

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT



## Catholic schools: Sharing the mission of Jesus Christ and celebrating an education that transforms the heart, mind and soul

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis takes great pride in its long history of Catholic formation and education. Catholic Schools Week provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the blessing of Catholic schools in individual lives, families and communities throughout central and southern Indiana. Within its 39 counties, the archdiocese boasts of 68 Catholic grade and high schools as well as two Catholic seminaries and two Catholic universities.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

The national theme for Catholic Schools Week—*Faith, Excellence, Service*—highlights the transformational mission of Catholic schools; namely, a holistic concept of developing

the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical character of each student through ongoing formation and education.

The focus of Catholic schools, both inside and outside the classroom, includes the formation of the heart as well as the education of the mind. The development of morals and faith leading to Christ-centered witness in worship and service, as referenced in our theme, is central to this mission. Our concern is for every aspect of the person, but especially with salvation of the soul.

We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all those who make our Catholic schools what they are for us. Special thanks to all those serving in our schools—presidents, principals, faculty, staff, coaches and volunteers—as well as the tremendous team that makes up our archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools. The greatest ambassadors of our Catholic schools, of course, are our students and their families.

Your witness of faith, in both word and action, is the most inspiring means of highlighting the value of Catholic schools.

Ultimately, as the crucifix in every classroom is meant to remind us, we must always keep before us that our Catholic schools exist to carry forth the mission of Jesus Christ in proclaiming the kingdom of God at hand and bringing about the good news of salvation. All for the glory of God, we have much to celebrate!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

MOST REVEREND CHARLES C. THOMPSON  
ARCHBISHOP OF INDIANAPOLIS







# A surprising choice leads a family to a school and a faith-filled community that they cherish

By John Shaughnessy

When LaDarius Mathis finished his time of service in the

U.S. Army, he and his wife Vanessa were at a point where they could choose wherever they wanted their family to live. The choice they made—and the reason they made it—would surprise many people.

After all, they could have returned to the Dallas, Texas, area where they had both grown up and still have families who live there.

They could have also chosen from some of the scenic areas which had been part of their lives during the nine years LaDarius served in the Army—including Colorado, New Mexico and Virginia.

Instead, they made their choice based on this reason:

During the nearly two years when LaDarius served at Camp Atterbury in Indiana—from 2014-16—the couple and their children felt so completely at home at Our Lady of the Greenwood School that they hated to leave when LaDarius was required to move to an Army base in Colorado. Longing to return to that Catholic community, they did just that in 2019.

“Everyone welcomed us with open arms the first time we moved here. I got the warm and fuzzies then, and my heart has always been here ever since,” Vanessa says. “When we moved back here, we almost pinched ourselves. ‘Is this real? Did we make this happen?’ I needed a sense of community, and we have it here. We’ve never been so happy.”

Her happiness includes being the social studies teacher for the middle school students at Our Lady of the Greenwood, where three of their four children attend. Bryce is in the eighth grade, Christian the first grade, and Madison in the pre-kindergarten class. Their oldest child, LaDarius, a graduate of Our Lady of the Greenwood, is a freshman at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

“This is my dream job,” says Vanessa, who also coaches boys’ basketball and volleyball at the school. “I get to be with my kids, and there are awesome kids here. This is why we moved back—because of this school. My

daughter loves the movie *Frozen*. As Olaf said in *Frozen*, ‘I’m living the dream.’”

A substantial part of the dream for her is that she gets to teach in a Catholic school and her children get to receive a Catholic education.

“Our kids have always gone to Catholic schools,” she says. “I’ve always liked the discipline that’s being instilled, the expectations, the fact that they can go to Mass and see everybody go to Mass as part of the school. With going to Mass being a routine part of life for them, I hope that will carry over into their adult life.”

She also savors being able to talk to her students about God.

“Whenever we talk about God, we can have an open conversation about God,” she says. “Kids this age have doubts. They have so many outside forces from the secular world. It’s so cool that we can have these conversations about God, that we can talk about their doubts. If I don’t have the answers, I can talk to a priest and get answers for them.”

That approach dovetails with another role she has at the school—as a member of the Jesus Squad. It’s a group of teachers who meet regularly with the parish’s pastor, Father Todd Goodson, to enhance the Catholic identity of the school.

“How can we truly live by our Catholic faith?” she says, summarizing the question that guides the group. “We meet with Father Todd to talk about the needs of the students. I think it’s pretty cool that I’m on the Jesus Squad.”



Vanessa and LaDarius Mathis have found a home for their family at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. Here, the couple poses for a family photo with their children, LaDarius, Jr., left, Madison, Christian and Bryce. (Submitted photo)

The school community feels blessed that Vanessa is part of the staff, says principal Kent Clady.

“She’s just a natural,” he says. “I love that she treats the kids as she treats her own children. She teaches them as a teacher, but loves them as a mom. She holds them to the same expectations she has for her own children, and I love that about her. She’s a gift to us, for sure.”

“I’m glad God brought her and her family back to us. They could have gone anywhere in the United States as a family. They decided they wanted to be here. We’re glad they are.”

So is the Mathis family.

“We feel blessed to be here,” Vanessa says. “This place feels like home. We’re loving it.” †

# Mentor program adds joy to the present and hope for the future

By John Shaughnessy

The dreams of Logan and Sebastian have created a bond between them, right down to the smiles and laughs they share in making a batch of greenish-blue slime together.

At 18, Logan Cucuz is a freshman at Marian University in Indianapolis who dreams of becoming a nurse on a pediatric unit, caring for children and helping them return to good health.

At 11, Sebastian is a sixth-grade student at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis who hopes to become the first person in his family to go to college in the future.

Their lives have become intertwined this school year through College Mentors for Kids, an Indianapolis-based national program that strives to transform the lives of children and college students “through weekly on-campus activities that inspire growth, confidence and brighter futures.”

Every Thursday, about 25 third- to sixth-grade students at Holy Angels board a bus to go to Marian University for after-school activities that connect them in one-on-one relationships with Marian students.

Their time together includes a snack and a fun bonding project, but the program is always focused on giving the grade-school students a connection with a college campus and a look at careers and an education that could change their lives someday. There is also the emphasis on creating a bond between the child and the college student—like the one between Sebastian and Logan.

“He’s really fun to get along with,” says Sebastian, whose last name isn’t mentioned here because that’s the policy of the College Mentors for Kids program regarding the grade school students. “And all the activities are fun, too.”

Sebastian shares that he’s one of four children who live with their mom. He also mentions that at this point in his life he wants to be a video game programmer or a graphic designer.

Logan is already focused on his future path.

“I’m a nursing major,” he says. “I’d like to go into pediatrics. I like to work with kids, coming down to their level and collaborating with them. I thought this program would be perfect, and it is.”

“You learn how to deal with the million different things that are going on for a kid. And Sebastian likes the same things as me. Being a role model is a really good experience.”

After the snack to begin their time together on this day, Sebastian and Logan listen as a Marian team leader reads from a children’s book that stresses the importance of working hard to achieve a goal. Then there’s the science activity of making slime together, followed later by a focus on possible careers.

During other weeks, the Holy Angels students have also listened to presentations from Marian students of different backgrounds who talked about their experiences and their cultures.

The College Mentors for Kids program makes a major difference in the lives of the children at Holy Angels School, says principal Justin Armitage.

“Our scholars get an opportunity to be paired with a college student, do fun activities and go to a college campus once a week,” Armitage says. “The opportunity for our scholars to spend time on a college campus is priceless. Many of our scholars only know their neighborhood. They do not have an opportunity to travel to different places and see different things.”

“Being on a college campus with college students that come from all over the state and country provides them with



The smiles show the bond that has formed between Logan Cucuz, a freshman at Marian University in Indianapolis, and Sebastian, a sixth-grade student at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis, through the College Mentors for Kids program. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

inspiration and motivation to want to do well in school, go onto a good high school and then college or technical school.

“We have many programs here at Holy Angels for our scholars to participate in, but the excitement the scholars that are involved in College Mentors have when Thursday rolls around is unmatched.”

At the same time, the program has created “a love of Holy Angels” for many of the Marian students involved in it, Armitage says.

“Some come back to volunteer in our after-care program, some come back to assist in classrooms, some decide to be tutors during the school week,” the principal says.

“College Mentors has been an integral piece to the transformation of Holy

Angels over the past four years. It is beneficial to the Marian students, to our school, to our community and most importantly to the lives of our scholars.”

The program also gives the grade-school student and the college student the opportunity to smile and laugh together, to bond, says Anna Johannigman, the vice president of the Marian chapter of College Mentors for Kids and a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg.

“It’s really great to see how that relationship forms between the two,” Johannigman says. “I think the mentors gain a sense of being able to have that connection with a child. Everyone has a mentor in their life. To have the ability to encourage someone is special.” †



# Relying on his faith in a time of fear brings a student closer to God, his school community and the purpose for his life

By John Shaughnessy

Patrick Van Gheem recalls it as one of the toughest times of his life, a time when he turned to God and the community of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis for help.

"I don't talk about it too much, but there are many points at which I relied on my faith," says Patrick, a senior at Cardinal Ritter. "Born prematurely, one of my brothers remained in the newborn intensive care unit for weeks.

"In those moments, it became difficult for me to get up for school knowing that he was still fighting for his life at that moment. The worst part was knowing that the outcome

of whether he would recover or stay in the hospital was out of my control. But the best part was knowing that my brother was in the care of two groups of people I trusted very greatly: health care professionals and, of course, God and the saints in heaven.

"This moment gave me comfort in my faith, knowing that God was there for me every day. I saw it in the community of Ritter, praying for my brother. I relied on my faith in that moment, and I am glad to say God came through. My brother is alive and well now."

Patrick believes his faith will continue to serve him as he strives to pursue a career as a doctor.

Catholic teaching "is to not give

abortions, refuse euthanasia and care for every patient," he says. "These beliefs will allow me to be a better doctor and a better person in the future."

His four years at Cardinal Ritter have developed his faith, strengthened his relationship with God and prepared him for the future he envisions, he says.

"My education has shown me ways that I can utilize my faith in everyday life. The biggest examples are the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Cardinal Ritter has taught me to value each human. By using these works of mercy, I have been able to find volunteering opportunities through the way of my faith. That, to me, defines my education at Cardinal Ritter." †



# Learning lessons in respect and love—and sharing them with others

By John Shaughnessy

Even though Tyrone Davis isn't Catholic, he still embraces the difference that a Catholic education has made in the formative years of his life.

"I believe that having a Catholic education is very important because it teaches you important moral virtues such as honesty, respect and compassion," says Tyrone, a senior at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville.

"I myself wasn't born and raised a Catholic, with my mom being Eastern Orthodox. However, going to Catholic schools most of my life has taught me

humility and how to show care, love and respect toward other people, because you never know what the next person might be going through at home. They might have a hard life, so going out of your way to show kindness can go a long way."

Tyrone says he especially used that approach during his junior year at Providence when the challenges of COVID-19 were having an impact.

"It felt as if everyone was dealing with something, and it was hard to find reasons to smile and be happy," he recalls.

"I continued to show love and respect toward everyone I know and met—and tried to be their reason to smile. Whether it was

a nice compliment, or a funny joke, or me being outright dumb just to get a laugh out of someone, I think this community and the whole world needed a little bit of that."

As much as he has tried to do for the Providence community, Tyrone knows how much the school has done for him.

