actions speak of our faith in a loving God who created us in love, to love, and for love? Would others observe our actions and be led to think of a good God?

As we enter into this Easter season let us all take time to consider how the disciples on the way to Emmaus recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread – a simple gesture but one of deep meaning; one that led them to recognize Jesus. Let us make a commitment to be more intentional about reflecting Christ's love and goodness in how we treat others as well as how we speak to and about others. And let us begin by praying for others for that was one of Jesus' greatest actions and examples. Jesus taught us the Our Father and left us the greatest prayer of all – the Mass! The next time you attend Holy Mass may your actions reflect the love of Christ and may those actions overflow into your daily life!

Sister Cecilia Ann Rezac, M.S.
Director of Schools

JOIN THE CBNO FOR ITS NEXT EVENT!

Mark your calendars to join us for a casual get together with other CBNO members. Stop by to catch up, have a beverage, and some complimentary appetizers.

When: Wednesday April 12, 2023 - 5-7 PM

Where: Nicola's Ristorante

Who: All CBNO members!

Who else: Anyone interested in joining CBNO!

Spring Mixer **4.12.23** **5-7 PM**

Cash Bar Complimentary Appetizers

CBNO.BIZ

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK OF THE OZARKS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

BY ASHLEY HARRIS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As we moved into the second semester, we remembered what a blessing it is to be part of a Catholic school community. During the last week of January, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. To begin the week, we had students, staff, and parents speak and participate in our parish Masses. After three days of snow and icy conditions, Catholic Schools Week resumed with a focus on faith and gratitude by participating in wonderful activities such as prayer commitments to those in religious life, letters of thanks to parents, and inviting alumni and veterans into the classroom. Throughout our week of celebration, our students put their gratitude into action by bringing in donations for those less fortunate. Students chose to support St. Joseph Academy, with new school supplies. Our students and families were also generous in bringing in band-aids and money for bus passes, which were used to create care kits for Springfield's local homeless population.

Ash Wednesday began our journey into the Lenten season. Monsignor Reidy led our students in a beautiful All School Mass and placed ashes on the foreheads of our staff and students. Every Thursday throughout Lent, our students and staff gather and participate in the Stations of the Cross led by our 8th grade students. To focus on others during the Lenten season, the whole IC School community participated in a Lenten project collecting goods for snack bags for the homeless of Sacred Heart Church.

Throughout the third quarter, students at Immaculate Conception have been thriving and growing in all their academic successes. Many of our academic clubs have seen the fruits of their hard work pay off in competitions. After placing 2nd in the qualifying tournament, our 8th grade Robotics team went on to compete in the state competition. The MathCounts team participated and took 3rd in the regional competition with

one student advancing to state. Success in math continued as our Math Olympiad team competed and received top scores and awards in a regional competition. Science was not excluded from all the winnings, as our Science Olympiad team took 3rd, and will be advancing to the state competition this spring.

Second semester is a time for faith and transition. The eighth grade is preparing for their transition into high school by participating in eighth grade field trips, Step Up Day, and 9th grade scheduling. The leadership our eighth graders have provided throughout the year from carline duty, to Mass roles, to helping our younger students will be missed as they move on to high school. Our second grade is also preparing for a big transition as we eagerly await their First Holy Communion. We are excited for them to be able to partake in the Eucharist and more fully experience Christ.

As we look ahead, we are thrilled to start planning many exciting spring events. May Crowning, First Communion Recognition, 8th grade Graduation, and Field Day are all special events that are just around the corner. We are grateful for all the support we receive from the parish, families, and volunteers. We could not make all these events happen without each and every one of you this year. May God shower you and your family with blessings, love, and peace this Easter.



“AS LENT IS THE TIME FOR GREATER LOVE, LISTEN TO JESUS’ THIRST... ‘REPENT & BELIEVE’.”
 BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA



Photo captions (left to right, top to bottom): 1) Annual 8th Grade Pancake Race. 2) IC Robotics Team placing 2nd in the region. 3) Celebrating CSW with Irish wear. 4) 4th grade getting outside to enjoy a kickball game. 5) Dress like your superhero for CSW. 6) Valentine's Day in kindergarten. 7) 3rd grade participating in Sunday Mass. 8) Science Olympiad takes 3rd place in the region. 9) Kindergarten walking the 100 days of School runway.

ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

BY PAIGE DUDA, PRINCIPAL

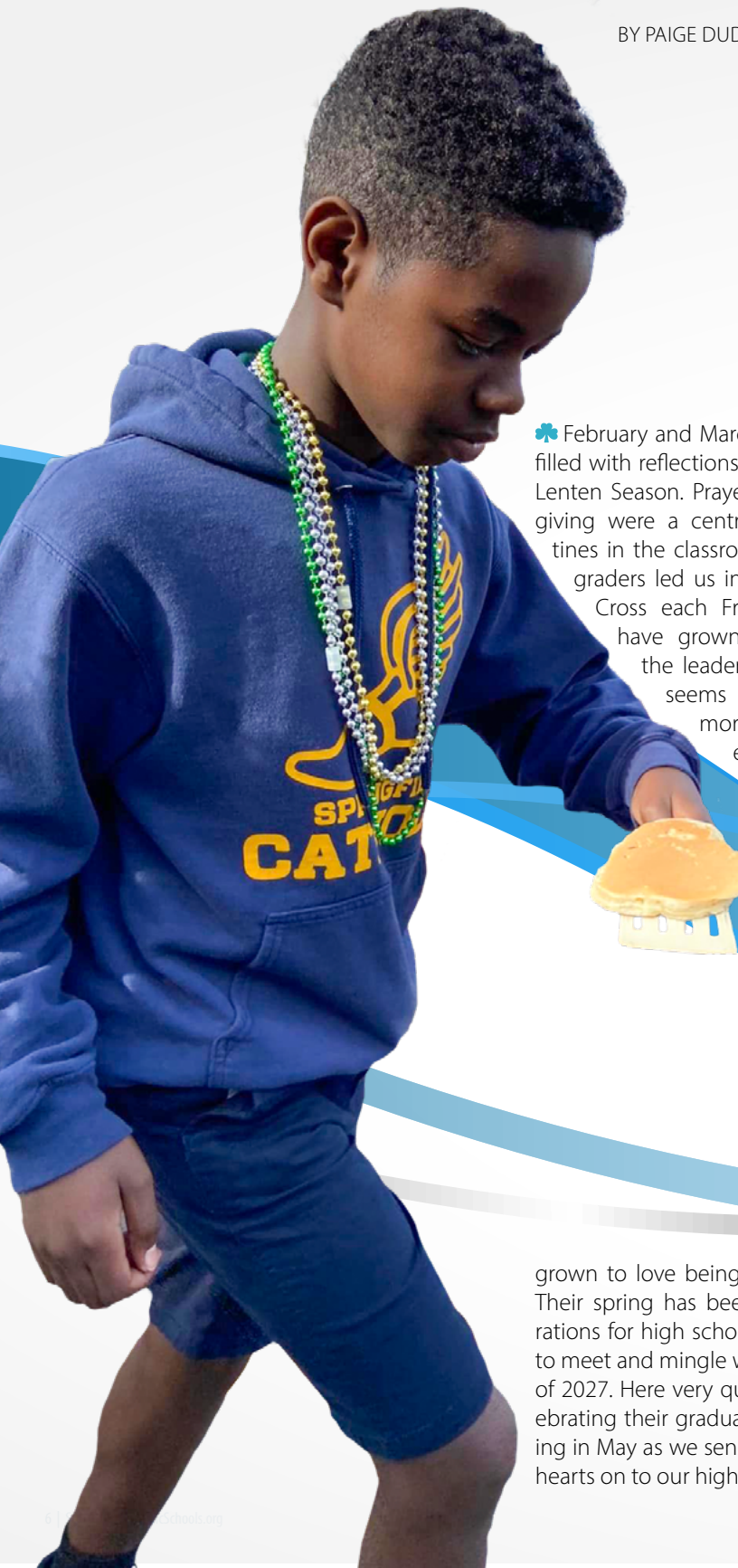


Photo captions (left to right, top to bottom): 1) 5th Grader, Zion, participating in the Mardi Gras Pancake Race. 2) Ash Wednesday with Fr. Lewis and the preschoolers. 3) St. Agnes Science Olympiad Team. 4) Preschoolers exchanging valentines. 5) A visit from the zoo for the 3rd and 4th graders.

February and March at St. Agnes were filled with reflections and activities of the Lenten Season. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving were a central part of our routines in the classrooms and our eighth graders led us in the Stations of the Cross each Friday. They certainly have grown into their role as the leaders of our building! It seems each week we add more eighth grade servers to our Masses simply because they have

grown to love being a part of the Mass. Their spring has been filled with preparations for high school and opportunities to meet and mingle with their future class of 2027. Here very quickly we will be celebrating their graduation from our building in May as we send a little piece of our hearts on to our high school again.

Our Science Olympiad team again represented us exceptionally well at the regional competition with an overall 4th place finish and secured a spot at the state competition in April. We had multiple first place finishes in individual events! We are so proud of the months of work our students put into this competition and cannot thank our teachers and parents enough for their support along the way. Our Jr. High Basketball team and Coach Spitz had a great season this winter with many victories while representing our schools so well. We know many of our students are looking forward to being part of The Irish this spring through softball and track and field!

The second graders are well on their way in preparing for their Sacrament of First Communion. We are always blessed to have Bishop Rice so close as he frequently visits their classroom to help in their preparation. St. Agnes First Communion will be celebrated on May 7th in the Cathedral. We also want to congratulate

our eighth graders in their sacrament of Confirmation in March. We are so proud of them in this step of personal commitment to their faith.

Our buddy classes have been enjoying spending more time together this year through activities, reading, and prayer. Our preschoolers spread their joy to the 5th grade with sweet handmade valentines and our kindergartners continue to show off their reading skills to their 4th grade friends. The Zoo, and some of its furry and scaly friends, have been frequent visitors these past months. Students love learning about native habitats, food chains, and adaptations in these visits. The St. Agnes nursing team has also been working hard to set up some great classroom wellness visits such as dental health, puberty, and nutrition.

Spring events will be in full swing shortly including our Springfield Catholic Schools Emerald Evening on April 1st. Thank you to all our parents, alumni, and supporters who will undoubtedly make this event a success for our schools. On behalf of all the faculty and staff of St. Agnes, we want to especially thank all of those that have been involved with the huge success of our Shepherds' Fund—your generosity of time, talent and treasure is overwhelming. Quickly after Emerald Evening we will be "jammin" at St. Agnes with our annual Summer Jam Music Fest! Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks on this great event to support our sweet school!



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

BY JOANNE BAILES, PRINCIPAL

☘ We began the 2022-2023 school year with the theme “Hearts on Fire,” referring to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph. The Three Hearts of the Holy Family encourage our school family and our SEAS families to look to the example of the Holy Family as a model in our everyday lives. It was this love that we carried through to Catholic Schools Week 2023.

In late January, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been a celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, SEAS students assisted in the weekend Masses on January 28th and 29th letting others in the parish know how much we love their support of Catholic education. Unfortunately, our Catholic School celebration was derailed by the weather...three snow/AMI days. We didn't let this get us down. When we returned to the building later in the week, we loved our parents with donuts in the carline and hosted an open house thanking parents, grandparents and community supporters for making Catholic education a priority. Students and families were able to view the Eucharistic Banner exhibit at the open house. We concluded the week with lunch loving our teachers and loving our students with a special game of Catholic Bingo. Thank you to our 8th grade leaders for helping make this possible. We collected essentials such as rain ponchos and peanut butter crackers with love to make care packages for the homeless in our community. Later in February our SCS teachers came together to put the bags together which were distributed to SEAS families to share with those in need. Thank you to SEAS Home and School, our parents, our students and our volunteers that made the SEAS 2023 Catholic Schools Week a success.

