



# PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CELTIC REVIEW

*Jesus Christ is the reason for our school.*

WINTER 2011-2012

## ***Tis the Season to be Giving . . . AYM Toy Drive***

*Sophomore Augustinian Youth Ministry  
Members Alvin Perez, Emily Hornung  
and Taylor Dickason collect gifts for the  
annual PCHS Toy Drive.*



[www.providencethatholic.org](http://www.providencethatholic.org)

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*Editor*

Jamie O'Brien '94

*Photographs by:*

Bruce Burns

Jamie O'Brien '94

Al Wycislo

FACEBOOK

You may now "LIKE" Providence Catholic High School on our new official Facebook page! You may also become a friend of Charlie Celtic (see links below).



facebook.com/Providence.Catholic  
 facebook.com/Charlie.Celtic

President's Letter



Dear Providence Catholic Community:

Happy New Year! The end of the first semester is upon us and our students are busy studying for final exams after a restful two-week Christmas break. I believe that 2012 will be a prosperous and successful year for our young people academically, spiritually and in their extracurricular activities.

We were blessed with near capacity enrollment of 1180 students as we began the school year in August. We are fortunate to have this number of students given the ongoing economic difficulties faced by our country and our world. Providing financial aid to many of our families in the form of scholarships, grants, discounts and a student work program remains a top priority, and our Financial Aid Appeals Committee meets monthly to review new requests for tuition assistance. We do everything we can to help our families keep their children enrolled at Providence Catholic and we believe these efforts have been fruitful.

At Providence Catholic, we continually strive to meet the academic needs of all our students. We now offer seventeen Advanced Placement classes, which provide academically gifted students great preparation for college while still in high school. At the same time, the Celtic Learning Center affords significant study help to students with mild to moderate learning disabilities. This program, which is staffed by three certified special education teachers, has been the salvation of many students who have struggled in school.

Fr. Merkelis and his Pastoral Team continue to provide exceptional spiritual opportunities to the Providence Catholic Community through daily prayer, all-school liturgies and retreat programs. They are now assisted by the Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI) students, who have added a new dimension to the spirituality of our student body.

Much enthusiasm has been generated over "Turf in '12," a campaign for the installation of synthetic turf and a new polyurethane track in Bishop Kaffer Stadium. The use of Matt Senffner Field has been limited to home football games because of the natural grass surface. The new synthetic turf will allow the field to be used year round by the entire student body for a variety of activities, including physical education classes, school assemblies, practices and warm-ups for many of our athletic teams and extracurricular organizations.

Several months ago, a group of parents approached the Administration and offered to lead this campaign. These parents made their own generous commitments to the project and they are spearheading the effort to raise the remaining funds that are needed. The project is moving forward rapidly; please visit our website to view photos of the work in progress. The entire project will be completed in time for the opening of the 2012 football season.

We are very grateful to the generosity of every donor who supports Providence Catholic High School. Without the support of our benefactors, the school would not be what it is today – a beacon of Catholic college preparatory education in the State of Illinois.

May God grant you health, safety, and prosperity in the new year.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.*

President

# TOY DRIVE

Providence Catholic's Augustinian Youth Ministry (AYM) concluded their annual Toy Drive in mid December. Like last year, this year's collections were donated to the Mark Staehely Toy Drive, which benefited children at Provena St. Joseph Hospital and Children's Memorial Hospital at Christmas.

"Thanks to the generosity of students, faculty and staff, we managed to collect five truck loads of toys in just a few weeks," said Ms. Molly Duffy '04, AYM Moderator and PCHS Math Teacher.

For more information on the Mark Staehely's inspirational story, please visit the "Make Your Mark" Foundation website at [www.makeyourmark7.org](http://www.makeyourmark7.org).



*Standing: Gabrielle Serpico '14 of Homer Glen, Stephanie Venegas '13 of Orland Hills, Mitchell VanderWey '14 of Tinley Park and Alvin Perez '14 of Romeoville Kneeling: Luc Quaranta '14 of Homer Glen, Taylor Dickason '14 of Frankfort and Emily Hornung '14 of Shorewood Sitting: Brandon Denler '14 of Homer Glen and Lizette Duran '14 of Plainfield.*

## NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS



Congratulations to the following seniors who were recently named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Bottom row (left to right) are Courtney Cleveland of Palos Heights, Meaghan Mormann of New Lenox and Emily Persicketti of Manhattan. Top row (left to right) are Michael Jacus of New Lenox, Jeffrey Marini of Tinley Park, Daniel Santschi of New Lenox and Dominic Sanfilippo of Tinley Park. These bright individuals are among 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation and placed in the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered this competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). "We are very proud of these young men and women who have demonstrated exceptional ability in this highly competitive program. Their commitment to academic excellence is truly admirable," said Principal Don Sebestyen.

## Band & Color Guard Place take 1st Place

Congratulations to the Spirit of Providence Marching Band and Color Guard for taking 1st place at the 2011 Lincoln-Way Invitational Field Show in late October. The Marching Celtics competed in Class 1A against seven other schools and also won awards for "Best Drumline", "Best Color Guard" and "Best General Effect". "We are very proud of the band and color guard for their hard work that they put into their performance. Their enthusiasm was a pleasure to watch," said Mr. Robert Sanchez, PCHS Band Director.



# AYM'S FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Providence Catholic High School's largest student organization, the Augustinian Youth Ministry (AYM), held its annual Fall Blood Drive in early October. The students, faculty members and even parents at Providence Catholic donated 78 units of blood, which may help more than 230 people in need.

