

# The SAGA

Serving the publics of Opelousas Catholic,  
Holy Ghost, and Academy of  
Immaculate Conception



*"Guiding our children on their Journey with Jesus"*

## A New Day Dawning!

In its 163rd Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement on May 17, Opelousas Catholic School saw 52 young men and women receive their diplomas from OC Chancellor, the Reverend Monsignor Russell Harrington, in front of hundreds of family and friends in St. Landry Catholic Church. Monsignor Harrington gave an inspiring homily for these graduates to carry with them as they embarked on the next chapter in their lives. As heard in their chosen class hymn, this was truly a "new day dawning" for them, looking to whatever lies ahead.

There are so many reasons to be proud of these graduates!

- They have given service to their school and community and have been outstanding mentors of their faith to the younger Vikings.
- They have gathered over \$1.6 million in scholarship awards and TOPS assistance.
- Several (23 to be exact) accumulated a total of over 400 hours of college credit through participation in the Dual Enrollment program over the last two years. Thus, some will begin their college studies as sophomores!
- Their average composite score on the ACT was announced as 22 which is well above both the state and national averages ... and right at two-thirds of the class qualified for Louisiana TOPS.



*At the Senior Awards Banquet, Mr. James Wheeler presented the prestigious American Legion awards for exceptional character and leadership to Sam Pitre and Marsha Savage.*

Individuals were recognized with special honors at the Awards Banquet and Baccalaureate Ceremony. Some were:

- Knights of Columbus Catholic Youth Leadership Awards – Sam Pitre and Alyssa Chachere
- Gabby LaJack Memorial Scholarship – Morgan Charles
- Father J. Wilson Matt Little Light of Mine Scholarship – Madeleine Braham
- Msgr. Louis Melancon Memorial Awards - Alex Castille and Adrienne Allen

And at the Baccalaureate Ceremony, the first Monsignor Louis Melancon Memorial Awards were presented to Alex Castille and Adrienne Allen.

These graduates are now on assorted paths as they pursue careers and future happiness. Most are staying within the state for their studies. However, Madeleine Braham is headed east to Spring Hill College in Alabama to work on a Public Relations and Marketing degree, while Sam Pitre advances to Millsaps College in Mississippi for a science-related major. Going to UL-Lafayette close to home include Morgan Charles for Speech Pathology and Colleen Chachere for Criminal Justice so that she can work in forensics. Among those to attend LSU is Marsha Savage for a degree in Animal Science and ultimately a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Remy Bergeron will join Scholar's College at Northwestern State University to major in Pre-Medicine in his pursuit to become a dentist. Adrienne Allen has chosen to begin her studies in Elementary Education at LSU in Eunice. These are just a few examples of excellence from the class of 2019.

Future leaders in our church and prospective doctors, teachers, business professionals and more are seen in these young people. Our prayers go with them for continued growth and strong faith in this life to eventually lead them to Heaven. May they forever worship His holy name!

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you ... Colossians 3:16*



*Top-ranking grads for 2019: Valedictorian Molly Trahan; Salutatorian Madeleine Braham; Historian Adrienne Allen; and Co-Recorders Amanda Knott and Taylor Thistlethwaite*

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

by Mrs. Marty Heintz, Principal



## CONFIDENCE

For some reason that word has gone out of fashion, something I learned quickly when poking through the home stores in Lafayette looking for art work featuring the word "confidence."

The administration and campus ministry team chose "confidence is key" as our theme for the 2019-2020 school year because we ARE confident – confident that we are doing our best to live as Catholics in a 21st Century world; confident that here at OC we provide our students with the religious, academic, athletic and social knowledge they need to succeed long after they leave 428 E. Prudhomme St.

Confidence. Yes, I am confident that Opelousas Catholic is living up to the mission "OCS educates students in the mission of Christ: To know, love, and serve God as disciples in this life in order to be happy with Him in the next." I am confident that we have provided the moral compass our students need in this secular world. No, we cannot make the choices for them and we all have free will and make mistakes – but I AM CONFIDENT that many, many of our alumni and former students HAVE made the right decision when faced with tough choices because of the Catholic values we instill.

Confidence. Yes, I am confident that we are providing a quality (but Catholic-focused) academic education for our students. The background is there, whether your student is in regular, honors, or dual enrollment classes. Regardless of whether your student chooses a four-year college and has a head start with dual enrollment classes, chooses a two-year program or a vocational-technical option, chooses the military, or chooses an immediate career option, we are confident that he or she will be prepared.

Confidence. Yes, I am confident that ALL our students, regardless of their race, religious beliefs, gender, family situation or economic background, are treated fairly here at OC by our faculty and staff and by their fellow students. We simply will not tolerate anything else.

Confidence. Yes, I am confident that we have something here on our campus for every student. Obviously, we are very proud of our athletic accomplishments and are confident that under the guidance of our athletic staff we will continue to excel on the athletic fields and courts. But I am just as confident that our student government, 4-H program, quiz bowl, literary rally team, the new Cathletes group, and the reorganized Beta Club and all our campus groups and activities will continue to grow and provide for our students' social well-being.

Confidence. Yes, I am confident that this school's financial health is good, despite the downturn in our economy and the loss of many families to the Lafayette area. It is not easy balancing expenses with available resources, but I am confident that we will continue to get the job done.



## TEACHERS and ACHIEVER in the Spotlight!



*Honorees Allison Pousson, Heidi Fisher Pelloquin, and Cindy Pitre*


Individuals from Opelousas Catholic School recognized with special awards for 2018-2019 included Allison Pousson, Elementary Teacher of the Year; Cindy Pitre, Secondary Teacher of the Year; along with Achiever/Supporter of the Year, Heidi Fisher Pelloquin. They were honored during Catholic Schools Week and at a special Diocesan prayer service in Lafayette.

**Allison Pousson** taught for eight years in the St. Landry Parish School System before coming to OC two years ago. While with St. Landry Parish, she was honored as "Teacher of the Year" for her work at North Elementary in 2013. At OC, Mrs. Pousson has taught in lower elementary and now works with the preschool program. She is also a product of Catholic education as she graduated from St. Edmund's Catholic School in Eunice, La. before completing her degree program at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. She and her husband have two sons who attend OC, and their family lives in Church Point, La.

For 23 years now, **Cindy Pitre** has been a familiar face on the OC campus. She completed her degree program at LSU and USL in Art and Dance with an English certification. At OC, Mrs. Pitre has taught Art, Theatre, Speech and English and has worked with our Drama Club, directing numerous stage performances. Outside of school, she has given many hours of her time to Opelousas downtown improvement projects in an effort to beautify the city. Mrs. Pitre and her husband are the parents of two who are both OC alumni now.

In a special tribute to her leadership and years of work with the OC Alumni Softball Tournament, **Heidi Fisher Pelloquin** was selected as "Achiever/Supporter of the Year"! Heidi is a 1999 graduate of OC; and she and her classmates just celebrated their 20th anniversary since their senior year! Heidi earned her degree in Health Information and Healthcare Management at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette and now works as a Territory Manager for Obagi Medical. She is married to another OC alumnus Derek Pelloquin, and they became first-time parents of a baby girl in December.

Thank you to all of these outstanding individuals who give of themselves for the good of others ... whether the children, families, or alumni ... we are grateful for their "works of heart"!



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# BRIEFS

## Welcome and Thank You!

Opelousas Catholic School welcomes **Msgr. Russell Harrington** as our new Chancellor! Msgr. Harrington was assigned to St. Landry Catholic Church last summer and has fit in so well with his new church and school family. OC gives thanks to **Msgr. Keith DeRouen** of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church who has served diligently as Chancellor for the last several years. All he has done is greatly appreciated!

## Assistant Principal of Elementary Grades

**Mr. Matt Citron** will be the new Assistant Principal of Elementary Grades for 2019-2020, replacing Mrs. Rose Lalonde who retired. He has been at Opelousas Catholic for 17 years, serving in the capacities of classroom teacher, department head, curriculum coordinator, junior high athletic director, and coach of boys' and girls' basketball and varsity football. Mr. Citron earned his bachelor's degree through the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and then his master's degree in Educational Leadership from McNeese State University. He and his wife are the parents of three children who attend OC. We welcome him in this new capacity!



Matt Citron



Haley D. Emonet

## Another "Coming Home"

OC is thrilled to welcome **Haley Devillier Emonet** (1996) as the new business manager. She is replacing long-time bookkeeper **Barbara Artigue Fontenot** (1959) who retired after 60 years of service. Haley comes home to her alma mater after her most recent work at the Diocese of Lafayette office in the accounting department. Haley and her husband Kristin (1992) are the parents of three children who all attend OC.