The Lenten season began on Ash Wednesday with all our students and staff receiving ashes. SEAS School and Irish Eats hosted a Soup Supper. Thank you to all that helped to make this possible. Throughout the Lenten season our students prayed “40 prayers for 40 days” every afternoon building a prayerful dialogue with God. Toward the end of Lent, SEAS students participated in our annual Penny War. This year we will support Bishop Rice in the Annual Youth Mission of Mercy. This mission will respond to the needy in a poor area of our diocese, Cedar County. The Stockton Area Ministerial Alliance, (S A M A), assists



1) Chandler G, a kindergarten student at SEAS, enjoys virtual learning on a snow day. 2) We love our Priests and Sisters at SEAS and celebrate them during Catholic Schools Week. 3) SEAS students at the Science Olympiad competition. 4) SEAS Math Counts students are ready for the state competition. 5) Gavin P, Ryan W. and Mr. Hillwick at the Math Counts competition. 6) During Catholic Schools Week SEAS students take up the gifts during the offertory with Fr. Kiefer officiating. 7) As a part of Catholic Schools Week, students dress as their favorite saint.

“APART FROM THE CROSS, THERE IS NO LADDER BY WHICH WE MAY GET TO HEAVEN.”

ST. ROSE OF LIMA

the poor with phone bills, propane, electricity and food. To support the Bishop's Mission, we held our SEAS Penny War to raise money for SAMA. We are thrilled that we were able to provide a generous donation to SAMA in honor of Bishop Rice's mission.

Thank you to all our students who gave up their favorite treat or did extra chores to earn extra money to donate to the Penny War and at the same time fulfilled Jesus' word in John 15:12, “Love each other just as I have loved you.” The SEAS hallways were filled with fun and excitement as the competition grew every day. Definitely a win/win for everyone. Just another example of SEAS students and families working together. We thank Bishop Rice for his invitation to join this work of Mercy and appreciate his great leadership and guidance.

This March, we celebrated National Read Across America Day as an entire school with our class buddies reading together. The entire school stopped everything to focus on the importance and beauty of reading. Irish Eats, our school lunch program, created menu options related to familiar children's books such as, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Bread and Jam for Frances, and The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear.

At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, our faith and excellence are important. Recently our 8th graders received the sacrament of Confirmation. Two of our 8th grade students will attend the state competition for Math Counts in late spring. One of the students placed in the top ten. We wish them good luck!!! Our second graders continue preparing for the sacrament of First Communion which they will receive in late spring. In late December or early January, our students took the 2nd iReady assessment. The growth our students made was significant. Students continue to apply themselves in the classroom as we approach the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Faith and hard work are evident in every corner of our building.

As we prepare for the end of the year, we look forward to our 8th grade graduation on May 16th, SCHS Step Up Day, Light of Leadership, First Communion, and Field Day, etc. So much to do in such a short time!!

From all of us at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, we wish you a restorative Lenten season and a glorious Easter Season. We are all reminded of God's never-ending love for us.



THE SHAMROCK POST

THE SCHS NEWSPAPER WRITTEN BY SCHS STUDENTS

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY: PAINTING A PICTURE WITH KINDNESS

BY ABIGAIL STONE (11TH)



A child receiving their Memory Project Portrait

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) is a group of talented student artists working together to use their talent to give back in a colorful way. The club has a variety of projects throughout the year, most notably *The Memory Project*. *The Memory Project* is best described by its founder, Ben Schumaker, "Together we are using art to reach a distant destination: a kinder world in which all youth see themselves in one another regardless of differences in their appearance, culture, religion, or circumstances." Mrs. Jones, the chapter's sponsor, always puts emphasis on the good that art can do. Every project done by NAHS strives to make a difference and to help others with their art. Their Chapter President, Leah Zolfaghari, is a creative mind who is now leading the club into its next big project for the spring, which will involve painting flower pots and donating them.

A VERY COOL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

BY ABIGAIL STONE (11TH)

Catholic Schools Week 2023 began with a rather chilly start. Catholic Schools Week is a time for us to reflect on what makes our school and community extraordinary. We celebrated different accomplishments made by our school on different days of the week. We had days for our teachers, students, and custodian/other faculty to show our appreciation. We wouldn't have our Catholic Schools without them.

One of the most essential parts of CSW is our Service Day! Our Service Day, though delayed due to weather, was none the less valuable and uniting. Led by the High School's Service Captain, Zoe Moeller, this year each family got to pick their own service projects. When asked about how she felt this year differed from last, she stated, "Service Day this year was very hands-on and personalized to



A poster made by the Seniors showing their appreciation for Bishop Rice and Deacon Huff.

each family. It gave a greater sense of connection and community while giving back."

CLUBS ALWAYS PROVIDE SERVICE

BY PARKER FOSTER (11TH)



Singers at Heart Full of Love lined up to perform the finale.

As you may know, our curriculum here at Springfield Catholic High School is reliant on service, not only hours required for graduation, but students who provide the most service to their community are recognized at graduation. A good starting point for our students in terms of service hours, is our clubs. Almost every club hosts service opportunities or raises donations. For example, most clubs have uniform buy-outs as a means to raise money. The money usually goes to benefit the club as a whole or is donated to a charity. Many clubs have drives. For example, Rotary managed a food drive and HOSA managed a children's book and toy drive. Additionally, the NHS coat drive provided an estimated 200 coats and mittens to Isabel's House and St. Joseph.

