

SPIRIT OF

St. Francis

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



HALLS FILLED WITH JESUS

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION TO SCHOOL

Fr. Stan held a Eucharistic procession on the first day of school. It began with Mass, open to the community. After Mass students, faculty, staff and community members joined in a procession past the day care, elementary and ended in the high school chapel.

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

FATHER STAN SCHMIT

The school year has begun, and while things are different this year, they are off to a great start. Many things have taken great shape at both St. Francis Elementary and Archangels Catholic High School. We have increased spiritual growth opportunities for our students along with an increase in service projects focusing on our community and those around us. Our fall sports teams have been competing well, and the One Act team is already preparing for their first competition.

Every day I see more and more parishioners, school families and community members embracing our parish family's new high school, Archangels. I do, however, still see some resistance to the change. It's unfortunate that the resistance to change has also impacted our parish and school system financially. While I know, from past experiences, that people think withholding their financial gifts is a way to show displeasure toward decisions made, it in-fact is only hurting their own cause - the parish and the students in the Catholic schools.

Sacred Scriptures are a big help for me during situations like this. Mark's gospel, which we hear from this month, hones in on following Jesus. In one passage a rich man came and asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him, "Go sell all that you have and

give to the poor, then come and follow me." While money, power and influence are not inherently evil things; the rich, powerful, and influential often use their status to dominate others. Jesus asks the rich man, and each of us in our own way, to divest ourselves of our idols and all the things that keep us from God. Namely, we are to let go of the things in life that we make as a god in this world or use to oppress others.

Jesus calls us to follow Him and to unburden ourselves of the obstacles in our lives that harden our hearts or contribute towards our feelings of entitlement - that we have a right to something. Thus, needing to ask, "Is God my God and my all?", or "Is something of this world holding me back?".

I ask you to spend some time in reflection and prayer that during this season of giving that you may open your heart to generously give to the mission of Catholic Education in Humphrey, which has been a part of our 'tradition' for more than 100 years.

May God Bless you abundantly in His love and Grace.

Peace,



Fr. Stan Schmit
stschmit@archomaha.org

STUDENTS AND THEOLOGY TEACHER MANDATED

LIVING THE FAITH THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

Archangels Catholic students attended Mass at St. Francis Church on September 26 and witnessed 12 of their fellow students and Theology teacher be mandated as lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Those mandated as EMHCs were Theology teacher, Mr. Pejay Padrigon, juniors Ella Foltz and Jayda Krings and seniors Andrew Kosch, Ava Hastreiter, Bella Foster and Mason Geilenkirchen.

Those mandated as lectors were senior Isabel Preister, juniors Chase Freudenburg and Jett Dunn.

Three students were mandated as both. Those included Noah Weiseler, Gage Braun and Matthew Brockhaus.

These individuals will be able to assist at school Masses as well as Sunday Mass. They will also be able to take communion to the homebound.

Congratulations



Newly Mandated Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

*Not pictured: Chase Freudenburg

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO OPEN DOOR MISSION

LIVING THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

On Monday, September 9, the ACHS juniors and seniors traveled to North Omaha near Eppley Airfield, to volunteer at Open Door Missions, a faith-based homeless shelter. Open Door Missions is a gospel organization that fights homelessness and poverty through various programs including Safe Shelter, Feeding the Hungry, and Homeless Prevention. Thousands of lives are saved or changed through Open Door Missions, and the students consider it a blessing that they were able to help for a day as well as to learn about the organization.

The bus left school at 7:55 am and arrived at the shelter by 10 am. Under the roar of jets coming and going



nearby as well as the sounds of the city, the students were briefed by mission workers before beginning the work of the day. Students worked together to sort through all kinds of donations made by Good 360, a global organization that connects donors with nonprofits to distribute donated goods to people in need. These items included clothes, toys, shoes, and household items. After two hours of sorting, students were led to the dining hall



where anyone can come in and get a free, hot meal every day. Students ate at the shelter with those who came for a meal that day. Meals are made daily by volunteers in the Open Door Mission kitchen.

After lunch everyone was given a tour of campus including all the places people stay, classrooms, and places of worship, as well as the Homeless Prevention Building where less fortunate families can come and pick up household items they may need.



Mr. Jonathan Krings organized and supervised this service project as the campus ministry director at Archangels Catholic High School.



FALL SPORTS IN FULL SWING

DEFENDERS COMPETE IN CROSS COUNTRY, VOLLEYBALL AND FOOTBALL

To end the service retreat, everyone headed back to the donation warehouse to sort through the final bit of donations made by Good 360. With time running out, the students filed onto the school bus and arrived back at school by 4 pm, just in time to start practices for fall sports.