## Staff Additions

OC greets **Brian Green** who is coming in as the "Elementary Physical Education instructor" and assistant baseball and football coach for 2019-2020. We are also pleased to have alumnus **Will Pitre** (2010) join the staff as a Social Studies teacher and Head Softball Coach who will also assist with football. Additionally, we welcome **Mrs. Alissa Doucet** to the upper elementary staff.

## Mass Days for 2019-2020

School mass days are changing to **Tuesdays** for this year to better accommodate our pastors. As another adjustment, some of the masses will be "all school" but some will be only "PK-5" and some only "6-12". This will allow our pastors to focus their homilies toward that particular age group. These and more good changes are on the horizon!

# Salute to our RETIREES

OC is so grateful to these long-time members of our staff who have served with lots of love and devotion, giving of themselves for the children and families! They retired at the end of the 2018-2019 school year to enjoy more time with the own families and a little well deserved relaxation.

• **Mrs. Barbara Artigue Fontenot** completed an amazing 60 years of employment at AIC/OC, mostly as school bookkeeper. She has lovingly guided the school finances through many years of great change and progress. Thank you, Mrs. Barbara, for your tireless work given to generations of AIC and OCS families. In fact, she has actually spent 72 years of her life on Prudhomme Street since she attended AIC for her 12 years of education right before her employment ... incredible and almost unheard of!

• **Mrs. Rose Lalonde** has been an exceptional and devoted teacher and administrator for the past 42 years ... lovingly teaching and then directing the curriculum and supervising instruction to benefit the students. Mrs. Rose served in these capacities from elementary through junior high grade levels over her years of service. OC is truly grateful for her dynamic work provided to our children and families and the positive influence she has had on the lives of thousands of her students. She will be missed!

May God bless both of them with a happy retirement! They are forever Lady Vikings!



Barbara Fontenot and Rose Lalonde

## APPRECIATION EXTRAS!

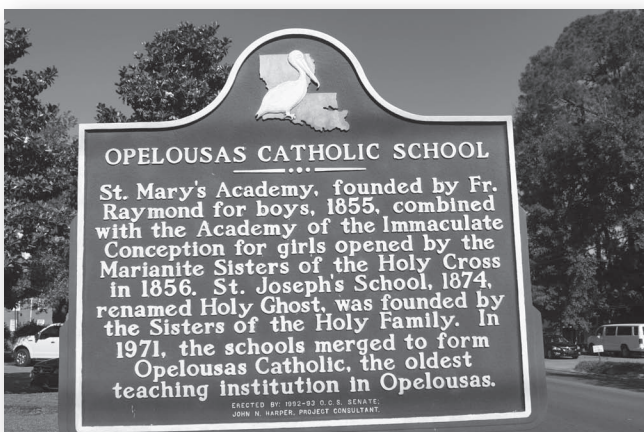
Besides Mrs. Barbara Artigue Fontenot and Mrs. Rose Lalonde, other staff members who are moving on for the 2019-2020 school year include **Brenda Hebert**, **Judi Richard Lucito** (1975), and **Joey Thibodeaux**. OC is grateful for their outstanding service and wishes them many blessings! Another important note is that **Mrs. Claire Speyrer**, longtime administrative secretary, will now be working on a part-time basis.

May God bless OC parent **Mitch Olivier**, owner of Crawfish Corner in Opelousas, who once again provided a super delicious "crawfish boil" for the OC faculty/staff in May to celebrate the successful end of the school year!

We are forever thankful to all who help us in any way throughout the year ... those who serve as guest speakers and complete volunteer work and more! May God bless all!

We are so grateful to **parents, family, and friends** who have been sending in the Community Coffee UPC labels and the GM Box Tops to help our school. We also appreciate those who bring recyclables to the St. Landry Parish Recycling Center and apply it to OC's account.

OC acknowledges our **board of pastors** for their love and guidance and appreciate their presence on campus. Thank you also to the **deacons** and **church office staff members** who are always very supportive!



OC is grateful to Mrs. Cindy Pitre and some of her Art II students (Mac Thibodeaux, Zach Mengarelli, Scout Busby, Madison Macip, Leah Robin, and Lauren Bainter) who did a remarkable job in refurbishing the Historical Marker that has adorned the front of the school. Appreciation also goes out to Robert and Stephanie Roy and Sharon Ortego for their assistance!

# ADVANCEMENT BULLETIN

by Kathy Hebert, Director of Advancement

Once again, we hope that you enjoy this issue of The Saga and encourage all alumni to contact the Advancement Office with information which may be included in future issues, etc. (337-942-5404 ext. 105; [hebertk@ocsvikings.com](mailto:hebertk@ocsvikings.com)).

With the "WE ARE" theme carried through this 2018-2019 school year, OC made every effort to define our great school. Indeed, we are a small school with BIG opportunities! Tremendous strides have been made academically with climbs in ACT and Pre-ACT scores and with 23 seniors leaving with over 400 college credit hours to bring to their college curriculum! Athletically, an amazing three district titles were won and coming so close to two state titles! But most of all on the spiritual side, our school family has grown in faith, putting it into action through service and compassion for those in need.

If you have followed our OC Facebook page, you have witnessed the many remarkable accomplishments and activities taking place! In other Advancement efforts, we likewise spread our good news through local church bulletins and other community publications. We also hope that you enjoyed receiving the recent "OCS Chronicles" providing our yearly financial report.

We are grateful to those of you who responded to our Angel Appeal which is making possible the modern Media Center in our former library. Advancement work has also involved alumni organization for Homecoming and the annual dinner and auction event.

For 2019-2020, our office looks forward to the "Brick Campaign" and efforts to compile a new OC school video for promotional purposes. The brick project has seen some delays but will get underway soon. Look for information coming in the mail and on our Facebook page and website.

May God continue to bless advancement endeavors as OC moves forward with "confidence"!

## STUDENT AMBASSADOR CLUB coming!

Students have been invited to join "Viking Ambassadors", a club where students will help in representing OC, welcoming visitors and more. They will be the "face of OC" in many ways as we make every effort to promote our great school.

## RECOMMENDATIONS please!

Your recommendation of OC to family and friends looking for a solid Catholic education would be appreciated! You may have a friend or relative whose children may benefit from OC's strong faith formation and academic and co-curricular excellence from preschool through grade 12. **Please share this newsletter and encourage others to consider OC,** truly a "small school with BIG opportunities"!

Check our school website ([www.OCSvikings.com](http://www.OCSvikings.com)) or contact Mrs. Joanne Briley, Director of Admissions, at 337-942-5404 ext. 109. We hope that prospective families consider "making this place their HOME" for a quality Catholic education where WE ARE FAMILY!



## Dinner & Auction CELEBRATES 20!



Monsignors Harrington and DeRouen enjoyed the 2019 Dinner & Auction event.

It is hard to believe that the annual OC Dinner and Auction event (known as Tasters') was in its 20th year when held this past February 7 in the Opelousas Civic Center! A change was made this year from the past "tasting" norm, instead offering a meal catered by two local caterers with OC bonds ... **Paula and Joey Quebedeaux Catering** (OC grandparents) and Aaron and Ricky Lastie with **Shirley Lemelle's Catering** (OC parents). **Community Coffee** once again provided complimentary coffee and various teas, and our local **Super 1 Foods** donated two large cakes as one of the desserts. Family and friends in the community raved about the delicious meal and enjoyed the evening which consisted of our usual Silent and Live Auctions and Tuition Drawing. More change is expected for next year with plans to add musical entertainment and dancing ... mark your calendars for Friday, February 7, 2020!

Kathy Hebert, event chairperson, has expressed gratitude to the "core committee", including Donna Dupre (co-chair), Joanne Briley, Angele Broussard, Stephanie LaGrange, Jenny Robin, Cristal Vazquez, and Heather Wallace plus our volunteer workers and all of our generous sponsors and auction donors providing 80 Silent Auction items and 8 Live Auction offers! Top bid in the Live Auction came from the generous offer of a "dinner for ten" by Msgr. Keith DeRouen of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church!

This year the children's artwork included their Fleur de Lis creations which were displayed in the front lobby of the center. Gratitude goes to **Cristal Vazquez** for taking the lead in this special project!

