

# Celtic

R E V I E W

PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING 2020





## LETTER FROM FR. MERKELIS

### *I am amazed!*

I am amazed at the ability of a person to dig deep inside and summon up resilience and resolve; to sacrifice personal comfort or gain for the common good; to face an overwhelming challenge and discover tenacity, compassion, patience, courage, and hope.

And I am even more amazed to witness these things in the middle of a crisis. I have been privileged to have conversations with you, the Providence Family, and hear noble things like, "If we help each other, we'll all make it." Such a simple and seemingly self-evident statement!

I am amazed at our parents, without whose support and trust we would not have survived so well. I admire your backbone and thank you for your encouragement.

I am amazed at our administration, faculty and staff who slog through this pandemic with constancy and leadership worthy of

their roles as models for our students.

I am amazed at our students, who continue to work hard simply because it's worth working hard. They have not lost heart.

And in a special way, I am amazed at the senior class, who have experienced such disappointment and upheaval, but who have borne such with a poise and dignity that will serve them well in years to come. I believe crises change us, for better or for worse. I sense that this senior class will do tremendous things due to the challenges they have faced.

We are struggling, we are pressed, we are confused, we are frustrated, we are tired — and yet we carry on and continue to amaze! What is it that enables us to do so? How do we persevere? In some way or other we arrive at the truth of the gospel: faith! By faith we gain perspective and understanding. We believe in something greater than ourselves, the power of God, that guides, consoles and

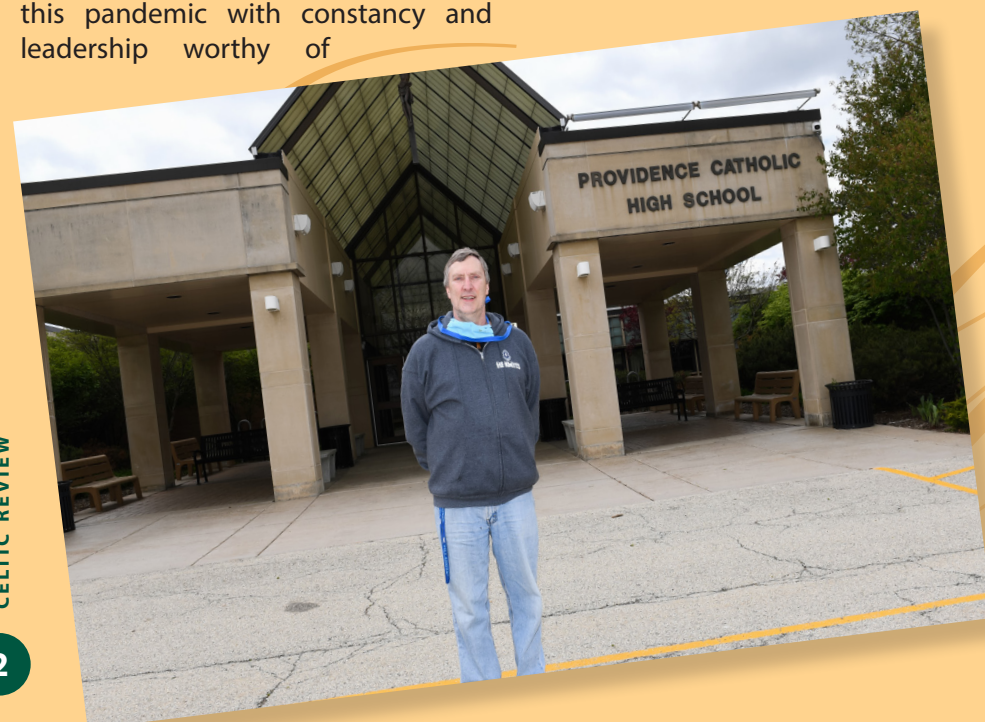
strengthens us while commissioning us to care for one another.

And, let's not forget prayer! There are countless prayers offered by the Providence Family. During these times we have all said a prayer for victims of the virus, for families struggling to make ends meet, for protection for our own families and health care workers. Prayer has been an intimate and powerful part of our experience over the past few months. We have gone without church services, but never without prayer.

If it is true that we will all make it if we help each other, then the Mission of Providence Catholic rings true and loud. May we strive to become something greater, together! The last few months have tested our mettle, and we are not broken.

My admiration,

*Fr. Merk*  
Fr. John Merkelis, OSA



## LEARNING IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Learning in a time of crisis - how our faculty, staff, students, parents and Providence Catholic community pulled together to find success.

**W**hen March rolled around, no one was anticipating that in-person schooling would soon come to a screeching halt due to Covid-19.

E-learning at that point wasn't something the world had prepared for in the event of an extended amount of time away from the physical classroom. As always, our faculty and staff rose to the occasion and came up with education plans, technological opportunities, and growth opportunities for students. Students rose above the difficulty of not learning in person - and missing out on a great number of year-end activities and traditions - to make the most of this new way of learning. And parents stepped up to guide their students in the right direction, keeping them on task and adjusting to the new normal.

Our initial feedback was that E-Learning is successful, given the circumstances under which it was initiated. We will continue to work

with families and faculty to adjust and supplement e-learning if it is needed in the future.

"The faculty and staff have been exemplary in their work, and the teachers are to be commended for making such a 'remote' experience of learning a 'personal' experience," says Father John Merkelis, President of Providence Catholic. "I am very proud of the way we have worked together to provide continued instruction under such challenging conditions."

Weekly masses were implemented, thanks to filming assistance from David Ripp '84, a Providence Catholic parent. In addition, social media was used to engage and connect the Providence Catholic community throughout the e-learning experience - which you will see throughout the next few pages of this magazine.

"At one point, early on in the stay-at-home order, I walked into the building and heard music. I immediately walked toward the gym, and found our dining services team Lynn, Diane, Anne, Araceli and Terra

singing (and maybe dancing) as they cleaned and disinfected the kitchen. Maintenance members Larry, Dean, Donna, Jenny, Jim, Victor, Frank and Gerardo diligently took apart every classroom, and coated each desk with disinfectant while stacking one side of the room with desks as they sanitized and disinfected the floor, then moved everything across the room to finish," says Father Merkelis. "Though faculty and staff are all still busy with the work that needs to be done, there is now an eerie silence throughout the halls of the school. It is a reminder to me - to all of us, really - that the heart and soul of Providence Catholic is not the building we are all familiar with, but the students, faculty, staff, and families that bring the sound of joy and God to life within the walls."

Until we can meet again in person, the entire Providence Catholic faculty and staff are sending their thoughts and prayers out to all of those affected by this crisis. Once a Celtic, always a Celtic.



