



CARDINAL CONNECTION

St. Catherine School Alumni Newsletter † Fall 2023

Inspiring excellence through faith, learning and service.

540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND 58072

701-845-1453

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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Fall Auction page:
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Father Paul Duchschere: Who We Are

Man was made “in the image and likeness of God.” That comes from the very first chapter of the book of Genesis in the Bible. And everything follows from that truth. If we “get” that truth, we live well. If we do not integrate that truth into our lives, we will not live well.

And that’s exactly why St. Catherine’s School is here. To give parents the chance for their children to come to know and understand that truth. Even the youngest of children can grasp onto it if they are given the chance. And of course every parent can do better than anyone else in making this truth part of their child’s life. But the Church wants to give parents the opportunity to further their child’s faith understanding and faith life – and so the existence of Catholic schools.

In my second year as pastor of this parish and

its attendant school, what I just wrote above is becoming more and more real for me. What a blessing this school is for this parish family, and for this city in the valley! We have a fine group of teachers and administrators – all of them returned from last year, and that retention of teachers is a wonderful sign that something good is happening here. Our teachers and staff want to be here – and they want to grow in their own faith life – and they want the children here do the same.

It all started – and still starts – with those simple words: we were created “in the image and likeness of God.” Now we need to live that truth – all of us. And our St Catherine’s School gives those kids who are here a nice foundation for understanding and doing exactly that.

Principals Office: Mr. Nick Lee

St. Catherine Alumni-

I am so excited to be entering my 2nd year as the principal of St. Catherine School! I must be honest, last year when I started, I didn’t know what my future held here. I did not anticipate growing to care for the school and its mission as deeply as I do. It was entirely an unexpected part of my educational journey. Often, I hear people mention that they felt called or compelled to do something. I never understood that, until now. I fully believe that my being here is no mistake and that I am right where God intends me to be. As I look forward to the future for St. Catherine School, I see one that is bright! The highest praise that I can give this school is that I have entrusted my own children here. I see the benefits daily of their instruction in a small, Catholic school rooted in the Faith. I hope that many of you, our alumni, look back and see the benefit of your time here at St. Catherine! Whether you attend-

ed through high school, junior high, or (in the present arrangement) through 6th grade, think of the memories that you have of this school, your favorite teacher, or the friends you had during your time here. I hope for most of you that thinking back brings a smile to your face!

There is a place for this school in this community for years to come! For 51 years, our annual Fall Auction has been a staple for our parish, school, alumni, and local community. The money raised has helped immeasurably to carry out the mission of St. Catherine School and to make sure that students, like many of you, had/have access to a quality, Catholic education. Have you considered the impact that a gift to the Fall Auction might have? With the growing costs of goods and services, we need support from our St. Catherine alumni family **now** more than ever.

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Alumni Spotlight: Christian Kvilvang



My name is Christian Kvilvang and I attended St. Catherine's from 2002 until 2008. I graduated high school in 2015. My graduating class from St. Catherine's had 12 students which felt like a huge class at the time! My best memories from St. Catherine's school came in many different areas. I always loved the field days that we had at the end of the school year, I loved gym class with Mr. Dyrness as the kickball pitcher, I loved

the amazing lunches that we had every single day, I loved the all school masses and how all of the students played a role in each one. I loved my teachers probably the most because they were the reason I wanted to become a teacher now. Their impact on me is what made every single day at St. Kate's a great one. I have always said that St. Catherine's prepares students to live every

day with kindness in your heart and I felt that I was ready for anything because of the life lessons I was taught. I think that is what I take with me the most is how St. Kate's can turn you into a better person without you even realizing it. Right now I currently live in Northwood, North Dakota where I am a teacher and a coach of many sports. I currently coach football, basketball, and baseball so that keeps me pretty busy during the school year. During the summer I like to spend time with family and friends at Lake Ashtabula! I am married to my wife, Mallory, and we have a dog named Rylee. My best advice to current students at St. Kate's is every day that you get to go to St. Kate's is a gift. It may seem like it is just another day at school, but St. Catherine's is unlike any school that you will ever go to. You are cared about, thought about, and have an opportunity to have an amazing Catholic education. Make the most of every day that you have at St. Kate's, because once you graduate from St. Catherine's, you will miss it every day!

St. Catherine School Chess Club



Since last spring there has been an interest from our students in playing the game of chess. It is a game of logic and strategy and is one that benefits the development of critical thinking skills.

On September 25th, grades 4-6 spent the day with "That Chess Guy", Mr. Todd Wolf. We are now ready to launch the St. Catherine School Chess club!

- Life skill
- No screen
- Time with friends



3rd Annual Saints Alive Parade

On Wednesday, October 25th at 2:00 p.m., all St. Catherine students and teachers will be dressing as their favorite saints and parading around the church, starting on the west side. If you're local and want to witness this beautiful display, bring some treats (60 to cover everyone) and a smile to share with the kids!

We asked each teacher "Who is your favorite saint, and why?" Here are their answers!

Mrs. Dawn Ihry, 5th & 6th grade: St. Michael the Archangel; St. Michael is always available. Who doesn't love a soldier in their corner?! It's a way for me to connect with the boys. We memorize the St. Michael prayer each year. Battles for kids are just beginning and St. Michael gives them a visual of a tough guy saint battling for them. St. Joan of Arc is a close second as she speaks to the girls. St. Michael was St. Joan of Arc's favorite saint. Life is a battle; enjoy the good days and get ready for the tough-we are the Church Militant.