Several individuals made a special blood donation known as a Double Red Cell (DRC) collection. During a DRC donation, a single, sterile needle is inserted to the donor's arm and blood is withdrawn directly into a cell separator. The whole blood is separated into red blood cells and plasma. The red blood cells are then drawn into two separate bags, while the plasma and saline solution is returned to the donor. This "double" procedure may help two individuals in need.



*Senior Lauren McCutcheon of Mokena gets her blood pressure and temperature read prior to donating blood.*

## Making Learning Fun



In mid-September, Mrs. Jen Williams' AP Psychology class was given the task of creating a neuron out of food. Each student was given the same number of pretzels, marshmallows, gummy worms and licorice. Then they were instructed to create a neuron using the food that they were given. Above, Mrs. Williams approves senior Courtney Cleveland's edible "neuron" creation.

## AP SCHOLARS

Forty-six PCHS students have earned AP Scholar Awards by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) Exams.

Two students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students are Sarah Formentini '11 of New Lenox and Haley Koth '11 of Homer Glen.

Seven students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Courtney Brown '11 of Frankfort, Andrea Carlson '11 of Plainfield, Sarah Formentini '11 of New Lenox, Haley Koth '11 of Homer Glen, Dominic Quaranta '11 of Homer Glen, Logan Springgate '12 of New Lenox and James Stark '11 of Lemont.

Five students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Sean Connelly '12 of Tinley Park, Jeffrey Marini '12 of Tinley

Park, Joseph Quinlan '11 of New Lenox, Tim Sanders '11 of Mokena and Mariah Villaseñor '12 of Lemont.

Thirty-four students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams, with grades of 3 or higher. These students are Margarita Angel '12 of Frankfort, Nicholas Beller '12 of Homer Glen, George Borrelli '11 of Frankfort, Kelly Brightmore '12 of Lockport, Alexander Campbell '12 of Mokena, Edward Cashdollar '11 of Orland Park, Courtney Cleveland '12 of Western Springs, Mark Connolly '11 of Orland Park, Colin Doyle '11 of Orland Park, Brendan Duffner '11 of Frankfort, Joseph Filer '11 of Orland Park, Aidan Flaherty '11 of Mokena, Katherine Formentini '12 of New Lenox, Miranda Griffith '12 of Lemont, Terrence Harris '11 of Orland Park, Calvin Hoff '12 of Tinley Park, Jennifer Hoffman '11 of Homer Glen, Ashley Hornung '11 of Shorewood, Michael Jacus '12 of New Lenox, Luke Jager '12 of Mokena, Brandon Labelle '12 of Orland Park, Michael Lahey '12 of Homer Glen, Meaghan Mormann '12 of New Lenox, Alanna Murray '11 Peotone, Tarah Plut '12 of Plainfield, Ilana Primack '11 of Frankfort, Blake Prunsky '11 of Mokena, Sara Quaranta '12 of Homer Glen, James Richert '12 of Tinley Park, David Rimkus '11 of Homer Glen, Dominic Sanfilippo '12 of Tinley Park, Nicholas Serpico '11 of Homer Glen, Kathleen Walsh '12 of Homer Glen and Ryan Ward '11 of Homer Glen.

# Sleeping Beauty takes to the Stage

PCHS Theatre Club presented Disney's *Sleeping Beauty* in early November at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Theater in Joliet. This production was presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). The play was directed by Ms. Michele Hibbott. Other assistants include: Eric Moniger (Technical Director), Rosie Knezz (Choreographer), Ann Waldron (Music Director) and Sandra Krejci (Production Manager). The cast included: Amy Gauger of Lockport

(Briar Rose), Eric Connelly of Tinley Park (Prince Phillip), Elena Alvarez of Plainfield (Maleficent), Lexie Krejci of Plainfield (Narrator), Ben Bernecker of Orland Park (King Stefan), Keri Hettinger of Joliet (Queen Stefanie), Justin Anderson of Orland Park (King Hubert), Caleigh Branigan of Frankfort (Flora), Lizzy Stone of Joliet (Fauna), Katie Scott of Homer Glen (Merryweather), Clare Huguélet of Mokena (Blather), Erin Campbell of Mokena (Loyal Guard) and Liz Phillips of Shorewood (Pest).

Loyal Subjects Ensemble and Goon Ensemble included: Katie Deters of Joliet, Alyssa Flanagan of Homer Glen, Genevieve Gerrity of Homer Glen, Hannah Gleason of Plainfield, Allison Hanson of Shorewood, Gillian Madia of Joliet, Emelia Mischia of Monee, Christina McGuire of Frankfort, Abby Persicketti of Manhattan, Carly Prekwas of Mokena, Caitlyn Quinlan of New Lenox, Trisha Schultz of Joliet and Cailee Tylin of New Lenox. Crew included: Heather Baker of Orland Park, Joshua Christianson of Plainfield, John Dutka of Joliet, Alexis Franchini of Joliet (Assistant Stage Manager), Broegan Garr of Orland Park (Assistant Stage Manager), Ian Harder of Channahon, Madi Jager of Mokena, Mary Kate Kozak of New Lenox, Nick Krejci of Plainfield, Kanece Mabry of Joliet, Erin Martin of Minooka (Stage Manager), Colleen Martin of Minooka, Kathleen Melei of Lockport, Dan Salazar of Joliet, Andrew Stone of Joliet, Elisia Venegas of Crest Hill, Brittany Waldron of Plainfield and Zach White of Channahon.



