



A Journal of Saint Croix Catholic School

Legacy

Winter 2016



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Be It



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families and Friends of St. Croix Catholic School,

The year is off to a wonderful start! There is new life in our school this Fall with our new families and our new Pastor, Father Michael Izen, and his newly ordained associate, Father Jake Anderson. New life reminds us of the many blessings God has given to us individually and as a community, and gives us a refreshed vision of who we are and where we are going in accordance with God's providence. As we experience with the birth of a child, new life brings joy and excitement.

Anyone's initial interactions with our new priests will confirm what they believe to be their primary task to the parishes and the school: *to be present*. It is the priest, through his ordination, that brings the presence of Jesus in a unique way to those entrusted to his care. In my introduction of Father Izen to our faculty, I noted the desire of Pope Francis that their Pastors 'smell like their sheep' meaning that it is his desire that Pastors are so present to their flock and spend so much time with them that they begin to become one with them. And, indeed, we have a Pastor who 'smells like his sheep'! Our children have been blessed to experience this, from the lunchroom to the playground and the

classroom; our priests are determined to learn the names of all the children and their families and to bring the joy of Jesus to each of them.

Mrs. Berry, no doubt a familiar name to many alumni, was recognized with WCCO TV's Excellent Educator Award on November 11. The group hug, spanning pages 8-9 says it all.

We are deep into the final leg of our accreditation renewal. Last year was a year of self-study, in which we performed in-depth evaluation of our operations, mission, climate for learning, governance, community relations, and much more. This year, the evaluation culminates in April, as we welcome an accreditation renewal team from MNSAA. While a tremendous amount of work, accreditation is a healthy exercise. Clarity of mission is the most fruitful outcome; be sure to read the related article on page 9.

This spring we invite all of you to come back home and help us celebrate our 160th anniversary; pages 4-5. Since 1856, the faithful have been committed to Catholic education in the St. Croix Valley, and you are a part of this amazing story. Please mark your calendars for a grand celebration on Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Finally, I invite you to join us on Thursday, February 4, 2016 for our annual tuition assistance gala, Light Their Way, read more on page 6. If you are not able to attend, please prayerfully consider a gift for the many families who need assistance. May God bless you for your generosity.

Sister Mary Juliana, O.P.

*"Train up a child in the way of the Lord, and when he is old, he will not stray."
Proverbs 22:6*

2015-2016

**ST. CROIX
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Father Michael Izen
- David Berthiaume
- Jackie Garofalo
- Connie Hill
- Christopher Lentz
- Erin Lisle, Chair
- Paul Loomis
- Joan Mikkelson
- Jon O'Malley
- Nikki Zawislak



Father Michael Izen is committed to knowing each student by name.

“I knew from the Williams brothers*, the beauty of these parishes,” shared Father Michael Izen, when asked what his initial reaction was when, in April 2015, he learned he was assigned as pastor of St. Mary and St. Michael parishes in Stillwater and canonical administrator of St. Croix Catholic School. “There is beauty in our two historically rich churches, in the geographical area, and in the people.”

“I have had four assignments and in all four, Catholic schools have been integral to the mission of the parishes. I’m grateful for this. There is so much joy in children, and this joy, I believe, is a reflection of God’s love. It’s the real paradox of the Christian life that in giving we receive. As priests, we give the Lord the sacrifice of having a family but receive the hundred fold that Jesus speaks of in the Gospels: hundreds of spiritual children in our school who bring such joy!”

Newly ordained in May 2015, Father Jake Anderson was assigned to Stillwater at the same time as Father Izen. “Despite the fact that he’s a Green Bay Packer fan, Father Anderson is a great priest,” chides Father Izen. “Together, we strive more than anything to be present to the children. We’re committed to teaching in the classroom, greeting the children at the door, eating lunch with them, shooting baskets with them on the playground. In doing so, we’re hopeful that our witness will bring them closer to Christ.”

“It’s already very apparent to me the difference of a Catholic school,” shared Father Anderson. “I wish everyone could see what I see when we’re interacting with the teachers and students. There is a positive attitude; not the darkness that is so pervasive throughout

the world. At St. Croix Catholic, we just *know*, because of our faith, that there is a reason to be joyful - there is hope. There are some very real challenges present in our modern world. Catholic schools provide an avenue to form a deeper version of the human person, a person who thirsts for truth and who desires to make a difference in the world.”