"I think that my Providence education will continue to serve me well in the future. Not only have I been taught great and important moral virtues by which to live, Providence also has a top-tier academic education.

"I'm hoping that I can use the valuable lessons that I learn here to continue to develop my own successful career." †



# Senior learns to lean on others—and to reach out to them to help

By John Shaughnessy

Like many students, Natalie Priser has felt the influence of COVID-19 in her life. The senior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis has also seen the impact it's had on her faith and her appreciation of her Catholic education.

"The past year has really pushed me to rely on my faith, especially in the unknown times where I had to trust God that everything would work out," Natalie says.

"Catholic education is something that sometimes I may take for granted, but then I think about what life would be like without having attended Christ the King School or Bishop Chatard, and I

realize that everything would be different. I wouldn't have as many opportunities to meet people who share the same faith, and I wouldn't have a group of people that I know I can lean on when it comes to my faith."

Her four years at Bishop Chatard have not only led her to lean on people who share her faith, but to learn how to use her faith to reach out to others.

"In addition to having theology classes, each class really focuses on bringing in matters of faith and connecting it to certain lessons, which has encouraged me to see how my faith can play a role in such a variety of different matters.

"I have become very actively involved

in the campus ministry program at Bishop Chatard this year. Through campus ministry, as well as the help of fellow students, I had the opportunity to create my own program called 'Service Ministries,' which has helped me to see how I can connect my values of service with my love for being involved at Chatard. The Catholic education at Chatard has encouraged me to become more involved in my community."

She has no doubt that foundation will continue into her future.

"The importance of service has been stressed in a way that I know will help me to continue living in a way that focuses on helping others." †



# Catholic school educators are the hands, feet and eyes of Christ

By Brian Disney

Superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese

Catholic schools in the archdiocese provide an exemplary academic education, but they also provide so much more. Built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, our Catholic schools are a vibrant ministry of the Catholic Church where students are taught and inspired to excel in their lives on Earth and to live eternally with God in heaven. As with any outstanding organization, the people in our schools—teachers, staff members, pastors, students and families—live this mission every day.

Our Catholic schools excel on every measure of academic success, including state and national assessments, graduation rates and college acceptance rates. Our graduates become leaders in government, business, education, technology, engineering and so much more. Our schools are recognized for teaching critical thinking and instilling strong values. Our Catholic schools are appreciated for the value they bring to students, families and communities.

The outstanding academic education in our Catholic schools is infused with Gospel values. Guided by our Catholic identity and mission, we believe in the

full potential of each of our students. Therefore, we intentionally focus on the growth and development of the whole human person: spiritual, physical, mental and social.

Our primary task is to form Catholic men and women and to show non-Catholics the beauty of living for and with Christ. Our students learn to discern the voice of God by utilizing their gifts to make the world a better place and to build up the kingdom of God. Our Catholic schools maintain their purpose through constant references to the Gospel and frequent encounters with Christ. Our Catholic faith is the basis for all these successes.

This high-quality education would not be possible without our amazing educators who live the mission of Catholic schools every day. I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit almost half of our 68 schools during this school year. On these visits, I have observed our teachers and staffs living this quote of St. Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now on Earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good."

Our Catholic schools are places to encounter Christ in the sacraments and in the employees, students and volunteers.

Our teachers and staffs are of utmost importance in developing the distinctive mission of our Catholic schools. Our pastors and priests serve as the spiritual leaders of their school communities. Our school leaders provide educational and spiritual growth opportunities

for students and staff members. Our teachers are full of Christian wisdom, have strong knowledge of their academic content, have a love for young people and are committed to guiding students to the heart of Christ. Our support staffs and volunteers in the office and cafeteria are welcoming voices and faces committed to service.

The entire school community shares the vision of a whole-child educational experience built on the foundation of Christ and the Gospel. Our Catholic school educators are the hands, feet and eyes of Christ every day.

If you are interested in your child being formed and taught in one of our amazing Catholic schools, please contact your local school office.

If you would like to work in this wonderful and supportive environment, contact our schools or visit the archdiocese's Office of Catholic Schools webpage, [ocs.archindy.org](https://ocs.archindy.org).

If you would like to thank Catholic school educators for their Christian witness and work, send them a card, donate to the school or parish in their name, and pray for them.

God bless our Catholic school educators! †



Brian Disney







# First-time Catholic school teachers describe their experience as 'positive' and 'wonderful'

By Natalie Hoefler

to his job in Bedford. The drive takes nearly an hour-and-a-half.

But the member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight doesn't mind.

"I wake up so excited to come to work," he says. "And I'm willing to make the drive because I love this job so much!"

Pangburn teaches middle school English and social studies at St. Vincent de Paul School in Bedford. It's his first professional job, having graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington last May.

He went to public schools, but "always loved my faith and felt a deep connection to it," says Pangburn. "So when the opportunity to teach at St. Vincent de Paul came up, I was very excited to take it."

So far, he calls his experience teaching at the Catholic school "absolutely wonderful."

"I love the community. I love the kids. I love how the school's purpose is not just education, but also showing good morals.

"As teachers, we act out the morals and teachings that Christ has given us by being examples of how we're supposed to act and behave. It's about reminding [students] what they're supposed to do and encouraging them when they are living out those ideals."

Pangburn says the approach works.

"You can really see how effective we are in how the kids behave," he says.

He also appreciates the many opportunities students have to engage with their faith.

"It's not just going to Mass," he says. "Even in homeroom, we take an hour every Friday to read and discuss Scripture."

Unlike Pangburn, Mariah Mott has a varied background in teaching. She has taught at a charter school and at a school for children with behavioral issues.

But the new kindergarten teacher for St. Patrick School in Terre Haute says teaching for the Catholic school has been her best experience yet.

She had a good impression of the school even before starting as a teacher there last fall.

"I have a friend who works here and two friends who have kids who go here who always talk about there being such a positive environment here where kids both learn about faith and academics," said Mott. "I like seeing kids grow in both areas."

She has found St. Patrick School to be "very positive and more nurturing than public schools.

"There, you go to the principal's office or get detention [for misbehaving.] Here, it's more, 'Let's talk through this,' and making that relationship with Jesus real so kids are able to understand why their action was wrong. When you just say, 'Don't do that,' they won't learn and they'll keep having those bad behaviors."

Mott, who worships at Whitesville Christian Church in Crawfordsville, Ind., appreciates being able to put her shared Christian values into practice as a teacher at St. Patrick.

"Using what's positive and inspiring to them is what I really, really like," she said. "Just today I had one student say they didn't want to play with another student because [that student was] mean.

"I was able to ask the kids, 'Was everyone nice to Jesus?'—'No.' 'Was Jesus nice to everyone?'—'Yes.' 'This is why we need to be nice to everyone like Jesus.'"



Mariah Mott



Richard Pangburn teaches a middle school social studies class at St. Vincent de Paul School in Bedford. (Submitted photo)

Mott notes that the school's teachers educate the students in math, reading, social studies, science and more.

"But we also teach them to have positive relationships in a holy way, and teach them those skills they can use every year in grade school and high school and beyond school." †

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# A football coach shares his game plan of faith with his players, striving to lead them to a relationship with God

By John Shaughnessy

Mark Bridges has this one great hope for the boys he coaches.

It goes beyond his desire as a U.S. Marine Corps veteran to teach them the values of respect and discipline.

It even goes beyond the challenge of taking youths from four parishes who don't know each other and transforming them into a team that's united and cares about each other.

His one great hope for his players is—well, here's a story that will explain it.

It's the story of one of his players during his 21 years of coaching football in the archdiocese's Catholic Youth Organization.

In his two years of playing for Bridges, the boy learned that his coach strives to make sharing his faith with his players as his main focus, from having them lead prayers after every practice to his Saturday post-practice ritual of reading the Bible with them and telling them stories of biblical figures.

During his second season of playing for Bridges, the boy was going through a tough time in his life.

"Sometimes when he would get upset, we'd have these conversations," Bridges says. "He told me he was going to buy a Bible so he can get closer to God. I asked his parents if I could have the honor of buying him his first Bible. They said I could. He would sit next to me when we did the readings on Saturdays.

"When the boys leave, what I want for them is to have a relationship with God that is going to last them a lot longer than their time playing football. I have had seven or eight players ask me to be their confirmation sponsor. To think a football coach can actually do this makes me feel so good. It's all about God."

Bridges has kept that focus on God in leading the Johnson County Knights, which draws together seventh- and eighth-grade boys from four parishes—Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Indianapolis, Our Lady of the Greenwood in Greenwood, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi in Greenwood and St. Rose of Lima in Franklin.

Bringing the youths together as a team is one of Bridges' gifts, says Marianne Duncan, whose son Gino played for the Knights the past two seasons.

"At the first practice, the coaches notice that the players are in their 'own school' group talking," Duncan says. "As they train through the summer, players soon start to sweat, joke and laugh with one another. Coach emphasizes, 'We are a team. We are family. Lean on each other. Take care of each other.'

"He's a great coach, but he's an even better role model for 13- and 14-year-old boys. He's brought a moral and spiritual influence to these kids. He's all about God and family. I'm just so blessed to have had him coach my son for two years. His mentorship is going to last forever with my son."

Gino is just as enthusiastic about his coach, describing the Saturday morning Bible sessions as "one of my favorite times."

"He instills faith in football, which I love," says the eighth-grade student at Nativity School. "He taught me so much about the Bible in the past two years. He explains it in a way that kids can get. One of his favorite verses is Proverbs 14:23, 'All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.' It basically means you have to work hard for everything you get.

"A lot of people say he's one of the biggest influences in their lives. He's a really great guy, a really great coach."

As a coach, Bridges and his assistants—Marty Sedgwick, Pat Soller and Ryan Benich—stress the importance of improving every day to their players.

"It's always about team and teamwork," says Bridges, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish who also coaches girls' and boys' volleyball there. "I tell them, 'We don't need heroes on our team. We need teammates doing heroic things.' We do a lot of fundamental training. We focus on getting better in every aspect we can think of."

That approach always centers on helping the boys grow in their faith.

"After every practice, we pray, and it's always player-led," says Bridges, who has been married for



Coach Mark Bridges and one of his players, Gino Duncan, are all smiles for a photo. (Submitted photo)

32 years to his wife Mary and has two adult daughters, Alexis and Erika.

"We tell the boys that we say prayer as a conversation with God. They do a phenomenal job. We ask for special intentions. At the beginning of the year, it's one or two intentions. By the end of the year, everybody has multiple intentions. I get goose bumps from it. I tell them, 'I love you guys. I love your faith.'"

Bridges says his own faith has deepened because of coaching the boys and researching the Bible passages and biblical stories that he shares with them.

"It's helped my faith explode. I'm so blessed to have this opportunity." †





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# The story of a fork and what it holds for high school seniors regarding their future

By John Shaughnessy

school seniors from across the archdiocese, giving them a sense of the promising future that awaits them.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson shared the story during his homily at the annual Archdiocesan High School Senior Mass on Dec. 1 at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg.

The story involves a woman who was meeting with a priest to plan her funeral. The woman told the priest about all the details she had made, including the readings and the music she wanted for her funeral Mass. Then she hesitated before she asked the priest about the last detail she wanted.

“She finally said, ‘It’s going to sound odd, but I have one more request,’” the archbishop told the nearly 1,000 seniors from 11 Catholic high schools across central and southern Indiana. “He said, ‘What’s that?’ She said, ‘I want a small fork placed in my coffin.’ He said, ‘May I ask why?’