Miss. Rebekah Hilgemann, 3rd & 4th grade: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton; she is the patron saint of Catholic Schools and I love teaching at St. Catherine School!

Mrs. Calista Meyer, 1st & 2nd grade: St. Cecilia; because I love listening to music and love to sing (even though I am not a good singer hahaha).

Mrs. Cayla Rose, Kindergarten: St. Brigid of Ireland; she was born a slave, but known for her remarkable generosity. She founded several monasteries in Ireland as well as a school of art that taught metalwork and illumination. She performed many miracles including healing the sick, blind, and mute. She is the patron saint of poetry, midwives, newborns, Irish nuns, fugitives, blacksmiths, dairymaids, boatmen, chicken farmers, cattle, scholars, sailors.

Mr. Austen Meyer, Language Arts & Title 1: Saint Andrew; my favorite hobby is fishing and Saint Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen.

Mrs. Sara Sorby, Music: St. Cecilia; not only because she is the Patron Saint of Musicians, but because she was able to convert her husband, Valerian, to the Catholic faith. Both he and his brother were martyred. As she was dying for 3 days, after being

(Continued on next page)

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!

(Saints, continued from page 2)

struck in the neck with a sword, it is said that she sang her heart out to God. I love that we get to sing our hearts out to God anytime we want, but especially at Mass each week.

Mrs. Samantha Johnston, Physical Education & Health: Saint Sebastian; patron saint of athletes. I like Saint Sebastian because he is a good reminder that we need to take care of our bodies and be active...especially in PE!

(Principals Office, continued from page 1)

The theme of this year's auction is "Coney Island". I hope that it will bring a sense of nostalgia for the fun memories of attending the fair/carnival with friends and loved ones. This year the fall auction can serve as a reminder, "It's not the ride, but who you are riding it with" as each of you think of your time at St. Catherine School. As we get closer to the fall auction on November 10th, consider the many ways you can support the fall auction. Gifts for the silent and live auction are always needed and appreciated! Please bring items to the school office by October 27. Monetary donations are a great way of providing for the needs of the school through the fall auction. Please call the school office at 701-845-1453 and ask for me if you want to discuss any tax-related questions for sizable donations. Attending the auction is also a great way to show support of the school. There are so many great items to bid on in the live and silent auction, and I love meeting alumni of the school! Offer prayers for the success of this school and for the fall auction. I pray daily for this school, its staff, its students, and its families. I will include our alumni family in my prayers, as well!

In Christ,
Mr. Lee

Support the School!

There are many ways to support the school without extra cost out of your pocket.

Our Family Barcodes: Cut out all your **Our Family brand** UPC barcodes and turn them in to the school. For each bundle of 500 Our Family UPC barcodes collected, the school receives \$25.

Casey's Rewards: Did you know you can turn your Casey's Rewards points into donations for our school? Find **Saint Catherine School** in the account section of the Casey's app to start donating today! (*you can also search by zip code 58072*)

Box Tops for Education: No longer are the days of cutting out box tops. Now you just download the **BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION** app and scan your receipt **within 14 days** of purchase.

Nearly Nu Consignment: Consign with the number **912**. The PTO gets 100% of all the proceeds sold!

Nearly Nu consignment times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Find them on Facebook for important updates!

ALUMNI UPDATES: Do you have updated contact information? Do you know alumni who would love to receive the newsletter?

Please send name/address/phone/email changes or additions to tara.praska@k12.nd.us

CORRECTED DATE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

VALLEY CITY EAGLES CLUB
345 12TH AVE. NE, VALLEY CITY, ND

SILENT AUCTION & BAKE SALE 5:00 P.M.

LIVE AUCTION 6:30 P.M.



*It's not the ride,
it's who you're riding it with.*

St. Catherine School



*All proceeds go to
St. Catherine School*

51ST ANNUAL FALL AUCTION

“Come one, come all” to the 51st Annual St. Catherine School Fall Auction. **This event will be held at the Valley City Eagles on Friday, November 10.** The silent auction and bake sale will start the evening at 5:00 p.m. The bidding for the live auction items will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The theme this year is “Coney Island!” We hope it brings excitement like when you were a kid going to the fair with the smell of popcorn, hot dogs, and the sounds of laughter.

This fundraiser has been successful in past years thanks to the generosity of the community and surrounding area businesses, parents, families and the parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Without this continuous generous support the school would not exist. The money helps with tuition, technology costs, necessary building repairs and maintenance, and curriculum/support materials.

Raffle tickets will be available for \$20 each. The prizes for the raffle are \$250 from Bank Forward, \$150 from Ivy Real

Estate Group and \$150 gift card from Valley Meat. One can purchase raffle tickets from school families or at the school office. Only 300 sold!

Sunday, November 5th will kick off the auction week with a breakfast sponsored by the KC’s of St. Catherine. It is a free will donation running from 9-12 in the Church Hall.

We are grateful for all donations to our Fall Auction. The school relies on these funds to continue to serve the students and community. All the support that is received is appreciated. Know that the students and staff of St. Catherine School continue to pray for all the people of this great community.

For up-to-date information follow the auction Facebook page! www.facebook.com/stkatesauction

So “Step right up” to an evening of fun—the 51st Annual St. Catherine Fall Auction at the Valley City Eagles on November 10. And remember “It’s not the ride, it’s who you’re riding with.”

Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please email tara.praska@k12.nd.us with an updated address. Thank you for helping us keep our records current.

St. Catherine Elementary School
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND 58072