*the way he should go:
will not depart from it.”
verbs*

Father Izen noted the school’s mission drives this formation. “St. Croix Catholic intentionally forms the young person as a virtuous leader. We see the fruits of these efforts in so many ways. Just one example can be seen in our 8th grade servers. We have 3 or 4 solid guys who know how to do the liturgy. They know their way around the sacristy. They’re respectful when approaching the altar, and they take pride in all this. The younger altar servers look up to them.”

“And it doesn’t end when they graduate,” added Father Anderson. We see this formation as living manifestations in our graduates, clearly witnessing virtues with their lives.

*Father Peter Williams ‘90 and Father Joseph Williams ‘88 both serve the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Sons of Dr. Gary and Mary Williams, the two have several nieces and nephews attending SCCS today.



Father Jake Anderson visits classrooms on a regular basis, challenging the students to a more prayerful life.

You're Invited



ALL-SCHOOL REUNION—SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016

2016 marks the 160th anniversary of the establishment of Catholic education in Stillwater. Through the faith and determination, the area's earliest immigrants were committed to providing their children with a faith-based education. In 1856—even before the official founding of the town— Catholics were committed to “train up a child in the way he should go.” Generations since have continued the commitment. Please join us as we celebrate this rich history — and an incredibly bright future.

Planning is underway; below are some of the ideas that have been generated so far. Please contact Camille Kiolbasa, ckiolbasa@stccs.com or 651.439-5581 if you would like to help plan the celebratory events for Spring 2016. We are also seeking photos and other memorabilia. Please help make this a memorable event.



1856

Area's first immigrants conduct Mass and Catholic school in homes on north hill (small circles indicate probable locations of homes); large circle first cemetery.



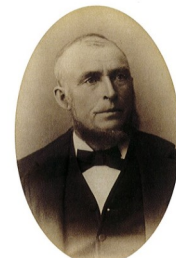
1873

Sisters of St. Joseph begin teaching at St. Mary's two-story school building.



1876

Father Murphy starts a free Catholic school for St. Michael's with six sisters; school building is constructed on south hill.



IT'S A CELEBRATION!

- † Guided tours of St. Croix Catholic School
- † Historical exhibits throughout the school buildings that housed St. Michael's and St. Mary's Schools
- † Picnic-style food booths
- † Fun Photo Booth with props from various eras
- † Photo sharing—we hope to have a portable scanner on site
- † Yearbooks and directories available for alumni's enjoyment
- † T-shirts and other 160th anniversary keepsakes
- † Rediscover Stillwater group excursions
- † SCCS Rocks Street Dance

Reunion tickets will go on sale in March 2016. Choose how you'd like to be notified:

1. Join our email list. Email address to: ckiolbasa@stccs.com
2. Watch the school's website: stcroixcatholic.org
3. "Like" St. Croix Catholic School's Facebook page: [StCroixCatholicSchool](https://www.facebook.com/StCroixCatholicSchool)
4. "Like" Stillwater Catholic Alumni Facebook page: [StillwaterCatholicAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StillwaterCatholicAlumni)
5. Follow us on Twitter: [StCroixCatholicSchool](https://twitter.com/StCroixCatholicSchool)



Stillwater Catholic Alumni



New! Alumni Survey

We want your experienced opinions on what makes for a good education. Please take a couple of minutes to take a short survey. Find it at:

www.stcroixcatholic.org>alumni>survey

New! A Facebook page just for Alumni.

Check it out:

[Facebook.com/StillwaterCatholicAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StillwaterCatholicAlumni)

- † Post photos, memories, class reunion notices.
- † Connect with classmates.
- † Make plans to come to the 160th All School Reunion on May 21, 2016.



Members of the Class of 2007 enjoy each other's company on a local Pedal Pub in Summer 2015.



2011

Sister Mary Juliana Cox, O.P. assumes position as Principal of St. Croix Catholic School.