“She said, ‘When I was a little girl, when we would go to nice restaurants, you would have the salad fork and the regular dinner fork, and there would be the knife and the spoon. Then above the plate, there would be this small fork. I learned over time that when I saw the small fork, there was going to be dessert. Every time I got to a restaurant, I looked for that small fork. I always knew when I saw that small fork, the best was yet to come.’

“She said, ‘I want the small fork in my coffin to represent my belief, my faith that the best is yet to come.’”

After pausing for a moment to let the story sink in, Archbishop Thompson told the seniors, “The best in your lives is yet to come. We as Catholics, as Christians, as people of God, as much as we hope, God is going to provide us with an abundance beyond what we can wholly imagine. The best is yet to come.

“Whether you’re at a high or a low in your life, whatever it is, always remember that the best is yet to come. This Eucharist points to that reality for us. Jesus

giving us his body and his blood so that we might have life everlasting.”

During his homily, Archbishop Thompson also turned the seniors’ focus to the theme of a mountain, as that was the setting for both readings that day—Is 25:6-10a and Mt 15:29-37.

“In Scripture, the mountain is an important symbol. When the Scriptures tell us about mountains, it’s a way of telling us that something very important is going to happen,” the archbishop said. “It’s on the mountain where people bring Jesus the lame, the blind, the mute, the deformed, and he heals them. It’s on the mountain that he feeds this multitude because he’s moved with compassion.

“Mountains are important, and your senior year is a mountain moment. Think back to when you first came to your school as a freshman. You must have been anxious, a little nervous. Now, you’re at the top of the mountain in your high school. Enjoy it. In a few months, you’ll come back down. And there will be other mountains.”

The archbishop encouraged the seniors to keep reaching for the mountain experiences throughout their lives. He also encouraged them to take advantage throughout their lives of the mountain experience that Christ has made possible.

“For us as Catholics, the Eucharist is our mountain here on Earth. It’s the peak for us. The Church calls the eucharistic celebration the source and summit of our identity and our mission as Catholics. Every ministry, every service, everything we do and say should draw from and flow back to this mountain, this experience.

“Throughout your lives, the rest of your high school year, whatever you do, never stop climbing the mountain. Never stop bringing your needs, your hopes, your fears, your anxieties, your joys to the mountain of the Eucharist. To be nourished, to be fed, to keep climbing to the next mountain, remembering all that Jesus promises, that the best is yet to come.”

During Communion, receiving the Eucharist was embraced by many of the seniors from the 11 high schools: Bishop Chatard, Brebeuf Jesuit, Cardinal Ritter, Cathedral, Father Michael Shawe Memorial, Father



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson greets a student after the annual Archdiocesan High School Senior Mass on Dec. 1, 2021, at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Thomas Scecina, Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Providence, Providence Cristo Rey, Roncalli and Seton Catholic.

After the Mass, several students shared that the archbishop’s homily touched them.

“I really liked the story about the woman and the fork,” said Tyler Wuestefeld, a senior at Oldenburg Academy in Oldenburg and a member of St. Michael Parish in Brookville. “It really spoke to me that the best is really to come.”

“I really liked the way he talked about the mountaintop,” said Mercedes Benjamin, a senior at Our Lady of Providence and a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, both in Clarksville. “Senior year is one of our mountains, but there are better things to come in life and through God. Our goal in life is to reach heaven, and we should always keep that in mind.”

“I really liked that while it may seem we are at the top now, we have other things waiting for us,” said Alyssa Wanstrath, a senior at Oldenburg Academy and a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville. “There’s nothing here on Earth that will be our high point more than eternal life.” †

# NEW ALBANY DEANERY SCHOOLS

New Albany Deanery Catholic School System

PK-12



Our Lady of Providence H.S., Clarksville  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, New Albany  
 St. Anthony of Padua School, Clarksville  
 Sacred Heart Catholic School, Jeffersonville

Holy Family School, New Albany  
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Corydon  
 St. John Paul II Catholic School, Sellersburg  
 St. Mary of the Knobs Catholic School, Floyds Knobs

**Celebrating Catholic Schools Week**



# Catholic schools help students discover God's call to pursue vocations to the priesthood and religious life

By Sean Gallagher

Catholic elementary and high schools aren't seminaries or houses of religious orders. But they are communities where seeds of vocations are planted and nurtured.

Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana have done just that for decades.

In the Indianapolis South Deanery, three young men had their faith deepened in parish grade schools and at Roncalli High School and are now being formed for service in the Church—two as archdiocesan seminarians, one in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Their stories show how Catholic schools can play a crucial role in helping young people hear God's call for service to the faithful both across central and southern Indiana and around the world.

## 'The archdiocese is my home'

Seminarian Khaing Thu grew up in a Catholic family in Myanmar in southern Asia. When he was 11, he and his family were resettled in Indianapolis as refugees fleeing religious persecution in their native country.

They were given a warm welcome by the members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish on Indianapolis' south side.

"When we arrived, we didn't have anything," Thu said. "It was my parish community that offered my family help by taking us to a food pantry, bringing us furniture and clothing."

Thu and his two older siblings felt this support, especially at St. Mark the Evangelist School and at nearby Roncalli High School.

"My teachers helped me," he said. "My classmates helped me with classwork. They explained to me what the words meant. My parents wanted me to get a



Seminarians Samuel Hansen, left, and Khaing Thu pose on Jan. 15 outside Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. Both graduates of Roncalli, the pair are now seniors at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

good experience in a Catholic school where I could learn about the faith."

Starting at St. Mark as a sixth grader, Thu became a leader among his peers just two years later, serving as a sacristan at school Masses.

"I took that as a big role," Thu recalled. "Being able to go to Mass with the whole school and learning about the faith inspired me."

In such a supportive environment, Thu and his two older siblings thrived. His older brother has served as a member of the U.S. Marines and his older sister is a medical student.

For his part, Thu discerned through his years at Roncalli that God might be calling him to be a priest—and an archdiocesan priest in particular.

"The archdiocese is my home," he said. "St. Mark was where I grew up. It's where my community is. If I became a priest, God willing, it would be an opportunity for me to give back. It's the reason I decided to become a seminarian for the archdiocese."

## Planting the seeds of a vocation

A year after Thu and his family arrived from Myanmar in Indianapolis as refugees, Jimmy Henke graduated from Roncalli, having grown up in nearby Greenwood.

As a student at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana, Henke met members of the Congregation of Holy Cross that minister there and discerned that God might be calling him to be a member of that religious community.

After living as a postulant and novice, Brother Jimmy professed first vows on July 28, 2018, and continued in formation at Notre Dame, earning a master's of divinity degree in May 2021.

Now he is ministering with his order in parishes in eastern Bangladesh, near the Myanmar border.

The foundation stones of his vocation and ministry that have taken Brother Jimmy around the world were laid in part at Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood and at Roncalli.

In an e-mail sent from Bangladesh to *The Criterion*, Brother Jimmy said that these school communities laid "the groundwork for a relationship with God."

"I needed to learn to have that relationship before I could discern in a real way God's particular call for my life," he said. "I am grateful for the seeds and all the hard labor of nurturing those seeds that all of my teachers and administrators provided for me."

Serving in Bangladesh has deepened Brother Jimmy's appreciation for the Catholic education he received in the archdiocese.

"Many of the families I have gotten to know while in Bangladesh cannot afford to send their students to a Catholic school, or the ones they can afford have very limited space," he said. "We [in the U.S.] need to continue to be attentive to those who otherwise could not receive such an education. ... I pray that we will all share the responsibility of helping families who desire to educate their children through our schools."

## Lighting the way to a vocation

Catholic education has been a family affair for most of seminarian Sam Hansen's life.

The year before he started as a student at St. Roch School in Indianapolis, his father, Joseph Hansen, became its principal.

Being open to serving God and others was simply part of the air the younger Hansen breathed as he progressed through St. Roch.

"I heard my dad tell all of St. Roch School to 'use your gifts and talents for God and others' over morning announcements every day," he recalled.

And he saw this message put into action by his father, who now serves as principal of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

"You have to work above your pay grade [in Catholic schools]," said Sam. "My dad is very busy, but he's also very willing. He knows that what he does bit by bit changes other people's lives for the better."

But it's not just his father that set an example of service for Sam in his Catholic education. His longtime pastor at St. Roch Parish, now retired Father James Wilmoth, made an impression on him in his frequent presence in the parish's school.

"He was my first inspiration," Sam said. "I remember when I was young seeing this happy guy that everyone loved and admired. We can't just have one Father Wilmoth. We need Father Wilmoths everywhere. We need people like that all the time."

Sam has also been inspired by his fourth-grade teacher and parish youth group leader Dick Gallamore. He taught



Holy Cross Brother Jimmy Henke, center, poses on Dec. 25, 2021, after a Christmas Mass in Srimangal, Bangladesh, with Holy Cross Father Kevin Kubi, left, and a family whose baby was baptized during the liturgy. Brother Jimmy is a graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

Sam about the sacrament of penance in the classroom and then helped him put its principle of mercy into action as a teenager in projects to help people in need.

"You can become that sign of mercy that you were taught about when you were young," Sam said. "You see it manifested as you grow up and participate in the ministry of the Church that was anticipated from the start."

As a student at Roncalli, Sam spent two weeks at Notre Dame in a summer seminary immersion program that he learned about from Gallamore as he was beginning to discern God's call in his life.

Gallamore, lovingly known by Sam and so many of his other students as "Mr. G," made a surprise visit to Notre Dame to encourage Sam during his time there.

"When you are openly interested in this calling [to the priesthood], most people don't know how to react," Sam said, "but Mr. G is someone who has dedicated his life to the Church as much as many priests have and really lit the way for me."

While Gallamore acknowledges the influence that Catholic educators can have on young people and their discernment of God's calling, he sees in Sam, now a senior in college, the same love for the faith that he saw in him as a fourth grader.

"A few weeks ago, I had to go over to the church to pick something up," Gallamore said. "When I walked in, there was Sam, praying all alone in the darkness, except for the flickering lights of the votive candles. I thought to myself, 'Some things never change.'"

(For more information on a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit [HearGodsCall.com](http://HearGodsCall.com).) †

# Catholic educators reflect on how schools can encourage students to discern vocations to serve the Church

By Sean Gallagher

Joseph Hansen serves as principal of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis. His son Sam is an archdiocesan seminarian. But he knew the importance of promoting vocations in Catholic schools long before his son entered into priestly formation.

"We always need to encourage our students to be prayerful and understand that God has a vocational plan for all of us whether it is the single life, married life, or religious life or the priesthood," said Hansen. "Vocational examples, actually hearing from people that are living their vocation joyfully and are serving God, is a great way to impact our young people as they explore their path."

In that vein, Hansen noted that his own ministry in Catholic education has been influenced by his son's discernment of a priestly vocation.

"I am blessed to have a front-row account of a young man's journey to priesthood," Hansen said. "I can now

share with young people Sam's beautiful vocational story and how content he is as a seminarian."

Hansen and other Catholic educators see Catholic schools as real seedbeds of vocations and the teachers and administrators in them as having a great mission in nurturing the seeds of service in the Church.