One of the most important service opportunities for our Tri-M, as well as our choir and Irish Singers members, is the Heart Full of Love event, which happens annually near Valentine's Day. The event features student performances and a tea and dessert bar. According to the event's organizer, Maggie Lowrance, the event raised \$746, which will go to the music department. "I'm super happy about how it turned

out," said Lowrance. "I'm very proud of everyone who performed."

The Art Honor Society took it a step further by painting portraits of African refugee children, which will be shipped transcontinentally to the respective children. Eventually, members of the Art Honor Society will be sent videos of the children receiving their portraits. Furthermore, the Art Honor Society will have a second service project in the spring, which will involve sending art to retirees.

The greatest amount of service opportunities arise from our house system. At the beginning of the new year, a penny war was set up among the four houses, in which all proceeds were donated to Ozarks Food Harvest. The house system has also worked with local organizations such as the Glendale Nursing Home, which involved making cookies, chocolate covered strawberries, Valentine cards, and various Valentine trinkets; Isabel's house and the Ronald McDonald House, in which they made bags for kids with snacks, notes and toys; and the Pregnancy Care Center, where they provided 3 car loads of diapers and other various baby items.

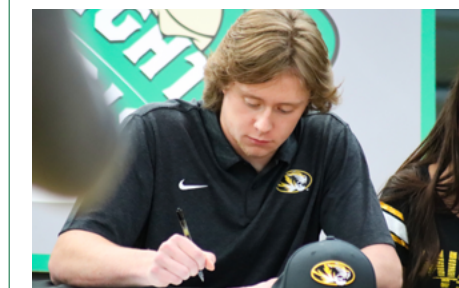
SIGNINGS

BY GIBSON O'DELL (11TH)

So far there have only been a couple signings, but there's many more to come. Sophia Cardin, who is a soccer player, has signed to Rockhurst University. Hailey Murphy, also a soccer player, has signed to the MidAmerica Nazarene University. Brooklyn Barnes, who is a softball player, has signed to North Arkansas. Ben Smith, who is a baseball player, has signed to University of Missouri - Columbia.



Sophia Cardin signs with Rockhurst University.



Ben Smith signs to play baseball for Mizzou.



Brooklyn Barnes will play softball at North Arkansas.



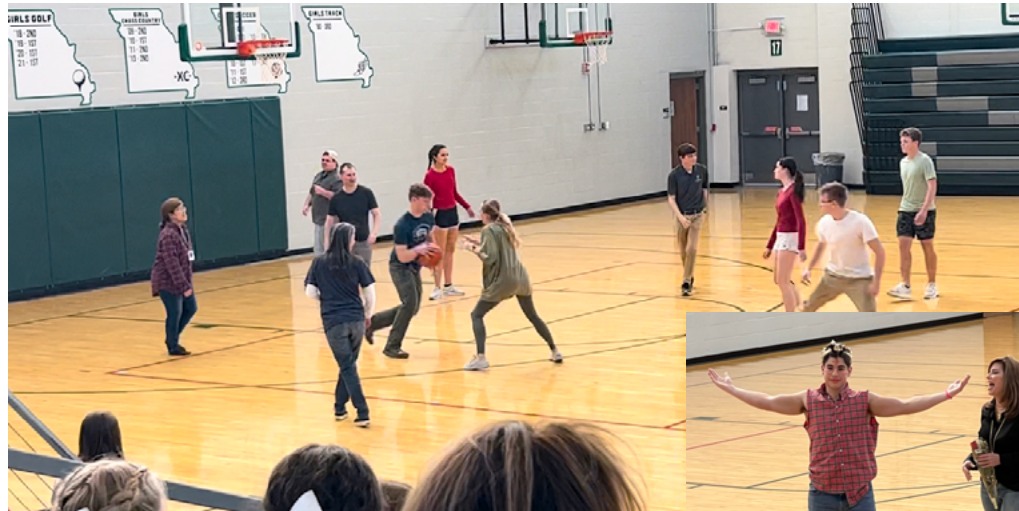
Hailey Murphy signs with MidAmerican Nazarene University.

START YOUR ENGINES AND GET READY TO DANCE

BY EMMA BUCKTHORPE (11TH)



LPA decorations.



Teachers vs. students.



Congratulations, Heston Collins.

This year the LPA (ladies pay all) dance was themed "NASCAR". Our house leaders in St. Michael were assigned to decorate and put together the dance this year. With checkered streamers and colorful lights, this dance certainly came in first place. Along with the dance, Springfield Catholic High School put on a spirit week, getting everyone ready for the exciting dance to take place the following weekend. The themes of this year's LPA spirit week were: Monday- Pajamas, Tuesday- Valentines Day, Wednesday- Black

and White, Thursday- Throwback Thursday, and Friday- Country vs. Country Club. On Friday, the LPA assembly was held where the court was identified, soon to crown Heston Collins as LPA King. Taking his win with pride, Heston was awarded free entry to the dance for him and his date. That wasn't the only competition in this event however. The court of LPA and their dates raced to finish the best makeup look, ending with Heston Collins as their winner. The court also had the option to answer questions

or consume disgusting concoctions made by the Foods class. Unfortunately, none of them decided to try out the dishes. One of the favorite events of the assembly was the Teachers vs. Students Basketball game. The teachers worked together to form a team, but lost to the seniors team. Mr. Denny, Chemistry teacher, was awarded "honorable player". Overall, this year's LPA finished in a flash, taking with it a golden cup of fun memories.

FRENCH CLUB IS BRIE-OND BELIEF!!!

BY MARY SHARP (11TH)

Students at Springfield Catholic High School have always been interested in learning about other cultures and languages. The French Club is an extracurricular club that is focused on celebrating and learning about the French language and culture. Members of the club often partake in trips abroad to France, which are led and hosted by French teacher and French Club sponsor, Ms. Marcom.