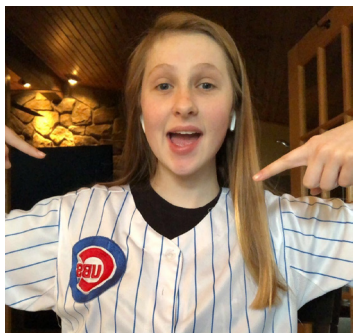
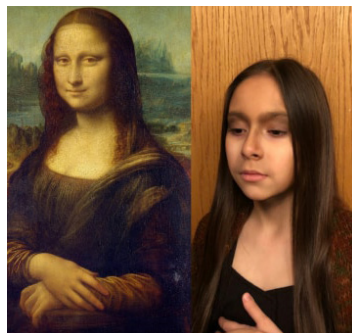
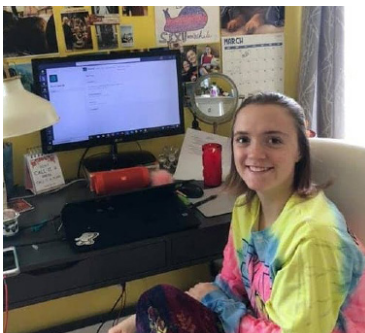


# CARRYING ON IN DIFFICULT TIMES

# GOING SOCIAL



STAYING STRONG DURING THIS PANDEMIC TO ME MEANS SPENDING TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY. BEING ABLE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY IS WHAT MAKES US STRONG.


WELCOME

#PCHSClassOf2024

Mia Bilinski

St. Dennis



SEE HOW STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND FAMILIES HAVE STAYED CONNECTED DURING THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER BY VISITING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.





# CELEBRATING SENIORS

CHECK OUT ALL THE SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS, COLLEGE CHOICES, SENIOR SALUTES, SURPRISE SWEATSHIRT DELIVERIES, AND MORE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





# THANK YOU TO OUR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Throughout the stay-at-home order, we were able to celebrate Providence Catholic alumni who are essential workers. Just a handful are below. You can see all the photos on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Pictured are: **1** Tommy Comise '10, **2** Joe Rutkiewicz '07, **3** Brittany Pirc '15, **4** Megan Falls '14, **5** Cassidy Dillman '12, **6** Brandon Pierce '16, and **7** Shannon Davison '17.



## COVID-19 CRISIS AND ALUMNI GIVING TO THE ANNUAL FUND TO HELP OUR FAMILIES

Each year, our Annual Fund helps to close the gap between tuition and operating expenses. It ensures that we are able to offer the best possible educational opportunities. "This year is different because of the Covid-19 Pandemic," according to Ed Barrett, the school's Advancement Director who also serves as Financial Aid Director for the school.

"We desperately need the help of the Providence community, especially our alumni," said Barrett. "We have current families who have been

severely impacted by this pandemic and we need to provide more tuition assistance than ever to help them."

"The school has an emergency financial aid fund (Celtic God Parent Fund) that is used in the death of a parent, medical emergencies and job loss of a breadwinner. We anticipate needing 3-4 times the amount we normally need to help our families."

In a normal year, tuition revenue only covers approximately 78% of the school's total operating budget. That

means that the tuition gap is 22%. To bridge the shortfall, PCHS relies on the generosity of our families past and present.

Barrett urges all those who benefitted from PCHS in any form to consider making a gift today! Please visit [providencecatholic.org](http://providencecatholic.org) to make your gift online, or use the enclosed gift envelope to make your gift today!

## LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL OF THE AUGUSTINIANS

Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

*"Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage. Anger, at the way things are. Courage, to see that they do not remain as they are." -St. Augustine*

I am grateful for the opportunity to write to you on behalf of the friars of the Midwest Augustinian Province! In these unprecedented and fearful times, I find consolation in the fact that the message of the Gospels is one of hope and perseverance.

As members of the Providence Catholic High School community, you are also part of our Augustinian family, and I want to share some updates regarding events in our Province.

Like Providence Catholic, the Midwest Augustinian Province has been greatly affected by the statewide shelter-in-place order. Of urgent impact was the rescheduling of our annual Augustinian Gala from April of 2020 to April of 2021. This event is the largest single source of funds for our Province, which takes on the financial responsibility of educating new Augustinian vocations and providing for the health care of our elder and infirm friars.

Our Province also has had to postpone the ordination of Deacon Jack Tierney, O.S.A. to the priesthood. Though his ordination had originally been scheduled for April 25, we now wait

to see when restrictions on social gatherings will be changed to such an extent that makes this celebration plausible.

However, we still have occasion to give thanks to the Lord! I am delighted to share with you that Providence Alum, Br. Samuel Joutas, O.S.A. (Class of '10), has been approved to make his Solemn Profession of Vows to the Augustinians. Br. Sam first joined Augustinian formation in 2014, following his graduation from the University of Illinois. He made his first, temporary vows to the Augustinians in 2016, and now prepares himself for making a lifelong commitment to religious life.

We should also give thanks that Providence alum, and great friend of the Augustinians, Emily Persicketti (Class of '12) just entered into the Novitiate of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago! It brings the Province such joy whenever one of our schools bears the fruit of a new religious vocation.

In the Fall of 2020, the Midwest Augustinians will also be admitting three new men into the first stage of Augustinian formation, called the Pre-Novitiate. This is a great number for us, and we take it as a sign of hope for the future. If you want to learn more about our men information or if you know someone who is discerning a vocation, please visit [beafriar.org](http://beafriar.org).



I am grateful to my brothers, Fr. Merk, Fr. Rich and Fr. Jerry for their service and leadership at Providence. Please continue to accompany them in prayerful support.

Thank you all for your support of the Augustinian ministry. You are an integral part of our purpose as a Province. If you wish to learn more about what is going on in the Midwest Augustinian Province, please visit [midwestaugustinians.org](http://midwestaugustinians.org), and subscribe to our newsletter. God bless you and your families!

