

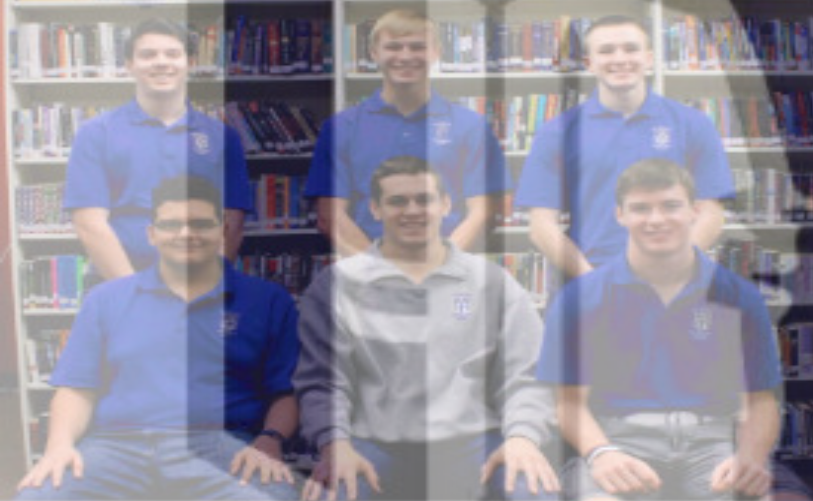
SPRING 2020

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 2

ST. JOHN'S

EST. 1879

Opportunity





Building On Our *Past...*

St. John's Catholic Schools develop students who achieve academic excellence, live as productive, responsible citizens, and exhibit Christian values in the Catholic Tradition.

Foundation - foun·da·tion / foun'dāSH(ə)n. **An underlying basis or principle. The action of establishing an institution or organization on a permanent basis.**

St. John's Catholic School is quite fortunate to have, across the board, teachers and staff who daily exemplify the mission of our school. Two of those mentors, Rusty Lueger and Ben Letourneau, have significantly impacted our young men and women in a wonderfully positive manner as they spearhead the extra-curricular activities of Scholars Bowl, Math Relays, and Cross Country.

The Ben and Wendi Letourneau family moved to Beloit in 2010, where Ben assumed the position of Natural Resources District Conservationist for Mitchell County. Ben and Wendi have eight children ranging from a freshman in high school to three years old. In 2015, he instituted the inaugural year of the Cross Country program at St. John's. In four short years, two State Champion teams and two 3rd in State men's teams are visible statements of success.



Rusty Lueger assumed the coaching duties of Scholars Bowl in 2010. Rusty joined our St. John's family in 2010 as a young, single man! Ten years later, he is married to Gina and they have five very active and engaged future Blujays (with a 6th on the way)! Under his guidance, since 2014, the Scholars Bowl team has achieved two State Championships, two 3rd place finishes and one 5th place finish. Rusty also guides the students in the Fort Hays State Math Relays. This annual competition is host for upwards of 40 schools (600+ students), 1A – 6A, competing amongst themselves for the top individual and team positions. For 9 consecutive years, the Blujays have dominated the 1A Division. And, the last 2 years, St. John's outpaced all schools, regardless of class. Quite impressive . . .

Even with the evident success of both programs, the best years of the cross country, scholars bowl and Math Relays teams at St. John's are most likely in the future! It is fun to sense and observe the enthusiasm and eagerness within the younger student body to build upon the groundbreaking triumphs of their older mentors! Stay tuned for future accomplishments!

All well and good with the success on the cross country trails and scholars bowl classrooms . . . And we, as a Catholic school, continue to daily mentor and form students with the virtues and characteristics inherent to our mission. St. John's could not be more thankful of the roles Rusty and Ben play, assisting in the process to steer our young men and women towards heaven.



Cross Country

2016 – State Champions (men)
2017 – State Champions (men)
2018 – 3rd in State (men)
2019 – 3rd in State (men)
“Fortitude. Discipline. Humility”

Coach Ben Letourneau



Scholars Bowl

2014 – State Champions
2015 – State Champions
2017 – 3rd in State
2018 – 5th in State
2020 – 3rd in State

Coach Rusty Lueger



Scholars Bowl Champs!

St. John's Middle School Varsity and Junior Varsity teams both won their respective 2020 PTL Scholars Bowl Championships. Both teams went 9-1 and took first place overall. Coach Rusty Lueger prepared the young Blujays for their season in hopes to continue a successful journey in the years to come.



Envisioning Our *Future*



Looking Ahead



This year's third grade class will celebrate the 150th year of St. John's Catholic School when they are seniors. With the confidence and energy this class displays, they are sure to become a class with a successful future!

Inside the Classroom

The third graders had a "Book Tasting" to sample different genres of books. The children looked at biographies, fantasy, mystery, realistic fiction, and more. The students enjoyed tasting some snacks along with the literature.