We also appreciate local establishments who purchased reserved tables to accommodate their guests:

Dupre, Carrier, Godchaux Agency  
Mike's Electric Service  
Bonanza Crawfish LLC  
St. Landry Homestead Bank

What a 20th celebration to remember! Thank you, Opelousas Catholic and our generous community!



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# BESTOWING BLESSINGS!

With "confidence" in the air on campus, we pray for blessings by our beloved alumni, grandparents, parents, and friends! There are many ways to offer assistance and reinforce Catholic education at OC!

Advocates can PRAY for the school, VOLUNTEER time for the children, and/or provide monetary DONATIONS to help OC carry out the school's mission!

Become CONNECTED ... follow the OC Facebook page daily

Become INFORMED ... look over school newsletters, publications, website

Become INVOLVED ... join the Alumni Association or school organizations

Become SPIRITED ... organize class reunions; display Viking pride with items from The Viking Shop (OC website)

Become a BACKER ... bless Tuition Assistance, Angel Appeal, Foundation Trust, Building Fund, Athletics, Alumni Association

Any of these actions will make a significant difference!

Anyone can even leave a legacy with **Planned Giving!** Gifts through a will or estate plan may be completed to allow you to take care of your loved ones and the children of OC at the same time. Please check with your financial advisor, CPA or attorney to find out more.

Your company may have a **Matching Gift Program** as a benefit to employees who want to give back to nonprofits. Please look into it!

*Give, and it shall be given unto you ... Luke 6:38*

## Barbara Artigue Fontenot Honorary Fund

Did you notice in the June mailing of the "OCS Chronicles"? Our Foundation Trust Fund now has a special giving addition to honor the amazing 60 years of service given by Mrs. Barbara Artigue Fontenot (1959) who recently retired as OC's bookkeeper. Anyone may make a gift and indicate that the gift is being made to the Foundation in recognition of Mrs. Fontenot's "exceptional" years of loving service to the school. Thank you for helping OC and noting Mrs. Fontenot's devotion!

# GIFTS IN MEMORY

It warms our hearts to receive gifts to memorialize special individuals like the following remembrances:

The OC chapel in memory of Msgr. Louis Melancon was blessed by the donation of a beautiful chalice by our local **Knights of Columbus** in loving tribute to him.

Our 4-H Club members held a touching dedication to the late **Alyssa Guillery** who was an active 4-H Club member when she passed away in the summer of 2012. Several of Alyssa's family members attended and witnessed a beautiful plaque in her memory placed in the 4-H Club's butterfly garden on campus.



*How special to have Alyssa's memorial in the 4-H butterfly garden!*

Three impressive benches in memory of Kathryn DeJean Howard (1992) were recently donated by **Bill Lawless**, first cousin to Kathryn's mom, Carolyne Dunbar DeJean (1962). Kathryn passed away in September 2018 at the young age of 44. The butterfly bench and two outdoor metal benches ... such loving gifts in Kathryn's name!

# TECH "Bits and Bytes"

*by Beth Going Hebert (1974), Technology Director*

In addition to our two new grants from last year and adding our junior class to the VTEC program, we are wrapping up the transformation of the new Media Center. Electronics are connected, painting is all done and new floors are installed. We have been re-shelving the books and getting the new furniture in place. A special section of the Media Center has been created for our lower grade students in PreK-5. We, of course, have books but will have games they can interact with and a reading area for the teacher to read books aloud to the students. Thanks to generous donors to Angel Appeal 2019 and money from Msgr. Louis Melancon, our students will have a beautiful and functional Media Center with technology and books to enjoy this year.

Network security is always a top priority for any system. Plans are being made to help our students better understand the dangers that lurk on the World Wide Web. With some information, we hope to be able to help them judge whether the situation they are facing is one in which they should proceed or leave the site immediately. Using education and common sense will go far in keeping our computers and students safe.

Looking for a way to help OC? Bring us your used ink, toner, and old cell phones. We recycle them and get cash back or discounts on office supplies. Generally earning over \$500 per year, we thank our parents and friends who make this a success.

You can also earn significant state tax credits by purchasing new computer equipment for Opelousas Catholic. Call me (337-942-5404, ext 102) for more information regarding this beneficial program. Please note that my office has re-located and is now next to the Media Center. As always, it is my pleasure to serve our students and parents in the area of technology, and we look forward to continuous improvements this upcoming school year.

## Looking Ahead to 2019-2020!

With great enthusiasm, we look forward to what lies ahead for Opelousas Catholic School!

- Modern Media Center
- New athletic facilities near the field house
- New parking lot in front of the gymnasium
- Revamped front lobby for check-in
- Probable re-roofing project
- Brick campaign venture
- New promotional school video
- and much more!

## Theme Song - Confidence!

Since confidence is key to all that we do at Opelousas Catholic School, appropriately the song by the music artist Sanctus Real has been chosen for our theme song for this upcoming year! Note this portion of the lyrics:

*So give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den  
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness  
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense  
So I can face my giants with confidence*

*The late Kathryn DeJean Howard's nieces and OC students Maddie Rose Mouret and Kathryn Camille Mouret were happy to see this butterfly bench near the main entrance.*





# ELEMENTARY SNAPS!



*Emmy Hutchins and Wayne Singleton showed their second grade auction item, a Holy Communion slate ... depicting this exceptional time in their lives when they first received Jesus!*



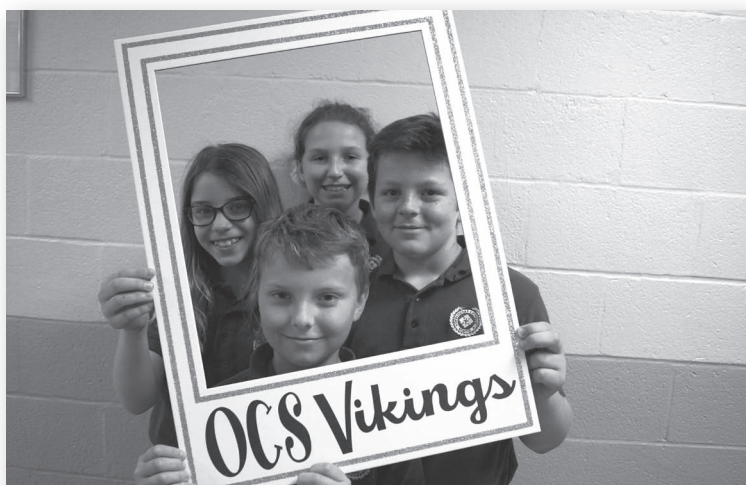
*Citizenship awards for elementary went to those chosen for their exceptional leadership, academics, and respect for others: Annabelle Martin, Jackson Burnell, MaKenzie Lafleur, Maddie Rose Mourret, Ainsley Reed, Jack Nugent, Landon Ryder, Scout Darbonne, Caroline Courville, John Parker Fontenot, Madison Gussman, and Madison Faul.*



*See the excited looks on the faces of these kindergarten students as Mrs. Lalonde read to them about "Curious George"!*



*Third graders have been enjoying their classwork on their Chromebooks!*



*This group of fifth graders had fun in holding up the OCS frame to display their pride in being Vikings!*



*Religion awards for elementary were given to those selected for their demonstration of outstanding Christian behavior and Catholic faith: Alivia Gerace, Caroline Olivier, Cohen Gallow, Nate Pousson, Cayden Meche, Sadie Smith, Katelyn Martin, Rhea Tate, Konnor Bidstrup, and Jardyn Richard. Not pictured are Emmy Hutchins and Luke Reed.*



# ...and STORIES!

## The Grey Effect

OC participates in programs to help good causes; and this year one of our preschool parents introduced us to a special foundation they set up after the tragic loss of their infant son Greyson to SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Brian and Katie Sebastian started "The Grey Effect" a few years ago to spread awareness about SIDS and hopefully prevent others from this loss. With dollars raised, they purchase Owlet Baby Care Monitors to provide for new parents before they leave the hospital; and to help the cause, the Owlet Company matches The Grey Effect purchases. Mrs. Blaire Schwartzburg Emonet, OC preschool teacher, was expecting her baby in February and was presented a monitor through the program. Learn more on their website ([www.thegreyeffectfoundation.com](http://www.thegreyeffectfoundation.com)). To promote awareness, OC students and staff wore "pink or blue" for their "Paint the Country Pink/Blue Day". Shown here are preschool children sporting their "pink and blue" for SIDS awareness. How beautiful ... Greyson's spirit remains alive!



