



The Holy Herald

Bringing the “Good News” to Saint Catherine’s

God’s Promise Alive and Well at Parish Picnic



Lexi Steven
News/Feature Reporter

Photo Credit: Lauren Steven

In 2008, Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church began with a simple picnic, with only around 100 members. Eight years later they are still celebrating for the same reasons: food, fellowship and fun, but this time with nearly a thousand people celebrating! The parish gathered on the church’s lawn this Labor Day to celebrate.

The picnic is much fun for many people, especially the kids. An overwhelming amount of kids love

to play on the bouncy castles. There are many fun things to do there, including face paintings, a petting zoo, a photo booth, dancing, and more.

There is a lot of fellowship, considering one-fourth of the parish joins together on this day. Father Dan Spexarth, pastor, describes the picnic as a great event.

“Awesome! Shows you how much of a future we have. Some parishes have a long history. We have a long future.”

Father also describes how much the parish has grown, using watermelons as a gauge. He says that at the first picnic, they started with six watermelons. There were 40 watermelons this year!

Denise Daugherty, a parishioner at Saint Catherine, has been a part of the parish from the beginning. Daugherty speaks about her thoughts about the picnic.

“I think it is fantastic! There is something for everyone, from the inflatables for the kids, or just

chatting.” She says her favorite part is watching the kids play in the water from the fire trucks at the end of the evening.

The food, donated by Spangles, consisted of hamburgers and hotdogs, while for desert, parishioners savored snow cones, cotton candy, and cookies!

This year’s picnic was a success! As Father Dan likes to say “When you meet, eat!” ✝



Photo Credit: Lauren Steven

Exploring Exploratory Classes

Sydney Olson
News/Feature Reporter

Digital Publications, Technology Applications, Foreign Languages, Study Skills, Team Sports and Lifetime Fitness. All of these are exploratory classes. For those who don’t know what an exploratory class is, it’s a class that is not required, but is an option if you are interested the topic.

But I feel like we are missing one crucial thing: the performing arts. The performing arts are things like acting and comedy. Has the school ever considered offering it? I think that it would benefit many students in this school to offer classes in the performing arts. What if you want to be an actor when you grow up, or a comedian, or if you just want to try it out to see how it is?

Unfortunately, we don’t offer that class yet. I think there is so much talent here at St. Catherine, so they should give it a chance. Acting and comedy are probably one of the most useful classes. Acting has many benefits. It boosts your confidence, helps you communicate better with others, and requires teamwork. Comedy is an excellent way to express yourself and encourages an

atmosphere of openness. It also helps develop divergent thinking. So why not give it a try? It would be a great learning experience, and, despite what some people say, comedy and acting are an essential part of life. But hey, you don’t know if something will work until you try it, right? Before we leave St. Catherine’s I would appreciate it if they offered classes for the performing arts. ✝



Feature Stories

New Teachers on the Block

This year, St. Catherine’s welcomed three new teachers. *The Holy Herald* reporter Lexi Steven found out some background info, some of their interests, and how they want to be remembered.



Photo Credit: Lexi Steven

Mike Sabala is the middle school religion and social studies teacher. This will be his 17th year teaching. Sabala has been watching the school closely the last few years.

“I’ve been keeping an eye on the school as its grown,” said Sabala. “I owed it to myself to check it out, and they hired me! I loved where I worked, but this is closer to home. And I thought that we could start a good program here with the middle school.”

In the back of Sabala’s classroom are many authentic artifacts. There are real Civil War bullets that were fired in 1861, Egyptian artifacts from the bottom of an actual pyramid, fossils from the Persian Sea,

and some stone tools that were carved by Ancient Americans.

Sabala also raises and sells snakes, as many students know.

“It’s just a hobby me and my son have,” he explained. “We breed them and sell them to research the genetics.”

Sabala also enjoys camping and fishing, fixing old computers, and hanging out with his extended family.

He wants his students to take away one big thing from his class.