2006

Preschool program, Ark of Angels, is added to the school's mission, and is housed in the John & Mary building. This building was originally donated by the O'Shaughnessy family; the family also funded necessary renovations for the addition of the preschool.

2002

Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, one of the most highly sought after teaching orders in the country, commits to St. Croix Catholic School.

1999

Shared time ends; full time middle school added. St. Michael's launches capital campaign to fund renovations and expansions throughout campus.

1912-1913

Upon his death, the estate of Maurice Clancy donates money for the construction of a new school building, the Maurice Clancy Memorial School. This building still serves as the center of the school campus.

1968

St. Mary's and St. Michael's Schools are consolidated; St. Charles' joins the partnership. Renamed St. Croix Catholic School (SCCS). South wing added. SCCS engages in a shared time arrangement with Stillwater Junior High School from 1968-1999.



An Extraordinary Experience

MIND, HEART, AND SOUL



We cordially invite all alumni, parishioners, and community members to join us:

Light Their Way

Tuition Assistance Gala

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Starting at 6:00 pm

St. Michael's Social Hall

**Guest Speaker: Gail Dom, President, Catholic Schools Center of Excellence
formerly, a senior executive with Target Corporation**

You will love this dynamic guest speaker – don't miss her inspiring message!
Catholic Schools – an extraordinary experience for children: mind, heart, and soul!

Plus: Open bar * Gourmet dinner * Feature video

\$250/seat or \$2,000 full table of eight

Please make checks payable to: SCCS with Light Their Way noted on the memo line.

Send to:

SCCS, Attn: Light Their Way

621 Third Street South

Stillwater, MN 55082

Or, purchase tickets online at: www.stcroixcatholic.org > [SupportSCCS](#) > [Light Their Way](#).

Questions? Contact Amy Vagle, amymv@comcast.net.

St. Croix Catholic School is a 501(c)(3) with Tax ID# 41-1731931

"The need for tuition grows each year. Presently, we need \$300,000. In the past few years, the *Light Their Way* tuition has met about one-third of all of you who believe in the next generation of children to prayerfully consider the need. Many cannot afford without your help. Please all who wish to belong to the School family." - **Sister Father Michael Izen**



VIRTUOUS LEADERSHIP

“We are pleased with the progress our student leaders are exhibiting in their understanding and practice of virtuous leadership,” noted Sr. Grace Dominic, Middle School Religion teacher. After a pilot last spring of the school’s new *Created for Greatness* leadership program, Sr. Grace Dominic and Sr. Mary Juliana spent the better part of Summer 2015 working with the Harvard Leadership Institute in writing curriculum specific to the formation expected in grades 6, 7, and 8.

The works and research of world renown leadership expert, Alexandre Havard have inspired this program. Based upon the virtues of leadership: humility at its foundation, the four cardinal virtues for growth (prudence, courage, self-control, and justice), and culminating in the life ideals of magnanimity and service, this program is the first of its kind to be directed at the middle school student, and is funded, in large part, by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

To respond to the invitation to greatness to which each person is called, it is the task of the individual to integrate these principles of virtuous leadership into their everyday life choices. “Now as we are well into our first full year, we are starting to witness the fruits of the program, particularly in the area of students’ interaction with technology,” shared Sr. Grace Dominic. She recently surveyed 7th and 8th grade students to gather their firsthand experiences.

Prayer for the Courage to Be Great

Heavenly Father, Give me the courage to strive for the highest goals, to flee every temptation to be mediocre. Enable me to aspire to greatness, as Pier Giorgio did, and to open my heart with joy to Your call to holiness. Free me from the fear of failure. I want to be, Lord, firmly and forever united to You. Grant me the graces I ask You through Pier Giorgio's intercession, by the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

“Being a leader means you are respectful and trustworthy.

You are someone that people look up to and you set a good example.

You are not afraid to be yourself and to step up in certain situations.

Now that we have Chromebooks, when we are working in groups, you can see who is working and who isn't. You can recognize this and help them to work better as a team.”

- Tyler Schmelz, 8th Grade

“The Chromebook has helped me collaborate with my classmates, because before if we were doing something together, then there would be two people thinking and one writing, where with the Chromebooks, everyone gets to write [at once] and it is easy to see what the other partners are doing.”