## Missionary Lesson

OC makes every effort to show instances of compassion to the children. This spring the third, fourth and fifth graders were blessed to hear the stories of Ms. Olivia Briolo, a missionary and sister to Mrs. Jessica Fontenot, OC third grade teacher. Ms. Olivia became emotional telling them how she served the poor, many of them children, and spread the gospel in the Philippines and Peru. She shared some pictures with the students of the children and families she grew to love and encouraged the students to be missionaries at home and to proclaim God's word to family and friends. It was a very inspiring visit!



## GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Grandparents' Day 2019 is set for Wednesday, November 20! All grandparents (or a special aunt or uncle or godparent) are encouraged to attend. After the prayer service, there will be classroom visits with the elementary children. So please mark your calendars as the children look forward to this special day when you visit them! Pictured in 2018, Mrs. Carrol Lafleur visited with her precious granddaughter MaKenzie for Grandparents' Day ... much to MaKenzie's delight!

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## MATH-READING EXCELLENCE

What a bright future for these youngsters who love to read and to add and subtract! Students in 1st and 2nd grades who were awarded for finishing with the highest averages in Math and Reading this year:

Math: Jackson Trahan & Colby St. Cyr, 1st grade  
Parker Bergeron & Betsy Vazquez, 2nd grade  
Reading: Lucanos Guillory & Olivia Hatfield, 1st grade  
Lucy Meche & Betsy Vazquez, 2nd grade



*London Francis, fourth grader, and her classmates were proud of their masterpieces they painted in preparation for the new life in spring that Easter brings! Thank you to Mrs. Cristal Vazquez and Mrs. Debbie Leggett who have spent valuable "art time" with the elementary children during the year.*

## OC MISSION STATEMENT

Opelousas Catholic School educates students  
in the mission of Christ:  
to know, love, and serve God;  
to be kind and respectful to one another;  
and to use their God-given gifts to achieve  
success spiritually, academically and physically.



# VIKING PRIDE



OC "Students of the Year" for 2018-2019: Chris Jesclard, 5th grade; Marsha Savage, 12th grade; and Carter Zerangue, 8th grade

Nine student scholars were inducted into the **National Honor Society** based on their scholarship, service, leadership and character. Congratulations to:

Madeline Aymond	Jordan Doucet	Avery Provost
Alex Castille	Noah LaBruyere	Jesse Roy
Lora Charles	Morgan Nicholas	Katie Wagley

Serving as president in the next school year will be Avery Provost.

The **Junior Beta Club** completed a great service project in March when they presented a check for \$2,200.00 to "Hope for Opelousas", a local organization providing after-school enrichment programs and mentoring for 100 students in the area. What outstanding philanthropic efforts by our Junior Beta!

Students in grades 5 & 12 being solid examples of our school mission while staying academically strong and active in school events were named "**Vikings of the Year**" (chosen from the Vikings of the Month list):

**Bella Blanchard & Brennan Charles** - Elementary Vikings of the Year  
**Adrienne Allen & Taylor Thistlethwaite** - High School Vikings of the Year

Elementary student **Lucy Meche** and junior high student **Candice Green** were named "Outstanding Piano Students of the Year" by Mrs. Carita Vargas of the Piano Masters program at OC.

Honored with the 2018-2019 School Service Awards were seniors **Morgan Charles** and **Taylor Thistlethwaite** for their positive responses in helping others and their school.

**Kade Bidstrup**, 8th grader, was the recipient of the Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur Memorial Scholarship as made available through the Richard Lafleur family.

High school leaders for the 2019-2020 school year include **Katie Wagley**, Student Body President; and class presidents **Jon Ross Miller**, seniors; **Ivory Luna**, juniors; **Jaren St. Clair**, sophomores; and **Carter Zerangue**, freshmen.



It was another moving Passion Play presented by the senior class during Holy Week. Major parts were played beautifully by Alex Castille, Jesus Christ; Marsha Savage, His mother Mary; and Madeleine Braham, Mary Magdalene.

EVERY student from OC competing in the District Literary Rally at UL-Lafayette this spring **PLACED** in their respective subject areas! Fifteen of them (placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd) qualified for the State Literary Rally at LSU!

## First place winners:

Ellie LaFleur, English I  
 John Paul Braham, Algebra II  
 Jordan Doucet, Accounting

## Second place winners:

Lora Charles, Advanced Math/Pre-Calculus  
 Maddie Braham, World History  
 Eli Guidroz, French I  
 Adrienne Allen, Psychology  
 Ella Eades, Health

## Third place winners:

Carter Zerangue, Algebra I  
 Ethan Mistrot, Geometry  
 Colin Lauret, Biology II  
 Gabe Reed, Physical Science  
 Brandon David, Civics  
 Rhett Bergeron, World Geography  
 Taylor Gautreaux, French II

Maddie Braham and Colleen Chachere were also named to the "All-Star Cast" for their one-act play in the District Drama Rally.

**Jordan Doucet**, senior, competed in the State Literary Rally and was awarded second place in the subject of Accounting.

The **Varsity Cheerleader Squad** 2019-2020: Lexi Fontenot, captain; Katie Wagley, co-captain; Maci Bergeron, Aubre Berzas, Mary Collins, Amy Claire Miller, Olivia Hebert, Kaylee Bergeron, Lindsay Charles, Ella Eades, Anna Kate Emonet, Brailey Major, Alyssa Meche, Gracie Carriere, Olivia Clark, and Emmie Courville. OC takes pride in their numerous UCA summer camp awards and congratulates the four who were named "All American" ... Katie, Lexi, Aubre, and Mary! The **Junior High Cheerleaders** also had a great UCA camp in late summer with several awards and with Mary Katherine Trahan making "All American"!

The **Vikette Dance Team** 2019-2020: Emily Briley (captain), Anna McKinney (co-captain), Nyah Lynch, Lydia Martin, Lauren Charles, Kaitlyn Carriere, Alyssa Guidry, Marilyn Moody, and McKenzie DeRouen. The team also had a successful UDA summer camp with several awards including special kudos to Emily and Nyah for making "All American"!



At the Junior Ring Ceremony, many junior scholars were recognized for reaching and/or exceeding college readiness benchmark scores as set by ACT on recent testing. These are minimum scores required for students to have a high probability of success in credit-bearing first-year college courses in areas of English composition, Social Sciences, College Algebra, and Biology. The group pictured include those juniors who had ACT composite scores of 23 or higher! \*On another note, this was the first year the juniors wore white gowns for the Ring Ceremony while seniors wore their purple graduation gowns to present class rings to them.





High school French students enjoyed their dress and their part in the second annual Courir de Mardi Gras at OC, a cultural learning experience filled with fun! Elementary French students of Mrs. Pam Cormier Helton (1985) led the prayer in French; kindergarten students dressed as "chickens" sang "Aloueta" with Mrs. Emily Trahan Turner (2001); and in the end, the real chickens were released for the BIG chase in a special lesson about this South Louisiana tradition. Thanks also to the volunteer fathers who cooked a delicious gumbo for all!

We commend high school leaders **Noah LaBruyere, Katie Wagley, Myles Lynch, Emily Briley, Grant Larcade, and Lora Charles** who were selected as delegates to attend the American Legion Boys' and Girls' State this summer at Northwestern State University, a premier leadership development program for young people.

The late Msgr. Louis J. Melancon was a driving force behind the success of our school for many years as a pastor and later in retirement as our school chaplain. Following his death last summer, to perpetuate his memory and legacy, the administration presented scholarships to students best exemplifying the spirit of Msgr. Melancon. A student was selected from each owner parish and one at large who met the requirements. Congratulations to the following **Msgr. Melancon Memorial Scholarship recipients:**

- Addison Gautreaux, St. Landry Catholic Church
- Joseph Gradnigo, Holy Ghost Catholic Church
- Emily Jesclard, Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church
- Kade Bidstrup, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
- Eli Chelette, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Emma Boudreaux, Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Port Barre)



Highest distinction in junior high went to eighth graders John Michael Jarrell and Gracie Carriere. They received the "Junior Viking Awards" as voted on by their peers for outstanding traits, character, compassion and Christ-like service.

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## VIKINGS OF THE MONTH

Students in grades 5 (elementary section); 8 (junior high section); and 12 (high school section) were selected as "**Vikings of the Month**" for their outstanding qualities, academics and leadership.