In the 37 years that he has served at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis in various capacities, Chuck Weisenbach has seen many of his students go on to embrace vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

"I have frequently commented that Roncalli High School has much to be proud of," said Weisenbach, now Roncalli's president, "but nothing compares to how proud we are to have been a part of the nurturing of so many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It is clearly our most significant accomplishment."

Weisenbach said that this normalization of priestly and religious vocations at Roncalli has grown enough that students there now see that it is "cool" if a fellow student is discerning such a call.

"The secularistic nature found in most parts of society does not give young people that message," he said. "It is more of a message of 'Why would you do that?'"

At the same time, Weisenbach knows Roncalli and other Catholic schools can do better by helping students know that vocations encompass a person's whole identity and are not just a career choice.

"I think once they understand with clarity and depth that God is calling each of us to a specific vocation in his Church," he said, "we stand a much better chance of our young people discerning what God is truly calling them to." †







# Food program helps feed students in need—and nourishes volunteers who make it happen

By John Shaughnessy

coordinates the program that helps feed 225 grade-school children who might not otherwise have enough food to eat during the weekends.

Her first focus is naturally on the students who benefit from the Weekend Meals program, students in five Indianapolis Catholic schools who can't always count on having a meal—let alone a nutritious one—waiting for them at home.



Kathy Laudick

Laudick also thinks of the children's parents. "The parents are working hard and making choices to help their children succeed by sending them to a Catholic school, and I like that," says Laudick, a mother of three grown children and a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. "We were fortunate to make a Catholic education possible for our children, and I like helping to do that for other families, too."

There's also another reason Laudick leads the program.

"I was not raised Catholic," she says, sharing how she entered into the full communion of the Catholic Church after she and her husband Jim had their first child. "I felt I needed to be a full participant in our faith. The Church provides us with a grounding and a centering and a reason for life. I express my faith through my actions, helping others and supporting others."

That same approach to faith guided four other volunteers on a recent Friday morning, the time when the group meets every week at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis. On this day, the group filled 225 sacks that included apples, baby carrots, yogurt, oatmeal, muffins and macaroni-and-cheese dinners among other items.

After filling the sacks, the volunteers then delivered them to four other schools besides Holy Angels: Central

Catholic, Holy Cross, St. Anthony and St. Philip Neri.

The 225 students who benefit from the Weekend Meals program have been identified by social workers at their schools as being most severely challenged by food insecurity at home.

These 225 are among all the students at Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross and St. Philip Neri who receive free breakfast, lunch and dinner five days a week at school. All the students at St. Anthony receive a free breakfast and lunch five days a week.

While those meals are federally funded, the Weekend Meals program is made available through the generosity of an anonymous donor who has committed to the program through all of 2022.

"It's fabulous," says Elizabeth Ewing, the school nutrition program manager for the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies in the archdiocese. "Kathy has rounded up wonderful people to help. These are people who are giving of their time and talent."

One of the four volunteers on this day, Patty Schipp sees the positive impact the program has on the children.

"It's not just their physical well-being, it also helps their emotional and social well-being," says Schipp, a member of St. Pius X Parish. "If they're not focused on their food, they can have a better focus on their schoolwork and their friends."

"This is a God thing for me. I really enjoy working with children. I was a teacher for 30 years. I need to do this and want to do this. Plus, it really gives you an opportunity to meet other people in our faith community who I wouldn't otherwise get to know."



JoAn Reed, left, Theresa Desautels, Terry Buckman and Patty Schipp work together as part of the Weekend Meals program that provides bags of take-home food for children at five Catholic schools in Indianapolis. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Schipp made that connection with Terry Buckman as they worked together filling the sacks. Buckman dedicated her working life to Catholic schools in the archdiocese,

including 15 years as the head of student support at St. Matthew the Apostle School in Indianapolis.

"When I was at St. Matthew, I had students I'd tutor after school for free," Buckman says. "I made a bond with a young boy from Mexico. His mom was a single mom. At Christmas, I'd buy a turkey or a gift card for them. I felt that was my calling, and I wanted to continue to do that."

"My heart goes out to kids who just aren't fortunate, not because of anything they've done but because of circumstances in life. I'm blessed to have the time and resources to help people."

That's also the approach of JoAn Reed and Theresa Desautels, two St. Pius X members who are regular volunteers.

"I try to do this a couple times a month," Desautels says. "I know the kids need it, and the food is healthy."

Reed adds, "It's hard to imagine children not having enough to eat. This has to be just a relief to their parents, that it takes the stress off them, that they're children aren't hungry over the weekends."

Laudick views the Weekend Meals program as another example of the difference that these Catholic schools are making in the lives of their students.

"I believe education is so important and so key to providing an opportunity for success in life," she says. "These schools are trying to meet the whole needs of the child—academically, nutritionally and providing a faith education. This is our faith in action." †



**SCECINA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
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## You Can Go Anywhere From Here.



## Senior appreciates the role models she has known, the roots she has been given

By John Shaughnessy

Seniors in high school are always considered as the role models for other students. It's a responsibility that Cierra Berry takes seriously because of the role models who have influenced her at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis—her teachers.



Cierra Berry

"Scecina teachers not only care about their students' education, they also care about each of their students as their own," Cierra says. "The teachers are doing their part by serving as Christians. Coming to school every day and seeing the teachers do their service expresses how important service is in the Catholic faith."

"I couldn't ask for a better education than the one that Scecina Memorial and Our Lady of Lourdes School have provided for me."

She especially appreciates how her

Catholic education has shaped her life and her faith.

"I will forever consider myself a child of God and express my faith in my everyday life, because that is what Father Thomas Scecina did. 'Giving that little extra' is his motto that we live by at Scecina."

"Learning from a young age to love myself because God loves me has helped me through many rough times and has made me recognize the true definition of love. I appreciate how important it is to express that to others every day."

Cierra embraces her future beyond Scecina because she knows she can count on the foundation of her four years there.

"Knowing that I will always have a large, loving community of people behind me in good times and bad times is reassuring. One example this year especially was having the stands full to cheer on our football team in Semi-State. The fact that so many people were willing to come out, in the freezing cold, to cheer on their school showed the Catholic unity that Scecina embodies."

"Scecina is my family and will forever be my root." †

### Layden Adair '22

St. Joan of Arc graduate

- Activities and sports: Basketball, Track and Field, and Student Ambassadors
- College and career: Plans to study pre-law. Accepted at Hanover College and Cedarville University

### Heather Willis '22

Our Lady of Lourdes graduate

- Activities and sports: Soccer, Tennis, Student Ambassadors, and Key Club
- College and career: Plans to attend Ball State University or the University of Indianapolis to study business



# Principals learn how to strengthen the unique mission and faith-filled essence of Catholic schools in the archdiocese

By Sean Gallagher

RUSHVILLE—A school is just a school, whether it's public or religious. They all have the basic same goal in educating children. They all use the same basic means to achieve this purpose.

Father Ronald Nuzzi, a priest of the Diocese of Youngtown, Ohio, has heard this message again and again from people involved in education during his decades of ministry forming leaders of Catholic schools across the country.

But he's convinced it's not true, that there is a "distinctiveness in the Catholic educational tradition."

"The Catholic school is not just a school with Catholic seasoning sprinkled over the top, or is the frosting on the cake," Father Nuzzi said in a recent interview with *The Criterion*.

Instead, he proposed, a Catholic school "is first and foremost a faith community. It's a place where the faith is lived, practiced and experienced. And the educational processes are the ways that it's done. It's primarily a place to come to learn and grow in the faith. All the other subjects are sort of at the disposal of that. It's a distinctive thing."

This alternative to the message commonly believed in education circles in the U.S. is what Father Nuzzi is sharing with principals of Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana in a series of four workshops sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools during the 2021-22 academic year titled "On the Road to Irresistibility: Selected Documents on Catholic Education."

Father Nuzzi is a professor emeritus of the Institute for Educational Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana. He has developed graduate programs at three Catholic universities that train educators to be principals in Catholic schools.

Father Nuzzi hopes the four workshops he'll lead, plus online discussion groups among parish school principals in the archdiocese that meet between the workshops, will strengthen the Catholic identity of those schools.

"I really hope that our time together will give [principals] both the language and the tools to be able

to contribute to the growth of a Catholic culture and a Catholic ethos in their home parishes and schools in an ongoing way," said Father Nuzzi. "It's not just a project for this year."

Pam Wells is in her first year as principal of St. Mary School in Rushville after serving for 26 years as a teacher at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis and later at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood.

She has appreciated Father Nuzzi's encouragement in the workshops she has attended so far.

"He's very empowering and motivational," Wells said. "Especially in these times that are so difficult, it gives principals a lift."

She, in turn, knows that what she receives in the sessions with Father Nuzzi must be passed on to the staff of her school.

"If it just stops with me, it's not going very far," Wells said.

In his workshops, Father Nuzzi hopes to help principals understand how a Catholic school is an integral part of a parish's mission and ministry, not just something that a faith community pays for.

"The Church doesn't subsidize Catholic schools," he said. "Schools are part and parcel of what the Church is. It's beyond inaccurate. It suggests a relationship that it's not helpful, that the Church has to subsidize schools as if they're some kind of burden."

Wells sees how St. Mary School is a key part of the Church in Rushville carrying out its mission of evangelization. Less than 50% of its students are Catholic. This reflects the population of Rushville, in which, historically, Catholics have been in the minority.

"You have a lot of non-Catholic children that attend Catholic schools these days," she said. "If you can get the children to really identify with the mission of the Church that we are furthering, you're bringing more people into the Church. That's part of our mission."

At the same time, she also knows that her school plays an important role in helping its Catholic students be more anchored in their faith.

"I want them to be able to leave here and continue practicing their faith and passing it on, because they don't



Pam Wells, principal of St. Mary School in Rushville, assists second grader Corbin Snow, center, on Jan. 7 at the Connersville Deanery school. Second grader Chloe Ni works on a computer at right. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

go to Catholic schools after here," Wells said. "They go to public schools. So, it has to make a huge impact while they're here."

Part of strengthening the faith of today's Catholic students at St. Mary is honoring the school's traditions, which date back more than 150 years.