Junior Leader, Tatum Corbett, has talked extensively about her love for the club and passion for learning the language. She said her favorite parts of being a member of the club were her trip to France in Winter 2022 and getting to spend time with other members during their early morning meetings. When asked why

she loves the club, Tatum said, "I think it's very important to educate ourselves on other countries' cultures, traditions, and languages. We can learn that we have a lot in common, and French club gives me the opportunity to explore a language that I've always been interested in and might not have gotten the opportunity to elsewhere."



French Club members at one of their early morning meetings

RAINING THREES

BY: MICHAEL WELLS (11TH)

The Boys Basketball team finished with a record of 15 wins and 13 losses. In a very exciting District Championship game against Versailles, senior guard Andrew Hamilton sunk a half-court shot to tie the game and send it into overtime. The Irish came out on top, with a 66-61 victory, claiming the District Title! Unfortunately, the season ended with a loss against Father Tolton in Sectional play.

This year, the SCHS Boys Basketball team also welcomed a new head coach, Jay Osborne, who coached them through a great season. The team also won consolation trophy at the Blue & Gold Tournament and they won second in the Conway Tournament.

Continued on next page.

RAINING THREES (CONTINUED)

None of this success would have been possible without every player coming together and giving this season everything they had. Even though some key players will be graduating this year, including Andrew Hamilton, Jackson McDaniel, Reece White, and Ryan Tauai, the team hopes to have another successful season with some great players joining next year's roster.

All in all, the SCHS Boys Basketball team had a great year and a very bright future!



Basketball wins Districts!

WOMAN IN STEM

BY ZOE MOELLER (12TH)

Senior Julia Lee attended the Young Mathematics Teacher Academy this past summer located on the Missouri State University campus. The camp served as a way for students in the area to study math with their peers while on break. "The camp was an incredible experience to learn more about STEM, quick thinking, and to make connections! I definitely would recommend this opportunity for anyone interested in science or mathematics!" said Julia Lee. For anyone interested in attending this summer, contact the academic office!



Julia Lee and other students at the camp.

WHAT IS THAT MELODY?

BY GIBSON O'DELL (11TH)



The Band practicing for their Competition.

The Band has been putting in their hours and practicing hard! Their performance in December was fantastic. With their new pieces being almost perfect, they'll be ready for the competition later this year. After that competition, they

get to decide what music they want for the football games next year. Jackson Ahrens, a saxophone player for the band, made the All-District Band for Missouri.

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

BY TATUM CORBETT (11TH)



Lady Irish celebrate a victory.



Senior Avery Bowler.

The girls' basketball team played a good season and fought hard. Going 13-13, the girls had a tough season with plenty of ups and downs, but they never gave up. They won against Glendale, Bolivar, Parkview, and many more! One of the highlights of the season was the senior night. This season, the girls' team only had one senior: Avery Bowler. Avery Bowler has been playing basketball since she was little and the

team means so much to her. Unfortunately on senior night, Avery had a hurt foot, which prevented her from playing. Luckily, Avery was allowed to go out on the court for the tip-off. The whole team agrees that they will miss Avery and the energy she brings to the team, but wishes her well in college. Overall, the girls had a wonderful season and the team is already ready to go again next year.

QUIZBOWL WHAT IS... QUIZBOWL?

BY MARY SHARP (11TH)

Springfield Catholic High School's Quiz Bowl team has a history of successful competitions. A quiz based competition that takes after Jeopardy in many ways, Quiz Bowl tests competitors on a variety of subjects, including history, math, science, literature, etc. Quizbowl members have attended and successfully competed at several tournaments this year.



Members of the Quizbowl team at their Nevada competition on February 13, 2023

John Otto, a junior and current economics expert on the team, is really excited about the rest of the season and happy with the team's current successes. When asked about his goals, he said that he hopes, "to continue improving and expanding his knowledge base, while also encouraging interest in a wide range of topics."

This season, sophomore Maggie Duff, and junior Mary Sharp, have answered the most

questions for the team and hope to continue their winning streak. While there were fears of the team's skill level at the beginning of the season, due to the loss of seniors, the Quiz Bowl team has gone above and beyond expectations and strives to continue their success.

SPIRITUAL HELPERS AT WORK

BY NATHANIEL WARREN (12TH)

F.I.S.H (Fighting Irish Spiritual Helpers) has had a very busy first semester trying to rebuild off of what they were left with last year. This year their club only has 4 members, Emily Weiberg, Sarah Nguyen, Tristen Gosnell, and Nathaniel Warren. Beginning the year off with only 3, they luckily got their fourth in October when Tristen showed up to turn in homework, and was convinced to join.

Their first appearance was the first day of school, when club president Nathaniel Warren said the angelus and lunch prayer. This was no stranger to the F.I.S.H. club, and actually is something that they do all year round. Next they started planning for their biggest event of the school year, Advent. During the season of advent, F.I.S.H conducts a prayer service for the whole school. These prayer services were created with each week's advent theme in mind. During the weeks of Advent other members of the club were put on the spot to lead the prayer services. This was an exercise brought up by F.I.S.H. sponsor Sr. Grace, to get the other group members more involved and give them experience in

areas that were usually dominated by the veterans of the club or Sr. Grace herself.

Next on the list was to start making plans on the different retreats that they would be leading in partnership with the NET Team. Earlier on in the year Co-Captains, Emily Weiberg and Nathaniel Warren, collaborated together to conduct a retreat for the freshman class. This retreat according to Nathaniel was, "The best retreat that I had put on by myself. I love that they interacted and did not try to interrupt the group even if they didn't like the topic." This confidence boost would slingshot him and the other F.I.S.H. members into the upcoming retreats hoping for good outcomes as well. The week of retreats was a crazy week to say the least. Some of the members of F.I.S.H. didn't go to school once the entire week! This didn't take their focus away from the goal, helping the underclassmen reach their spiritual goals and even guide them to a better spiritual life with Christ.