January:	Ali Bertrand & Konnor Bidstrup, 5th Betsy Wallace & Kade Bidstrup, 8th Molly Trahan & Brandon Theriot, 12th
February:	Ellie Savage & John Parker Trahan, 5th McKenzie Chevis & Jake Veazey, 8th Rebecca Thomas & Sam Pitre, 12th
March:	Aubree Carriere & Rhylan Faul, 5th Ann-Elyse Venable & Jackson LaGrange, 8th Lara Clark & Scout Busby, 12th
April:	Bailey Melancon & Bennett Fisher, 5th Olivia Deville & Luke Copenhaver, 8th Amelia Miguez & Adam Purser, 12th

\*Those honored in September-December were listed in the winter issue of The Saga newsletter.



For the last time together, the graduates (some being at OC since preschool) sang proudly the school alma mater closing out the 2019 Baccalaureate Ceremony. Many special friendships will last a lifetime!

# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

What an OUTSTANDING year for Viking athletics! Three DISTRICT TITLES were earned by football, boys' basketball and baseball! Playoff action was seen by football, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' basketball, and baseball. Incredibly, boys' basketball made it all the way to the State Semifinals while the baseball team played in the State Finals and are the 2019 State Division IV Runner Up! There were many individual accolades, too!

## Football (Coach Thomas David)

*District 5-1A Champs ... undefeated in district!*

*The team went to the quarterfinal round!*

Zach Mengarelli (OC Team Co-MVP)

Devin Thierry (OC Team Co-MVP; District Offensive MVP)

Cameron Lee (District Defensive MVP)

Christian Miller (Leadership Award)

Remy Bergeron & James Monroe (Captain's Awards)

Coach Thomas David (District 5-1A Coach of the Year)



## Cross Country (Coach Steve Guidroz)

Lauren Bainter (Girls' MVP)

Hunter Monceret (Boys' MVP)

State Meet participants:

Girls Lauren Bainter, Lauren Charles, Lora Charles, Lydia Martin

Boys Jon Burton Charles, Max Collins, Luke Lafleur, Colin Lauret,

Myles Lynch, Hunter Monceret, Toby Villemarette

## Girls' Basketball (Coach Matt Citron)

*They placed 2nd in district and reached the regional round!*

Amelia Miguez (OC Offensive MVP)

Layn Carter (OC Defensive MVP)



## Boys' Basketball (Coach Jeff Dupre)

*District 5-1A Champs & went to State Semifinals!*

Ronal Patin (OC Offensive MVP)

Devin Thierry (OC Defensive MVP)

Keon Coleman (OC Team MVP; All Acadiana & All State honors)

Coach Jeff Dupre (District 5-1A Coach of the Year)



## Girls' Soccer (Coach Chuck Soileau)

*The team went to the playoffs' 1st round!*

Madeleine Sylvester (OC Offensive MVP; District & Parish Offensive MVP)

Marsha Savage (OC Defensive MVP)

Mary Collins (OC Midfield MVP; Parish Defensive MVP)

Sarah Ortego (OC Team MVP)



## Boys' Soccer (Coach Ben Dubuc)

*The team went to the playoffs' 1st round!*

Drew Sebastien (OC Offensive MVP)

Jack Sebastien (OC Defensive MVP)

Jesse Roy (OC Team MVP)



## Softball (Coach Jay Artall)

Sarah Ortego (OC Offensive MVP & Team MVP)

Gracie Laverne (OC Defensive MVP)

Morgan Nicholas (Scotty Speyrer Sportsmanship Award)



## Baseball (Coach Justin Boyd)

*District 5-1A Champs & Division IV State Runner-Up!*

Zach Mengarelli (OC Offensive MVP & District MVP)

Mac Thibodeaux (OC Defensive MVP)

Cameron Gauthier (OC Team MVP & Parish MVP; All State)

Jesse Roy (Gene Mills Memorial Award)

Coach Justin Boyd (District 5-1A & Parish Coach of the Year)



## Track (Coaches Thomas David & Connie Thierry)

Girls:

Sahvana Bourque (OC Track MVP)

Layn Carter (OC Field MVP)

Boys:

Ethan Stelly (OC Track MVP)

Donovan Green (OC Field MVP) (District, Parish & Regional Champ Discus; School Record)

James Monroe (District & Parish Champ Shot Put)

Keon Coleman (Parish Champ High Jump)

## Golf (Coach John Braham)

*Regional 4th place*

John Paul Braham (OC Best Overall Golfer)

Luke Vidrine (OC Most Outstanding Performance, Regionals)



## Tennis (Coach Chuck Soileau)

Taylor Thistlethwaite (Regional Champ; State Semifinalist)

Other State Tourney qualifiers:

Mary Collins, Aubry Hidalgo, Colin Lauret, Kathryn Mouret,

Marsha Savage, Emily Thibodeaux



## SPECIAL ATHLETIC FOOTNOTES

- Recipients of the 2nd annual Earl Heintz Scholarship were **Keon Coleman** and **Caleb Sullivan** as presented by Mrs. Marty Heintz in memory of her late husband who taught and coached football and track over his career. The chosen athletes participated in these two sports and met the character requirements and recommendations.
- OC gives thanks to **Coach Jay Artall** (1978) who has coached the Lady Vikings softball team for several years. He announced that he is stepping down as the head softball coach, and we are grateful for his many years of devotion in directing the softball program.
- Announced as **"All State Academic Honors"** through LHSAA for outstanding academic achievement and athletic participation: seniors Lauren Bainter, Remy Bergeron, Alex Catille, Matthew Courville, Sam Pitre, Marsha Savage, and Taylor Thistlethwaite.
- In baseball, **Cameron Gauthier** was named "2019 Pitcher of the Year" on the LBCA Region 5 Team. Also named on this team list were **Sam Pitre** and **Cameron Lee**.
- Congratulations to **Coach Roddy Dye** for being selected as "Athletic Booster of the Year" for his many years of coaching junior high football and his untiring work on the field with varsity football. Thank you!



*In highest honors, Sarah Ortego was named "Lady Viking of the Year" at the Athletic Awards Program while Matthew Courville received the "Viking of the Year" honors. \*Lauren Bainter and Taylor Thistlethwaite were recipients of the Scholastic Athlete awards.*





Our Vikings baseball team and Coach Justin Boyd (1997) accepted the trophy as 2019 Division IV State Runner Up!

## Success Stories at the Next Level

- Congratulations to **Mallory Little** (2018) who played the first base position for the LSU-Eunice Lady Tigers this year, helping them to the 2019 NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship!
- **Mia Manzanares** (2015) competed in her fourth College National Rodeo Finals and took first place in the Goat Tying event and won the All Around Title again, leading the McNeese women's team to their second National Championship! She graduated summa cum laude in May with a B.S. degree in Health and Human Performance and a concentration in Sports Medicine. Mia is now working on her masters through Texas A&M Commerce and will still be able to compete in rodeo one more year. Then she will apply to physical therapy school to pursue her doctorate.

### FOOTBALL SEASON 2019 (DISTRICT 5-1A)

Friday, August 30	Eunice Jamboree	St. Ed's
Friday, September 6	Opelousas High	Home
Friday, September 13	Vermilion Catholic	Away
Thursday, September 19	Port Barre	Away
Friday, September 27	Kinder	Home
Friday, October 4	Port Allen	Away
Thursday, October 10	St. Edmund (D)	Home
Friday, October 18	Catholic High-PC (D)	Away
Friday, October 25	North Central (D) *	Home
Friday, November 1	Sacred Heart-VP (D)	Home
Friday, November 8	Westminster (D)	Home

(D) District game

GO VIKINGS!

\* Homecoming



If you want to enjoy a BIG game, mark September 6 on your calendars for the matchup between the 1A OC Vikings and the 4A OHS Tigers in Donald Gardner Stadium which will open up the regular season for both teams! Other than some jamboree stints in the 70s and 80s, it has been DECADES since these cross-town Opelousas teams have met on the field in regular season. Could this be the beginning of a very special game for years ahead? See you there on September 6!

## Junior High Athletics!

Congratulations to our junior high teams for their successful year:

- 5th-6th grade football won the "Crawfish Bowl" as League Champs once again!
- 7th-8th grade football earned the title of League Runner-Up
- 6th grade baseball claimed the League Championship!
- 7th grade baseball & 7th grade softball finished as League Runner-Ups



It was a tremendous year for boys' basketball and Coach Jeff Dupre (1991) in reaching the state semifinals! Here some "stars of the court" received their individual awards at the Athletic Awards Ceremony ... Ronal Patin, Donovan Green, Devin Thierry, Keon Coleman, Caleb Rubin, and Matthew Courville.