"It's really important for us to go back a little bit and learn about [our history] so that we can keep it going—whether it's the traditions or teachings," Wells said. "It's important for us to learn how they are incorporated into a Catholic school." †



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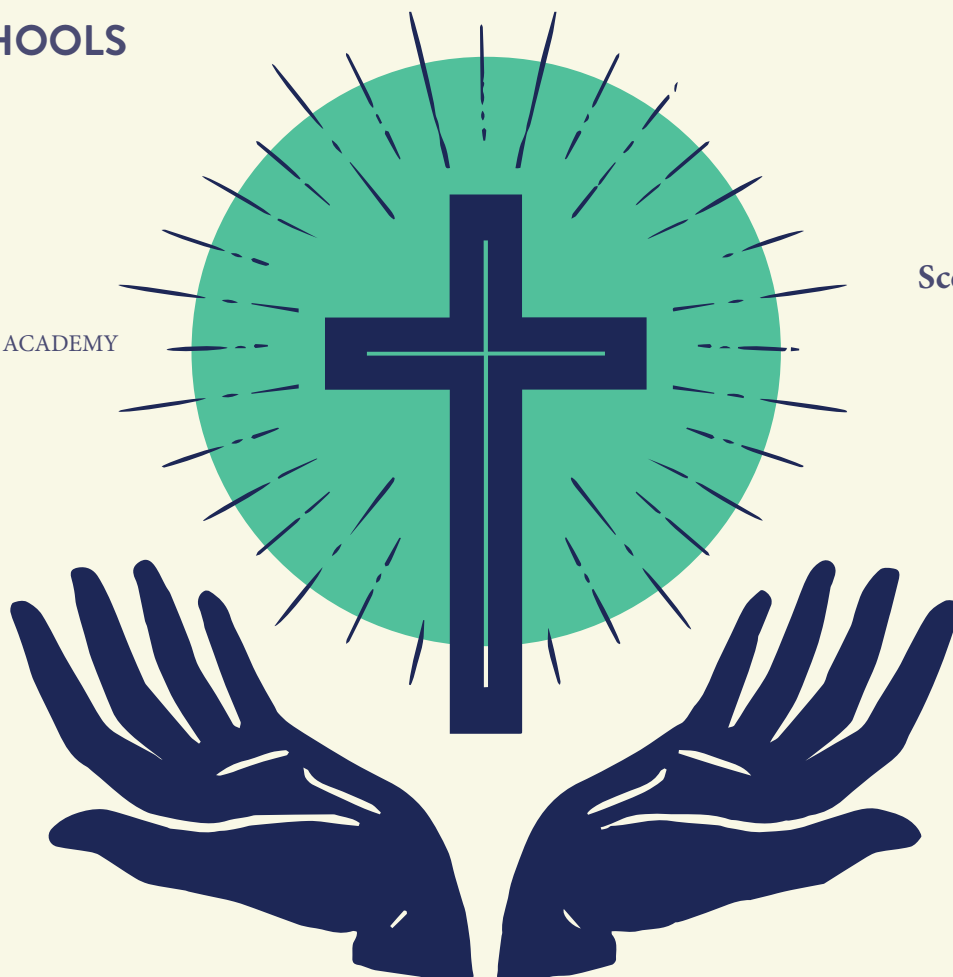
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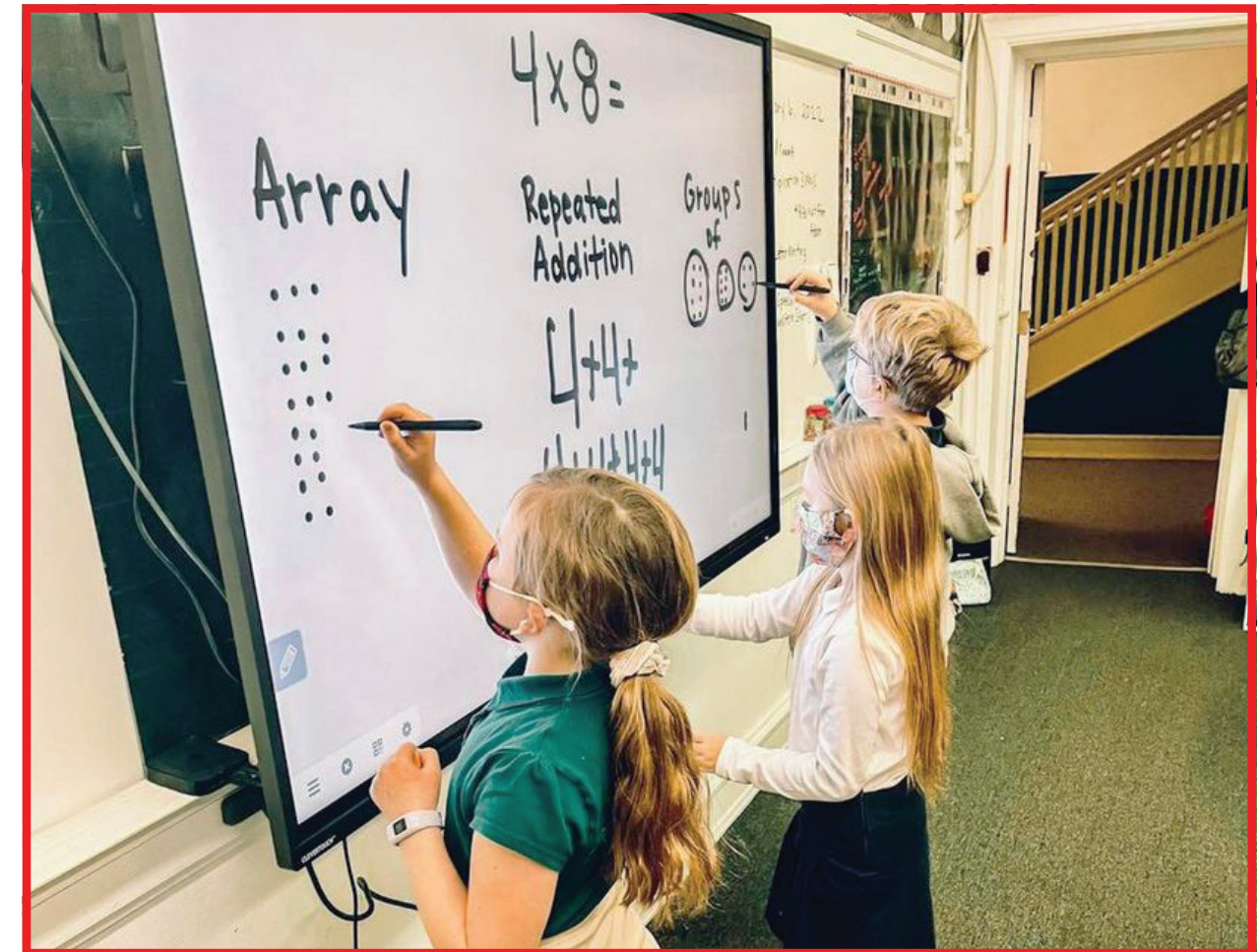
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CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOLS DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5.





# Celebrating the Joy, Faith and Hope of a Catholic Education



Vertical text on the far left and right edges of the page listing various Catholic schools and their locations, such as Bishop Chatard High School, Indianapolis, and St. Vincent de Paul School, Bedford.





# Voucher program benefits 'the whole family'

By Natalie Hoefler

For Rick and Ellen Taylor, sending their six children to Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove wasn't a financial burden.

They received a discount since Ellen was—and still is—a teacher there.

When it was time for their oldest son to go to high school, however, Rick was not sold on sending him to a Catholic high school. As a non-Catholic, he doubted a faith-based education was better than a public school one.

But when the Taylors went to the open house at Roncalli High School on the south side of Indianapolis, "They knocked my socks off," he said. "I left saying, 'Yeah, he's going to Roncalli.'"

With the help of Indiana's school choice voucher system, the Taylors were also able to send their next oldest son there.

But when it came to their remaining four children, they weren't sure they could afford Roncalli, even with the voucher program. To do so would mean a four-fold financial hit for four consecutive years—the Taylor's four remaining children are quadruplets.

So, when "the quads" graduated from Holy Name, the Taylors decided they would send them to the local public high school.

"They were like fish out of water," says Rick. "It was a whole different world to them. They missed the camaraderie of Catholic school."

And the Taylors knew the four children were missing out on what Rick calls "a superior education" at Roncalli.

After two weeks, Rick recalls, "We called [the school] and said, 'What can you do to help us out?'"

"The person who handles vouchers there was a tremendous help. The paperwork was easy, and we never looked back."

As a pre-kindergarten teacher at Holy Name, Ellen also sees the effects of the state's On My Way Pre-K voucher program.

"The voucher program has increased our enrollment a great deal," says Ellen, who is also a member of the school's parish, Holy Name of Jesus. "I have a full class of 24 pre-K kids, and there's a waiting list to get in."

"And they're not all Catholic. If you can bring in more non-Catholic kids, that gives you more opportunity to share the faith."

As for the quadruplets, they will graduate from Roncalli this spring. As a 1991 graduate of the school, Ellen is proud all six of her children will be alumni.

"There's just a sense of community and family there," she says.

Nick and Jennifer Vermillion feel the same way about Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood. Thanks to the Indiana school choice voucher program, their three children are able to attend the school.

"It's a whole family atmosphere," Jennifer says about the school. "We love that they bring God into every single day there, and not just in religion class."

Nick, who was welcomed into the full communion

of the Church 16 years ago and worships with his family at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, calls the parochial school's education "top notch."

"As far as academics go, I've always been floored with what [the students are] working on versus my public education when I was a kid," he says. "[Our kids] are doing things some of their friends haven't even touched on in public school."

The Vermillions say sending their three children to a Catholic school wouldn't be possible without the voucher system.

"My husband and I both as adults changed careers," says Jennifer. "I went to nursing school and he went to pharmacy school. The amount of debt from furthering our own education, it was a struggle to be able to pay for their education along with taking care of our financial obligations."

Applying for the vouchers "was really easy, and the school was so helpful," she says. "It didn't take me longer than 20 to 30 minutes to get everything put together and sent off."

"I am ecstatic that it's there," Nick says of the voucher program. "I'm also very thankful that they don't just look at your income. On paper for us that looks really great, but when you factor out all the expenses for student loan payments and mortgage payments—after we paid for Catholic education before [using the voucher system], we barely had two pennies to rub together. This really takes a lot of stress off of us financially."

Jennifer adds that the voucher system has "benefited the whole family."

Their children are learning "how to see God in everything, and we don't feel like we have to pick up extra shifts just to make ends meet," she says.



Nick and Jennifer Vermillion pose with their children Isabelle, Alexis and Evelyn, all three of whom attend Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood thanks to the Indiana school choice voucher program. (Submitted photo)

"We're able to take the time we need mentally and emotionally to be home and spend time with our family."

(For more information on the Indiana school choice voucher program, see page 13B.) †

## School choice expansion is a game-changer for families wanting a Catholic education for their children

By John Shaughnessy

John Elcesser considers the expansion of Indiana's school choice program in 2021 as a game-changer—dramatically



John Elcesser

increasing the number of Hoosier families who will become eligible for vouchers that will help them choose where they want their children to attend school.

Regarding families who view a Catholic school as the best option for their

children, Elcesser says the expansion of the program will help parents who believe they can't afford Catholic education for their children, and it will also benefit parents who struggle and sacrifice to provide a Catholic education for their children.

"We believe there are probably quite

a few families that may have wanted or even dreamed of getting a Catholic school education, but just probably didn't think it was affordable. Now it probably is," says Elcesser, the executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA), which represents the state's more than 400 non-public schools, including Indiana's 175 Catholic schools.

"There are also families who are continuing to struggle to make that tuition payment, working multiple jobs. And this is going to help them as well."

As an example, Elcesser notes that under the new state guidelines, "a family of four can make up to \$147,075 and still be eligible" for a voucher. Now, all eligible students will receive a 90% voucher, which represents 90% of the state's tuition support for a child if they attended a local public school.

The important point, Elcesser stresses, is that the expanded program helps families choose where they want their child to be educated.

"The State of Indiana believes, our organization believes, and our schools believe that every family—no matter where their ZIP code is or their financial circumstances—should be able to send their children to the school that's the right fit for them," Elcesser says.

"For us in the Catholic sector, it aligns with our Catholic social teaching. We believe in the preferential option for the poor. We also believe that parents are our children's primary educators. They should be making the decision about what school is the best fit for them, whether that be traditionally public, whether that be charter, whether that be a non-public—faith-based or secular."

The recent expansion of Indiana's school choice program comes 10 years after the program started in the state, which is considered at the forefront of the effort to allow families to choose where they want their children to attend school.