“That learning is actually fun, if you do it the right way, you don’t even have to realize you’re learning.” He added jokingly, “Oh yeah, and also that I cared about them and all that stuff.” ✝

Lisa Maliszewski is the middle school literature and language arts teacher. This will be her 12th year teaching. While one of her favorite interests is reading, she has a hard time deciding on her favorite book.

“I can’t decide, I love it all!” said Maliszewski. “I have a book for everything.”

When she was younger, she recommended reading *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Anne of Green Gables*. When she grew older, she took a liking to Ray Bradbury’s writing.

Some of Maliszewski’s other interests include a range of things, from musicals to traveling to gardening. She has a passion for these things.

“Other than reading, I like going to theater and musicals, and I want to see one in New York City,” said Maliszewski.

She would also like to visit Rome.

“I want to see the Pope. I want to do it before I die, and I want it to be Pope Francis. So I better hurry up!” she said.

She wishes that speed reading was an Olympic sport, and she wants to do it!

Maliszewski wants her students to know that she does everything for them.

“I want them to know that I cared about them, and I loved them. Because I do, that’s number one.” ✝



Photo Credit: Lexi Steven



Photo Credit: Lexi Steven

Jeremy Barr is the new assistant principal. This will be his 13th year teaching. When asked why he decided to come to Saint Catherine, he said, “It was an opportunity because it was a growing place. Mrs. Hunt called me and asked me if I would be interested in beginning a middle school. The opportunity was very appealing. It is a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun.”

He enjoys watching sports, including his own children’s games. One thing that he wants to do when he retires is visit every major league baseball stadium. He also really likes watching movies. If you notice in Barr’s office, there is a blue print of the Millennium Falcon.

“I’m a bit of a Star Wars nerd, and I’ll own it,” he explains. “I love Yoda, because my mom thought I looked like Yoda. I had big eyes and ears that stuck out.”

He says he would like to visit Rome, Jerusalem, or anywhere with good food. Curling is a sport that Barr thinks would be cool to play.

“You don’t have to be in shape to do it,” says Barr. “I could go to the Olympics right now and beat Usain Bolt, at curling!”

Barr wants students to know that he has their best interests at heart.

“I want my students to have actually learned. And I want them to know that I cared, and that I cared about them learning.” ✝



Feature Stories

More Equipment, More Fun

Logan Klaus
Sports/Feature Reporter

The new additions to the playground are a huge hit for all ages.

This year the school added some new equipment to the playground, including a rocket ship, climbing trees, a “rock scape arch wall” (rock wall) and the “tilted sky runner” which the younger kids call the spinning thing. They also relocated the swings because they were in the place where the new church will be built. The money that funded the new equipment came from long time parishioner Margie Solorio’s



Photo Credit: Lexi Steven

memorial fund after she sadly passed away. She was a generous volunteer , not only donating her money, but also her time in the resource room at the school.

“The equipment came together very well and we had an installer from the company come out to help us,” said Jerry Simpson, founder of Simpson Construction. “We had to remove concrete around the swings, uninstall them, put in more concrete, and reassemble them.”

When asked what he would have liked as a kid, Simpson said “I would have liked the rock wall with the rope on it.”

The reason for adding the new equipment at this time came about due to the growing population at

the school. “Now that we have more students here, we need more room for them to play,” said Mr. Schmidt, building and technology coordinator.

Now Margie’s memory lives on, and the playground her memorial fund built gives joy to kids of all ages. ✝



Photo Credit: Lexi Steven

Here are just a few student opinions on the new playground:

✝ “I like the rocket ship because I can jump off the first step,” Joshua Smith, 1st grade

✝ “I like the trees because I can climb up them,” Cole Steven, Kindergarten

✝ “I like the tilted sky runner, because I can go in circles,” Nick Wineland, 3rd grade.