Pictured l-r: Kellen Mundil, Jr., Daven Zach, Fr., Jayden Olmer, Fr, Jaiden Anderson, So.





Pictured back l-r : Clara Classen, Fr.; Grace Braun, Fr.; Ella Foltz, Jr.; Whitney Wegener, Jr.; Tatum Classen, So; Kali Jarosz, Jr; Emily Stricklin, Fr. Middle l-r: September Babel, Fr.; Courtney Eisenmann, So.; Taylor Pfeifer, So.; Jocelyn Classen, Fr.; Grace McPhillips, So.; Eva Klassen, Fr.; Jayda Krings, Jr.; Lillie Beltz, So.; Front l-r: Ava Hastreiter, Sr.; Anna Stricklin, Sr.; Bella Foster, Sr.; Nyla Kessler, Sr. Not pictured head coach: Susan Lindsley assistant coaches: Haley Schrage and Tessa Deets



Pictured back l-r: Coach Kessler, Devon Baumgart, Sr., Noah Weiseler, Sr., Chase Freudenburg, Jr., Tyson Weitfeld, Jr., Brenden Johannes, Jr., Gage Braun, Jr., Andrew Kosch, Sr., Mason Geilenkirchen, Sr., Coach Stricklin. Middle l-r: SM Trevor Czarnick, SM Andrew Stricklin, Tanner Classen, Jr., Carson Wegener, Jr., Matthew Brockhaus, Jr., Ethan Weiseler, So., Gavin Geilenkirchen, So., Tucker Czarnick, Jr., Wyatt Brandl, So., SM Nathan Preister, SM Rylan Weiseler. Front l-r: SM Dillon Preister, Jacob Keller, So., Jett Reichmuth, Fr., Cade Weitfeld, Fr., Drew Engel, Fr., Tate Weitfeld, Fr., Matthew Zach, Fr.

WRESTLING RESURGENCE

VARSITY PROGRAM BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE AT ARCHANGELS

The varsity wrestling team will be small this first year, with four high school athletes committed. Senior Eli Weidner plans to bring discipline to the team. "I thought it would be good to have some upper classmen on the team," he said when talking about bringing the program back. The last high school wrestlers competed in 2007

The elementary program has been going strong for many years! The program has been led by parents, many of which are alumni and former wrestlers. Now, with the addition of Mr. Brett Adkins to Archangels, the high school program has been made possible once again!

"I'm pumped!" Mr. Adkins said. He last coached wrestling at Fremont Middle school during the 2013-2014 season. "I'm so excited to get back to it!"



NEW FACES, NEW ROLES

MR. BRETT ADKINS BY ANDREW KOSCH, ACHS SENIOR

Mr. Brett Adkins is an Ogalala High School alumnus who graduated in 2007. After high school, Brett studied accounting at Midland University, where he earned his degree in 2011.

For two years, he worked as an accountant before realizing his true calling lay in education. In 2014, he returned to Midland University to earn his education degree, setting the stage for a fulfilling career in teaching. He came to ACHS this year from Lindsay Holy Family. Along with teaching business and computers classes for all grades, Adkins has

taken on the role of assistant AD. It is his voice we hear in the gym announcing the teams. Because he has his CDL, he often drives the students to their events as well.



Mr. Adkins cherishes his role in the ACHS educational community. He shares, "My favorite part about being here is the colleagues I get to work with, the awesome students, and the amazing lunches!"

We're thrilled to have dedicated educators like Mr. Adkins who inspire and shape the future.

MRS. DANIELLE BENDER
BY MRS. TINA SCHUMACHER

We are thrilled to introduce Danielle (Wessel) Bender, a proud graduate of St. Francis High School, Class of 2005. After her time at St. Francis, Danielle continued her education at Wayne State College, where she excelled both academically and athletically as a member of the volleyball team. She earned her degree in K-12 Physical and Health Education, complemented by a minor in Coaching.



For the past 14 years, Danielle has been a dedicated educator in the Columbus Catholic Schools. This year, she has embraced a new chapter in her career, taking on the roles of a paraprofessional and substitute teacher at the elementary school.

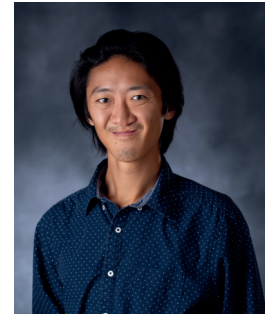
Outside of her professional life, Danielle is happily married to Jordan Bender, and together they have a vibrant family with four wonderful children: Grayson (8), Emmitt (7), Colton (5), and Maddie (3). The boys are all enrolled at St. Francis, while Maddie enjoys her time at Little Saints Daycare.