"There are 26 other states and the District of Columbia that have some sort of choice program," Elcesser notes.

In the 10 years of Indiana's program, about 273,000 children have benefitted from it, by getting a Choice Scholarship that can be applied to tuition at the non-public school of their choice, he says. And more than \$1 billion has been awarded to families to make that choice a reality.

"It's hard to believe the number of families whose lives have been significantly impacted by these programs," Elcesser says.

Now, he adds, many more families will have that opportunity, thanks to the expansion of the program.

(To apply for a voucher, contact the participating nonpublic school of your choice. For more information, visit the Institute for Quality Education's website, [www.myschooloptions.org](http://www.myschooloptions.org).) †



# How to afford A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

## Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

### Tax Credit Scholarship (SGO)

#### I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is at least 300% or below the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Guidelines\* (see chart).

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP INCOME ELIGIBILITY

### 2021-2022 TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP INCOME GUIDELINES

Household Size	Household Income
1	\$71,484
2	\$96,681
3	\$121,878
4	\$147,075
5	\$172,272
6	\$197,469
7	\$222,666
8	\$247,863
9	\$273,060
10	\$298,257

\* Income levels are based on adjusted gross income and are 300% of the cap for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program guidelines. SGOs may set their income limits lower than 300% if they so choose.

#### What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to families who want to enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive a minimum of a \$500 Tax Credit Scholarship.

#### Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student who is enrolled in an eligible Catholic school.

#### Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Current Catholic school students CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

#### How do I apply?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit [www.i4qed.org/sgo](http://www.i4qed.org/sgo).

Additional local scholarships  
may also be available.  
Contact your local Catholic school.

### Choice Scholarship

#### I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2022
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher the previous school year

#### AND the following:

My family is at or below 300% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart). Note: Tax Credit Scholarship and Choice Scholarship financial eligibility is the same for both programs

## K-12 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

#### What is an Indiana School Voucher?

A Voucher is a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

#### Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- Student received a Choice Scholarship in a preceding school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the current school year.
- Student received a Tax Credit Scholarship from an approved SGO during any previous school year.
- Student has a disability that requires special education services, a documented IEP or ISP.
- Student would be required to attend an "F" rated public school based on residence for the coming school year.
- Student was enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school, including a charter school, in Indiana for prior two semesters.
- Student has a sibling who received a Choice Scholarship or Tax Credit Scholarship at any time in their K-12 education.
- Student received and used an Early Education Grant to attend Pre-K at an eligible Choice School and the child is remaining at that school for Kindergarten.
- Student is in foster care.

#### Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Eligible Students enrolled in a Catholic school CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

#### How do I apply for an Indiana school Voucher?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit [www.doe.in.gov/choice](http://www.doe.in.gov/choice).

Pre-K vouchers are available in all counties  
throughout Indiana. For more information,  
log onto [www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm](http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm).



INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS





# 'Being a part of a child's life is an honor'

By John Shaughnessy

In his 41 years as a Catholic educator, Rob Rash has dealt with questions and challenges from parents, teachers and principals. But the

most challenging question he's ever had to answer came from a small girl in the first grade.

The question came during recess as Rash was having a tough day during the time he was principal at St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis.



Rob Rash

The little girl looked up at him and asked, "Do you like your job?"

"On that particular day, I did not," Rash recalls. "It had been a very demanding day, and she must have sensed my struggle. I replied to her, 'Some days I do, and some days I don't.' That was the first time I articulated the demands of being a school leader. Fortunately, she followed with an additional question."

The little girl asked, "What is it about your job you like?" Rash immediately responded, "You!"

Rash has shared that story often in meetings with new principals since he became an assistant superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese in 2005. For Rash—who is retiring on Feb. 4 at the age of 65—that story captures many of the important qualities that he associates with Catholic education, especially the educators who provide it.

"Teachers and principals love children first and foremost," he says. "Being a part of a child's life is an honor and a privilege."

"I feel very fortunate to be a small part in a child's life. They might not even remember those interactions when they were young. That is not the point. For a brief time in the lives of many, we get to contribute to the growth and development of future adults. Quite a responsibility."

The memories and even some emotions have flowed for Rash as his retirement nears, including the story of the tough conversation that he had with a mother who

wanted to pull her child out of the school where he was the principal.

## 'Seek to understand'

"Her child was struggling with many issues outside of school," Rash recalls. "She was upset with me and the teacher. During our many discussions, I had to state that I believed that our school was the best thing going on right now for her son, and he should not leave our school."

The mother relented, her son continued through the Catholic grade school, and he graduated with honors from Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

"I was very pleased to hear that he later graduated from college and obtained a master's degree," Rash says. "Years later, his mom would say that her son went on to great things because I would not let him leave our school."

"Believing in what you do and believing in the potential in children is a very powerful thing."

A valuable piece of advice from St. Francis of Assisi has also guided Rash during his 41 years in Catholic education: as a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes School and Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School, both in Indianapolis, as a principal at both St. Simon and Our Lady of Lourdes, and as an assistant superintendent.

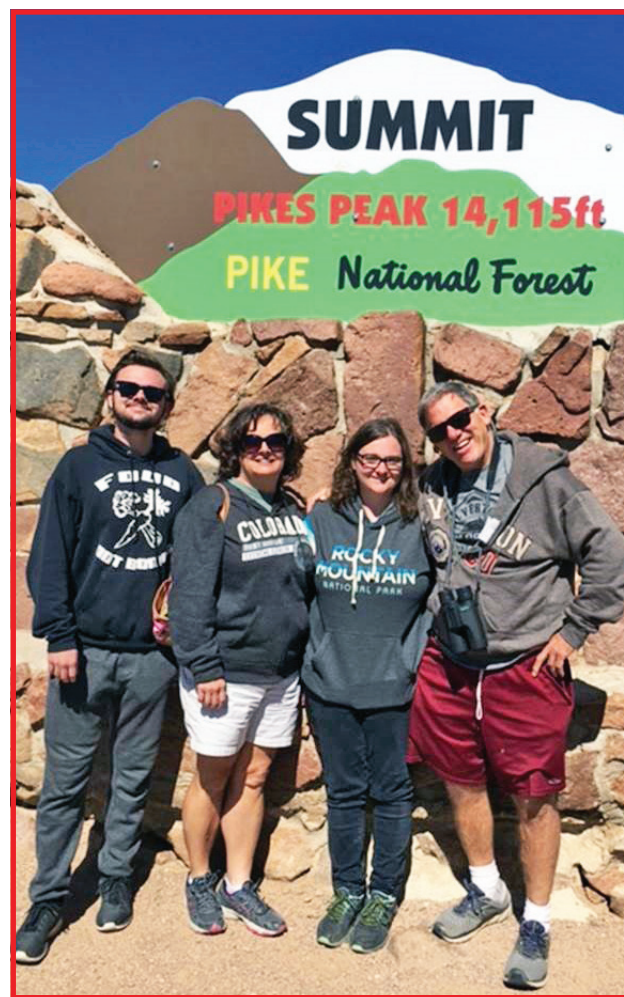
"Whether doing recess duty or resolving conflicts between adults, you have to listen to the truth of each side," he says. "I have always advised principals to 'listen to the truth' behind the conflict. St. Francis had the greatest wisdom here: 'Seek to understand rather than to be understood.'"

As an assistant superintendent, Rash has worked closely with school administrators through the years, helping them navigate through issues that range from comical to challenging. He refers to school principals as "the pillars of Catholic education," citing how they serve "our schools with great dedication."

"It is the most difficult and rewarding job I can think of," he says. "I wish all could see how hard principals work. How much they care about the school community. I often say that no one sees the miracles that occur in our schools each day."

## Focusing on what's best for students

Rash is also known for his dedication—and humor—by



During a vacation in Colorado in 2019, the archdiocese's assistant superintendent of Catholic schools, Rob Rash, right, and his wife Patty, second from left, pose for a family picture with their son John and their daughter Katie. (Submitted photo)

his colleagues in the archdiocese's Office of Catholic Schools.

"Rob makes us laugh every day. It is a joy to work with him," says Brian Disney, who is in his first year as the archdiocese's superintendent of Catholic schools.

See RASH, page 16B

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ST. CHRISTOPHER  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



The West Deanery Celebrates Catholic Schools Week



# The gift of a Catholic education draws three school leaders back home to a faith community that changed their lives

By John Shaughnessy

The friendships that are made in Catholic schools often stay strong later in life. So do people's bonds to the Catholic schools where they made those friends.

Then there is the special connection that binds Father Christopher Craig, Philip Kahn and Curt Gardner.

All three are graduates of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison. And all three have returned in leadership roles at their alma mater.

Kahn is the president of the school. Gardner is its principal. And Father Craig serves as its chaplain while also being the pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison and Most Sorrowful Mother of God Parish in Vevay.

All three also share the gift of how their Catholic education growing up touched their lives and eventually led them back home.

## A perfect fit

The childhood memory has stayed with Philip Kahn, reminding him of the difference a community can make to a person and a family struggling through a devastating time in their lives.

That heartbreaking time for Kahn and his family happened when he was a young child at Pope John XXIII School in Madison.

"My father passed away when I was 8 years old," Kahn recalls. "My three sisters and my mother were in a very difficult situation, but once my mother decided to stay in Madison and keep us in school, it was amazing to get all the support and love from the schools."

"I truly felt like the schools and our community watched over our families and took care of us. I have been eternally grateful and know that it is one of the main reasons I feel as though my Catholic faith is so strong today."

Equally strong is his continuing commitment as an adult to both Pope John XXIII School and nearby Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School—the combined Prince of Peace Catholic Schools that Kahn oversees as their president.

Kahn has served in that role since 2009, a year when he and his wife Tania faced a turning point in their family's life. At the time the president's position became open, Kahn "really enjoyed" living in Indianapolis and his job at Eli Lilly & Co. Still, the opportunity to return to Madison called to him.

"There were many reasons that my family and I chose

to make the change," recalls Kahn, a 1987 graduate of Shawe. "The first was because of the strong feelings I had from my experience as a youth."

"Secondly, we wanted our three boys to grow up in a similar environment so that their Catholic formation would be strong. We have been so fortunate to be a part of these schools. We see our children thriving academically, spiritually and so much more. This has been a perfect fit for us."

Part of that perfect fit for Kahn includes the joy he gets from watching the growth of the students at both schools.

"As the president of the schools, I get to see it from a unique perspective. I don't always see them on a daily basis, but I get to have an impact through many of the activities inside and outside of the classroom. I love seeing them grow and mature over the five, 10, 14 years that they are in the schools. They start out as little kids in preschool or kindergarten most of the time, but grow into such fine young men and women. It makes us all very proud to see the impact we can have."

"Another area that I truly enjoy is working with our alumni. I love to see them come back for a visit or a reunion and hear all the stories that are still being told after so many years. We are truly a small family that gets to follow how our alumni have a great impact all over the world."

The impact of a Catholic education is needed more than ever in today's world, he says.

"So many children are growing up with more challenges. Grandparents are raising more kids, single-parent households, there's the internet and cell phones. Our world can be crazy in so many ways. It's



Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison has been blessed to have three of its graduates return to their alma mater in leadership roles: principal Curt Gardner, left, chaplain Father Christopher Craig and president Philip Kahn. (Photo courtesy of Laura J. Gardner)

important to help students form a strong faith in their early years along with wonderful academics."