F.I.S.H. Sponsor: Sr. Grace

THE KING HAS ARRIVED

BY NATHANIEL WARREN (11TH)

February is a time of celebration because the dreadful month of January is finally over. One big part of February at Springfield Catholic High School is the Ladies Pay All dance and assembly. This year the assembly fell on February 17th, with the dance following it the next night. In the past, the assembly has been a highlight of most male senior's high school careers. The chance of eternal glory and being remembered as LPA king is what every man wants to achieve. The 2023 LPA king candidates were: Heston Collins, Drew Stufflebam, Braedon Fritz, Jack Griesemer, Brandon Troung, and Joseph Steed. These six members were elected by the senior class at Springfield Catholic High School. The men competed in a series of different competitions during the assembly. At the end of the assembly, Heston Collins was crowned as LPA King.

F.I.S.H. Has one more big event this year, the Lenten/Easter season. Nothing has been disclosed about what will happen during this event, or when it will occur but it has always been a highlight of our school in years past. To keep you guessing I asked previous club captain, Madison Szura, about what the club had done in years past to maybe get an idea of what they will do. When talking to Madison she said, "Well, last year we did a living rosary in the chapel before the Lenten season. We also had a Lenten prayer service that we did so that the students could reflect on their decisions during and after the Lenten season. Once Easter started to approach, we spray painted foam crosses and put them in front of the school so people on the highway could see and know that the Easter season was coming soon." One thing that Madison said was her favorite part about the end of the year last year was spending time with her friends, and getting ready to start a new chapter in her life with Jesus and her friends with her along the way.

BASEBALL

3/18	AT	Lee's Summit/Odesa (V)	1:00 pm
3/21	VS	Nixa (V/JV)	4:30 pm
3/24	VS	Father Tolton (V)	6:00 pm
3/25	VS	Desmet (V)	12:00 pm
3/25	VS	Blair Oaks (V)	2:30 pm
3/31	AT	Springdale High, AR (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/3	VS	Branson (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/4	VS	Joplin (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/11	VS	Reeds Spring (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/15	AT	Glendale (V)	10:00 am
4/15	VS	Carl Junction @ Glendale (V)	12:30 pm
4/18	VS	Aurora (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/20	AT	Hollister (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/21	AT	Ozark (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/25	VS	Logan Rogersville (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/27	AT	Marshfield (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/1	VS	Helias Catholic (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/2	VS	Mt. Vernon (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/6	AT	Rolla/Hickman	11:00 am
5/8	VS	Webb City (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/9	VS	Seneca (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/11	VS	Licking (V/JV)	4:30 pm

SOFTBALL

3/21	AT	College Heights Christian	5:00 pm
3/23	AT	Exeter	5:00 pm
3/27	VS	Wheatland	5:00 pm
3/29	AT	Hollister	4:30 pm
3/30	AT	Harrison	5:15 pm
4/1		Buffalo Lady Bison Invitational	
4/3	VS	Seymour	4:30 pm
4/4	VS	Marion C Early	4:30 pm
4/11	AT	Purdy	5:00 pm
4/13	AT	East Newton	6:00 pm
4/15	AT	Mt. Vernon	2:30 pm
4/17	AT	Wheatland	5:00 pm
4/21	VS	Strafford	5:00 pm
4/25	AT	Crane	TBA
4/27	VS	Fair Grove	5:00 pm
5/1	VS	Forsyth	4:30 pm

** All home games will be played at Meador Park

Check out www.SCIrish.com for up to date schedules



2023 SPRING SEASON

BOYS TENNIS

3/23	VS	Branson	4:00 pm
3/27	VS	Reeds Spring	4:00 pm
3/28	AT	Ozark	4:30 pm
4/3	VS	Nixa	4:30 pm
4/6	VS	Greenwood	4:00 pm
4/7	AT	Kickapoo Invitational	TBA
4/10	VS	Logan Rogersville	4:00 pm
4/12	AT	Springfield Invitational	TBA
4/18	AT	New Covenant Academy	4:30 pm
4/20	VS	Central (Springfield)	4:00 pm
4/24	AT	Kickapoo	4:00 pm
4/25	AT	Bolivar	4:00 pm
4/26	AT	Willard	TBA
5/1	VS	Republic	4:00 pm
5/3		Big 8 Tournament	TBA
5/5-6		Individual Districts	
5/8-10		Team Districts	

GIRLS SOCCER

3/17-18	VS	Rolla Tournament (V)	TBA
3/21	VS	Nixa (V/JV)	4:30 pm
3/23	VS	Marshfield (V/JV)	4:30 pm
3/27	VS	Ozark (V/JV)	4:30 pm
3/28	VS	Logan Rogersville (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/4	AT	Cassville (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/5	AT	Republic (V/JV)	5:00 pm
4/11	VS	Lighthouse Christian (V)	4:30 pm
4/14	AT	Pembroke Hill (V)	5:00 pm
4/15	AT	St. Thomas Aquinas (V)	11:00 am
4/18	AT	McDonald County (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/21	VS	Carthage (V/JV)	4:30 pm
4/24	AT	Camdenton (V/JV)	5:00 pm
4/28	VS	Catholic Showcase (V)	TBA
4/29	VS	Catholic Showcase (V)	TBA
5/1	AT	Glendale (V/JV)	5:00 pm
5/2	VS	Aurora HS (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/4	VS	Monett (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/10	AT	Waynesville (V/JV)	5:00 pm
5/11	VS	Carl Junction (V/JV)	4:30 pm
5/13	AT	District Trny (V)	TBA