Life Runners

On the first Wednesday of every month this year, St. John's Catholic students wear Life Runners Pro Life shirts to bring awareness to and create a culture that celebrates the dignity of the unborn and the beauty of life itself. We believe each person, male or female, born and unborn, young and old, no matter the race, no matter a social class, no matter the health, is created in God's image and likeness. Can you imagine the world problems that would be eliminated if everyone lived this?

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

- Jeremiah 1:5



BEES!

St. John's received a grant through Solomon Valley Community Foundation to start two bee hives. Joe Holdren picked up the bees from the Golden Prairie Honey Farm in Manhattan, Kansas. He and his wife, Marci, went through a boot camp there earlier this year to learn the basics of beekeeping.

The bees were introduced to the hives the last week in March, so the adventure has just begun. Joe was planning on doing this project with the environment class, but with the school year ending with online classes, it will be difficult to be hands on. He posted a short video on YouTube with an introduction in order to try and keep them involved. Hopefully as spring progresses, they can meet on a small group level and the students can become more involved in the project.

Joe said, "We are hoping if we are successful and getting the bees going in a healthy hive, and honey is produced, that we can sell it locally for a science room fundraiser for future equipment needed."





Student Spotlight

Landon Eilert, son of Allen and Tammy Eilert and a senior at St. John's, was honored for his exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. Landon was nominated by St. John's for national honors this fall in recognition of his volunteer service activities.

Landon has shared his time and talents in a number of ways throughout high school for his school, parish and community. Some highlights from his application that garnered national attention include using his musical talents of singing and playing the banjo and baritone. Landon has entertained with his banjo at area nursing homes, during Beloit's Millapalooza, through school Praise and Worship events and on a national stage at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis last fall. He also provides baritone lessons to younger students on his own time.

Landon intends to major in video production next year at Hutchinson Community College. He has spent countless hours as a videographer for St. John's basketball teams, and also produced various video projects for the parish as a student in the media class (investing significant time outside of class to make the projects a success).

Landon was also previously named one of 1,928 Coca-Cola Scholarship Foundation semi-finalists out of more than 93,000 applicants. He was one of only 20 students from Kansas high schools selected for that honor.





**BIRDIES 4
BLUJAYS**
MAY 9, 2020
 Beloit Country Club

**Please join us for the 1st Annual St. John's/Tipton
Booster Club Golf Tournament.**

The event will feature:

- 4-person Scramble
- Straight Line Drive Contest
- Closest to the Pin (Men and Women)
- Longest Drive (Men and Women)
- Long Putt
- Helicopter Ball Drop (\$1000 winner)
- 50 ft. putt for a Chance at \$500

Register now at BIRDIES4BLUJAYS.COM

Website raffle prizes will be updated

Register Online or mail form to Jason Carr: 512 West Main St., Beloit, KS 67420 Questions?
Call Jason at 785-545-8950 or e-mail bradleyjcarri@gmail.com



Our Beloved Departed

Charlotte Schmidt Splawn, Casa Grande, AZ, deceased April 29, 2019. Class of 1951
Robert Stover, Aurora, CO, deceased May 19, 2019. Class of 1947
Roberta Schulte Stover, Salina, KS, deceased August 27, 2019. Class of 1950
Jason Monty, Beloit, deceased September 17, 2019. Class of 1992
Mabel Anne Schmitz Griffith, Salem, OR, deceased September 28, 2019. Class of 1945
William Fueser, Abilene, KS, deceased October 2, 2019. Class of 1952
Barbara Arens Mick, Tipton, KS, deceased November 16, 2019. Class of 1953
Leo Schwerman, Beloit, deceased November 21, 2019. Class of 1944
Eldora Deneke Cole, Russell, KS, deceased January 3, 2020. Class of 1951
Loretta Schmidt Fisher, Export, PA, deceased January 9, 2020. Class of 1948
Brian Vossman, Kansas City, MO, deceased January 12, 2020. Class of 1978
Eugene Schutz, Wichita, KS, deceased January 21, 2020. Class of 1947



Alumni Wedding Anniversaries

Don and Mardy Heidrick, Beloit, 50th - April 19, 2019. Don Class of 1962
Arnold and Patricia Schmidt, Ava Maria, FL, 60th - July 25, 2019. Arnold Class of 1953
Doug and Arlene Thiessen, Beloit, 40th - August 4, 2019. Doug Class of 1975
Max and Michele Heidrick, Beloit, 50th - September 6, 2019. Max Class of 1965
Donald and Dolores Eilert, Beloit, 60th - October 24, 2019. Donald Class of 1953
Bill and Diane Lutgen, Beloit, 50th - January 10, 2020. Bill Class of 1965
Wayne and Marti Eilert McElroy, 45th March 15, 2020. Marti Class of 1975



St. John's 42nd Annual Alumni Banquet

Saturday, May 23, the Memorial Mass will begin at 4:30 at St. John's Church with Social and Dinner to follow in the Gym at 5:30 PM.