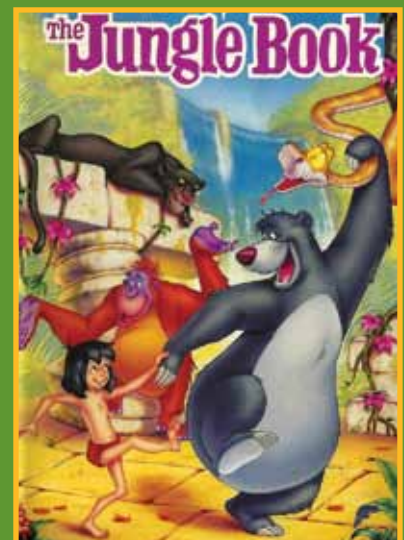
## IMEA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Four PCHS students were selected to perform at the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District 1 Music Festival, which took place in late November at Downers Grove South High School. These talented musicians were chosen from a group of more than 2,300 students that auditioned throughout the District. Senior Maggie Blackburn of Joliet sang soprano in the Honors Chorus, while junior Jason Koth of Homer Glen played saxophone in the Honors Band. In addition, sophomores Hannah Gleason of Plainfield and Abby Fritts of Tinley Park sang in the 9-10 Honors Choir. Furthermore, Maggie Blackburn was selected to sing at the All-State IMEA Conference in Peoria in late January. Blackburn was one of only six sopranos chosen from District 1. Below (left to right) are Maggie Blackburn, Hannah Gleason, Jason Koth and Abby Fritts.



## SAVE THE DATE!

- Who:** PCHS Theatre Club
- What:** *The Jungle Book*
- When:** March 1-4, 2012
- Where:** Joliet Bicentennial Theatre



# Harvest Drive Brings out the “Fun” in Fundraising

Providence Catholic concluded its Annual Fall Harvest Drive in late September. Through the hard work of students, parents, teachers and patrons who supported the school, this year’s Fall Harvest Drive has generated more than \$410,000 for student programs.

To celebrate this success, the PCHS family enjoyed the traditional spirit-filled Harvest Drive Olympics at the conclusion of this drive. Several events took place, including dodge ball, tug-of-war and an obstacle course. The Olympics concluded with the annual pie-in-the-face-of-a-faculty-member; this year’s volunteer target was Mr. Chris Tagler, PCHS Economics Teacher.

The 2011 Harvest Drive top-selling student was junior Michael Broderick of



*Juniors cheer on their classmates during the obstacle course competition.*

New Lenox who raised \$5,465; this earned him free tuition for the second semester. The second place top-seller who won \$1,000 was senior Katie Morrisette of Joliet; she raised \$2,865. The third place, \$750 prize went to senior Amanda Cornelius and sophomore Tyler Cornelius for bringing in \$1,725 each.

Other top-sellers who won \$300 each were freshman Adam Morrison and junior Grace Morrison of Mokena (\$1,970), sophomore Samantha Irvin of Joliet (\$2,200) and senior Troy Sheppard of Joliet (\$1,300).

Following the Olympics, Mr. Sebestyen, PCHS Principal, drew eleven raffle tickets

and named the \$10,000 Grand Prize winner along with 10 other winning tickets totaling \$2,300. Raffle winners and their winning ticket numbers are posted on the Harvest Drive page of the PCHS website at [www.providencecatholic.org](http://www.providencecatholic.org).

Harvest Drive was initiated in 1968 to raise funds for the school, which was facing a financial crisis. Faced with the prospect of closure, the school sponsored a car raffle and carnival that generated \$15,000 the first year and \$32,000 the following year. Pleased by the results of this fund-raising effort, the officials decided not to close the school. Since then, this three-week fundraiser has grown to generate more than \$400,000 annually to help offset the difference between tuition and the cost of operating the school.



*Freshmen rise to their feet to support their fellow classmates as they compete at the dodge ball event.*



*Senior Student Council President, Dominic Sanfilippo smashes a pie in the face of PCHS teacher, Mr. Chris Tagler.*

## HOMECOMING 2011 “Born to be Wild”

Homecoming 2011 festivities were held the week of October 10 at Providence Catholic. The students enjoyed fun-filled activities that showcased their school pride. The dress code was relaxed for the week and the students were encouraged to wear themed attire each day. During Friday’s Homecoming Assembly, Mike Lahey of Homer Glen and Katelyn O’Grady of Plainfield were named the 2011 Homecoming King and Queen. The court included King nominees Tim Becker of Homer Glen, Adam Mackay

of New Lenox, Dominic Sanfilippo of Tinley Park and Nick Holy of Lemont. Queen nominees included Kristina Graeffen of Mokena, Megan Melaniphy of Homer Glen,

Paige Surico of Orland Park and Taylor Topolski of Orland Park.

Furthermore, the PCHS community gathered for the homecoming football match-up where the Celtics defeated the St. Ignatius Wolfpack 54-6. On Saturday, students attended the Homecoming Dance, which featured a “Born to be Wild” theme.



*2011 Providence Catholic Homecoming Court*

# RED RIBBON WEEK OBSERVED



Red Ribbon Week was marked at Providence Catholic in late October. The Red Ribbon Campaign began in 1985 as a response to the torture and death of a federal drug enforcement agent, Enrique Camarena. Wearing and displaying red ribbons are signs that an individual is against the promotion,

sale, purchase and use of illegal drugs or any drug used in an illegal or unhealthy way. This includes the use of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21.