She loves being back home and working in the school where her kids are each day. "There are good people here," she said.

Danielle's passion for education and commitment to her family make her a valued member of our community. Please join us in welcoming her to this exciting new phase of her journey!

MR. JONATHAN KRINGS
BY MRS. TINA SCHUMACHER

Mr. Jonathan Krings is excited to be back home and teaching at ACHS. A 2015 graduate of HSF, he brings five years of diverse teaching experience from Norfolk Catholic where he taught a range of subjects, including science, theology, and English. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary English Education from Wayne State College in 2019.



At ACHS, Mr. Krings teaches English for grades 7 to 9, coaches cross country and speech, and serves as the campus minister. He lives just southwest of Tarnov, where he grew up, and shares his home with two dogs, Sarge and Auggie. Passionate about providing a faith-based education, Mr. Krings is thrilled to reconnect with his home-town community after being away for nine years.

MRS. KIM JAROSZ
BY ANNA STRICKLIN,
ACHS SENIOR

Mrs. Kim Jarosz, a dedicated member of the St. Francis community, enjoyed an 11-year career cutting hair before embarking on a new adventure at St. Francis Elementary School.



Her journey at St. Francis began in the preschool room, where she spent 11 rewarding years, followed by three years as an aide in the elementary school. She is now the secretary for Archangels Catholic High School.

Married and a mother of four, Mrs. Jarosz is also a proud grandmother of four beautiful grandchildren. She treasures her relationships with the students and staff and is excited to contribute to the community while sharing her faith.

**MRS. JENNIFER WEIDNER
BY BELLA FOSTER, ACHS SENIOR**

A proud St. Francis alumna, Mrs. Jennifer Weidner graduated in 2011 before pursuing her Associates degree in Office Management at Northeast Community College. After eight years at Advanced Services, she returned to her roots as the new secretary for St. Francis Grade School.



Mrs. Weidner is married to fellow St. Francis graduate Brandon, and together they have three children: Kara, 4, who attends preschool at St. Francis; James, 3, at Little Saints Daycare; and their youngest, Kennedy, who is just 1.

She cherishes her role at the school, saying it feels like home and loves being part of the community that nurtured her as a child.

**MR. TRAVIS WILLNERD
BY ANDREW KOSCH,
ACHS SENIOR**

Mr. Travis Willnerd graduated from Hastings St. Cecelia in 2016. After high school, he attended Doane University, where he earned a degree in secondary social science in 2019.



Following his graduation, Mr. Willnerd taught at Norfolk Catholic for three years before spending a year at Lindsay.

He is now thrilled to be at Archangels Catholic High School, where he looks forward to sharing and deepening his faith with his students.

Mr. Willnerd resides in Columbus and has been happily married to his wife for a year.

FAMILY LEGACY

BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF FAITH, FAMILY AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION

BY ELI WEIDNER, ACHS SENIOR

I loved growing up in Humphrey. Grab me for a beer sometime, and I'll share numerous memories of growing up in Humphrey, and the countless friendships made that have stood the test of time."

Josh Boesch (2000), the oldest child of Jack (1975) and Cindy (Fisher) Boesch was recently named as one

of the top 40 executives under the age of 40 by the Midlands Business Journal; he has ownership in multiple businesses.

He loves to share some of his memories with anyone who asks. “In Humphrey, everyone lives in glass houses, so we inherently had to do everything with a sense of faith, pride, and purpose, while working hard, and any lack of these would be very clear to the rest of the community.” He believes that made him a better person, and in adulthood he continues to live as if everyone else knows everything about him. “This has made me thrive, even in a larger community like Omaha.”

He remembers his time in high school and the faculty and coaches with fondness. “The school has been riddled with high quality teachers, priests, and staff, from Mrs. Price honing my math skills, to Mr. (Dean) Korus encouraging the creative side of my brain, to Fr. Wayne Pavela teaching me about faith. Glen Koski and Mike Grape pushed us in sports and solidified that mental toughness that it’s taken to be successful as a

business owner. If you gave me a roster of teachers at that time, I could go down it and tell you each of the impacts made on me!” He shares that it was the culture of both the town and the school that prepared him for challenges that came later. “I had so much pride in the community, and still do.”