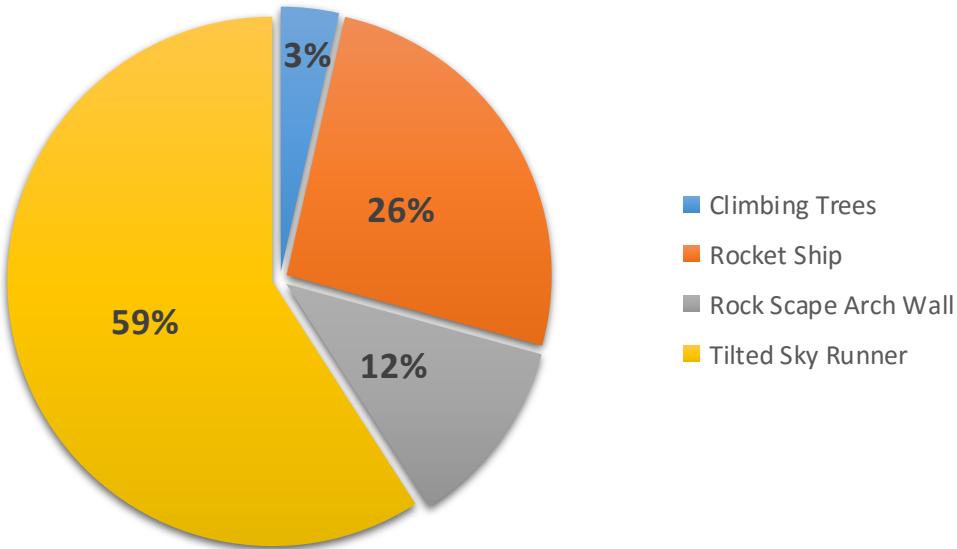
✝ “I like the tilted sky runner because people push you around and you have to hold on,” Keagan Lewis, 5th grade.

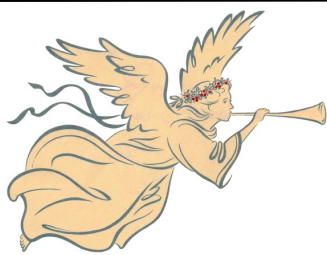


Photo Credit: Lexi Steven

The Holy Herald took a survey of the students at St. Catherine’s. We wanted to know the students’ favorite new piece of playground equipment. Check out the graph for the results!

Most Popular New Playground Equipment





Siena Saints Sports

Defending Champs Look to Repeat Success



Photo Credit: Nancy Marrs

Sarah Wallace
Sports/News Reporter

Things are pretty heated this volleyball season. Saint Catherine’s 7th grade volleyball team are the defending champions. Tara Murphy, the 7th grade coach, is working hard to make the team better.

“I remind them that we are the defending champions, so everyone is out to get us!” Murphy exclaimed. But, there are some things that the volleyball team needs to improve.

“Our team would need to work on smoothing out the rough edges of our offense,” said Murphy.

All of their hard work paid off on Sept. 10, when they won both of their games.

“We did pretty good, and we won the first game,” Anna

Wineland said. “We played Resurrection, and it was pretty close at the beginning, but we pulled ahead at the end of the game, and won.”

The second game however, seems to have been a pushover for the Saints.

“We played St. Peter,” says Wineland. “Our serves were really good in that match.”

On Sept. 17, the 7th graders played two more matches.

“When we played SEAS, we did not win, but we had some really good servers. Destiny Hoy served six in a row. But then SEAS started to catch up, and they won,” said Tori Marrs.

The team followed up that loss with a win against Resurrection. We hope our Saints will continue to improve and impress! ✝

Kicking off the Season Right

Sydney Olson
News/Feature Reporter

On Saturday, Sept. 10, two of the Saint Catherine student-athletes, Jadonn Williams and Aaron Wary, helped kickoff the Vikings football season with a big victory. They’ve apparently been a big help.

“We have players from St. Joe, St. Jude, St. Mary’s, St Francis and obviously St. Catherine, and then we also have some from St. Peter Schulte, so we have a large group of different schools, but yes it’s helped a lot,” said Coach Lynch before the big game Saturday. You’d think that playing on a school football team when it’s technically not even your own school might seem kind of strange, but Jadonn Williams doesn’t seem to think so.