PCHS took many steps to promote awareness for its students. At the beginning of the week, Guidance Department aides distributed red wristbands to the entire student body, while Student Council and AYM members tied red ribbons to all the car antennas in the school's parking lot. Midweek, all students, faculty and staff were encouraged to wear red to display their stand against the illegal use of drugs and alcohol. Furthermore, dozens of anti-drug and alcohol posters were created by students in their Health classes and placed throughout the school's cafeteria.

*AYM members, junior Morgan Kulpinski of Tinley Park and sophomore Paige Gorecki of Homer Glen provided drug and alcohol awareness literature to their peers during their lunch period.*



## Illinois State Scholars

Fifty-eight PCHS students have been recognized as 2012-2013 Illinois State Scholars, which is nearly one-quarter of the senior class. This prestigious award is given annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) that recognizes more than 17,000 high school students from across the state as this year's State Scholars.

The 2012-2013 PCHS Illinois State Scholars are Rachel Andrews of New Lenox, Wayne Andrews of Chicago, Margarita Angel of Frankfort, William Baker of Orland Park, Nicholas Beller of Homer Glen, Eric Berner of Homer Glen, Kelly Brightmore of Lockport, Alexander Campbell of Mokena, Courtney Cleveland of Palos Heights, Sean Connelly of Tinley Park, Irene DelRio of Joliet, Corey Diab of Homer Glen, Stephanie DiNardi of Homer Glen, Ann Draksler of Channahon, Maura Durkin of Orland Park, Kaitlyn Eisenberg of Tinley Park, Sean Fitzgerald of Manhattan, Katherine Formentini of New Lenox, Theodore Francis of Orland Park, Samuel Giglio of Mokena, Matthew Gill of Mokena, Miranda Griffith of

Lemont, Daniel Healy of Joliet, David Hearne of Homer Glen, Kevin Izquierdo of Lemont, Michael Jacus of New Lenox, Casey Labuda of Lemont, Meghan Lake of Manhattan, Benjamin Lembke of Orland Park, Jordan Magold of Orland Hills, Jeffrey Marini of Tinley Park, Erin Martin of Orland Park, George Mastorakas of Homer Glen, Ashley Morgan of Orland Park, Meaghan Mormann of New Lenox, Emily Persicketti of Manhattan, Sara Quaranta of Homer Glen, Min Su Ro of Orland Park, Dominic Sanfilippo of Tinley Park, Daniel Santschi of New Lenox, Madeline Sebastian of New Lenox, Kristin Sharkey of Mokena, Erin Shea of Orland Park, Troy Sheppard of Joliet, Lindsay Smoljan of Mokena, Logan Springgate of New Lenox, Mia Teehan of Tinley Park, Kevin Tully of Orland Park, Kathryn Urchell of Tinley Park, Ryan Utter of New Lenox, Mitchell Vejvoda of Homer Glen, Mariah Villasenor of Lemont, Kathleen Walsh of Homer Glen, Ryan Ward of Homer Glen, Zachary White of Channahon, Daniel Whitehead of Tinley Park, Nicholas Whitmore of Shorewood and Brady Wilkin of Orland Park.

## RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

In mid-November, Sr. John Mary Fleming '80 and Sr. John Thomas visited the theology classes of Ms. Moira Olivetti '81 and Mr. John Hamilton '74. Both Fleming and Thomas are Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia who shared their religious vocation journeys with students during their visit. Sr. Fleming is currently the Principal of St. Dominic in Bolingbrook and Sr. Thomas is an Assistant Vocation Director in Nashville, TN.



*PCHS classmates Mike Rassman '81, Sr. John Mary Fleming '80 and Moira Olivetti '81.*

# GOING FOR THE GREEN – TURF IN '12

On Friday, September 30, 2011, a long-awaited announcement was made in Bishop Kaffer Stadium by Fr. Richard J. McGrath, O.S.A., informing the Providence Catholic family that by the beginning of the 2012 school year, synthetic turf will be installed on Matt Senffner Field. In addition, the track surrounding the field will be replaced with a new state-of-the-art polyurethane surface.

The installation of synthetic turf on Matt Senffner Field by June of 2012 was identified as a significant action step in Providence Catholic's last strategic plan known as "Vision 2012." Synthetic turf



*Fr. McGrath, OSA announces the Turf in '12 campaign at a home football game in late September.*

will transform the stadium into a venue for all Providence Catholic students to use throughout the year. Physical education classes will use the field almost every day the weather permits. Additionally, the football, track, cross country, and soccer programs will utilize the new field and track for games, meets and matches.



*Excavating of Matt Senffner Field began in mid-November.*



*Several members of the PCHS administration and Turf in '12 committee were present at the ground-breaking, which took place in late November. Pictured (left to right) are Donald Sebestyen, Patrick Carr, Doug Ternik '89, Charlie Kaminski, Maureen Harton, Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ed Barrett and Larry Viano.*

The marching band, color guard, pompon squad, and cheerleaders will practice and perform on the synthetic turf field. The softball and baseball teams will be able to use the new field for practice in their off seasons and all athletic programs will use the turf for conditioning, running, exercise and stretching. All-school Masses and assemblies will also be able to take place in the stadium. The synthetic turf field will enhance the athletic, spiritual and educational experiences of all Providence Catholic students.

Providence Catholic is in sound financial condition due to the prudent budgeting and wise stewardship of the PCHS Finance Committee. As a result, the school administration felt confident that the time was right to move forward with this project.

The fundraising campaign known as "Going for the Green – Turf in '12" is led by current Providence Catholic parents Dave and Charlie Kaminski, Bob and Rosemary Leonard, Bob and Lisa Marth and Larry and Andrea Sheppard. These families made leadership gifts to the campaign and are spearheading the efforts to raise the remaining funds needed. The goal is

to raise \$1,000,000, all of which will come from private sources.

