



CARDINAL CONNECTION

St. Catherine School Alumni Newsletter † Fall 2022

Inspiring excellence through faith, learning and service.

540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND 58072

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stcatherine.k12.nd.us

Pastor
Father Paul Duchschere

Principal
Mr. Nick Lee

The Cardinal Connection is published by the St. Catherine School Education Board

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ALUMNI UPDATES:

Do you have updated contact information?

Please send name/address/phone/email changes to:

Terra.Giesen@k12.nd.us



Father Paul Duchschere: A New Pastor's Perspective



I arrived at St. Catherine Catholic Church as its new pastor on June 29. I have truly enjoyed my time here thus far, and there are many blessings to be seen and counted at this parish. Sometimes we can take our blessings for granted, but I haven't been here long enough to

do that. I am sincerely impressed by what I see and what is happening around here.

And St. Catherine School is part of that—a big part of that. I have been involved much with Catholic schools my entire life, both as a student and a priest, but this is my first experience with having a Catholic school in the parish I am pas-

toring. And what a blessing I have experienced in just the short time this school has been operating since I've arrived! It is wonderful for me to see the huge commitment this parish, our principal, and our teachers and administrative staff have made not only to keep this school open but operating at such a high level!

Our Lord Jesus Christ deserves nothing but the best we can offer Him—and He is more than willing to make up any deficiencies we have. I see this school as a place where we are offering Him the best we can. I say "Bravo!" to the efforts I see at work here—and I will continue to pray for His guidance and help in the year(s) to come. I ask you to join me in that prayer.

I am happy and honored to be part of St. Catherine parish family and its school!

Principals Office: Mr. Nick Lee

Happy Fall! I am so thankful to be a part of the St. Catherine family. When I accepted the position in March, truthfully, I did not know what I was walking into. There were a few things that I did know, however. I could tell that the families and staff care deeply about this school. I could tell that the parish cares deeply about this school. Those two things were enough for me to go out on a limb and make the jump from teacher to principal. Let me tell you, I am so glad that I did. This school has allowed me the opportunity to grow professionally, personally, and spiritually. Each of the students holds a special place in my heart and I am blessed to have the BEST teaching staff around. What more could a principal ask for? As you think about the special memories that St. Catherine school gave you, say a prayer for each of our students and staff.

November 4th is our 50th annual St. Catherine Fall Auction. It starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Valley

City Eagles Club. It is sure to be a fun night! Come out and support the school!



Mr. Lee being a good sport with "Sam Ting" aka Mr. Tom Gibson, sponsored by the Barnes County Soil Conservation District. Gut-splitting hilarious! Laughing and Learning CAN go together.



Q&A

with **St. Catherine Teachers**

We asked all of our teachers the same five questions. Each issue we will feature two of them.



Mrs. Samantha Johnston, Physical Education and Health

What is your most fond school memory?

My fondest school memory has been from recent years. I have enjoyed the activities of Catholic Schools Week. It has been fun to see and interact with

the kids during the different activities outside of the Health or PE classes.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Of course I enjoyed my Health and PE classes but I also really liked English class. I liked the reading part but not so much the grammar.

What is your favorite activity outside of school?

I like being with family and friends. If the weather is nice and we can be outside doing something that is even better.

What helped you decide to become a teacher?

My mom was a teacher so from a young age I knew that is what I wanted to be as well.

What do you like best about St. Catherine School?

The love. The love and caring that everyone (teachers, students, alumni, staff, parishioners) have for each other is very heartwarming.



Mrs. Sara Sorby, Music

What is your most fond school memory?

My favorite school memory (how do I pick one?!) was attending football games. My parents and grandparents went to the same high school I went to, so the school spirit ran deep. As far back as I can remember, if there was a home football game we were there. My grandma used

to pop a bunch of popcorn and put it in a huge paper grocery bag. My whole extended family was there. Friday nights were the best!

What was your favorite subject in school?

Choir. I joined choir in 9th grade (I played the French horn in band before that) because I was tired of having to practice for band. I figured if I joined choir that I wouldn't have to practice anymore. The joke was on me, because I fell in love and spent my 4 years in college stuck in a practice room!

What is your favorite activity outside of school?

Refinishing furniture, painting, and decorating my house. My garage is filled with furniture I have waiting to refinish and my list of house projects are long.

What helped you decide to become a teacher?

I have wanted to be a teacher from the time I was really young. My parents collected old school desks for me and hung a white board, bulletin board, and maps in our basement. I'd collect worksheets out of our school recycling bin, erase all the answers and make copies. I would hold "school" in our basement for all the neighbor kids after school. Everyone was surprised when I decided to major in vocal music instead of music education. However, my decision to come back to my childhood dream was made easy when St. Catherine's needed a music teacher!

What do you like best about St. Catherine School?

My favorite thing about St. Catherine's is that we never have to hide our faith. It is incorporated into everything we do. I never have to be careful that I might say God or Jesus! It is a family atmosphere and I always feel at home here!