He knows the difference that combination made in his own life.

"I truly feel that I am very lucky to be the president of Shawe and Pope John. I am glad to give back to the schools that gave me so much growing up."

## A special gift

Father Christopher Craig had just returned from sharing one of the most intimate moments with a family.

Minutes earlier, he had been praying with

See SHAWE, page 16B



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## RASH

continued from page 14B

“At the same time, Rob is very dedicated. The first time we were working on an issue, he came in the next morning and shared some wonderful

insights. He started with, ‘I couldn’t sleep so I have been up since three in the morning thinking about this.’

“He has greatly aided my transition. Rob knows every principal, pastor and school. Whenever something comes across my desk, Rob helps me to understand the situation by sharing details about the people involved. He has a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge that will be sorely missed.”

Disney and assistant superintendent Michelle Radomsky both cited one more defining quality about Rash—the way he focuses on what is best for students.

“As an educator, Rob exhibits a genuine love for students,” Radomsky says. “He said he always enjoyed handling student discipline—not something most people like—because he was able to really talk to the child and

try to learn about what motivated the action. That speaks right to what I like most about Rob as a person. He is reflective, caring and he wants what is best for each person he encounters. And when you speak to Rob, he always listens.”

Rash says he learned that approach to students during his first year of teaching in Catholic education—1981—at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

“What stands out was the overall commitment to the students and families by the staff and administration,” he recalls. “When dealing with the students, it was obvious that the faculty and staff cared about the whole child.”

### A life-changing introduction, a memorable ride

His time at Lourdes also included another defining influence in his life. His teaching partner introduced him to the woman who is now his wife of 34 years, Patty. The couple has two, now-grown children, Katie and John.

A guitarist who plays in a band, Rash shared his love for music with his children and other students at Seccina during the years he volunteered with its afterschool Rock Band program.

“This program gives some kids an avenue to express themselves,” he says. “Watching kids learn songs, learn their instruments and then perform was a privilege. Seeing the potential and talent in these kids was a

highlight for me. Sometimes we are just along for the ride.”

Rash views his ride as a Catholic educator for 41 years as a good and memorable one. In parting, he shares one piece of advice to his fellow parents.

“My advice to parents is that the partnership between school and home should be built on trust,” he says. “Parents can rest assured that the school administration, teachers and staff are all dedicated to the welfare of their child.”

The welfare of children will continue to be part of Rash’s life in retirement.

He and Patty will increase their volunteer efforts at Miracle Place, a neighborhood ministry on the near-eastside of Indianapolis that provides numerous services for low-income residents, with a special emphasis on children and senior citizens.

He also plans to serve in the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, a program in which trained volunteers serve as advocates for abused or neglected children as they go through the judicial or child welfare system.

“My hope is to help families in crisis,” he says. “Children need advocates. Being in education for 41 years, I believe that service to others is what we are all called to do.” †

## SHAWE

continued from page 15B

the family of a parishioner who had just died, and the sacredness of that sharing still touched him.

“One of the most special gifts of my priesthood is being able to celebrate the great events of life—births and baptisms, graduations and weddings, and to walk with people through the valleys of sadness, suffering and death that we all encounter in life.”

Another special gift for Father Craig is that as pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison he gets to share such moments in the community where he grew up, where he attended school, where his call to the priesthood took shape.

“I grew up just a short walk from what was then St. Michael’s Church and was called on frequently by the priests to serve Mass,” he recalls. “There were many Catholics in our neighborhood, and I thought everybody was Catholic. I remember as a young boy being awed by the liturgy and the beauty of the Church. I dreamed of what it must be like to be a priest, but never thought then I could ever be a priest.”

He praises his parents—Charles and Carol Craig—for the sacrifices they made for him and his brothers to attend Catholic schools. He remembers two teachers who told him through the years that he would make a good priest. He also credits his first-grade teacher for shaping his view of God and one of his homilies.

“As a first-grader, my teacher, Sister Ivo Birch, collected rocks and taught us that God is strong like a rock. To this day, I still credit Sister Ivo in my homily when the Gospel reading about building your house on rock is read at Mass.”

From that solid foundation, he has grown to become the spiritual leader of the parish, including its grade school and its high school—a role he views with humor at times.

“Many of my former teachers are good friends and remain close today,” says the 1983 graduate of Shawe. “It makes me laugh when I think about being my former teachers’ boss. It is more than a privilege.”

Most of all, he rejoices in still being part of a community that has long influenced “Our parish and schools are my family and my home. I know many of our administrators, faculty and staff feel the same way.

“My parents are buried close to their parents in our parish cemetery just a few yards from my favorite door of Shawe High School. It is my favorite door because it is the door that leads to Pope John’s cafeteria for lunch. I will be buried next to my parents one day overlooking the schools. That makes me smile.”

### ‘We are called to love’

Curt Gardner had reached a point in his life where he felt he wasn’t doing all he could, all he wanted to do. So he turned to God for help.

“My wife and I were struggling for a few years with a sense that we were not doing enough for the communities we were in,” Gardner says about him and his wife Laura.

“So when the opportunity came to both serve a great community and provide a great education and life experience for my own kids, I could not deny that God was answering some prayers.”

As the principal of Shawe Memorial High School, Gardner has tapped into some of the lessons that once shaped his life as a student at Shawe and Pope John XXIII School.

“These schools helped my parents to teach me how to be a leader and gave me opportunities to lead,” says Gardner, a 1998 graduate of Shawe. “They helped me feel, as I went out into the world, that I had a safety net that made it OK for me to take risks and gave me the freedom to fail so that I might one day succeed.

“It never would have worked without the partnership between school and home. When that partnership is in place, then Catholic schools are still doing these things for students today.”

Gardner also embraced Father John Meyer as a role model, remembering the impact the priest had as he served the Madison Catholic community from 1990 to 2011.

“He was in Madison for much of my youth,” Gardner says “So much of what led me to think of service and service to my faith was the influence that he was to me. He was such a great example of Christ’s love. He served our community, our schools and my family with such joy that as I grew to understand our Catholic faith, I always saw it as a thing of great joy.”

Now, he tries to be an example of Christ’s love to students and their families, both in moments of joy and hardship.

“The moments that often stand out are moments of hardship,” he says. “In those moments, communities step up to support each other in ways that show us how to love one another. In my 10 years, I have been able to walk next to a lot of people who were struggling in various ways, and it is those moments that really stand out to me as what it means to be in a Catholic school community.”

It’s all part of the gift and promise of a Catholic education, Gardner says.

“Catholic schools teach our kids to love our Father in heaven and each other. We are called to love. Equally importantly, at our best, we teach kids that love is not just a feeling but actions of service and sacrifice to others.

“It is through these actions that we grow God’s grace in this world. Catholic school students should know how to grow God’s grace when they leave our halls.” †



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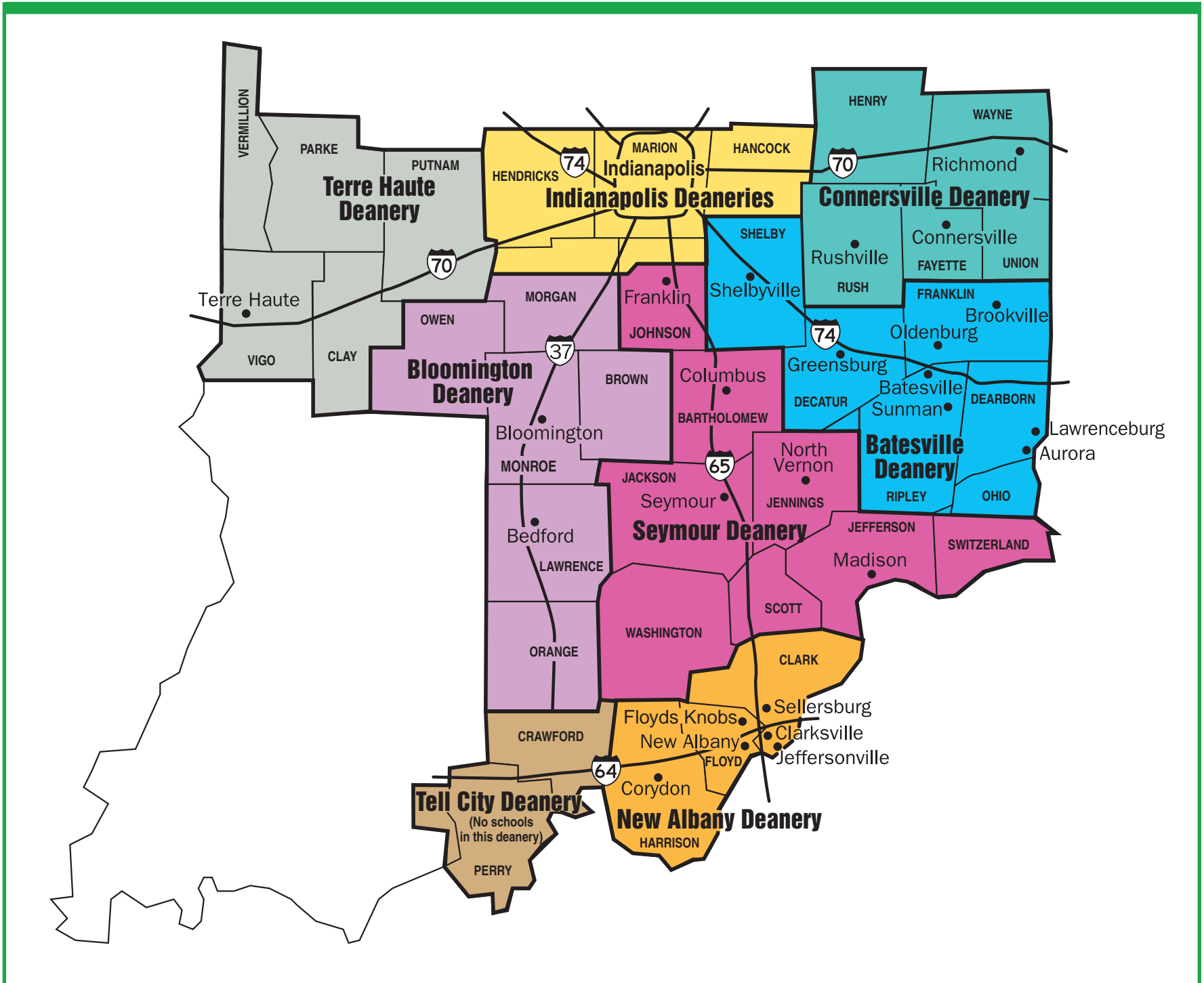






# Catholic Schools

## ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



### DEANERY SCHOOLS

#### Batesville Deanery

**Aurora**  
**St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School (K-8)**  
 211 Fourth St.  
 Aurora, IN 47001  
 812-926-1558

**Batesville**  
**St. Louis School (PK-8)**  
 17 St. Louis Place  
 Batesville, IN 47006  
 812-934-3310

**Brookville**  
**St. Michael School (PK-8)**  
 275 High St.  
 Brookville, IN 47012  
 765-647-4961

**Greensburg**  
**St. Mary School (PK-8)**  
 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way  
 Greensburg, IN 47240  
 812-663-2804

**Lawrenceburg**  
**St. Lawrence School (K-8)**  
 524 Walnut St.  
 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
 812-537-3690

**Ripley County**  
**St. Nicholas School (K-8)**  
 6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive  
 Sunman, IN 47041  
 812-623-2348