To date, over 70% of the fundraising goal of \$1,000,000 has been met. To follow the progress of the project and/or to make a donation online to "Going for the Green – Turf in '12," please visit the Turf in '12 page on the school's website at [www.providencecatholic.org](http://www.providencecatholic.org).

You may also use the enclosed envelope to make a donation. Questions should be directed to Ed Barrett, Director of Institutional Advancement at [ebarrett@providencecatholic.org](mailto:ebarrett@providencecatholic.org) or 815.717.3164.



*The field is nearing final excavation to prepare for turf installation this Spring.*

## ANNUAL FUND IS OFF TO A GREAT START

The 2011-2012 Annual Fund was officially kicked off in November and early results indicate that this fiscal year will be another banner year of giving to Providence Catholic High School. To date, over \$255,000 has been donated to the school. The funds with the highest contributions are the Turf in '12 project (\$53,000), Celtic Godparents (\$52,000) and Unrestricted Funds (\$44,000).

Membership in all of our donor giving societies continues to grow. The Society of St. Nicholas of Tolentine honors donors who make an annual unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more. The St. Nicholas of Tolentine Founders Circle is comprised of members who make an unrestricted gift of \$3,000 or more. Unrestricted gifts are directed towards the areas of greatest need, as determined by our Finance Board.

Providence Catholic also has two donor giving societies for benefactors

who wish to support our largest endowments. The Society of St. Thomas of Villanova honors those who make an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more to the Student Tuition Endowment Fund, and the Society of St. Monica honors those who make a similar contribution to the Faculty Endowment Fund. Interest earned from these endowments is paid to the school quarterly and is applied to the appropriate areas of the budget.

The Society of St. Clare of Montefalco has the largest membership of our donor giving societies. This society honors donors who make an annual restricted gift of \$1,000 or more. A restricted gift is one where the donor directs how the gift is to be utilized. Providence Catholic accepts all restricted gifts that are consistent with our mission. All donors who make a gift of \$1,000 or more to the Turf in '12 project will be inducted into the Society of St. Clare of Montefalco.

Donor giving society members enjoy

certain benefits including invitations to special events throughout the school year, a memento emblematic of their membership, and the display of their names on a donor recognition plaque located in the new student entryway on the east side of the school. In addition, these benefactors receive a special newsletter from Fr. McGrath semiannually with an "insider" view of current and upcoming events at the school.

For more information about membership in our donor giving societies, please contact Mrs. Maureen Harton, Director of Annual Giving and Major Gifts at 815-717-3162 or at [mharton@providencethecatholic.org](mailto:mharton@providencethecatholic.org). A gift to one of the societies can be made by using the enclosed envelope or you may make your donation online at [www.providencethecatholic.org](http://www.providencethecatholic.org).

## Mass of Thanksgiving & Cor Unum Awards

Providence Catholic held their annual President's Mass of Thanksgiving and Cor Unum award ceremony on September 18. Nearly 100 guests gathered to honor Frank and Janet Jurmann '66 of Joliet and Robert and Mary Ann Kaminski of Mokena who were named this year's Cor Unum recipients.

The Cor Unum medallion, the school's most prestigious honor, is awarded annually to persons who exemplify its inscription of "One Heart...in Ministry...in Mission...in Family." Rev. Richard J. McGrath, O.S.A. presented the Cor Unum medallions to the two couples. "These wonderful individuals personify the meaning of 'Cor Unum' through their generosity and tireless efforts to help Providence Catholic become the school it is today; a community of believers working toward the common goals of providing a safe and healthy environment for students to grow spiritually, academically and socially," said McGrath.



The 2011 Cor Unum recipients (left to right) Frank and Janet '66 Jurmann and Mary Ann and Robert Kaminski.

# Ryan Ward to play at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl

A contingent from the U.S. Army All-American Bowl traveled to Providence Catholic in late October to announce that



senior Ryan Ward was selected to play in the prestigious U.S. Army All-American Bowl. The match-up took place on January 7, 2012 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Ward, an offensive lineman, is the first player in Providence Catholic's history to be chosen for this honor and is one of 90 high school football players from across the United States who will participate in this game. Furthermore, Mark Coglianese, Head PCHS Varsity Football Coach, was invited to attend the three-day U.S. Army Coaches Academy and participate in the game week activities.

The announcement was made in front of the entire school following an all-school Mass. Ward was presented with a

personalized football jersey and cap from Master Sgt. Mark Hayes and Sgt. John Harper.

Ryan Ward is the son of Brian and Laurel Ward of Homer Glen. He has committed to the University of Iowa where he plans to major in kinesiology and continue his football career. He is a graduate of Oak Prairie Junior High and a parishioner at Our Mother of Good Counsel. The honor roll student is a Sacristan and Eucharistic Minister. In addition, he is a member of the Augustinian Youth Ministry and the National Honor Society. The 6-foot-5, 280-pound offensive tackle has been a member of the Celtic football team his entire high school career (two-year varsity starter).



## SPECIAL GUESTS



In mid-December, Providence Catholic welcomed nearly 30 Australian young men from St. Augustine College, Sydney, Australia. Currently on their summer vacation, these students are visiting sister Augustinian schools throughout the United States. Above, PCHS junior Kevin Kelly (pictured at right) shows guests Nick Duncan and Dan Pitcher a map of all Augustinian schools in the United States.