“I knew most of them when I went to St. Francis, so I know everybody on the team, so it feels kind of natural,” said Williams.

Starting in the first quarter, the

Vikings kicked off to the Cougars. During the first series, the Vikings held the Cougars on downs. Unfortunately, the Vikings fumbled the ball and the Cougars took over on the 35-yard line. The Vikings soon redeemed themselves with an exciting 50-yard plus trick flea flicker play.

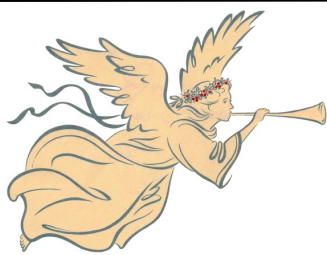
During the 2nd quarter, the Cougars defense was strong, but the Vikings managed to score on a 25-yard quarterback sweep, and included a successful extra point attempt. The Cougars were stopped multiple times by a strong defensive effort by the Vikings. Then late in the 2nd quarter, the Cougars fumbled the ball and the Vikings recovered on the 25-yard line. The Vikings quarterback scored just before the half on a 35-yard sweep. During the 3rd quarter both teams went back and forth for a while. Then, out of nowhere, the Cougars fumbled yet again, and the Vikings recovered at the 20-yard line, but they were unable to gain any points.

Late in the 4th quarter, the Vikings surrendered a safety to the Cougars. With just over a minute remaining in the 4th quarter, the Cougars connected with a 40-yard pass and scored a touchdown. Despite what happened in the 4th quarter, the Vikings won by a narrow margin of 13-10. The team was helped by a great defense and capitalized on several Cougars

turnovers. “I think the defense really showed up today. The offense did good too, but the defense really showed up today,” said Williams. Although it won’t be all that easy, “They’re working really hard and they’re starting to come around. A lot of first time players this year so they’re just getting their feet wet,” said Lynch. ✝