**Shelbyville**  
**St. Joseph School (PK-5)**  
 127 E. Broadway  
 Shelbyville, IN 46176  
 317-398-4202

#### Bloomington Deanery

**Bedford**  
**St. Vincent de Paul School (PK-8)**  
 923 18th St.  
 Bedford, IN 47421  
 812-279-2540

**Bloomington**  
**St. Charles Borromeo School (PK-8)**  
 2224 E. Third St.  
 Bloomington, IN 47401  
 812-336-5853

**Connersville Deanery**  
**Connersville**  
**St. Gabriel School (PK-6)**  
 224 W. Ninth St.  
 Connersville, IN 47331  
 765-825-7951

**Richmond**  
**Seton Catholic High School (7-12)**  
 233 S. 5th St.  
 Richmond, IN 47374  
 765-965-6956

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School (PK-6)**  
 801 W. Main St.  
 Richmond, IN 47374  
 765-962-4877

**Rushville**  
**St. Mary School (PK-6)**  
 226 E. Fifth St.  
 Rushville, IN 46173  
 765-932-3639

#### New Albany Deanery

**Clarksville**  
**Our Lady of Providence High School (9-12)**  
 707 Providence Way  
 Clarksville, IN 47129  
 812-945-2538

**St. Anthony of Padua School (PK-8)**  
 320 N. Sherwood Ave.  
 Clarksville, IN 47129  
 812-282-2144

**Corydon**  
**St. Joseph School (PK-6)**  
 512 N. Mulberry St.  
 Corydon, IN 47112  
 812-738-4549

**Floyd County**  
**St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (PK-8)**  
 3033 Martin Road  
 Floyds Knobs, IN 47119  
 812-923-1630

**Jeffersonville**  
**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus School (PK-8)**  
 1842 E. Eighth St.  
 Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
 812-283-3123

**New Albany**  
**Holy Family School (PK-8)**  
 217 W. Daisy Lane  
 New Albany, IN 47150  
 812-944-6090

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (PK-8)**  
 1752 Scheller Lane  
 New Albany, IN 47150  
 812-944-7676

**Sellersburg**  
**St. John Paul II School (PK-8)**  
 105 St. Paul St.  
 Sellersburg, IN 47172  
 812-246-3266

**Seymour Deanery**  
**Columbus**  
**St. Bartholomew School (K-8)**  
 1306 27th St.  
 Columbus, IN 47201  
 812-372-6830

**Franklin**  
**St. Rose of Lima School (PK-8)**  
 114 Lancelot Drive  
 Franklin, IN 46131  
 317-738-3451

**Madison**  
**Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**  
 201 W. State St.  
 Madison, IN 47250  
 812-273-2150

**Pope John XXIII School (PK-6)**  
 221 W. State St.  
 Madison, IN 47250  
 812-273-3957

**North Vernon**  
**St. Mary School (PK-8)**  
 209 Washington St.  
 North Vernon, IN 47265  
 812-346-3445

**Seymour**  
**St. Ambrose School (PK-8)**  
 301 S. Chestnut St.  
 Seymour, IN 47274  
 812-522-3522

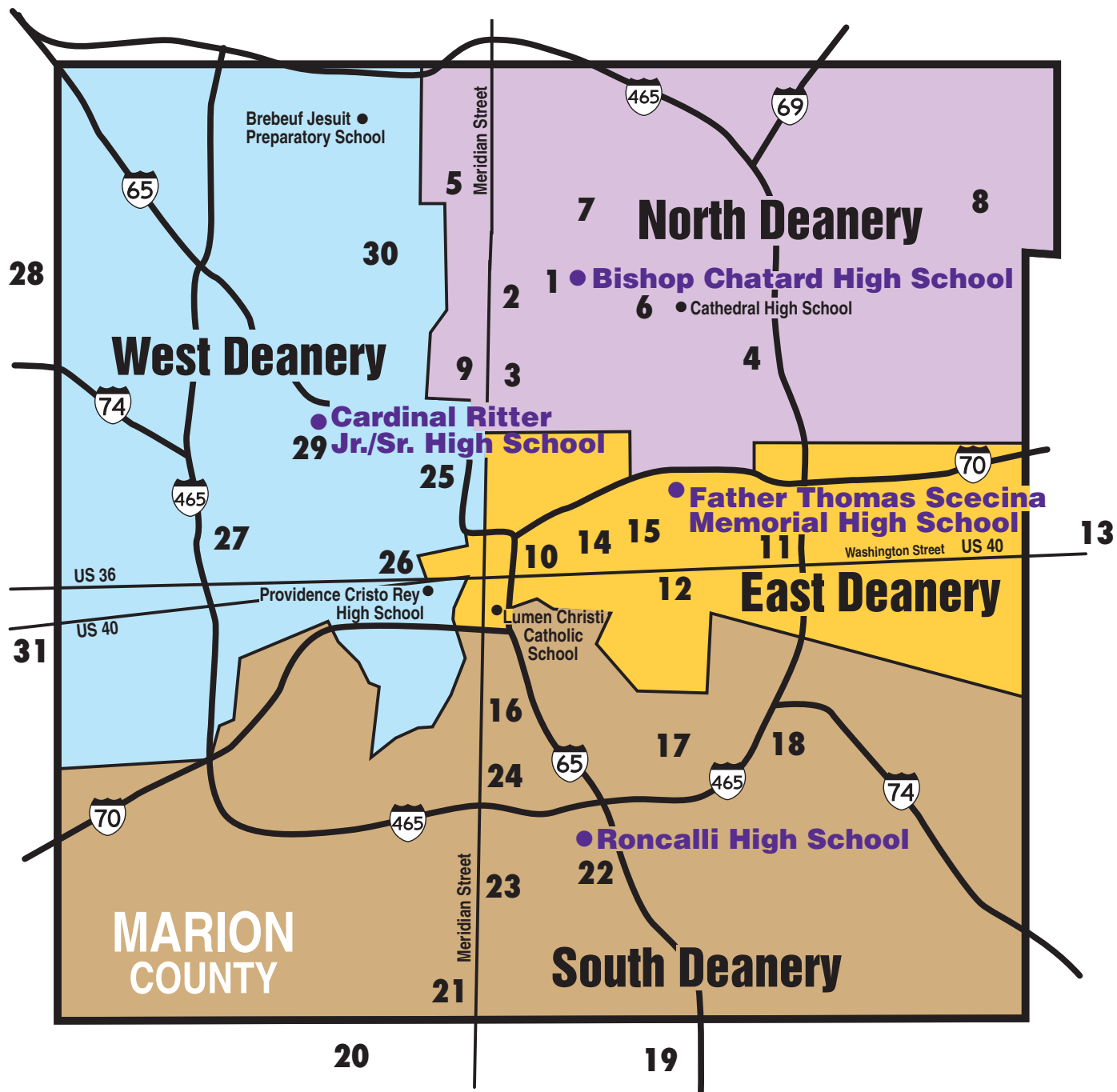
#### Terre Haute Deanery

**Terre Haute**  
**St. Patrick School (PK-8)**  
 449 S. 19th St.  
 Terre Haute, IN 47803  
 812-232-2157

**Private High School**  
**Oldenburg**  
**Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12)**  
 1 Twister Circle  
 P.O. Box 200  
 Oldenburg, IN 47036  
 812-934-4440



# Greater Indianapolis Schools



## GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

### Indianapolis North Deanery

- **Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)**  
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
317-251-1451
- 1. Christ the King School (K-8)**  
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
317-257-9366
- 2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)**  
317 E. 57th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
317-255-5468
- 3. St. Joan of Arc School (PK-8)**  
500 E. 42nd St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
317-283-1518
- 4. St. Lawrence School (PK-8)**  
6950 E. 46th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46226  
317-543-4923
- 5. St. Luke the Evangelist School (K-8)**  
7575 Holliday Dr. East  
Indianapolis, IN 46260  
317-255-3912
- 6. St. Matthew the Apostle School (PK-8)**  
4100 E. 56th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
317-251-3997

- 7. St. Pius X School (K-8)**  
7200 Sarto Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46240  
317-466-3361
- 8. St. Simon the Apostle School (PK-8)**  
8155 Oaklandon Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46236  
317-826-6000
- 9. St. Thomas Aquinas School (PK-8)**  
4600 N. Illinois St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
317-255-6244

### Indianapolis East Deanery

- **Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)**  
5000 Nowland Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201  
317-356-6377
- 10. Holy Cross Central School (PK-8)**  
125 N. Oriental St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
317-638-9068
- 11. Holy Spirit School (PK-8)**  
7241 E. 10th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317-352-1243

### Indianapolis South Deanery

- **Roncalli High School (9-12)**  
3300 Prague Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
317-787-8277
- 16. Central Catholic School (PK-8)\***  
1155 E. Cameron St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
317-783-7759
- 17. Holy Name of Jesus School (PK-8)**  
21 N. 17th Ave.  
Beech Grove, IN 46107  
317-784-9078

- 12. Our Lady of Lourdes School (PK-8)**  
30 S. Downey St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317-357-3316
- 13. St. Michael School (PK-8)**  
515 Jefferson Blvd.  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
317-462-6380
- 14. St. Philip Neri School (PK-8)\***  
545 N. Eastern Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201  
317-636-0134
- 15. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School (PK-8)**  
1401 N. Bosart Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201  
317-353-2282
- 18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (PK-8)**  
3310 S. Meadow Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46239  
317-357-1459
- 19. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (PK-8)**  
399 S. Meridian St.  
Greenwood, IN 46143  
317-881-1300
- 20. SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School (PK-8)**  
5901 Olive Branch Road  
Greenwood, IN 46143  
317-215-2826
- 21. St. Barnabas School (PK-8)**  
8300 Rahke Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46217  
317-881-7422
- 22. St. Jude School (PK-8)**  
5375 McFarland Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
317-784-6828
- 23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (PK-8)**  
541 E. Edgewood Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
317-786-4013
- 24. St. Roch School (PK-8)**  
3603 S. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
317-784-9144

### Indianapolis West Deanery

- **Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**  
3360 W. 30th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
317-924-4333
- 25. Holy Angels School (PK-6)\***  
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
317-926-5211
- 26. St. Anthony School (PK-8)**  
349 N. Warman Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
317-636-3739
- 27. St. Christopher School (PK-6)**  
5335 W. 16th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46224  
317-241-6314
- 28. St. Malachy School (PK-8)**  
330 N. Green St.  
Brownsburg, IN 46112  
317-852-2242
- 29. St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels School (PK-8)**  
3352 W. 30th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
317-926-0516
- 30. St. Monica School (PK-8)**  
6131 N. Michigan Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46228  
317-255-7153

- 31. St. Susanna School (PK-8)**  
1212 E. Main St.  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
317-839-3713

### Private Schools

- **Lumen Christi Catholic School (PK-12)**  
580 E. Stevens St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
317-632-3174
- **Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)**  
2801 W. 86th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
317-524-7128
- **Cathedral High School (9-12)**  
5225 E. 56th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46226  
317-542-1481
- **Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)**  
75 N. Belleview Place  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
317-860-1000

\* Notre Dame ACE Academies



# Cathedral

*Greatness* is Calling 



## HAPPY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK FROM CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

**“With eyes of faith consider the greatness of your mission and the wonderful amount of good which you can accomplish.”**

- Blessed Basil Moreau C.S.C., Founder, Congregation of Holy Cross



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