Sincerely,

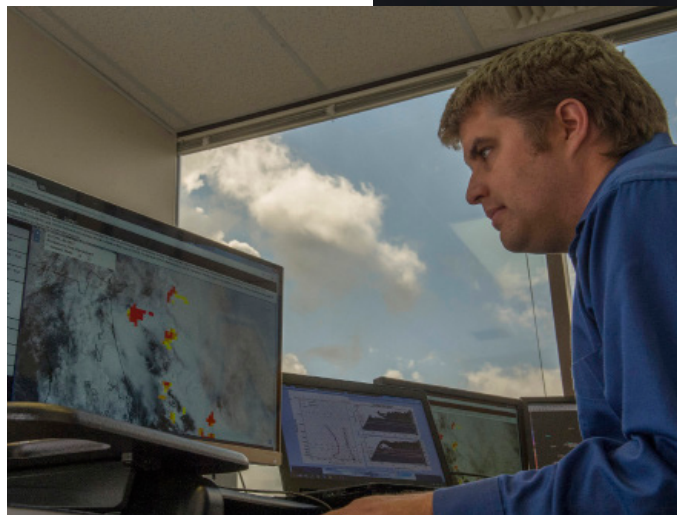
*Very Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, O.S.A.*

Very Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, O.S.A.  
Prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians



# WEATHER & RESEARCH @ NASA CHRISTOPHER SCHULTZ '02

Imagine being six years old, during a hot day in August, waiting for your dad to come home for dinner. It's cloudy outside and on the television you hear about a huge storm in a town just miles away with a tornado and severe damage. It was the Plainfield tornado of 1990, and Christopher Schultz '02 was that six-year-old, awe-struck as he watched and learned about the damage one tornado can cause.





# PASSION IN WEATHER

Chasing his passion and finding a career path that was meant to be.



That's how Christopher Schultz '02 found his passion for weather research. "I was fascinated from then on about the weather," says Christopher. "I would go to the library, learn about how tornados form, watch Tom Skilling every day on television. I learned a lot from him, because he has a way of communicating not just the forecast, but the science behind it."

Today, Christopher is a Research Scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center's Earth Science Branch. His focus is on lightening and severe weather, and he is particularly interested in thundersnow. Upon graduating from Providence Catholic, Chris attended the University of Missouri where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Science. He then went on to get his Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

"Before graduate school, I was able to do a lot of storm chasing," says

Christopher. "I knew if I wanted to go on to the National Weather Service, I would need my Master's Degree. While in grad school, I developed a passion for research, which I hadn't anticipated. I was offered a Ph.D. fellowship which allowed me the opportunity to go into hurricanes and to study snowfall – all different aspects of weather."

Some of the most exciting work he's done was related to thundersnow. "We had a couple of events in the southeast, and one of the coolest discoveries I made is that most of the lightning in winter storms is triggered by antennae or tall buildings. Especially in wintertime, like the Groundhog's Day blizzard of 2011. Tall buildings like the Willis tower were initiating their own lightning because they were up in the clouds and the clouds generated the background electric field needed. It was amazing to see."

Now that he has his Ph.D. and is working for NASA, Christopher enjoys heading into work every day. The most important thing he does though, in his eyes, is help people make better weather decisions.



*Pictured is Chris and a colleague with NASA's Global Hawk aircraft. It's fitted with a number of radars and lightning instruments to capture the structure of hurricanes as they intensified. My wife, Elise, is the woman in the purple. This was part of the GRIP Mission in 2010. You can read more about it at [https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/hurricanes/missions/grip/overview/index.html](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hurricanes/missions/grip/overview/index.html).*

"I get to do what I love every day," says Christopher. "I wanted to be involved in something where what I was saying really mattered. One of my long-term goals growing up was to help with the warning process. I am fortunate to have contributed to this goal through the development of a lightning-based algorithm that helps forecasters identify when a storm has become severe. The path to NASA was forged by my interactions with incredible weather service personnel during the development of that algorithm. Digging into all the science data to develop new understandings of weather is something I do daily. Once or twice a year I go out and work with aircraft, or embed myself in a hazardous weather testbed and work with forecasters to train them on new products and ideas. Each day is different but all focused around something I am passionate about."

Christopher is proud of what meteorologists and researchers have been able to accomplish in terms of storm safety, especially since 1990.

"The biggest improvement is the technology advances we have made in weather observations and data availability, which has made studying weather and disseminating warnings easier," he says. "Everyone has weather information in the palm of their hand. People have a general understanding of radar, and take action when they are notified when severe weather or lightning is in their area."

As for what he would tell students looking to move into a STEM field, Christopher says, "The biggest thing is perseverance. You're not

going to walk into a lab and get the right results the first time out and say you made a great discovery. You're going to have some good times, you're going to have times where you have to go in and understand why something didn't happen the way you thought it would. Grades are important, but it is the skills you learned while doing the project that are most important in the end."

Chris lives in Madison Alabama with his wife Elise and three children.





*Kathryn Kestel, pictured on the far left, at her graduation in 1932.*

# A BEAUTIFUL LIFE, A LASTING LEGACY

Kathryn Kestel's life was a beautiful patchwork, and her time at Providence remained one of her treasured memories throughout her life. So much so, that her daughter established a scholarship for future students.

Life is like a patchwork quilt – each square is a unique design, like each memory we hold in our hearts. For Kathryn Kestel, her time at Providence in the 1930s was a bright and colorful pattern that she held close to her heart for the rest of her life.

"My mom was a petite person, only five feet tall and never weighed more than 100 pounds, but she had a lot of energy and a lot of pep," says Margaret Benoit, the daughter of the late Kathryn. Kathryn, a 1932 graduate, was always extremely proud to be a Providence graduate – so much so that Margaret and her husband Bill established an endowed scholarship with a gift to the school. The Arthur & Kathryn Kennedy Memorial Scholarship is named after Kathryn and her husband.

"When she went to Providence, the woman she lived with was blind," says Margaret, who explained that in those days, the girls often lived with a different family closer to the school. "The woman had several boarders

who went to Providence and walked back and forth to school every day. When they walked, they looked for little pieces of tinfoil that would be on the ground because the nuns were collecting them for a project."

Kathryn had a zest for living. She cared deeply for the people in her life, and her curiosity and love of learning kept her current with the times. "She did not go to college so PCHS was the highlight of her life. She was the only one in her family to go to Providence."

Kathryn was a faithful donor to the school during her life. "She just got a kick out of it," says Margaret. "She'd say 'Look, I'm the oldest living donor!' She lived to 100. At her 100th birthday party held at Our Lady of Angels, a woman from Providence came and brought a lovely card and gave her a Providence jacket. She adored it!"

For Kathryn, her time at Providence is memorialized in a scholarship, and in a quilt she created based on her life. "In the 1980s, she started a quilt that is

the story of her life and also the times she lived through. It's called 'Yesterdays Remembered' and has 99 squares. One of the squares features Providence High School," says Margaret. The quilt was one of 16,000 quilts registered with the Illinois Quilt Project. Two-hundred of these quilts were chosen to be in a book about the legacy of Illinois quilting – Kathryn's quilt was one of them.