Cardinal Generation Photos

Please send us a photo of all the past and present generations of St. Catherine School students in your family together; along with a caption of who each person is, and their high school graduation years or current grades! We will feature these in future issues, and on our Facebook page! **Send photo and captions to:** tara.praska@k12.nd.us



School Chapel

Our students start every morning with chapel time. When Father Paul arrived at St. Catherine, he noticed our beautiful chapel and made the decision to also start utilizing it for the students' weekly Mass. Monthly All-School Mass will still be held in the church.

HELP Support Your School



I have enclosed a CHECK or CASH in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other _____

- Please make checks payable to *St. Catherine School*
- Mail to: *St. Catherine School, 540 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072*

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR ALUMNI LIST CURRENT, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW:

First Last Maiden Graduation Year

Address City State Zip

Phone Email



-OR- Online Giving at St. Catherine's SAFE, EASY, AND CONVENIENT!

A safe and easy way to help provide financial support for the needs of the parish and school.

www.catherineofalexandria.org/online-giving

GOD IS GOOD—ALL THE TIME!

Alumni Spotlight: Mary Ann (Ertelt) Stack, Class of 1945



Mary Ann and her six children.
Back l to r: Roger Stack, Rocky Stack.
Middle l to r: Carolyn Koch, Mark Stack,
Catherine Stack. Front l to r: Robert Stack
and Mary Ann Stack. All are St. Catherine
School alumni.

I am a product of St. Catherine's, I was born into St. Catherine's and remained in the parish my entire life. I was also educated at St. Catherine's (1st grade through 12th grade) and graduated in 1945. My memories from St. Catherine's are many and precious.

For some reason the first memory that pops up is Monsignor Baker and Sister Patrick monitoring the noon playground. They would walk up and down the playground

visiting. Monsignor was a rotund, very dignified looking man. He taught a class at the college. Sister Patrick was a petite nun, she taught English and speech classes at St. Catherine.

I will start at the beginning. In 1st grade I had Sister Rose. There

was a raised sand box in the 1st grade room that had little dolls in a playground, one was dressed like a nun. I thought it was Sister Rose. For 2nd grade, I had Sister Rita, a dear sweet person but rather nondescript. In 3rd and 4th grade, I had Sister Albertine, who later taught music. She had a library in her room, you could bring the books home to read. It instilled in me the love for reading. In 5th and 6th grade, I had Sister Gertrude. (In another life she could have been an actress.) If the class would get their work all done on certain days, she would tell us stories. I don't know where she got her material, but she held her class in rapt attention. In 7th and 8th, I had Sister Charles, she treated me like a person, with respect. One of my favorites, she did have a temper, so no one wanted to rile her up!

I was in grade school during the depression, and high school during the war. I'm sure that had some effect on me. The chapel was in daily use with Mass, the church wasn't even heated during the week until they finished off the basement and had activities down there.

There were 40 in our class, the largest class to graduate thus far. They had to close the high school because the classes were too large and they couldn't accommodate them.

I am grateful for the sacrifices my parents made to give us that education. My mother didn't drive, so my father would come in from the field during his busy time to pack us up and bring us in after milking 10 or 12 cows by hand, until one of us was old enough to drive. Children, count your blessings!

I had 6 children, 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and counting. I live in an assisted living facility.

Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please contact the school office with an updated address at 701-845-1453 or Terra.Giesen@k12.nd.us. Thank you for helping us keep our records current.

Friday, November 4th is going to be a night worth celebrating! The 50th annual St. Catherine School Fall Auction will be held at the Valley City Eagles Club.

The theme for this year's auction is "How Sweet It Is!". This fundraiser has been successful in past years. This "sweetness" has been cooked up by the generosity of the community and surrounding area businesses, parents, families, and the great support of the members of the parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria over the last 50 years.

The "Kick Off" breakfast will start the week on Sunday, October 30. The KCs will cook up scrumptious eggs, sausage and other tantalizing items for the public to enjoy. The cost is a free-will donation and will be offered in the Church Hall from 9 a.m.–Noon. Something new, in honor of our 50 years, will be a cookbook available to purchase. One of the school's mothers compiled 342 recipes from school families and staff, alumni, and parishioners. It's sure to be a "sweet" thing to have around your house and would make a great gift.

We are exceptionally grateful for all donations to our Fall Auction. The school relies heavily on these funds to continue to serve our students and community. We appreciate all the support that we receive. Know that the students and staff of St. Catherine School continue to pray for all the people of the great community of Valley City.

This evening will be "sprinkled" with a lot of fun! So, put Friday, November 4th on your calendar for a time to celebrate the St. Catherine School 50th Annual Fall Auction. It's an event that you "Donut" want to miss. "How Sweet It Is!"

HOW SWEET IT IS



Friday, November 4, 2022

Valley City Eagles Club
345 12th Ave. NE, Valley City, ND

Silent Auction and Bake Sale • 5:00 p.m.

Live Auction • 6:30 p.m.

All proceeds go to St. Catherine School