Josh attended Creighton University and graduated with a BSBA (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration) with a double major in Accounting and Managerial Information Systems. Starting off as a CPA, and looking to make a bigger impact, Josh moved into the business of recruitment. This switched on his entrepreneurial drive, leading him to buy companies in a wide range of industries under Boesch Enterprises, a private equity group. In fact, if you send Josh an email, the domain is [@boeschent.com](mailto:boeschent.com). With a goal of buying a company a year, Josh plans on rolling up a small percentage of them to offer to friends and family allowing for more funding for more companies.

He met his wife Lindsey at college. She came to Creighton from Tulsa, Oklahoma to play soccer, and “I talked her into staying,” Josh says. They have three children: John (13), Caleb (11), and Kate (9).

Amanda (Mandy) Kirkpatrick (2001) is the second child born into the Boesch family, who moved into the Condon house on the corner of Fourth and Elm Streets in Humphrey



when Josh was two and Mandy was just 9 months old. Her memories of growing up Humphrey include, "Hopping on my bike and riding off to the pool, RB's food shop, or even just next door to see my best friend Amber Keller." She still returns each year to the St. Francis Bazaar for the turkey and sausage.



Not to be outdone by her older brother, she is nationally recognized in the field of nursing and has been awarded an endowed professorship at Creighton University. Like her older brother, she attended Creighton University after high school to study nursing. She has earned a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Creighton University (2005), a Masters of Science in Nursing Education (MSN) from Clarkson College (2012), and a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) from Villanova University (2018).

Knowing she wanted to study nursing, Mandy worked as a nursing assistant through high school and college until graduating from

Creighton University. Afterwards she took a job as a staff nurse in the Burn Unit at The Nebraska Medical Center, eventually becoming a clinical educator for the Critical Care Division. She was not ready to stop learning, however, continuing her education at Clarkson College. Once Amanda received her masters degree, she began to teach at Creighton and has been there ever since, teaching undergraduate nursing for 11 years while also studying for a PhD through Villanova University and conducting research on the use of simulation to improve learning.

Kirkpatrick said, "I recently accepted a job as the Associate Dean of Research and Innovation in Creighton's College of Nursing. This is a jointly appointed role with Common Spirit Health, so I get to spend a day a week at CUMC Bergan Mercy helping nurses get excited about doing research and quality improvement projects that help them better care for their patients." Part of her role is to mentor and encourage faculty toward success in their research endeavors, which includes studying effective educational methods and promoting the improvement of patient care based on reliable evidence, then sharing their success via poster or podium presentations and publications in peer-reviewed professional journals.

Mandy shared that she has many memories of St. Francis that she

believes helped shape her as a person. “My Catholic upbringing has certainly instilled values that I have to this day, and come through daily in my work as an educator at a Jesuit institution. I hope to instill these in my own children – do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

When she thinks back to her time in high school, she believes her “experiences on the speech team, doing mock trial, one-act play, and as a cheerleader were formative in getting me comfortable speaking in front of crowds. I also believe my creative writing classes helped me fall in love with writing, thank you, Miss Tetschner and Mrs. Zach! I’m now a published author, with one book chapter and numerous nursing journal articles. I also see my new role as Associate Dean as the ‘cheerleader’ on the College of Nursing team. I get to help others with their writing and encourage them in their research endeavors.”

She is also grateful for Fr. Wayne and Mr. Jeff Korus for getting her involved in youth ministry. “I attended and served as a leader at multiple youth retreats, which helped me to learn more about myself and what was most important to me, providing me with the tools of discernment and prayer I have used throughout my life. Mrs. Policky (McAlexander at the time) was also a great encourager and helped me to see qualities in myself I didn’t know I had through my time

in her classes and in mock trial competitions.”

She is married to Ryan Kirkpatrick who is originally from Blair, Nebraska. The couple lives outside of Blair with their three children. Declan (14), Mason (10), and Evelyn (7).

After moving to Humphrey, Jack and Cindy welcomed three more children into their family: Kyle (2003), Mitchell (2007), and Jillian (2010). It was important to Jack and Cindy that their children had the opportunity to attend college and all 5 graduated from Creighton University. Kyle, Mitchell, and Jill, served in the Army throughout college and some of their careers, and all serve in leadership roles within their respective occupational fields.

Kyle lives in Panama City, Florida, with his wife Jessica (also a Creighton alum) and their 3 children: Josie (8), Victor (4),



and Juliette (1). Kyle is a structural engineer and works for the Army while building their permanent home near the beach. They will be moving in soon!

Mitch and his wife Aubrey (also a nurse) currently live in Omaha. After ending his Army career, he has worked as a project manager for several companies, and is preparing to move his family to Humphrey. They look forward to buying his parent's house and raising their two children there (Jack (1) and one on the way, due in January).