**About Mrs. Kathryn Kestel:** Kathryn grew up on a farm on Cedar Road near New Lenox. She was one of five children born to Peter and Louise Kestel. Her parents wanted a Catholic high school education for her and they decided on Providence. She served as class president.

She married Arthur M. Kennedy and had two children, Margaret and Robert. In her married life, she lived on a farm near Wilmington, IL. She had many interests including china painting, quilting, gardening, baking, and collecting treasures at antique sales. She loved belonging to several clubs, and was very active in her church, St. Rose in Wilmington.







## 38 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Dr. John Harper, '77 Principal of Providence Catholic High School, is pleased to announce that 38 students have been recognized as 2019-20 Illinois State Scholars. This prestigious award is given annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) that recognizes the top high school students from across the state as this year's State Scholars.

Generally, Illinois State Scholars represent approximately the top ten percent of high school seniors. However, more than 17 percent of the Providence Catholic senior class were awarded this honor. Scholars are chosen based on a combination of ACT, SAT or Prairie State Achievements scores at the end of the student's junior year and other criteria as determined by the Illinois State Scholar Commission.

"We are extremely proud of our Illinois State Scholars," says Dr. Harper. "Their excellence in

academics and their commitment to excellence both in the classroom and in the community define them as leaders. We congratulate them on this achievement."

Illinois State Scholars are Christopher Cokinos, Daniel Jensen, Kathleen Johnson, Kathryn Rost, Teagan Sopczak, Charles Coughlin, Carter Appleton, Kacey Mietsner, Elizabeth Martello, Anna Santschi, Daniel Gregory, Ava Maffei, Colton Puett, Ashley Cairo, Jenna Spreitzer, Jacob Mucha, Adam Tompkins, Madeleine McMaster, Izabela Gorys, Mikayla Kozol, Kailey Labuda, John Ruddy, Samantha Spencer, Dolan Whittle, Burke Dugan, Madeline Wasmund, Lauren Carpenter, Brennan Broderick, Mia Gleason, Ryan Hilty, Kennedy Kalinowski, Serena Maloney, Claire McGrath, Anthony Prucha, Mary Grace McGrath, Madison Robbins, Jakob Scherf, and Lauren Kruchten.



MARCH FOR LIFE 2020



JEANS FOR THE HOMELESS



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

## LIVING OUT THE PCHS MISSION

Inspired by our Augustinian values of truth, unity, and love, the Providence Catholic High School family is a vibrant community of believers and learners, one in mind and heart on the way to God. In our spirited pursuit of excellence as a college-preparatory school, we provide rigorous programs at all levels in academics, arts, and athletics, along with extensive extracurricular activities and opportunities.

**READ THE FULL STORIES OF EVERY INSPIRATIONAL #PCHSMISSIONMOMENT AND MORE BY FINDING CHARLIE CELTIC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



TAKE A STAND AGAINST CANCER – BLESSING BAGS



EMPOWER ILLINOIS  
HELPS CELTIC  
FAMILIES

Since 2018, Providence Catholic has received more than \$224,000 in scholarships through the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

This program provides scholarships for students in low-income and working-class families to attend a qualified private school in Illinois through a scholarship provided by private donor dollars.

The good news - we have four families who will benefit from this great program for next school year.

The bad news - we have 51 families on a list waiting for funding.

We need your help. Donors are then eligible to receive a 75 percent (\$1 million cap) state tax credit on the donation to be used against the individual or corporation's state and local tax liability.

Did you know that donors may designate Providence Catholic High School as their beneficiary school? As a result of donations, qualifying students may apply and receive scholarships worth up to 100 percent of required tuition at a private school of their choice. In the past two years, 14 income-qualified students received scholarships to

Providence Catholic High School. However, the demand far exceeded the supply. Thank you to those who have supported Empower Illinois Scholarships at Providence Catholic. Your gift has made an immediate impact, delivering scholarship and educational choice to students

with the greatest need. For more information, visit Empower Illinois at <https://empowerillinois.org/donors>. Please contact Director of Advancement Ed Barrett at (815) 717-3164 with any questions about Empower Illinois.



DONATE TO YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL  
INCREASE YOUR IMPACT

The OLD way to donate:

Alexa would donate \$250 every year to her local private school. She owed the state \$750 in tax liability. Her total spend for tax liability and the donation was \$1,000.

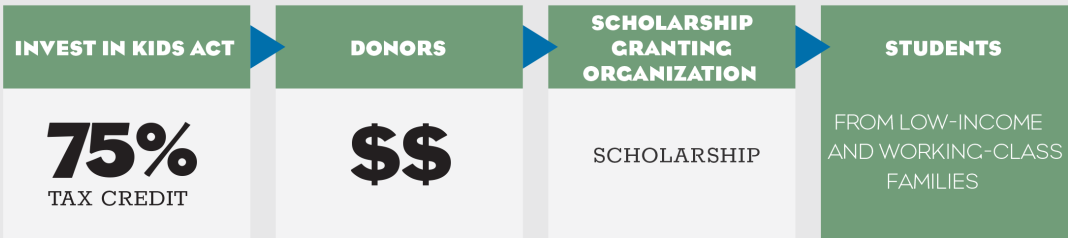


The NEW way to donate:

Alexa could increase her donation to her local private school to \$1,000 and decrease her tax liability to \$0. She quadrupled her impact for the school while paying the same out-of-pocket cost.



THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: HOW IT WORKS

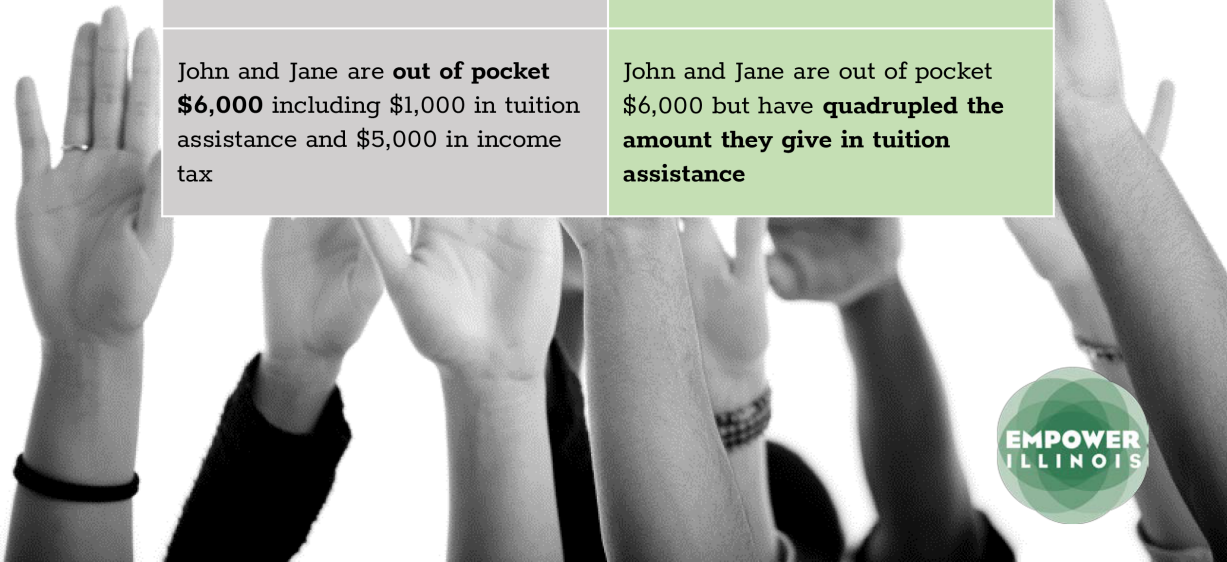


The Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program offers a 75 percent income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois.

UNDERSTANDING THE TAX CREDIT.

Donors who give to Empower Illinois receive a 75% tax credit for the amount of their gift, up to \$1 million. In addition, any portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for up to five years. Therefore, the tax credit is incentive for a donor to increase the amount they donate in tuition assistance. Someone who owes \$5,000 in state income tax and normally gives \$1,000 in tuition assistance is out of pocket \$6,000 per year. That same donor may now donate \$4,000 to Empower Illinois (earning a 75% tax credit or the equivalent of \$3,000 off their state income taxes) and will now owe the state only \$2,000 in income taxes (\$5,000 liability, minus \$3,000 tax credit). The donor is still out of pocket \$6,000 but they have quadrupled their impact. This example is illustrated below.

For a couple with a \$5,000 income tax liability	
Without a gift to Empower Illinois	With a gift to Empower Illinois
John and Jane donate \$1,000 in tuition assistance to their favorite school but do not give through Empower Illinois	John and Jane donate \$4,000 in tuition assistance to their favorite school via a gift to Empower Illinois
John and Jane owe \$5,000 in Illinois income tax since they receive no tax credit for their gift	John and Jane owe \$2,000 in Illinois income tax since they receive a 75% income tax credit on their gift to Empower Illinois
John and Jane are out of pocket \$6,000 including \$1,000 in tuition assistance and \$5,000 in income tax	John and Jane are out of pocket \$6,000 but have quadrupled the amount they give in tuition assistance







**CHLOE LABINE – ILMEA  
DISTRICT 1 MUSIC FESTIVAL  
HONORS CHORUS**



**CONNOR KNOTT –  
EAGLE SCOUT**



**STUDENT COUNCIL INDUCTION**

# STUDENT ACCOLADES

Senior John Ruddy of Homer Glen was awarded the prestigious Chick Evans Scholarship for Caddies. This scholarship is a significant achievement, as it is a full tuition and housing scholarship for high-achieving caddies.

Ruddy, a graduate of SS. Cyril and Methodius School, began caddying in 2016 at the end of his eighth-grade year. He typically caddies at Edgewood Valley Country Club in LaGrange, Illinois, and enjoys meeting people and the friends he has made as a result of caddying.

"This scholarship is an opportunity to pursue further education at a great university," says Ruddy. "It better my chances of positively impacting my future and the people around me. To put it simply, I just felt happy when I received the Chick Evans Scholarship. It was a testament to all the hard work I had done over the years as a caddy and a student."

To qualify, caddies need to meet requirements including a strong caddy record, excellent academics, demonstrated financial need, and outstanding character. Ruddy is currently looking at several universities, including Marquette University, University of Illinois, Indiana University, and University of Wisconsin-Madison – and feels ready to embrace the next stage in life in great part due to the foundation he received at Providence.

"Everyone at Providence has always expected the best from me in the classroom and outside of it," says Ruddy. "I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to attend such an amazing school. I feel completely prepared for the next stage of my life, and I am excited to see what it brings." ***Pictured are Jack and Providence Catholic counselor Frank Palmasani.***



## About the Scholarship

According to the Western Golf Association, "In 1930, the Western Golf Association and celebrated amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr. established the Evans Scholars Foundation. The Foundation's mission was to provide full tuition and college scholarships to caddies with limited financial means. The first two Evans Scholars enrolled at Northwestern University in 1930, and since then, more than 11,050 outstanding young men and women have graduated as Evans Scholars. This year, there are 1,010 Evans Scholars enrolled at 18 leading universities nationwide."

Read about more student accolades on social media or at [www.providencecatholic.org/news/](http://www.providencecatholic.org/news/).



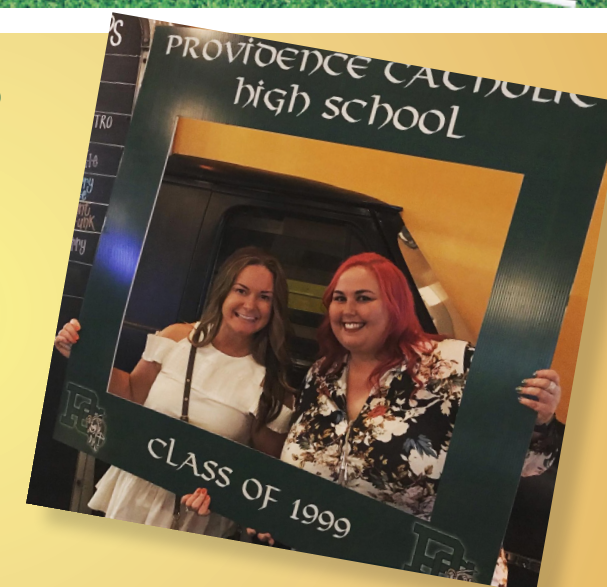
**National Honor  
Society 2020**

**Congratulations  
to the  
inductees!**



# CLASS REUNIONS

Looking to plan your class reunion? Contact Shannon Withers '95, Director of Alumni Relations & Special Events, at [swithers@providencecatholic.org](mailto:swithers@providencecatholic.org) or 815-717-3166.





# VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN CLASS OF 2020

Providence Catholic High School Principal, Dr. John Harper '77, announced Christopher Cokinos as the Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Ryan Hilty as Salutatorian. "We are very proud of these academically gifted students who are very strong leaders among their peers both in and out of the classroom. We know they have very bright futures," offered Harper.



