

JULY 2024

# SPIRIT OF

## St. Francis

ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
HUMPHREY, NE, NEWSLETTER



### NEW ALUMNI

MEET THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024

In the photo above, the Class of 2024 celebrates graduation with the tradition of tossing their caps in the air in front of St. Francis Church. Check out page four to meet this year's graduates and learn about their accomplishments.

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

FATHER STAN SCHMIT

A year has passed and over the year I have learned many things. The piece which was most gratifying was how many students took advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and taking time to honor our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Over the last three years, the Church of the United States has been centering around the Eucharist and asking us to regain that connection to Our Lord through His Body and Blood.

During the past two months people from across the country joined in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage accompanying Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire, ending in Indianapolis, IN, for the National Eucharistic Congress where members of our Catholic family gathered to experience profound, personal renewal through the power of Christ's love.

As we prepare for the new school year, we are working on ways to tie into this spiritual connection that is present and add more time, not only for students to partake in these opportunities to experience God's grace, but to also learn about their Faith and other ways to connect with our loving Savior.

One way, if the student chooses, will be through Christian Prayer, the Prayer of the Church, also known as Liturgy of the Hours to priests and religious. This prayer opens us up to listening to God's word through the psalms and short

readings. This brings together that aspect of praying always. Many parishes that can no longer have Mass, due to priest shortages, use this prayer to gather together to give praise to God. Students will also gather weekly for prayer and discussion. Another way is through retreat opportunities, not only with their class during the school day, but also through archdiocesan and national programs.

Through these and other opportunities, it is our hope that the students, over time, will find their niche to remain close to Jesus and grow in their spiritual lives.

Please join me in asking God to light our hearts on fire and allow that fire to spread throughout our school community.

Christ's peace and blessings,



Fr. Stan Schmit  
stschmit@archomaha.org

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

JENNIFER DUNN

How do I make sense of all that is happening with our school? In reflecting on this past year and anticipating the year to come, I do so with a spiritual lens.

Mrs. Schumacher and I were talking about the conversation she had

with Sr. Laura Ann (2013 graduate) when she came to visit this spring. She was being interviewed for an article that appeared in the April edition of the alumni newsletter. In their conversation, Sr. Laura Ann was asked how it was living in a convent. She proceeded to tell Mrs. Schumacher (and I'm paraphrasing here) that she felt blessed for the opportunity to live with both saints and sanctifiers. She offered that she was certainly a sanctifier.

That comment has stuck with me. I think about it often.

Saints are those who you would love to emulate—the kind souls, full of God's love, those that radiate joy, people you just want to be around. Sanctifiers, on the other hand, are those people who you may find difficult to live with or whose personalities don't mesh well with yours; their little quirks get under your skin; those people that make your life difficult. We all have both kinds of these people in our lives. Her comment helped me to see what a blessing it is for God to give them to us. Because in giving them to us, we have the opportunity to work on ourselves. We can identify areas from within that can improve. Sanctifiers help us become saints.

I find Sr. Laura Ann's mindset to be particularly inspiring this year because I am not limiting it to people. I consider events in our lives as having the same effect. People and events—both can be sanctifying. Our school community has gone through a lot this year. We can think about the events we have endured or continue to endure, with the school

in the same way. We experienced more profoundly this year sanctifying events—unpleasant, challenging situations; Events that have really challenged us to look inside. We can ask ourselves, "Why?" "What now?" "How do I move forward?" "How is God using this situation for my sanctification?"

In a letter from St. Paul, he responded to being stoned and left for dead, all because he was trying to teach others about Jesus. He told his disciples when they came to find him, "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God."

Reflecting on this year we just experienced, I can only be thankful and praise God for all the blessings we have received—our academic successes, our athletic achievements, and our adversities. I pray that I may grow spiritually from the events endured this year. I also pray for open hearts of all in this school community to benefit from the sanctifying events presented to us and use them to grow in holiness.

In order to offer Catholic education in this area, it is apparent we have to undergo hardships. And in doing so, hopefully we individually, and as a community, can spiritually benefit as well.