Jack and Cindy are now retired and spend a lot of time traveling the United States, visiting with old friends, attending car shows, and stopping to see their kids as often as possible. They are looking forward to Mitchell and his family taking over the Condon house. Once two generations of the Jack Boesch family live on the corner of Fourth and Elm, though, it will certainly become known as the Boesch house.

Jill, the youngest, is also a nurse and lives in Manhattan Kansas with her husband, Josh Sprunk (also former Army - that is how they met). Jill was stationed there on her last tour of duty with the Army and now works a civilian job as manager of nursing case management, continuing to care for soldiers at the Fort Riley base and connecting them to the resources they need. She has 3 children, Thea (6), Wyatt (4), and Lily (2) with another due in January.



A WORD FROM ADVANCEMENT

ASHLEY M. KRINGS

Hello fellow alumni! I hope this letter finds you well! At the time of writing this letter it's the day after the parish Bazaar. It was so great to see so many familiar faces that traveled near and far to enjoy an amazing day! The weather was great and the food was even better. I think I may still have a turkey and tater hangover! At least that's the excuse I'm making for my heavy eyelids today.

I love our parish and school gatherings, not only because of the food and fellowship, but because it reminds me why I took the role of Advancement Director.

Our community was built on a tradition of putting our faith in God first, and sharing of our time, talent and treasure. That tradition has allowed us to reap blessings of quality Catholic education here in Humphrey for more than 100 years.

We have embarked on a new era here in Humphrey with a school system that is different than it was when all of us graduated. It isn't the first change our school has faced, and if we are lucky, it won't be the last, because 'Change is the price of progress.'

This fall we have a multitude of ways you can support the progress of our Catholic school family. First and foremost, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! Second I invite you to share of your time, talents and treasure. Included in this newsletter

is a contribution envelope you can return with a donation. We are also looking forward to the Blue and White Night, November 23, which has become our parish's biggest fundraiser for Catholic education. We would love to see you there. Information about purchasing tickets can be found on the next page. If you are unable to attend the event, we are also still seeking donations for the live and silent auction as well as cash donations to help underwrite the event.

Finally, if you live in the area, or are visiting and would like to give of your time, you are always welcome to contact my office to discuss ways to get involved.

Blessings,



Ashley M. Krings
akrings@hsfschool.org

ALUMNI ALERT!!!!

**The 2025 Alumni Banquet
will be Saturday, May 31!**

**Graduating classes
ending in '0' and '5'
this is your year.**

RAISING FUNDS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION



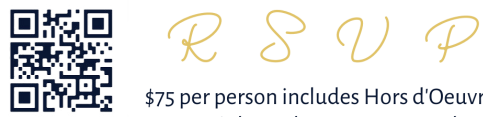
The funds raised at Blue and White Night are used to subsidize our Catholic schools' operating budgets. This helps us pay our teachers and keep tuition affordable.

We hope you'll consider joining us for the event. If you are not able to join us, please consider making a monetary donation to help support the Blue and White Night.

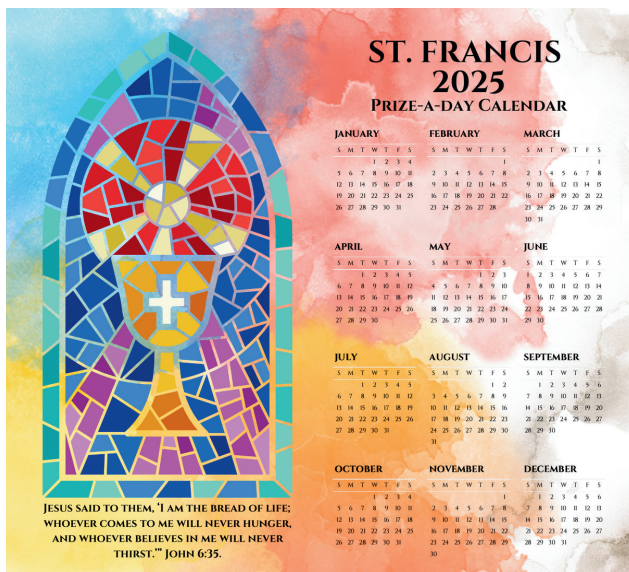
Tickets and game combo packets can be purchased by returning the below RSVP form with \$75 per person, or by scanning the QR code below to visit:

<https://bwn2024.eventbee.com>.

January's issue will include 2024 birth announcements and a memorial of recently departed alumni. Notify us of your family's life events at:
<https://tinyurl.com/rt3t9fpc>



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with address updates at 402-923-0913.



Mrs. Dunn shares in the Sign of Peace with first graders.
She enjoys sitting with the students during mass.