CHRISTOPHER COKINOS



RYAN HILTY

Valedictorian Christopher Cokinos is the son of Peter and Tracy Cokinos. He is a graduate of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School (Orland Hills), a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Orland Park), and a resident of Frankfort. Cokinos will attend Villanova University and will study Political Science. Christopher has been a member of the Providence Catholic high honor roll all semesters and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an Illinois State Scholar and received numerous academic subject awards from the school including English 1 Honors, Algebra 1 Honors, Biology Honors, Spanish II, AP United States History, AP Government, AP Language, Chemistry Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, and Geometry Honors. Outside of the classroom, Christopher is active in the Scholastic Bowl, Mock Trial, Augustinian Youth Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI), and served as a Sacristan.

"My teachers here have pushed me to go above and beyond the typical classroom expectations to truly get me to be ready for college. Not only am I challenged here, but I am also given the skills to be successful in college and whatever comes next," says Christopher.

Salutatorian Ryan Hilty is the son of Dave and Carleen Hilty. He is a graduate of St. Mary Catholic School (Mokena), a parishioner at St. Mary Catholic Parish (Mokena), and a resident of Mokena. Hilty will attend Saint Louis University and will study Biomedical engineering with a plan to go into dental school after getting an undergraduate degree. Ryan has been a member of the Providence Catholic high honor roll all semesters and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an Illinois State Scholar and received numerous academic subject awards from the school including Geometry Honors, Algebra II Honors, AP Scholar with Distinction, and National Merit Scholar Commendation. Outside of the classroom, Ryan has been active on the golf team, has served as Golf captain, and was a golf state qualifier his senior year. In addition, he was active in the Augustinian Youth Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Theatre, and the Spanish National Honors Society. Ryan also served as a Sacristan, Eucharistic Minister, and Kairos leader during his time at Providence Catholic.

"Providence has provided me with the knowledge to succeed in more ways than one," says Ryan. "The classes and teachers here have really

helped me to discover what I truly enjoy doing and what I want to do with my life. High school is a challenge, but Providence has found a way to academically push me in a way that will help me to thrive at the next level of education. It has really helped me feel like I am ready to learn even more as I prepare for my future."



15% OF RECENT PCHS SENIORS SCORED 30 OR HIGHER ON THE ACT.

7% IS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.



Become Something Greater

THAT'S THE PROVIDENCE ADVANTAGE

## NATIONAL MERIT STUDENTS

Dr. John Harper '77, Principal of Providence Catholic High School, congratulated four seniors on being named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program: Ryan Hilty, Anna Santschi, Chris Cokinos, and Madeleine McMaster. "We are very proud of these students and their academic achievements in this highly competitive program," said Harper.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships that began in 1955. More than 1.5 million students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program each year. Approximately 34,000 students are named Commended Students.



Standing (l to r) Ryan Hilty (Mokena), Anna Santschi (New Lenox), Chris Cokinos (Frankfort), Madeleine McMaster (Tinley Park) and Dr. John Harper, Principal.

Read more about these students at [www.providencecatholic.org/news](http://www.providencecatholic.org/news).



# 39 Providence Catholic Students HAVE EARNED THE AP SCHOLAR AWARD

Providence Catholic students have earned AP Scholar Awards by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program exams, which were taken in May 2019.

National AP Scholar awardees include:

- Allison E. Brankin (Orland Park) 2019
- Derek D. Freeman (Joliet) 2019

AP Scholar with Distinction awardees include:

- Kaylee M. Airola (Joliet) 2019
- Eleanor M. Bilotta (Frankfort) 2019
- Allison E. Brankin (Orland Park) 2019
- Sarah K. Deffenbaugh (Plainfield) 2019
- Derek D. Freeman (Joliet) 2019
- Ryan A. Hilty (Mokena) 2020
- Lucas P. Jackson (Frankfort) 2019
- Alyssa G. Labine (Mokena) 2019
- John T. Mcguire (Frankfort) 2019
- Madeleine M. Mcguire (Woodridge) 2019
- Noah K. Wasicki (Frankfort) 2019

AP Scholars with Honor awardees include:

- Kyle C. Laird (Orland Park) 2019
- Daniel P. Quirke (Frankfort) 2019

AP Scholars include:

- Erik E. Anderson (Dyer) 2019
- Savannah J. Baker (Plainfield) 2019
- Brennan P. Broderick (Manhattan) 2020
- Anna M. Cabay (New Lenox) 2019
- Lauren E. Carpenter (Lockport) 2020
- Christopher D. Cokinos (Frankfort) 2020
- Daniel K. Connelly (Tinley Park) 2019
- Timothy J. Dennis (Lockport) 2019
- Joshua M. Dipego (Romeoville) 2019
- Allison M. Gardella (New Lenox) 2019
- Mia M. Gleason (Frankfort) 2020
- Riley M. Guillaume (New Lenox) 2019
- Marygrace J. Mcgrath (Joliet) 2020
- Madeleine R. McMaster (Tinley Park) 2020
- Christina T. Muraskas (Palos Park) 2019
- Sarah M. Noone (Mokena) 2019
- Michael J. Perino (Orland Park) 2019
- Elizabeth S. Roechner (Joliet) 2019
- Kathryn C. Rost (Orland Park) 2020
- Jakob F. Scherf (Plainfield) 2020
- Hanna P. Spodarek (Plainfield) 2019
- Chloe A. Stroz (Orland Hills) 2019
- Rachel E. Temin (Coal City) 2019
- Brianna M. Tully (Lockport) 2019
- Tristan J. Vidican (Minooka) 2019
- Grace C. Wheeler (Homer Glen) 2019



ON AVERAGE, PCHS STUDENTS  
**IMPROVED THEIR TEST SCORE**  
*by 23.15%* from the placement exam to  
the ACT.

## YOU CAN OPEN DOORS FOR ALL STUDENTS

**Help Us become something greater!**

Did you know? Our new **AFFORDABLE FOR ALL SCHOLARSHIPS** provide the opportunity for more students to join the Providence family.

Did you know? You can make a difference through your gift. Help fund a student!

Did you know? 31% of Providence students apply for assistance.

**Your GIFT Can change lives at PCHS!**

The hallways at Providence Catholic High School are filled with unique scholars who benefit from academic and extracurricular programs.

There are many bright young scholars who will be making their high school decision soon, and we would like to offer them every opportunity to join the Providence Catholic family. YOU can open doors for these students.