**Celebrating 20 Years of Catholic Education**

Providence Catholic Children's Academy (PCCA), formerly Providence Early Education Center (PEEC) is celebrating its 20th anniversary of Catholic early education this school year. One way PCCA celebrated this milestone was to acknowledge 43 students who attended PEEC and currently attend PCHS. These students are: Alissa Alberico '13, Justin Alberico '15, Maggie Angel '12, Jeffrey Arseneau '14, Lauren Arseneau '12, Grace Barrett '15, Tess Barrett '15, Luke Beamish '15, Michael Broderick '13, Emily Cabay '15, Ryan Carp '15, Caroline Contorno '13, Michael Davis '15, Miranda Garcia '15, Brent Gerlock '13, Sam Giglio '12, Charlie Gross '13, Michael Grossmayer '15, Peter Grossmayer '13, Katie Huguelet '12, Sam Irvin '14, Angela Jensen '14, Alyssa Jurges '15, Lauren Kilmartin '15, Nicole Langlois '13, Katie McPartlan '15, Mike Monroe '14, Brian Oddo '12, Noah Peterman '14, Katie Rash '13, Lauren Rasmussen '14, Jennifer Raymond '13, Aileen Richardson '13, Angie Rizzo '15, Lauren Rozanski '12, Noah Senffner '14, William Shinn '13, Joseph Sigrist '14, Emmet Trost '15, Maddie Utter '13, Ryan Utter '12, Mitch VanderWey '14, Colt Wennlund '14. Many of the current PCCA faculty/staff have taught these students. The current faculty and staff and their number of years at PCCA are Mrs. Cyndy Barkowski (12), Mrs. Gail Bauer (17), Mrs. Colleen Ferlin (7), Mrs. Anne Garvey (12), Mrs. Mary Kay Gerardi (9), Mrs. Carol Honiotes (15), Mrs. Kathleen Lumbrazo (12), Mrs. Laura McErlean (10) and Mrs. Mary Palecek (14).

- TODDLER TIME  
- age 24 to 36 mos. -
- LITTLE LEARNERS CLASS  
- age 30 to 36 mos. -
- PRESCHOOL  
- age 3 -
- PREKINDERGARTEN  
- age 4 -
- KINDERGARTEN  
- age 5

**Save the Date!**  
**Open House & Registration**  
**Sunday, January 29, 2012**  
**11:00 am to 12:30 pm**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 CALL  
**(815) 485-7129**  
 VISIT  
[providencecatholic.org](http://providencecatholic.org)



**Men's Club  
\$UPER CELTIC  
\$WEEP\$TAKES\$**

**\$100  
per Ticket**

- GRAND PRIZE ..... \$40,000
- 2nd Prize ..... \$5,000
- 3rd Prize ..... \$1,000
- 4th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 5th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 6th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 7th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 8th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 9th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 10th Prize ..... \$1,000
- 11th Prize ..... \$ 500
- 12th Prize ..... \$ 500
- 13th Prize ..... \$ 500
- 14th Prize ..... \$ 500
- 15th Prize ..... \$ 500

**PLUS...**

**Early Bird Drawing #1 for \$1,000  
(February 6, 2012)**

**Early Bird Drawing #2 for \$500  
(March 5, 2012)**

- Drawing on Friday, March 23, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the school cafeteria, all ticket holders welcome.
- **ONLY 1,200 TICKETS SOLD**
- Winner need not be present, **GRAND PRIZE** drawn 1st.
- Proceeds will support the school's capital improvements program.
- In the event all tickets are not sold, all prize monies will be awarded on a pro-rated basis.

*Purchase your ticket(s) online at [www.providencecatholic.org](http://www.providencecatholic.org) or call (815) 717-3165 for ticket information*

**WOMEN'S CLUB DENIM & DIAMONDS**



The PCHS Women's Club presented "Denim & Diamonds," their annual Social & Auction in late October. From the bull ridin' to the dancn' to the Live Auction, this event was a great success raising \$58,000 for PCHS. All had a Boot Scootin' Good Time! Above left, Corey Weaver, Women's Club Vice President, rides the mechanical bull. Above right, the 2011-2012 Women's Club Officers: Charlie Kaminski, Mary Jo Kunska, Corey Weaver and Susan O'Connell.

**UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR**

**WOMEN'S CLUB**

- Mar 9-11 Spa Retreat Weekend (Grand Marina, New Buffalo, MI)
- Mar 25 Fashion Show (Patrick Haley Mansion, Joliet, IL)
- Apr 19 Ladies Night Out (TBA)
- May 17 Mothers' Day Mass (PCHS Gym)

**MEN'S CLUB**

- Feb 6 Bean Bag Tournament/Early Bird \$1,000 Drawing
- Mar 5 Early Bird \$500 Drawing
- Mar 23 Super Celtic Sweepstakes Grand Drawing
- Apr 2 Men's Night of Reflection
- May 7 Steak Fry (honoring senior dads)
- May 19 Golf Outing (Green Garden Golf Course)

*Visit the Men's and Women's Club pages at [www.providencecatholic.org](http://www.providencecatholic.org) for more details.*

*Season of Giving*



*Jeff Arseneau, Men's Club President (left) and Fr. Richard McGrath (right) presented more than 60 gifts to representatives from the US Marine Corps (center) for their Annual Toys for Tots drive held in early December. These toys were distributed to children of need in Joliet-area.*

**SAVE THE DATE!  
WOMEN'S CLUB  
FASHION SHOW  
"PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN"**

**Thursday  
March 25, 2012  
Patrick Haley Mansion**

## Reunion Recaps

The Classes of 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 2001 celebrated reunions this past fall. Several hundred alumni and their families registered at the alumni tent at the Homecoming football game. The family-friendly tent was a big hit for the kids who enjoyed pumpkin decorating and other fun games.