Please continue to keep our school community in your prayers.

Blessings,



Mrs. Jennifer Dunn  
jdunn@hsfschool.org

# INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2024



Carter Classen - Son of James & Lisa Classen, Victoria Jarosz - Daughter of Jason (1995) & Heather (Babel, 1996) Jarosz, Phillip Keller - Son of John (1989) & Elizabeth (Backes, 1992) Keller, Owen Weidner - Son of Scott & Gina Weidner, Keith Ternus - Son of Glenn (1982) & Joyce Ternus, Alexia Morfeld - Daughter of Brandon & Katherine (Krings, 2003) Morfeld, Caleb Killham - Son of Shawn & Nicole (Laska, 2000) Killham, Emma Classen - Daughter of Robert (1991) & Rebecca Classen, Spencer Babel - Son of Scott & Tanya Babel, Karly Kessler - Daughter of Dustin (1997) & Sarah Kessler, Brock Pfeifer - Son of Rob & Theresa Pfeifer, Alexis Kuchar - Daughter of Mark & Chrissy Kuchar, Brooklyn McKay - Daughter of James & Catherine (Olmer, 1994) McKay, Emerson Krings - Son of Steven & Ashley (Weidner, 2002) Krings, Jocelyn Dunn - Daughter of JoJo & Jennifer Dunn

## HONORS EARNED

### SENIORS RECOGNIZED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This years seniors were recognized for their accomplishments at the annual awards banquet in the following areas:

*Goldenrod Conference Academic All-Conference certificate recipients (ACT composite score 26+):*

- Carter Classen
- Emma Classen
- Karly Kessler
- Lexi Morfeld

*Goldenrod Conference Academic All-Conference medal recipients (ACT composite score 30+):*

- Jocelyn Dunn
- Caleb Killham
- Owen Weidner

*Yellow Honor Cords (Cumulative GPA of 93+):*

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Carter Classen | • Brooklyn McKay |
| • Emma Classen   | • Lexi Morfeld   |
| • Jocelyn Dunn   | • Owen Weidner   |
| • Tori Jarosz    |                  |
| • Karly Kessler  |                  |
| • Caleb Killham  |                  |

# MEET THE NEW ASSISTANT ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

BRETT ADKINS

This coming fall we will see changes in both our school and activities programs at St. Francis. Our elementary will continue to represent as the St. Francis Flyers. After completing 6th grade, our students will advance to Archangels Catholic High School, our family of parishes' central high school, and compete as the Defenders.

With the added layer to activities and athletics within our school family, the administration made the decision to add an assistant activities director role. The new role will be filled by Brett Adkins.

Meet Mr. Adkins :

*I am originally from Ogallala, Nebraska, and graduated from Ogallala High School. I went to Midland University in Fremont for college and graduated with a degree in accounting. I spent one year as an accountant and then decided to go back to college and complete my teaching degree. While at Midland I ran on the cross country and track teams. While in college I was also a volunteer assistant cross country coach at Concordia High School in Omaha for one year and a volunteer assistant wrestling coach at Fremont Middle*

*School for two years. I started my teaching career at Lindsay Holy Family in 2014 and taught there for the last 10 years. While at Holy Family I was the high school and junior high cross country coach and an assistant coach for the high school track team. In May of 2023 I graduated from UNK with a Masters Degree in Education Administration.*

*At Archangels I will be teaching high school and junior high business and computer classes as well as some elementary computer classes. I will also serve as the assistant athletic director and coach junior high track. I will also be helping to hopefully get a wrestling program going again soon as well. I'm really excited and grateful to get to be a part of Archangels.*



*Brett Adkins*

Mr. Brett Adkins  
badkins@achs.esu7.org

## INSPIRING THE FUTURE

### LOVE OF ATHLETICS SPREADS THROUGH YOUTH CAMPS

There aren't many quiet moments around the school grounds during the summer. June is especially busy with summer conditioning and several youth camps taking place.