Questions about giving? Contact Ed Barrett, Director of Institutional Advancement at (815) 717-3164.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**THE BRANKIN SIBLINGS** 12,020 miles around the globe. 6 countries in 17 days. 3 siblings experiencing the world - together.

The year 2019 was a year of many celebrations for the Brankin family. In addition to celebrating the 25th wedding anniversary of their parents, all three of the Brankin children graduated in the same year. Ryan Brankin (PCHS Class of 2014) received both a B.S. and M.S. in Accounting from Purdue University. Colin Brankin (PCHS Class of 2016) graduated Summa Cum Laude in three years with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. Allison Brankin was distinguished as the Valedictorian of Providence Catholic Class of 2019.

Following graduation, Ryan earned his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification and started as an assurance associate at RSM US LLP in Indianapolis. Colin moved to Salt Lake City to work as a process engineer for Procter & Gamble. Allison began her college career at the University of Notre Dame studying chemical engineering.

As all three of the Brankin children saw their futures taking them on different journeys throughout the country, they realized that the summer of 2019 provided a unique opportunity to do

something together before setting off on their separate paths. A moment to deepen those familial bonds that would keep them connected over time and space. Memories to last a lifetime.

Thus, for 17 days, Ryan, Colin, and Allison traveled around the world as the "Brankin Backpacking Siblings". Starting in Reykjavik, they climbed the tallest waterfall in Iceland, hiked along black sand beaches, and scaled mountains populated with natural hot spring geysers. Next, they went to Barcelona to admire Gaudi's architectural masterpieces of Sagrada Familia and Parc Guell in addition to negotiating in Spanish at La Boqueria market. In Croatia, they explored the history of Old Town Dubrovnik on the Adriatic Sea and fed wild peacocks on the neighboring island of Lokrum. Traveling to Istanbul, they witnessed the intersection of Catholicism, Eastern Christianity, and Islam through the Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque, surveyed the living residences of the ruling sultans of the Ottoman Empire at Topkapi Palace, and bartered for goods at the 565-year-old Grand Bazaar. In Budapest, they observed the changing of the guard at Buda Castle and

climbed to the top of the Hungarian fortress Citadella to watch the sunset. Finishing up in Copenhagen, they took a canal ride to see the royal palaces of Christiansborg and Amalienborg and enjoyed the hundred-year-old roller coasters at Tivoli Gardens.

And yet, while the topography was remarkable and the sights were breathtaking, it was the nuances of the trip that made it memorable. Jumping into bone-chillingly cold waters in Dubrovnik. Racing through rainstorms in Denmark. Trying to pronounce words in Icelandic. Those times where they had no agenda and simply enjoyed the company of one another.

"Our adventure reminded us of our greatest childhood memories and strengthened those bonds of love that have always connected us," says Colin. "Now, as we have all moved on to the next stages of our lives, those moments which we shared live on in our memories. We have become more appreciative, more aware, and more connected – both to the cultures of our world and to one another."







# LEADER OF THE BANDS

The 2019 Marching Celtics had a record-breaking and monumental competition season this fall! The PCHS Marching Band's show this year was titled "Time After Time" and featured the music of Coldplay, Cyndi Lauper, and show arranger Luke McMillan. While the marching band went on to win 5-straight Class 1A titles throughout the state, they also competed on the national level at the Bands of America Super Regional in St. Louis and placed 10th overall in class 2A. The final competition of the season for the Marching Celtics was the State Championship held at Illinois State University on Oct. 19th, 2019. The Marching Celtics took home 2nd Place in class 2A, their highest finish at State Championships ever.

The marching band is comprised of only 45 students. Although they are one of the smallest bands in the state, they perennially score well

at competitions due to their focus on musical and visual precision. One unique component about the band at Providence Catholic is that 8th graders are allowed to join the Marching Celtics if they will be attending PCHS the next school year as a freshmen. Over the last two seasons, three 8th grade students have marched along-side the high school students at all competitions and home football games! The Marching Celtics are under the direction of Lawrence Rogers. Mr. Rogers is in his 5th year teaching at PCHS and has been teaching for 11 years overall. If you or your student has any questions about Band or Colorguard at PCHS, feel free to send Mr. Rogers an email at [Irogers@providencecatholic.org](mailto:Irogers@providencecatholic.org).

DID YOU KNOW...

**48** INCOMING FRESHMEN

*are children of alumni?*

#AlwaysACeltic

**The incoming freshmen class has students from the following 49 schools:**

Aux Sable Middle School, Joliet  
 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Orland Hills  
 Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet  
 Central Middle School Tinley  
 Century Jr. High, Orland Park  
 Channahon Jr. High, Channahon  
 Crete-monee Middle School, Crete  
 Dwight Elementary, Dwight  
 Elwood Consolidated, Elwood  
 Grissom Middle School, Tinley Park  
 Heritage Grove Middle School, Plainfield  
 Hickory Creek Middle School, Frankfort  
 Holy Family School, Shorewood

Homer Jr. High, Homer Glen  
 Hufford Jr. High, Joliet  
 Humphrey School, Bolingbrook  
 Immaculate Conception, Morris  
 Infant Jesus Of Prague, Flossmoor  
 International  
 Ira Jones Middle School, Plainfield  
 Kelvin Grove Jr. High, Lockport  
 Liberty Jr. High, New Lenox  
 Manhattan Jr. High, Manhattan  
 Martino Jr. High, New Lenox  
 Minooka Jr. High, Minooka  
 Mokena Jr. High, Mokena  
 Noonan Academy, Mokena  
 Oak Prairie Middle School, Lockport  
 Our Lady Of Peace, Darien  
 Peotone Jr. High, Peotone  
 Ss Cyril & Methodius, Lemont  
 St. Alphonsus/st. Patrick School, Lemont

St. Daniel The Prophet, Chicago  
 St. Dennis School, Lockport  
 St. George School, Tinley Park  
 St. Joseph School, Lockport  
 St. Joseph School, Manhattan  
 St. Jude, New Lenox  
 St. Jude School, Joliet  
 St. Mary Immaculate School, Plainfield  
 St. Mary, Mokena  
 St. Mary Nativity, Joliet  
 St. Michael, Orland Park  
 St. Paul The Apostle, Joliet  
 St. Rose School, Wilmington  
 Summit Hill Jr. High, Frankfort  
 Timber Ridge Middle School, Plainfield  
 Troy Middle School, Plainfield  
 Washington Jr. High & Academy, Joliet





## DRIVE THROUGH FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

**O**n Friday, April 10, 2020, Providence Catholic faculty and staff volunteered to host a Drive Thru Food Drive at the high school.