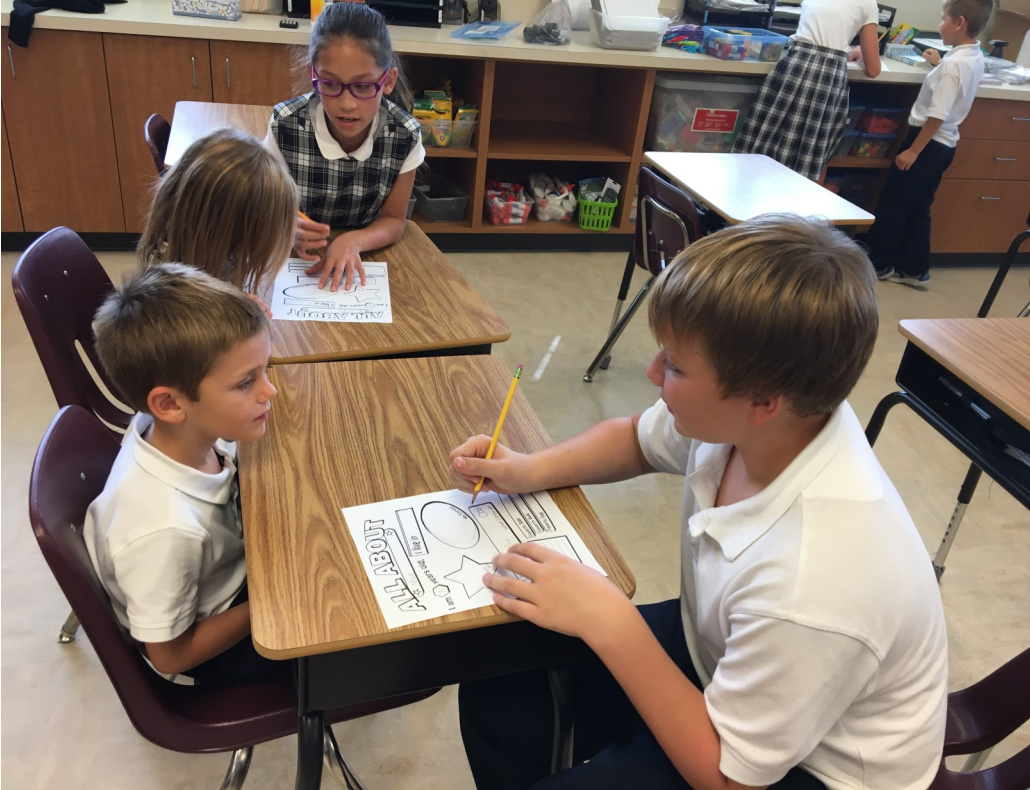


Photo Credit: Brad Olson



Back Page News

One Big Family, United in Our Faith



Sydney Olson
News/Feature Reporter

Almost three years ago, in 2014, Faith Families were started by Betty Hunt and Donna Brand. Faith

Families are a fun way to learn about our faith with 7th graders as the parents and the rest of the students as the children. A handful of students are put in a group and are combined into a family.

Photo Credit: Jeremy Barr

“We started Faith Families to keep the small community aspect of our school as it grew in student population,” said Brand.

Before Faith Families, teachers started to notice a disconnect between the older grades and the younger grades.

“Our mission is to unite our students together so that the younger students get to know the older students,” said Brand.

Apparently, Faith Families benefit everyone.

“The younger students see the older students as role models, and the older students learn responsibility,” said Mrs. Brand.

The Faith Families meet once a month, and Sept. 21 was their first meeting.

Luckily, everyone had a good time.

“I liked getting to know other people,” said Owen Newell, from the St. Raymond of Penafort Faith Family.

“I liked the game that we played called Four Corners,” said Brody Herrman, from the St. Thomas Aquinas family.

“I liked doing the Get to Know Me papers,” said Corey Hurst, from the St. Margaret of Hungary family.

Students are looking forward to another Faith Family meeting, and a good time will be had by all! ✝



Photo Credit: Jeremy Barr

Sixth Grade Starts Volleyball Strong

Sarah Wallace
Sports/News Reporter

The sixth grade volleyball team is ready to roll this season! Coach Melanie Stallbaumer is a new coach at Saint Catherine’s, and is teaching the 6th grade volleyball team. This is the girls’ first year competing at the school.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the 6th graders had two games. The first one was against Blessed Sacrament, and the second was against Magdalen.

“We lost our first one but, we won our second one and I got eight serves in a row, and it was really

fun!” said Nicole Powell. “The first half of the second one, we kept calling it out, and we had a really big problem with that, but we fixed it. We won by a lot in the second one, but the first one was pretty close.”

This is Powell’s first year of volleyball, and she loves it.

“I like serving,” said Powell. It looks like the sixth grade Saints are getting pumped up for the season, and we wish them luck as they continue their season. We will hear more of the sixth grade volleyball team soon! ✝



Photo Credit: Michelle Ronsick

Cross Country Team Improves



Logan Klaus
Sports/Feature Reporter

Photo Credit: Linda Wallace

This has been a very successful year for the Westside Eagles, especially for the Saint Catherine students running cross country. While it may not have as many participants as other sports, it means a lot to Sarah Wallace, Claire Jordan, and Izzy Thomas. Perhaps it is because it is less urban and gives them a feeling of being secluded.

“Cross country is a fun sport that makes you stronger mentally and physically,” said Wallace. “I have made many friends in cross country and we are like family. It is a challenging sport and is really fun to run.”

“I like to hang out with other

people from other schools and meet new people,” said Jordan.

Wallace, Jordan, and Thomas have greatly improved this year, both on endurance and personal times.

“I improved compared to last years’ time, a 5:54 mile, to a 5:31 mile, improving by 23 seconds,” said Wallace.

Thomas also went from an 8:31 mile to a 7:30 mile, improving by more than a minute! Their league meet is on Friday, Sept 30 so we hope that they improve their times even more.

We pray that they stay safe and wish them the best of luck on their last meet of the 2016-17 school year! ✝