-Thomas O'Malley, 7th grade

“With the addition of Chromebooks, I am now able to go home and access all my work from home. Also, all my work can all fit into on device rather than bring home all my notebooks for every class.”

-Elizabeth Kaari, 7th grade

WCCO TV EXCELLENT EDUCATOR AWARDED TO:

Mrs. Berry!

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, Mrs. Pam Berry, our beloved long-time Kindergarten teacher was presented with WCCO TV's Excellent Educator Award. Morning show anchor, Kim Johnson surprised Mrs. Berry with the award immediately following an all-school Mass.

Needless to say, there were lots of hugs and tears of joy. Mrs. Berry has spent her entire teaching career (34 years!) at SCCS. We are blessed.



"My estate will never be large enough to be able to build libraries, but it may be large enough to buy some books for a library."
Minnesota School Teacher

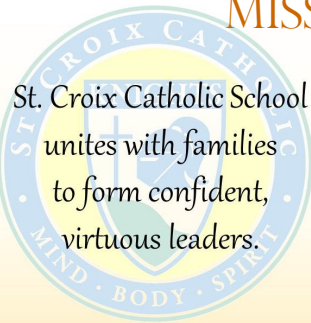
YOUR LIFE, YOUR LEGACY

Making a planned gift to St. Croix Catholic School allows you, as a believer of Catholic education, to leave a legacy that aligns with your values. A planned gift is a simple and flexible way to meet your own estate and financial goals while providing an ongoing commitment to the school's excellent faith-based education for generations to come. One hundred percent of the proceeds St. Croix Catholic receives from planned gifts go directly to support our teachers and our students—the kind of work you read about and enjoy in this bi-annual publication and more regularly on our website and Facebook pages.

Planned gifts can include charitable gift annuities or trusts, designating St. Croix Catholic School as a beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy, gifting property, or including St. Croix Catholic School in your will. Contact Camille Kiolbasa, Development Director, for more information: ckiolbasa@stccs.com or 651.439.5581.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



St. Croix Catholic School unites with families to form confident, virtuous leaders.

Well, at least the *wording!*

Because we continually seek to improve, our mission as a school will never be *completely* accomplished—yet, we are pleased to share with our constituents that through the self-study phase of the accreditation process, we managed to chisel the mission statement to exactly the words that resonate with all of us—**St. Croix Catholic School unites with families to form confident, virtuous leaders.**

Teachers, students, parents, and community members now have a clear, succinct statement that will guide us in all that we do. Our revised mission statement will be posted in every classroom and on our internal and external communications. It will be like a virtual roadmap.



Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) will be visiting St. Croix Catholic School in April 2016 to review all areas of operation—mission and philosophy, teaching and learning, climate for learning, communications and community relations, personnel, leadership, administration, governance, and strategic direction.



On Sunday, November 15, St. Croix Catholic held its inaugural *Evening for the Arts*. This beautiful event highlighted the talents of alumni, parents, teachers, and community members. We are so grateful to all those who made this evening possible.

- † Amazing musical talent
- † Beautiful fine arts displays
- † Superb dance demonstrations
- † Lovely decorations and delicious refreshments
- † An inspiring message of the “language of music” from Laura Sobiech

Proceeds from this event will be used to build the *Zach Sobiech Music and Art Scholarship Fund*, allowing more children access to quality music lessons, as well as support all the performing and fine arts programs offered through St. Croix Catholic School. In Zach’s honor, we open our hearts to all God has in store for our community.



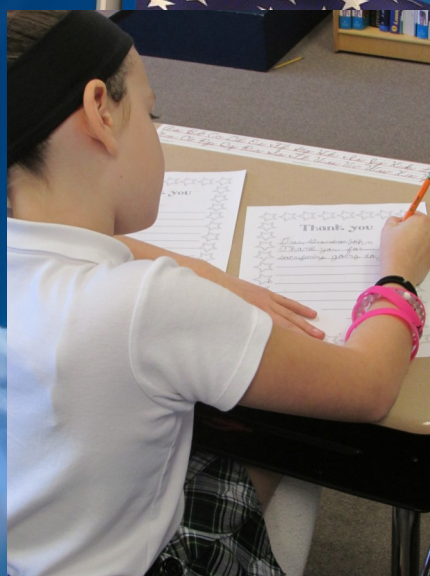
Full photo album available to view at: stcroixcatholic.org



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

On Veteran’s Day, Third Grade gathered around Stillwater’s Veteran’s Memorial to pray for the deceased who have served our country.