## Lil' Viking Rodeo Star!

This spring our little second grader **Addison Gautreaux** won "Rookie of the Year" in the Louisiana Cajun Little Britches Rodeo! She competed at "nationals" this summer and finished in the Top 28 in barrels and poles! We are so proud of Addison and will be cheering her on for years to come!

## ATHLETIC FUNDRAISING

### Dancing Viking Starz!

The "Dancing Viking Starz" annual event sponsored by the OC Athletic Council was again a great entertaining evening featuring seven couples!

Craig Bordelon (1986) & Stacie Miller – Mirror Ball Champs  
 Elbert Guillory & Caroline Cosgrove-Richard (2013)  
 George Hargroder (1982) & Stephanie Roy – Judge's Award  
 Jason Hatfield & Wanda Juneau  
 \*Team Shannon Bihm Miller (1990) – Fan Favorite  
 Walt Phythian & Donna Veillon

Dustin Vidrine (2003) & Holly Chachere Provost (1989)

"Team Shannon Miller" included Emily Trahan Turner (2001), Brandi G. Olivier, Heather Savoie Wallace (1993), and Nichole Gordon Miller (2005). The Athletic Council thanks the dancers, choreographers, sponsors, guests, and volunteers helping to raise funds for Viking athletics!

### 2019 "Gun/Cash A Week" Raffle

The Athletic Council continues its Super Raffle where there are 52 chances to win! Each week the winner has a choice between a Winchester SXP Waterfowl 12 gauge shotgun OR Savage Axis Stainless XP rifle OR \$500 cash. Contact Athletic Director Tommy Tate (337-942-5404 ext. 113; [tatet@ocsvikings.com](mailto:tatet@ocsvikings.com)) for more information on purchasing a \$50 ticket!

## ALUMNI SOFTBALL TOURNNEY Sees Changes!

Mark your calendars for the 10th annual OC Alumni Softball Tourney set for **September 7-8**. We are excited to see it being held on the OC ball fields this year, and it will be held on Saturday-Sunday instead of Friday-Saturday-Sunday as in the past. Being able to have two games going at every time slot will certainly help! Expect to see some "cabbage ball" games for the "older" alumni. There will be treats and activities for the kids as well.

Please send questions or comments to Heidi at [ocalumnisoftball@gmail.com](mailto:ocalumnisoftball@gmail.com). It will be great to see lots of alumni join together ... so captains, finalize your teams to see if your group can take the bragging rights from last year's champs, the Class of 2014!

# ALUMNI NOTES

*Come on alumni! Send us your information to be included in this section for future issues.*

**Dennis Boudreaux** (1980) completed his studies in English Education at USL and has been employed by the Iberia Parish School Board for the last 28 years where he has taught English for grades 7-12. He was honored as "Teacher of the Year" in 1989 and again in 2002. On a special note, Dennis has published three books/novels over the years. He and his wife live in Erath, La. and are the parents of three children.

**Keith Guidry** (1993) earned his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. He has enjoyed a career as a graphic designer, a Museum Curator of Exhibitions for the Opelousas museum of Art, and an Assistant Director of the UL Alumni Association. Keith and his wife Lisa live in Lafayette where he now serves as the Community Relations Coordinator of the Lafayette Public Library System. He has five godsons and one goddaughter, and enjoys making art, cooking, and traveling with his wife.

**Amber Cormier** (2009) received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the LSU School of Allied Health. She currently lives in New Orleans where she works in inpatient rehab therapy with traumatic brain, stroke and spinal cord injuries.

**Kristen Courville Pavy** (2010) studied for two years through the LSU system and has been a licensed pharmacy technician for six years. She is currently working for Opelousas General Health System. Kristen and her husband Matt are expecting their first child this summer and make their home in Port Barre, La.

**Emily Labbe Pitre** (2010) attended LSU in Baton Rouge where she graduated with a master's degree in education. She is now married and teaches first grade in Jefferson Parish at Harahan Elementary School. Emily and her husband live in Metairie, La. where they are raising their two young sons.

**William Pitre** (2010) graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. After working in the St. Landry Parish School System, Will just accepted a position at his alma mater to teach Social Studies and become the head softball coach in 2019-2020. He will also help with football. Will married within the past year, and he and his wife live in the Opelousas area.

**Logan Doucet** (2011) received her B.S. degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. Logan continued her studies and earned her Master of Business Administration. She currently works as an accountant with John S. Dowling & Company in Opelousas.

**Gavin Doucet** (2013) studied at UL-Lafayette before getting into the business world and now works as the grocery manager for Cash Saver in Opelousas. He is engaged to Ashley Bernard (2014), and they plan to marry on May 23, 2020.

**Emily Vidrine** (2014) recently completed the LSU Dental Hygiene Program in Lafayette, and she even took time out of her busy schedule this spring to speak to the OC preschoolers and kindergarteners about the importance of keeping their teeth clean and healthy. Emily looks forward to her career as a dental hygienist.

**Kaleb Gautreaux** (2015) finished his degree program in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette. He is currently living in Baton Rouge where he is waiting on a job confirmation.

**Connor Lastie** (2015) completed the Non-Destructive Testing program through T.H. Harris Vo-Tech School and has been working in the petrochemical/oilfield industry. He also continues his culinary skills on the side working with his mother to continue the legacy of Shirley Lemelle's Catering.

**Amy Stelly** (2015) graduated in May from LSU in Baton Rouge where she studied Kinesiology. While at LSU, she was a four-year academic honor roll student on the LSU Track and Field team as a pole vaulter. Amy now plans to further her education by entering into a physical therapy program.

## ***Join the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!***

The Catholic Schools of Opelousas Alumni Association seeks more members from OC, AIC, and Holy Ghost School as the group continues in the spirit of Catholic education. Kathy Hebert in the Advancement Office expresses gratitude to the alumni board and Heather Savoie Wallace (OC 1993), president for the past five years. Heather is handing over the gavel to Blaire Schwartzenburg Emonet (2001) and Haley Devillier Emonet (1996) who will serve as Co-Presidents this year.

ALL alumni are encouraged to get involved to make a difference for OC! Those on the school's database can expect to receive 2019-20 membership information in the mail soon. Let's pull together and be advocates for Catholic education in Opelousas!

## **NEWEST ALUMNI – Class of 2019**

*(note the parent or parents who are alumni)*

Adrienne Allen \*

Grace Meullion Allen (1984)

Clint Ardoin \*

Taylor Armand

Lauren Bainter \*

Remy Bergeron \*

Paul & Shannon Woodson Bergeron (1991)

Gabrielle Biba

Paul Biba (1988)

Madeleine Braham \*

Destiny Broussard

S. Scout Busby

Charles & Jennifer Daigle Busby (1988)

Alexander Castille \*

Alyssa Chachere

C. Colleen Chachere \*

Morgan Charles \*

Lara Clark

Maximilian Collins \*

Evan Cosgrove-Richard

Kathryn Cosgrove-Richard (1986)

Matthew Courville \*

Alan (1972) & Judy Reed Courville (1976)

Lane Darby

Jennifer Speyrer Darby (1989)

Jordan Doucet \*

Kevin Doucet (1982)

Ann Marie Duplechain

Lia Reed Duplechain (1987)

Gabrielle Fusilier \*

Michael Galindo

Gavin Guidroz

Chloe Jarrell

James Jarrell (1984)

Amanda Knott \*

Cameron Lee

Collin Leger

Corey Leger (1992)

Madison Macip

Natalie Marks \*

Julie DeJean Marks (1976)

Laura Meche

Zachary Mengarelli

Lynette Artall Mengarelli (1981)

Amelia Miguez \*

Christian Miller

James Monroe

Sarah Ortego

Samuel Pitre \*

Adam Purser

Michael Purser (1986)

Dylan Reed

Tyler Richard

Leah Robin

Marsha Savage \*

Mary Grace Stelly \*

Emily Sutor

Madeleine Sylvester

Michael Sylvester (1980)

Brandon Theriot

Emily Thibodeaux

J. McBride Thibodeaux

Devin Thierry

Neal Thierry (1984)

Taylor Thistlethwaite \*

Rebecca Thomas \*

Molly Trahan \*

Luke Vidrine

Michael Vidrine (1982)

*Honor graduate \**





# ALUMNI in the MEDIA ...

In the local Community Chronicles newspaper, we saw that **Charles Going** (1973) was appointed to serve on the Opelousas General Hospital Trust Authority Board of Trustees. Charles is a Certified Public Accountant and senior member and founder of Going, Sebastien, Fisher & LeBouef LLP in Opelousas. He has practiced public accounting for the past 41 years and has served on boards for business, civic, non-profit and religious organizations. He is a former president of the St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church Parish Council, and Opelousas Rotary Club. Currently, Charles serves as president of the Opelousas Area Cerebral Palsy Clinic and chairman of his church finance committee. He and his wife Laurie (1974) are the parents of triplets who have all completed their education at OC.