TRACK & FIELD

3/24		SCHS Irish Open	
3/27		Republic Classic	
3/31		School of Ozarks	
4/4		Chadwick	
4/5		Reeds Spring Invit.	
4/11		El Dorado Springs	
4/13		Spokane	
4/18		Strafford Indian Relays	
4/20		Hollister	
4/27		Mt Vernon Mt'neer Relays	
5/2		Big 8 Conference Meet @ Monett	
5/13		DISTRICTS	
5/21		SECTIONALS TBA	
5/27-28		STATE @ Jefferson City	

BOYS GOLF

3/29		Greenwood & Central	
4/3		Bolivar Tournament	
4/5		SCHS JV Tournament	
4/6		Kickapoo & Parkview	
4/10		SPS Invitational	
4/11		Hillcrest & Central	
4/12		Monett JV Tournament	
4/13		Ozark Tournament	
4/18		MSU Relays	
4/19		Big 8 JV Tournament	
4/26		Pearson Invitational	
5/1		Big 8 Conference Tournament	
5/4-8		MHSAA District Tournament	

SCS Booster Club Thanks Our Diamond Sponsors:

SCS Booster Club Thanks Our Emerald Sponsors:

Introducing our new website...

SpringfieldCatholic.org

Be sure to check out our brand new website, SpringfieldCatholic.org, that was launched earlier this month. Our new site offers a modern, simple, and sleek design! A special thank you to our web designer, John Blaine!



All Classes Are Honored This Year!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 16, 2023

All events will take place at Springfield Catholic High School
2340 S. Eastgate, Springfield, MO
(Parking available on east and west side of the building)

Join us on the evening of September 16th for Mass,
followed by dinner and social hour.

Registration opens soon!

Call your high school friends and encourage them to meet you on the 16th.
This includes alumni from any graduating class of St. Agnes High School
or Springfield Catholic High School!

Would you like to serve as a representative for your graduating class to help share
information with your classmates? Please call Suzanne Cronkhite, Director of Development,
at 417-865-5567 if you would like to help contact your class about this year's reunion.

All Alumni Welcome!



EMERALD 29 EVENING

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

Everyone is invited to bid on this year's silent auction as part of Emerald Evening 29! Even if you are not attending the event, you may still participate in the auction - and we have some AMAZING packages up for grabs!

AUCTION OPENS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND

BIDPAL.NET/EE29

Don't forget to buy your 50/50 raffle tickets! Each ticket is just \$50 and the winner takes home half the proceeds in cash!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING EMERALD EVENING AND SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

The 29th Annual Emerald Evening is being held at the White River Conference Center on Saturday, April 1st! This event is the largest fundraiser for Springfield Catholic Schools. It would not be successful without our generous sponsors!



PRESENTING SPONSOR

Reliable Chevrolet, Infiniti of Springfield, Elite Automotive Group

TIGER LEVEL

IC Jungle Boogie (Beshore, Danastasio, Hopper, O'Reilly, & Scholz)
O'Reilly Auto Parts

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Richard & Natalie Walters

MARCH MADNESS LOUNGE WATCH PARTY SPONSOR

Jeff and Kelly Layman

LATE NIGHT SNACK SPONSOR

Stuart & Lauren Lipscomb

JAGUAR LEVEL \$2,500

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Abraham & Clark Families
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Arvest Bank
Basecke, O'Sullivan, Singleton, Stierwalt & Tiedeman
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Brown, Clements, Durisin, Fairbairn, & Riggs
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Mike & Jill Headley
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Tyler & Stephanie Hesser
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Chris & Danielle McGeeney

JAGUAR (CONT)

McLaughlin, Rehwoldt, Wellever, & Wise Mercy
Nail Dental
Neale & Newman
Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly Family Foundation
Ozark Anesthesia Associates, Inc.
Rapid Roberts
SEAS Home & School
SEAS Men's Club Fireworks Stand
Jeff & Amy Schoen
Simmons Bank Private Wealth Management
TerraGreen Dental
Wood & Huston Bank

We'd also like to thank all of our **MACAW SPONSORS**

BEER PROVIDED BY HEART OF AMERICA BEVERAGE.