The high school athletes partner with their coaches to help inspire younger

athletes by showing them what hard work looks like.

Volleyball coach Susan Lindsley's camp focused on more than just volleyball skills. During camp, participants broke into small groups lead by the high school athletes. The groups discussed a set of core value words: love, trust, hard work, sacrifice and coachable; and what those words look like on and off the court. On the last day campers made bracelets with a different color bead to represent each of the core value words.

Coach Lindsley reflected on the experience, "I appreciate the high school helping with our youth to keep the love for volleyball going strong and get more volleyball touches with youth, and it helps the older girls out with being the instructor, 'see one, do one, teach one!'"

Alum Allison Weidner assisted coach Bryan Reichmuth with a girls basketball camp. Coach Kessler and the high school boys lead youth football and basketball camps.

Check out the participants below.





# 2024 ALUMNI BANQUET

GRADUATES SPANNING 80 YEARS GATHER AT ST. FRANCIS

Former students of St. Francis came together on May 25 to celebrate each other and the friendships that formed, for some, decades ago. Alumni from the most recent class of 2024 all the way back to 1944 were present.

During the afternoon several classes gathered in various locations across town to kick off the festivities. Five classes chose to reserve classrooms at the high school. They brought in food and drink to share along with their stories. Everyone behaved, and no one ended up in detention!



School president, Fr. Stan Schmit, opened with prayer and presented this year's Distinguished Alumni award to Gerald Sander. Principal, Mrs. Dunn, gave an update on what's been happening around school and briefly touched on some of the upcoming changes for next year. Vice-president, Chance Boesch, and Director of Alumni Relations, Ashley Krings, inducted the 15 members of the class of 2024 into the alumni association, presenting each with a Flyer pin.



In official Alumni Association business, officers for the 2024-2025 year were nominated and confirmed by those in attendance as follows:

**President:**

Cara Wegener (Class of 2009)

**Vice President:**

Jameson Werner (Class of 2009)

**Secretary:**

Brandon Weidner (Class of 2014)

**Treasurer:**

Braden Freudenberg (Class of 2019)





## Class of 1944



*Delores (Kraus) Boesch*

## Class of 1949



*Louise (Brockhaus) Schroeder, Bill Albracht, Lenore (Eisenmenger) Wemhoff*

## Class of 1959



*Larry Wisheart, Lucy (Jaixen) Dettmer, Helen (Eisenmenger) Weidner, Rose Kuta, Rita (Eisenmenger) Herink, Richard F. Keller*

## Class of 1964



*Back row: Erv Eisenmenger, Stan Kuta, Charlie Bierman, Dave Luetkenhaus*

*Front row: Doris (Wemhoff) Horne, Lucy (Wemhoff) Jaixen, Connie (Kosch) Bavia, Marj (Pfeifer) Olmer, Linda (Wisehart) Lindeman. Paul Ramaekers*

## Class of 1969



*Back row: Stan Wemhoff, Sam Kruse, Rich Preister, Lee Pfeifer, Brenda (Herchenbach) Tubbs, Judy (Wemhoff) Gant. Middle row: Sandy (Boesch) Wemhoff, Dale Wessel, Elmer Wemhoff, Dan Fehringer, Nancy (Wegener) Killhamk. Front row: Linda (Bender) Moeller, Sharon (Zach) Swanson, Pat (Chaulk) Reichmuth, Maxine (Bender) Wessel, Jane (Reichmuth) Wemhoff, Ginny (Olmer) Fehringer, Marie Chevrier.*

## Class of 1974



*Back row: Dean Kosch, John Magsamen, Dan Wieser, Dave Mausbach, Ray Fuchs, Dean Krings, Chuck Zach. Middle back row: George Keller, Tim Hassenstab, Gary Beierman, Dick Kastl, Jess Schure, Dave Albers. Middle front row: Gene Schumacher, Glen Heinen, Randy Babel, Rich Bender. Front row: Karen (Eisenmenger) Carlson, Marilyn (Leick) Tisthammer, Mary Joe (Wemhoff) Laudenklos, Mary Anne (Moser) Classen, Amy (Pfeifer) Beran, Nancy (Nissen) Fuchs*