**Bobby Ardoin** (1966) continues to be the local Daily World newspaper reporter and sportswriter and was recently honored by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. He has completed an amazing 52 years of covering high school athletics in St. Landry Parish!

Spotlighted on "Morgan City Main Street", we noticed **Will Montgomery** (2004). Will, a graduate of the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, is currently a franchise partner of Moe's Southwest Grill with four locations in South Louisiana. It was said that he became involved with Main Street through the Basin Brew Fest planning committee where Will gives of his time for Basin Brew Fest and other Block 27 fundraisers. All of these efforts are targeted to help restore the Main Street area and make Morgan City a better place where Will and his wife are raising their two children.

**Jason Stelly II** (2018) graduated in the top 10% of 816 graduates from Basic Military Training in the U.S. Air Force! He was recently married, and he and his bride are off to Germany for three years with his Air Force service where he is an Airman First Class.

It was an exciting year for **Emily Ortego** (2017) who attends the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. She went through audition after audition and made it to Hollywood on "American Idol"! Emily sang her heart out in front of music artists Lionel Richie, Katy Perry, and Luke Bryan. Though her performance was not aired on the show, Emily is so happy to have had this amazing experience and to have made it to the top 98 out of thousands who auditioned! And we are blessed to have her as our OC music minister!

The Baton Rouge Advocate newspaper published a story on **Andy Martin** (1997) in late March announcing his hire as the new head football coach at University High in Baton Rouge. University High is where Coach Martin has been working as an assistant for several years when they won three Division II state championships. Prior to that, he coached at Catholic High of Baton Rouge.

Featured in our local newspaper, **Hunter DeBlanc** (2004) graduated from UL-Lafayette and has been a pianist, singer and songwriter around Australia in recent years. After writing the song "Sydney" for his love of the city there, his music has taken off and has been supported by Australian Radio Promotions. Since then, he has enjoyed interviews and appearances throughout Australia.

As recently noted on social media, **Dr. Troy Ardoin** (1994) is an orthopedic surgeon practicing in the Little Rock, Arkansas area. He focuses on the care and surgical repair of the foot and ankle. You can learn more about him at [www.orthoarkansas.com/troy-ardoin-md](http://www.orthoarkansas.com/troy-ardoin-md). Dr. Ardoin and his wife are the parents of four children.

Cannatella Grocery in Melville owned by **Grant Cannatella** (1984) and his brother **Brian Cannatella** (1981) was recently featured on TWILA (This Week in Louisiana Agriculture) and seen on 18 state broadcast and cable stations! They were featured for bringing their small town charm to mid-city Baton Rouge where they opened a specialty store there which Grant's wife Pam manages.

Reported by the university is the **LSU Spring 2019 Graduate List**, and OC notices a few alumni. Congratulations to all!

College of Business: Leslie Miguez III (2014)  
College of Engineering: Alison Carrier (2015) and James "Trey" Hammond III (2014)  
College of Human Sciences & Education: Amy Stelly (2015)  
College of Humanities & Social Science: Amelia Artall (2014), Allison Purser (2015), Jaci Taylor (2015), and Margaret "Maggie" Whipp (2015)  
College of Science, Alyse Soileau (2015)



## STORK NEWS from OC COUPLE

**Dr. Jason and Katie Diesi Trahan** (2002/2001) welcomed their fifth child in June when baby girl Celia Mae was born. Jason is building his practice as an ENT with Southern ENT in Opelousas while Katie remains very busy with their young family. Celia Mae will surely follow in the footsteps of her older siblings who all attend Opelousas Catholic.

# HOMEcoming 2019!

Attention alumni! Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2019! Let's join together and reminisce those good old high school days!

**Homecoming Parade – Thursday, October 24, 6:00 pm**

**Homecoming Mass – Friday, October 25, time TBA**

**Homecoming Game – Friday, October 25, 7:00 pm**

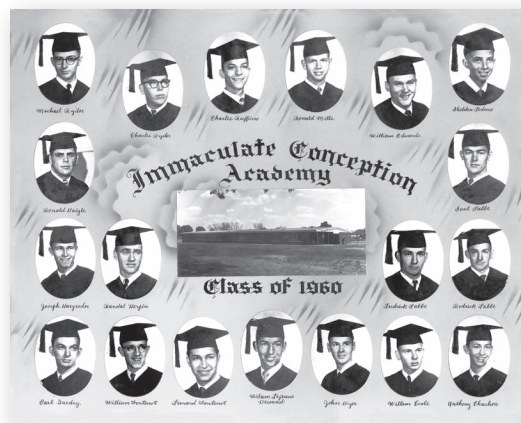
\* All alumni are invited to stop by the "Alumni Welcome Tent" (6-7 pm) to register for half-time drawings and to enjoy food, refreshments, and reminiscing before the game! A pre-game presentation of past royalty is set for 6:30 pm.

ALL past grads are encouraged to attend/participate in the parade, coronation and game. To be recognized at the game are the OC classes of **2010, 2000, 1990 and 1980** and AIC and Holy Ghost School classes of **1970**. More detailed information will be mailed to alumni in September. For any questions, contact Kathy Hebert in the Advancement Office (337-942-5404 ext. 105) or email at [hebertk@ocsvikings.com](mailto:hebertk@ocsvikings.com).

Do you know who gave the highest bid and won the beautiful "Live Painting" from last year's Homecoming game?? The parents of Homecoming Queen Morgan Charles ... Blake and Hope Charles! What a fabulous keepsake!

## Recalling PAST PARADE HONORS

- **Buddy Mackey** was honored as the Homecoming Grand Marshal in the 1989 Homecoming Parade 30 years ago this fall!
- Twenty years ago in the fall of 1999, **representatives of each class** since the formation of OC in 1972 were chosen to lead the Homecoming Parade.
- **Coach Roddy Dye**, loyal OC booster and volunteer, was bestowed the honor of 2009 Homecoming Grand Marshal ten years ago.



*Remembering the days at AIC when the "boys" and "girls" were separated and taught by the Christian Brothers and the Marianites of Holy Cross! Besides these "boys", the "girl graduates" included Sandra Bordon, Janel Bourque, Franclyn Carriere, Barbara Clause, Judy Doucet, Cynthia Fogg, Jessica Jarrell, Linda Latour, Dolores Lavergne, Maxine Ledoux, Ann Lyman, Carolyn Mayer, Betty Naquin, Susan*

*Onnebane, Sherry Ortego, Bonnie Pitre, Judith Quirk, Clarisse Sandoz, JoAnn Soileau, Jo Anne Vidrine, Trenetta Wilbert, Mary Wyble, Theresa Wyble, and Beverly Zerangue.*

*This group from the Class of 1960 is about to celebrate 60 years since their senior year!*

## MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Gifts to the OC Memorial Program during this school year have memorialized departed friends and loved ones by remembering them at all school masses. The following names have been initially enrolled from July 2018 – July 2019. Noted in parentheses are the years of graduation of those who are alumni. *May God bless them all with eternal peace!*

\*Anyone interested in enrolling a loved one may send a gift to the Opelousas Catholic Foundation at 428 E. Prudhomme Street indicating the name of the deceased, the name(s)/address of the donor(s), and the name(s)/address of the family to be sent a card by OC in acknowledgment of the enrollment.

Freida Mayeaux	John Ortego, Jr.	Harriet Hidalgo Doucet (1955)
Floyd Lavergne	Kathryn DeJean Howard	Thelma L. Macip
Msgr. Louis Melancon	(1992)	Alvin Ray Verrette
Albert Olivier	Jackie Bordon	Rev. Joseph Breaux
Barbara Burleigh Thibodeaux (1964)	Janva and Paul Costanza	Eugenia Bearb
Frances Reiners	Bobbie R. Meaux	Sonny Fuselier
Paul E. Joubert, Jr.	Lois Ledoux Robert (1950)	Neal Whipp (1977)
George Beaugh	Charles Ruffino, Jr. (1960)	Kermit Christ
Murphy Green	William "Billy" Jarrell, Jr. (1955)	Eddie L. Stelly (1990)
Ethel Thibodeaux	Merrick Wyble, MD	
Norma P. Cortez	Raphael Paul Fontenot	

# ANGEL APPEAL 2018-2019

How grateful we are for the gifts bestowed upon our Angel Appeal Drive for 2018-2019! (Gratitude also goes out to those who purchased Dinner & Auction tickets.) All efforts helped to transform our library into a modern media center.