At left, Jamie Bebar, PCHS Class of 1988, smiles for a photo with his son Luke, daughter Hannah and her friend Brynn after the three decorated pumpkins at the PCHS Alumni Tent.

At left, Jamie Bebar, PCHS Class of 1988, smiles for a photo with his son Luke, daughter Hannah and her friend Brynn after the three decorated pumpkins at the PCHS Alumni Tent.



The Class of 1961 (pictured above) celebrated their 50th class reunion at Al's Steak House in late September. Pictured left to right (1st row) are Sr. Diane Mason & Lynn (Wait) Pilon; (2nd row) Carol (Oldani) Wallin, Kathy (Reedy) Spencer, Peggy (Stirbis) Stewart, Jean (McQuen) Flynn & Mary Ann Uremovic; (3rd row) Janet (Carugati) Barnhardt, Beverly (Kessler) Meyer, Jean (Pfeil) Vorva, Rosalie (Monaghan) Capps, Peggy (O'Brien) Kapinus, Sharon (Borg) Pierson and Regina (Eagle) Wilhelmi.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Photo by: Tom Reel/treeel@express-news.net / © 2011 San Antonio Express-News

**Tech Sgt. Israel Del Toro "DT"**, a 1993 alumnus of PCHS competed in the Valor Games in Chicago and won 4 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze) this past summer. Del Toro was severely injured by an IED, while serving in Afghanistan in December 2005. He is the first airman, deemed 100% disabled to re-enlist in the Air Force. "February 8, 2010, the day I re-enlisted in the Air Force, was a defining moment for me. That showed that all my hard work was worth it. Getting stronger did not go in vain. Even after people said I could never do this again, I did it. That's an awesome feeling. That's how I am now. You say I can't do something, well, we'll see about that," offered Del Toro.

Above, Tech Sgt. Israel Del Toro instructs recruits at Lackland AFB. DT embraces his new job, mentoring recruits who may join Air Force Special Operations entry-level training.

## Save the Date

**Homecoming 2012**  
Friday, October 5

**Providence Celtics**

vs.

**Lake Forest Academy**

**5:00 pm (Sophomores)**

**7:30 pm (Varsity)**

**Calling ALL PCHS Alumni...**

Class years ending in a "2" or "7" are celebrating anniversary years. Check the new PCHS alumni website for the most up-to-date information on reunion plans. Contact Jamie O'Brien '94 at (815) 717-3163 or [alumni@providencecatholic.org](mailto:alumni@providencecatholic.org) to begin the reunion planning process.



## ALUMNI UPDATES

**1963 - Geraldine (Dearie) Reeves** has four children (ages 34-45), 13 grandchildren (ages 4-24) and recently welcomed her first great-grandson, Xander Brown, born on June 17, 2011.

**1967 - Kathleen (Landrey) Fairfield** and husband Ray are proud to announce that their daughter, Sarah won the 2010 National 24 Hours of Le Mans Race. Sarah and her team won an all expense trip to 24 Hours of Le Mans in France. Sarah also won the driver of the year award.

**1981 - Monica (Pettenon) Stark** and her husband Dave celebrated their 23rd Wedding Anniversary on August 28. They are busy making home improvements and giving the outside of their house a total painting makeover. They went from colonial blue to butter cream yellow with white shutters.

**1990 - Monica Gill** is currently pursuing a Masters in School Counseling at Governors State University.

**1994 - Vince and Katie (Warren) Lacny '94** proudly welcomed daughter Leah Jane on July 26, 2011.

**1995 - Andrew Bidinger** and his wife Carrie are proud to announce the birth of their first child, John Andrew Bidinger. Johnny was born on July 28, 2011. Aunt Michele of Studio City, CA, Class of 1993 is so proud of her new nephew (pictured below).



**1999 - Bob Briski** and his wife Lindsay welcomed their twin babies, Brent Robert and Audrey Ethel, on March 6, 2011. Bob is employed by First Merit Bank as a V.P. in Commercial Lending. They reside in Lombard, Illinois (pictured above).

**1999 - Robert Johnson** married Megan Zobel on September 20, 2008. They welcomed twins Henry and Ruth on February 15, 2010. Robert founded B.A.M. Cleaning Service Inc., a commercial cleaning company in 2008. Visit [www.bamcleaningservice.com](http://www.bamcleaningservice.com)

**2000 - Matthew and Dana (Evans) Gehrman '00** welcomed their third daughter this past June. Kaelyn (Kaelie) Helen joins her big sisters Emmalyn (5) and Madelyn (4) (pictured at right).

**2000 - Jennifer (Moore) Graves** and husband Chris welcomed a daughter, Aubrey Elizabeth on November 1, 2011. Aubrey weighed 6 lb 14 oz. and was 20.5 inches.

**2001 - Wayne Beechy** and his wife Melissa welcomed their second child, Macy Lynn on November 23, 2011. She joins big brother Wayne David (2). Wayne is currently the Operations Manager for Interstate Batteries in Mokena and resides in Joliet.

**2001 - Jackie (Justin) Pickering** and her husband Gary welcomed their first child, Autumn Michelle on July 15, 2011 (pictured at right).



**2002 - Dana (Nowak) Miele** married Phillip Miele in August 2007. They welcomed their daughter Olivia Lynn Miele on April 13, 2011. Phillip is an IT recruiter and Dana is currently working as a part-time accountant.