## Class of 1979



*Back row: Mike Babel, Alan Huettner, Milton Wemhoff, James Keller*

*Middle row: Gina (Wemhoff) Langin, Karla (Pfeifer) Beller, Lori (Kuta) Maguire, Mary (Zuerlein) Hemmer*

*Front row: Becky (Ternus) Scott, Sheila (Pfeifer) Hayes, Judy (Jaworski) McCarty, Pam (Wemhoff) Pfeifer*

## Class of 1984



*Back row: Randy Zach, Joe Wieser, Mark Olmer, Cori (Jaworski) Fullner, Cathy (Albracht) Keller, Tom Hassenstab, Pat Wemhoff, Jeff Eisenmenger. Front row: Karla (Jarosz) Beller, Ronda (Denkinger) Lubischer, Lynn (Ramaekers) Muse, Sharon (Pfeifer) Labenz, Barb (Heesacker) Kruid, Kristi (Backes) Weidner, Janet (Boesch) Hanson, Julie (Sand) Ditter.*

## Class of 2004



*Back row: April (Anderson) Westring*

*Middle row: Nick Olmer, Jeff Gilsdorf*

*Front row: Crystal (Wemhoff) Ott*

## Class of 2009



*Back row: Jared Heinen, Jameson Werner, Jeff Brockhaus, Austin Wegener. Front row: Susan (Rollman) Lindsley, Cara (Eisenmenger) Wegener, Shelby (Krings) Ternus, Sheryl Hemmer, Laura (Brockhaus) Poppe*

## Class of 2014



*Back row: Tanner Krings, Sam Zach, James Brockhaus, Brandon Weidner, Austin Engel*

*Front row: Sabrina Sjuts, Alaina (Pfeifer) Dole, Sarah (Pohlen) Fraundorfer*

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## GERALD "JERRY" SANDER

The 2024 Humphrey Saint Francis Distinguished Alumni award recipient Gerald (Jerry) Sander, class of 1955, was awarded during the alumni banquet.

Jerry was recognized for his dedication to the St. Francis Church, School, and community which spans many decades, countless volunteer hours, and has impacted many people. He is active in many activities and organizations, not for the glory nor notoriety, but as a servant of the Lord, which is illustrated in 1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Jerry was surprised by many of his children and grandchildren who came to the banquet and witnessed him receiving the award.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**First Day of School**

Wednesday, August 14

**V-Ball Opener @ Howells-Dodge**

Monday, August 26 (Jamboree)

**Football Opener @ Winside**

Friday, August 30

**X-Country Opener @ St. Paul**

Friday, August 30

**Parish Bazaar**

Sunday, October 6

**Blue & White Night**

Saturday, November 23

A big thanks to everyone who contributed images and information to this issue!

**Keep up with St. Francis at <http://humphreystfrancis.com>.**

St. Francis has been the springboard for so many amazing stories; stories of large and growing families, individuals embarking on vocational journeys or tackling seemingly insurmountable goals with the help of God's grace. We'd love to share more of those stories. Story ideas can be sent to Ashley at [akrings@hsfschool.org](mailto:akrings@hsfschool.org).

## GIVE BACK

Looking for ways to give back to your alma mater? Contact Ashley Krings, Advancement Director, by calling the parish office, 402-923-0913, or email [akrings@hsfschool.org](mailto:akrings@hsfschool.org).

# SPIRIT OF

*St. Francis*

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Please contact the parish office  
with address updates at 402-923-0913.



Keeping it in the class! Members of the class of 1969 didn't have to go to far too find their partners for life! Out of the 50 graduates, ten married a fellow classmate. From left to right: Stan & Sandy (Boesch) Wemhoff, Dale & Maxine (Bender) Wessel Dan & Ginny (Olmer) Fehringer and Elmer & Jane (Reichmuth) Wemhoff. Not pictured Marvin & Ellen (Keller) Wemhoff.