**Seraphim Society** (\$5,000+)  
David/Emily Lucito Smith (2002)

**Cherubim Club** (\$2,500+)  
Juanita Brinkman Fontenot (1954)  
in memory of Harold (1953) and Todd Fontenot (1978)  
Mary Beth Henry (1977)  
in memory of Scott A. Henry

**St. Michael Protectors** (\$1,000+)  
Dr. Amelie A. Hollier (1980)

**St. Gabriel Givers** (\$500+)  
Rev. Angelo Cremaldi  
Elaine E. Diesi (1972)  
in memory of Sal Sr, Betty, Sal Jr, and David Diesi  
Deacon Sammy/Becky Faul Diesi (1968/1970)  
Kim/David Edmond (1988)  
Faye/Wayne Reiniers (1972)

**Archangel Associates** (\$250+)  
Virval Fontenot Bradley (1952)  
in memory of John E. Bradley  
Bruce Gaudin  
Iris LaBruyere  
in memory of Louis R. LaBruyere III  
James C. Lopez (1963)  
Brad/Sharon Ortego  
Mark/Claire Reed  
Larry/Laurie Singletary  
Cecil W. Soileau (1956)  
Daniel/Suzzette VonGontard  
in memory of Missy Quebedeaux

**Guardian Angels** (\$100+)  
Anonymous  
American Bank & Trust Company  
Jim/Patrice Ventre Bagby (1976)  
J.Y. Bordelon, MD  
Jason/Elizabeth Borne  
Justin Boyd (1997)  
Pat/Willy Boyd (1971)  
Laurie/Steve Dupuis (1973)  
Eric/Blaire Schwartzenburg Emonet (1996/2001)  
Kyle Farrar (1980)  
Don Fisher (1973)  
in memory of Rose Fisher  
Ronald Gobert (1977)  
Gordon/Miller/Frilot Family  
Rita Robison Grogan (1970)  
Eric Hansen (1970)  
Jeanine Hansen (1963)  
Anita/Dwayne Hargroder (1979)

Charles/Beth Going Hebert (1974)  
Keith/Kathy E. Hebert  
Marty Heintz  
in memory of Earl Heintz  
Joseph H. Hidalgo, Sr. (1953)  
Mike/Sharon Higginbotham  
Yvette Howard  
Most Reverend Michael Jarrell (1958)  
Bernard/Lois Joubert  
Ray/Dolores Kleefisch  
Kristin Lagrange (2001)  
Rose Lalonde  
Dwight/Pam Landreneau  
Dwight/Christine Ledoux  
in memory of Shane Christian Ledoux  
Hurshel/Janette Leger  
Herby Lormand  
Michael Lucito (1997)  
Richard/Judi Richard Lucito (1975)  
Thelma Manuel  
in memory of Tommy & Teddy Manuel  
Ann Carol Comeaux McKinney (1966)  
in memory of Dalton & Evelyn Comeaux  
Bret/Liz Meche  
Dale Ortego (1959)  
Harold Ortego  
in memory of Quin & Delores Ortego  
Claire Nicholson Persich (1956)  
Chris Richard (1975)  
Lauren Richard (1999)  
Sydney Herbert Schneider (1969)  
in memory of Louis Fay  
Albert/Irene Soileau  
in memory of Msgr. Louis Melancon  
Dale/Catherine St. Cyr  
Sal/Cristal Vazquez  
Sandra Venable  
Thomas Vidrine  
Ann Prudhomme Warren (1988)

**Angels of God** (up to \$99)  
Anonymous  
Tracy Armand  
Jay/Jill Christ Artall (1978/1980)  
Jeanette Bailey  
Frank Boudreaux (1957)  
Brent/Summer Breaux  
Butch/Joanne Briley  
Mary M. Budd (1961)  
Darren/Sara Cart  
Peter/Pamela Caviness  
Hope Charles  
Kermit/JoAnn Christ  
Matt Citron  
Bonnie Herpin Darbonne (1982)  
Jay/Berna Deshotel  
Blake/Jennifer Duhon  
Neal/Donna E. Dupre  
Mildred G. Edmond

Tanisha Everett  
George T. Fadaol (1962)  
in memory of Marie N. Fadaol  
Barbara Artigue Fontenot (1959)  
Claudia Fontenot  
Jessica Fontenot  
Tammy Fontenot  
Dee Galland  
Carroll/Janice Gautreaux  
Sharon Splane Gautreaux (1971)  
in memory of Eric Wayne Gautreaux  
Nicholas/Courtney Gerace  
David/Jolene Herpin Gremillion (1980/1979)  
in memory of Gremillion & Herpin families  
Willard Hanks  
Pamela Cormier Helton (1985)  
in memory of James Kirt Cormier  
Mona Hendricks  
Annette Hillard  
Amanda Latiolais Hollier (2004)  
Sandy Huval  
Mia Jesclard  
Carroll Joubert  
Margaret Whaley Joubert (1989)  
Kyle/Jennifer Keeler  
Joey/Cindy LaFleur  
Fran Leger LaFleur (1977)  
Karen LaFleur  
Ronald/Henrietta LaGrange  
Gene/Mary Lanclos  
Marilyn Lavezzorio  
John/Lorraine LeBlanc  
Christine Savoie Leger (1989)  
Linda Lorenzen  
Sal/Barbara Pepitone  
Cindy Pitre  
Allison Pousson  
Yves Prince (1976)  
in memory of Paul Milton Prince  
Brian Robin (1993)  
Shirleen Roy  
Stephanie/Robert Roy (1976)  
Danny Savoie (1999)  
Cheryl Richard Schneider (1967)  
in memory of J.D. Richard, Jr.  
Dorothy Moseley Simoneaux (1964)  
Linda Songy  
Bob/Claire Speyrer  
in memory of Scotty Speyrer  
Deborah Stacey  
Beth/Eddie Stelly (1990)  
Dr/Mrs David A. Tate  
J. Thomas Tate  
Calvin/Diane Thibodeaux  
Liz Tullier  
Emily Trahan Turner (2001)  
Jason/Alexis Veillon  
Andrew/Brittany Laverigne Wagley (2004)

## #iGiveCatholic

Mark your calendars for "iGiveCatholic Day" on December 3! It is a global online giving day that kicks off the charitable season and brings the Catholic community together to give back to some of their favorite Catholic nonprofits. Secure, tax-deductible donations to eligible Catholic organizations in participating dioceses will be accepted at [iGiveCatholic.org](http://iGiveCatholic.org) during the 24-hour period on December 3. Follow our OC Facebook page for updates as we get closer, and may God bless our Opelousas Catholic supporters!



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# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## (2019 - 2020)

### PASTORS:

Msgr. Russell Harrington, Chancellor  
 Msgr. Keith DeRouen  
 Rev. Matthew Higginbotham  
 Rev. Lambert Lein  
 Rev. Gregory Simien

### ADMINISTRATORS:

Marty Heintz, Principal  
 Matt Citron, Assistant Principal of  
 Elementary Studies  
 Liz Meche, Assistant Principal of  
 Academics (grades 6-12)  
 Willard Hanks, Dean of Students

### DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:

John Braham

### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:

Tommy Tate

### SCHOOL COUNSELOR:

Cindy Lafleur

### TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR:

Beth G. Hebert (1974)

### DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT:

Kathy Hebert

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Sharon Ortego, President

### PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION:

Lindsey Reed, President

### ACADEMIC COUNCIL:

Vickie Collins, President

### ATHLETIC COUNCIL:

Steve Guidroz, President (1978)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

September 7-8 .....	Alumni Softball Tourney, OC campus
September 17 .....	Founder's Day Mass & Activities
September 20 .....	High School Retreat-a-Palooza/Service Day
October 11 .....	Academic Pep Rally
October 14-15 .....	Fall Break
October 24 .....	Homecoming Parade/Coronation
October 25 .....	Homecoming Mass/Pep Rally/Game
November 20 .....	Grandparents' Day
November 25-29 .....	Thanksgiving break
December 3 .....	"iGiveCatholic Day"
December 23-January 3 .....	Christmas break
January 26-February 1 .....	Catholic Schools Week
February 7 .....	Dinner, Auction & Music

*Opelousas Catholic Advancement Office*

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