**2003 - Robert Stroud** is getting married June 22, 2012 to Kristy DeJule. Bob started a new job as Athletic Trainer at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Hammond, IN.

**2004 - Kyle and Eileen (Patras) Murphy '04** were married on October 1, 2011.

**2005 - Katie Monterosso** is the Assistant Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach at Plainfield East High School and is a U13 & U14 Girls' Club Coach for the Plainfield Legends. Katie's goal is to return to Providence to teach and coach soccer. She is currently in graduate school at the University of St. Francis and working on her Master's in Education.



**2007 - Brian Stroud** was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in June 2011. Brian played rookie ball in Lakeland, FL and finished in A ball in Michigan with the West Michigan Whitecaps.

**2011 - Sam Travis** was named to the 2011 All-American 3rd Team for baseball by the National High School Baseball Coaches Association as well as the American Baseball Coaches Association. He was also named 1st Team All-Region by both organizations.

### DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Alumni updates are a great way to keep in touch with your alma mater and your fellow classmates. Submit your update by visiting [www.providencetholic.org](http://www.providencetholic.org) (click on Alumni tab).



IN MEMORIAM

May God hold them in the palm of His hands.  
PCHS was notified of the passing of the following . . .

ALUMNI

**Emily Schauer '34**

**Leona (Herkert) Witt '40**

**Evelyn M. (Rossi) Davis '68**

mother of Craig Davis '91 and Julie (Davis) Jodlowski '94

**J. Michael Olha '74**

husband of Donna (Berg) Olha '75

ALUMNI SPOUSE

**Deborah Boban**

wife of James Boban '79

PARENT OF ALUMNI

**Kimberly Crawford**

mother of Alex Crawford '08

**Joseph Petrosko**

father of Mary (Petrosko) Gretz '69

**Barbara Bruno**

mother of Dee Ann Bruno-Clemmer '81

**John Olha**

father of J. Michael Olha '74 and father-in-law of Donna (Berg) Olha '75

**Arthur J. O'Connor**

father of Lisa (O'Connor) Plichta '94, David O'Connor '96 and Daniel O'Connor '96; also husband of former Spanish Teacher, Elaine O'Connor

**Mary Ann Kostelz**

mother of Karen (Kostelz) Paul '80, Frank Kostelz '82, John Kostelz '84, Richard Kostelz '87 and Mary Sue (Kostelz) Bulger '89 and mother-in-law of Denise (Stromberg) Kostelz '82. Mary Ann worked in the Dean's office as secretary from 1982 until 1989 and was also the Pom Coach from 1984 thru 1989.

GRANDPARENT OF ALUMNI

**Mary M. Concannon**

grandmother of Michael Concannon '10

FACULTY MEMBER'S PARENT

**Donald Hart**

father of Diane Hart (Math Teacher)

FORMER FACULTY MEMBER

**Sr. Anna Skube, O.S.F.**

former Providence Theology Teacher (1970-1973)

In 2004, on the occasion of her 70th jubilee Sr. Anna wrote, "Praise God for my call to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart when there were four other religious congregations in my hometown. I had Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart as teachers in grade school, and it was their living as sincere and dedicated religious that inspired me to want to be one of them. To all my Sisters, I thank God for each of you!" When asked how she would celebrate her jubilee year she said, "Just as I have done all these years. Each morning I hand over my life in surrender to whatever God asks of me, spend ample time before the Blessed Sacrament, work hard to reverence the Trinity in each of my Sisters and live my vows as I promised so joyfully many years ago." At 2:20 p.m. on December 10, 2011 Sister Anna brought to completion her daily prayer of surrender to the will of God as she slipped quietly into the welcoming arms of her God.



STAYING CONNECTED - WHAT'S NEW?

Alumni updates are a great way to keep in touch with your alma mater and your fellow classmates. Complete this form with your update and mail to:

PCHS

Alumni Office  
1800 W. Lincoln Hwy.  
New Lenox, IL 60451

Updates may also be submitted via the web [providencetheology.org](http://providencetheology.org) (click on "Alumni" and then "Alumni Update".

PCHS reserves the right to edit submissions before publication.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What's New: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Advancement Office  
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New Lenox, IL 60451

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## See the Celtics in Action

Please join us this season in watching your favorite team play for the win! Complete athletic schedules can be found at [www.providencethecatholic.org](http://www.providencethecatholic.org) (click on athletics/calendar or visit the individual team pages and click on schedules).



## Breakfast with Santa

Nearly 300 guests attended the second Annual PCHS Alumni Association's Breakfast with Santa in early December. Prior to breakfast, Fr. Merkelis, OSA presided over a special Mass for children and their families. Following Mass and breakfast, children had the opportunity to visit with Santa and participate in multiple activities, such as "Pin the Nose on Rudolph", Christmas bucket toss and coloring.



Above, Kerri (Redican) Voltz '89 and her daughter Kailey Voltz pose with Santa Claus.

## Save the Date! 8th ANNUAL GREEN & WHITE HALL OF FAME DINNER

**Friday, April 20, 2012**

*More details to be posted on PCHS website*

## Alumni Trivia Night

**Friday, February 10, 2012**

**6 pm - 10 pm (PCHS Cafe)**

### Questions:

Jamie O'Brien '94

[jobrien@providencethecatholic.org](mailto:jobrien@providencethecatholic.org)

815.717.3163

Erin Trost '85

[etrost@providencethecatholic.org](mailto:etrost@providencethecatholic.org)

815.717.3154