1960-60 years; 1965-55 years; 1970-50 years; 1980-40 years; 1995-25 years; 2000-20 years; and 2010-10 years



St. John's Alumni Dinner RSVP *Return By Friday, May 15*

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
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 Email: _____
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Mail checks to:
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Attn: Alumni Banquet
1111 N Independence
Beloit, KS 67420

Joe Walter: 785-738-8774

As we all are acutely aware, COVID 19 has forced many plans to be changed. HOWEVER, at time of print, plans are still to proceed with current dates and times of two upcoming events noted in the newsletter, the Alumni Reunion (Memorial Day Weekend) and the Booster Club Golf Event, scheduled for May 9. Please stay in tune to all forms of school communication that will potentially dictate changes! A final decision on these events will be made no later than May 1. Thank you for your patience and support!



Giving of Yourself

ELLE EILERT - CLASS OF 2019

This past year I received the gift of joining Regnum Christi (RC), which is Latin for “Kingdom of Christ.” RC is a Movement within the Church under the mission of the Roman Catholic Church. In short, we are on a mission to build the kingdom of Christ. One of the ways RC builds the kingdom is through the Regnum Christi Mission Corps (RCMC). As missionaries, we are placed based on where the core team thinks we will grow the most. I was so blessed to be able to go to the Philippines! Three young women and I were welcomed into Everest Academy, an RC school in Manila. I was placed in the lower school, specifically third through fifth grade. I helped lead the student’s Catholic Formation during school and at after-school clubs. I also had the opportunity to work in the high school, college Bible studies, and Mano Amiga formation (for those living in poverty). It’s safe to say I kept busy!

One of the things that impacted my Catholic faith was living with Consecrated women. Working, eating, and praying with them daily was such a gift. The joy carried on their faces is evidence of the love God has placed in their hearts through prayer. I hope to live by following their example of joy! When the Spanish arrived in the Philippines in the sixteenth century, they brought their faith with them, colonizing and sharing Catholic beliefs. This influence affected the daily lives of Filipinos then, and it still does now. Filipinos have made the faith their own and now more than ever, the Church is alive.

33RD ANNUAL ST. JOHN'S SCHOOLS BENEFIT AUCTION



“A Night with the Stars...Saints and Heroes” was the theme of the 2020 St. John’s School Auction held on Saturday, March 21st. This was the 33rd consecutive year for the event, but it looked very different this year. With less than a weeks notice, the auction went from being a large social event to completely online and remote event. In total, over 500 supporters raised \$181,000 to go to the school! There were 780 items and \$36,885 in cash donated. All of these were record highs for the event. We were so fortunate to work with Luke Hansen of Hansen Reality and Auction who provided the auctioneering services and all the background labor. Also, a special thanks to the St. John’s School Council, auction solicitors, and the individuals who stepped up to make the quick transition to an online auction. \$58,800 was raised for the “Calm the Seas” fund that will help the school confront the challenges ahead during this time of uncertainty. Thank you supporters!



There are so many things I love about the Philippines. The different landscapes, exotic food, vibrant faith, and bustling streets are all things I enjoyed every day. Overall, the people I encountered are my favorite part of Manila. Filipinos are family oriented, hospitable people who love to have a good time. This often includes getting together to sing, dance, eat, and repeat. I will miss their warmth and openness! I most fondly recall the memories of the daily missions into the village with the other highschool and college students.

My family prepared me extremely well for this mission trip, if they know it or not. From a fantastic school, hard day working on the farm, or a love for the faith, they did it all. I am also blessed to have younger siblings in third and fifth grade. I believe that helped prepare me for the lower school. Because of my experience with Dominic and Kolbe, I felt more equipped to keep their attention (for the most part!), bond with them, understand feelings, and meet their needs. But, the thing I missed the most while being gone was definitely my family! It's always been difficult to be away from them, so many months at a time was a challenge. I also missed living in a small town. Manila is the capital of the Philippines, and it sure is busy! I missed little things like the stars, quiet nights, and seeing familiar faces. That said, when God asks one to be generous, He is generous in return. I experienced God's consolation through the love of those I was serving, the Consecrated, my missionary sisters, and a sincere prayer life.

My advice to anyone interested in a year of mission work, if you feel called, do it! Every step you take, everything you do, becomes an act of love for Christ and a test of faith. In saying, 'yes' you chose to make this year of your life a gift for Him. In this light, you receive joy with every victory and every mistake because you made it with Christ by your side. You'll never experience anything quite like it, and it will change your life.




**“WHOEVER IS GENEROUS TO THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD,
AND HE WILL REPAY HIM FOR HIS DEED.”**


- PROVERBS 19:17



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Return Service Requested

On Feb. 17th, junior Lauryn Dubbert hit 1000 career points. Teammates got creative last minute and used two rolls of paper towels to celebrate the accomplishment!



Remember St. John's in your Estate Plans. Our school depends 100% on your donations.