Fourth Grade wrote letters to veterans.



We are pleased to announce that St. Croix Catholic School recently became a member of the Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. Through the Chamber, we look forward to connecting with even more community members.



Virtuous Leadership Manifested in our Alumni

Alex Eder, 2011 SCCS Graduate

This past Fall, Alex Eder '11 was recognized locally and nationally as the American Cancer Society's Youngest Relay for Life Chair in the world. He also was one of the first Stillwater Area High School students to earn a Community Service varsity letter, logging an amazing 169 hours of community service in just six months.

Read more about this inspiring young leader at: <http://www.presspubs.com>.

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CLASS OF 2011—NEXT CHAPTER!

SCCS's Graduating Class of 2011 is well into the next chapter of their lives. We were able to connect with quite a few of them this winter to find out where they are and what they're up to.

Metich Ajak, Century College,
Considering Nursing

Thomas Alessi, Century College
Information Technology

Molly Barrett, St. Catherine University

Grant Bowersox, University of St. Thomas

Rose Bruchu, University of WI-River Falls,
Business

Lucas Campbell, St. Mary's University
Biology major, Psychology minor

Nick Christian, Century College

Shane Colburn, University of MN-Rochester
Health Sciences

Patty Dierberger, Century College

Alex Eder, Century College and Univ. of WI-
River Falls. English and Communications

Joey Fedor, North Dakota State University
Mechanical Engineering

Katy Gockowski, St. Catherine University
Nursing

John Gribble, University of MN-Duluth

Jenny Hammer, University of WI-River Falls

Will Henschell, Winona State University,
Composite Materials Engineering

Lauren Lampright, University of MN-Mpls
International Business and Spanish

Matt Mancuso, LeCordon Bleu

Josh Nelson, South Dakota State University
Civil Engineering

Clare Olsen, University of WI-River Falls
Psychology

Marta O'Malley, Century College
English

Jaime Purdie, College of St. Benedict
Biology and Hispanic Studies

Danielle Renteria, Century College

Joseph Riehm, University of Notre Dame
Chemical Engineering/PreMed

Mikayla Schraut, Marquette University
Nursing

Max Stevens, St. John's University
Physics and Math

John Talbot, University of St. Thomas
Actuarial Science/Business

Sam Thueson, St. Mary's University
International Business and Music

Tucker Tomek, Century College and Univ of
WI-River Falls, Business; followed by ATP
Flight School in FL, Commercial Pilot

Brian Treacy, University of WI-Madison
Actuarial Science and Risk Management

Matt Treacy, Georgetown University
Russian and Linguistics

Misty Vogel, College of St. Scholastica
Nursing

Anthony Wald, Mankato State University

Sophie Wallerich, Mankato State Univ.
Nursing

Agwa Watba, St. Cloud State University

Robbie Weides, Dunwoody Tech Institute

Catherine Wessel, University of St. Thomas
Chemistry and Catholic Studies



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Please send any change of address or discontinuation notices. Thank you!



NEW! ALUMNI GRANT!

New for 2015-2016 school year, the SCCS Alumni Grant provides direct support to parents who are alumni of St. Croix Catholic School, thus continuing the school's rich legacy of forming generations of confident, virtuous leaders. \$1,000 grant for the first year a child is enrolled, K-8; \$500 grant for the second year a child is enrolled, K-8. No application required. Call Diane Polley, 651.439.5581 for more information.

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New! Facebook page just for Alumni.
Check it out:
[Facebook.com/StillwaterCatholicAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StillwaterCatholicAlumni)
Post photos, memories, class reunion notices.
Connect with classmates and plan to come to the
160th All-School Reunion on May 21, 2016.