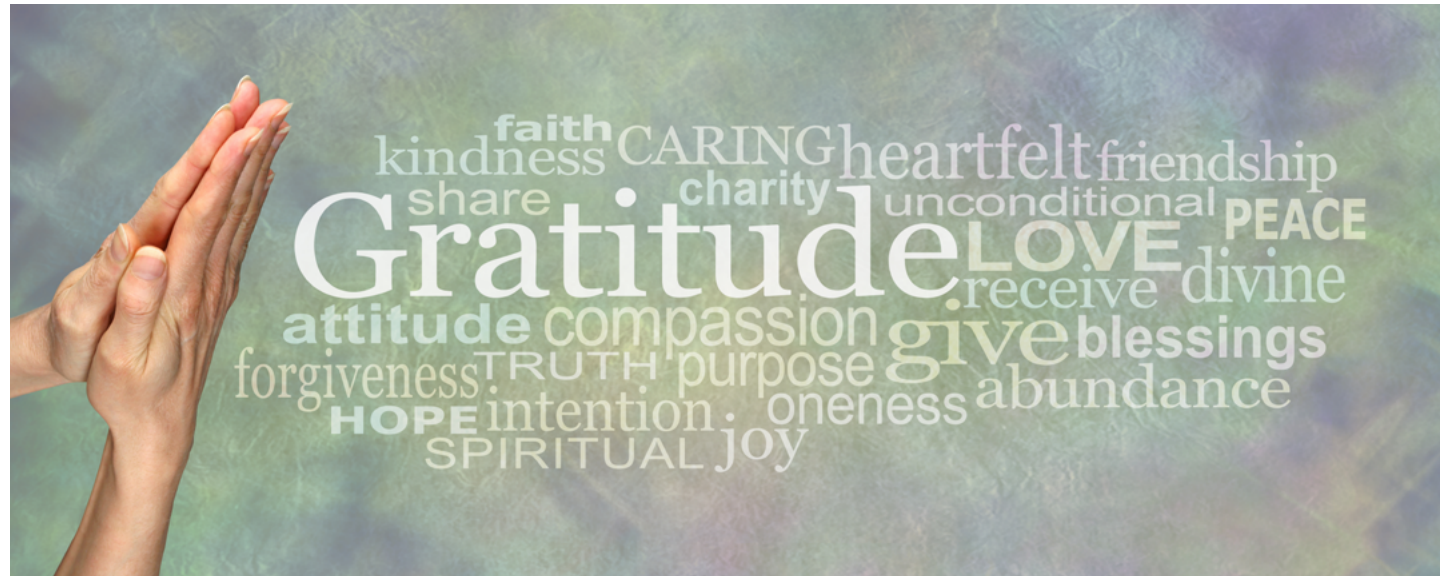
EMERALD 29 EVENING

Rainforest Pre-Party

FINAL FOUR LOUNGE WATCH PARTY SPONSOR
JEFF & KELLY LAYMAN

DRINKS PROVIDED BY

SPECIAL TASTINGS PROVIDED BY



YOUR GIFT CAN BE MATCHED!



Please know that all of you are in my prayers of gratitude for your support to Springfield Catholic Schools. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure is outstanding. I also want to thank our supporting parishes—Holy Trinity, Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who give 53% of their weekly offering to our school system as well as Sponsor-a-Child funds. And, for those parishes attached to a school, the maintenance, repair, and space given for our schools is invaluable. We could never thank our parish pastors enough!

As you probably know, the Development Board has been working hard on our continuous school-system wide fundraising efforts: The Fund for SCS (the Annual Fund), Soiree, and Emerald Evening. Our newest project is The Shepherds' Fund endowment supporting teacher and staff salaries and benefits.

In our last *Irish Connections*, we let you know that The Shepherds' Fund is already supporting our teachers and staff salaries with an additional 0.5% raise in the 2021-2022 school year making that year's total raise 4% for every staff member. And in this current school year, The Shepherds' Fund contributed an additional 1% raise making the total raise 8% for each staff. We are already making progress but we have a long way to go to make sure we continue to have the best staff for our children.

The faculty and staff at SCS have dedicated themselves, through their vocation, to helping our students receive a Catholic education and grow in their faith. In recent years, we have experienced increasing difficulty in retaining and recruiting teachers and staff for two main reasons: because our compensation packages range from between 17 and 22 percent

below those of the Springfield Public Schools, and the choice of education as a profession has been experiencing a steady national decline. That decline has accelerated since the pandemic.

We must be very careful how we address this risk. Aggressively raising tuition to meet this need would decrease enrollment and revenue substantially, and our mission continues to be making Catholic education accessible to all. We know that a conservatively managed endowment is the best way to ensure the high quality of our Catholic education by providing a perpetual revenue stream to supplement the revenue required to pay our teachers and staff what they deserve and what they are worth.

We are excited to let you know that we have the opportunity to match your gift from now until our annual gala on April 1st, Emerald Evening, up to \$130,000, thanks to Cody and Erin Danastasio.

At Emerald Evening, we will have the opportunity to share the most recent successes of The Shepherds' Fund and would love to count your gift with this announcement. We appreciate your consideration of this vital request and your dedication to our Springfield Catholic School system. We are confident the success of this endeavor will accomplish great things for our children, for our community, and for our nation.

Suzanne Cronkhite

Suzanne Cronkhite, Director of Development

Fund-A-Need:

Help Us Grow Teacher and Staff Salaries

Since its inception in 2020, The Shepherds' Fund has been the beneficiary of Emerald Evening's Fund-A-Need. We are so excited to announce that we have a matching gift of up to \$130,000! Help us reach our goal by making a contribution to The Shepherds' Fund as part of Emerald Evening 29. Thank you Cody and Erin Danastasio for this generous matching gift.

**\$130,000
Match
Donation!**

**Until
April 2nd!**



THE SHEPHERDS' FUND
Securing Our Future, Supporting Our Faculty

Donations made from now until April 2nd will count toward the matching gift - which means your donation will double! Make your donation online at BIDPAL.NET/EE29.

Your donation honors our teachers and staff and the impact they are making in the lives of our students. It will ensure that SCS continues to grow as a vibrant faith community. Thank you to our Shepherds' Fund committee, founding donors, and all donors who continue to support this endowment.



ATTENTION SCS FAMILIES!

Do you know a family who has expressed interest in Springfield Catholic Schools? Or maybe a family new to the area? Share all that you love about Springfield Catholic Schools with another family and earn a gift card!

Refer a new family and receive a \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

How it works

Effective May 1, 2023, SCS will offer a \$50 Amazon Gift Card to any current SCS family who succeeds in referring our system to others and having a new family enroll in one of our four schools for the 2023-24 school year.

Encourage new families to apply!

Tell new families to visit our New Family Registration page (SpringfieldCatholic.org/admissions/new-families) and fill out an inquiry form. Have them indicate your name as the referring family on that inquiry form. Once the new family has completed registration, and started school, the school office will contact you about your gift card.

Thank you for encouraging your family and friends to be a part of Springfield Catholic Schools!

SCS SOIRÉE

Saturday, Aug 26, 2023

OASIS CONVENTION CENTER

Save the Date

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUNDRAISER



SPRINGFIELD
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

Make a Decision Today to Create a Better Tomorrow

Become a Heritage Society Member

Create a better tomorrow by including Springfield Catholic Schools in your will. Your gift will help prepare our next generation of leaders, thinkers, and doers and inspire answers to tomorrow's biggest challenges.

To learn more, contact Suzanne Cronkhite
at 417.865.5567 or scronkhite@scspk12.org.