"It was an opportunity for the Providence Catholic community to 'Do Something Good on Good Friday,'" says Annie Persicketti, Associate Director of Pastoral Care at Providence, who oversaw the food drive. "Our faculty, students, parents and alumni were looking for an opportunity to help in light of the difficulties facing members of our community.

This was the result of that care."The food drive collected food donations, monetary donations, single-serving packaged snacks for healthcare workers, as well as letters for healthcare workers.

"A student, Mia Paolella, came up with the idea to collect packaged snacks for healthcare workers," says Rosanne Grigoletti, Technology Director at Providence Catholic and an organizer of the food drive. "It was such a caring

idea and so we wanted to support it in any way possible – and our families came through!"F

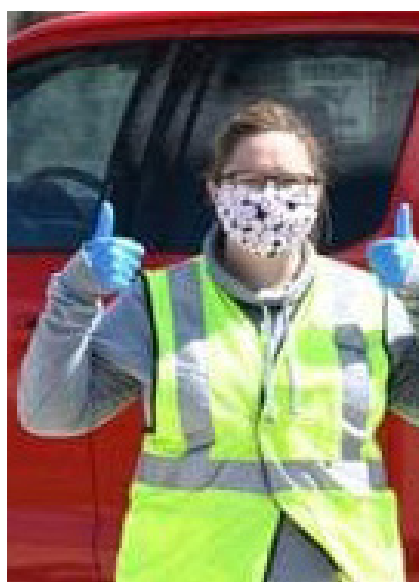
or everyone's safety, many precautions were taken. "Families put everything into their trunk, and we asked them to wipe it all down prior to arrival. Those dropping off donations stayed in their cars while volunteers with masks and gloves removed the items from the trunk, maintaining social distancing," says Melissa Sallade, Office Manager at Providence Catholic and another organizer of the drive.

Over 179 vehicles dropped off donations, and the Paolella family will oversee getting all donated snacks to healthcare workers. 9,090 pounds of food were collected, as well as \$2,430 in monetary donations and one pickup truck and two cars full of snacks for the healthcare workers.

"As Mr. Rogers once said, he was told by his mother that you should always look for the helpers," says Fr. John Merkelis, President at Providence Catholic. "Today, I saw so many helpers, from our

volunteers to the many, many families who took the time to deliver food for our community. Today was about more than just food – it was about knowing that when times get difficult, we have a world full of people who will go the extra mile to make sure others are safe and loved. I am proud to be a part of such a gracious and giving community."

All photos from this event can be found on our Facebook page.



## PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC FAMILY

STUDENTS OF  
THE MONTH



WOMEN'S CLUB –  
FACULTY LUNCH



MEN'S CLUB – WREATHS  
ACROSS AMERICA



FATHER MERK & JCA'S DR. BUDZ –  
CHILI COOKOFF JUDGES



MEN'S CLUB –  
MASS & TOYS FOR TOTS



BREAKFAST WITH  
SANTA



WOMEN'S CLUB –  
BUNCO NIGHT

READ THE FULL STORY AND SEE PHOTOS OF ALL THESE  
EVENTS BY FINDING CHARLIE CELTIC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!







## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

"I ENJOY WORKING AT PROVIDENCE BECAUSE I WORK WITH CARING AND SUPPORTIVE COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT. THE BEST THING ABOUT PROVIDENCE, THOUGH, IS THE STUDENTS. THEY ARE AWESOME AND MAKE TEACHING HERE A PLEASURE."

MR. MIKE RASSMAN '81, ENGLISH



## COFFEE & CAREERS

Three alumni returned to campus to speak to students during the new "Coffee & Careers" presentations this spring.

Our alumni spoke about Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Physical Therapy to students who signed up to learn more about these careers. Thank you to speakers Leanne Newman '77 (speech therapist), Peggy Grill '87 (occupational therapist), and Dr. Vince Gutierrez '98 (physical therapist) for your time and expertise in answering questions about these exciting careers.



## STAYING CONNECTED - WHAT IS NEW?

Alumni updates are a great way to keep in touch with your alma mater and your fellow classmates. Complete this form with your updated and mail to: PCHS Alumni Office, 1800 W. Lincoln Hwy., New Lenox, IL 60451. Updates may also be submitted via the web [providencecatholic.org](http://providencecatholic.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: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ WEDDING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHILDREN'S NAMES & AGES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WHAT'S NEW: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## RETURN TO CAMPUS

John Mores '81 returned to visit Providence Catholic from his career in Milano, Italy this past spring. (Here he is, left, pictured with Frank Palmasani.)

John is the IB Diploma Program Principal at Collegio San Carlo and came back with colleagues Dott. Ciro Di Cecio and Fr. Alberto Torriani to learn more about Providence Catholic today.

"Providence held such a strong sense of community when I was a student," says John. "It really struck me and has stayed with me. There was always a sense of guidance, and a real group effort from principal, teachers and coaches to help students excel. The school is made of families, brothers, sisters and friends and I feel much of the same at Collegio San Carlo."

## A VISIT FROM THE PAST:

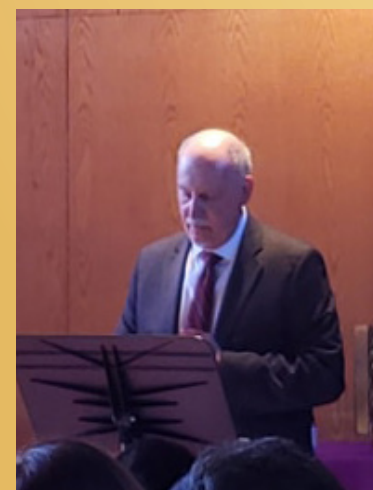
# CELTIC REFLECTIONS

Recently, our faculty and staff took part in a retreat where four members of the PCHS family came back to talk about their experience: Mr. Pergi, Mr. Palmasani, Colleen Mitros Manuszak '08, and Jackie Quirke Poulos '05.

You can read Colleen's reflection here: [www.providencecatholic.org/news/reflections-on-pchs](http://www.providencecatholic.org/news/reflections-on-pchs).

All the speakers shared their insight on their learnings as students, as coaches, as faculty, and as friends, and brought to mind many fond memories.

If you have a reflection you'd like to share with us, please email it to [celtics@providencecatholic.org](mailto:celtics@providencecatholic.org).





# THREE STUDENTS WIN ESSAY COMPETITION

Providence Catholic is proud to announce that three students have recently been recognized through community awards.



Junior Taylor Issa won an essay contest with the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. Her essay on Christopher Columbus from the perspective of one of his crewmates, then went to the district where she won again. She and her essay went to state competition.

In addition, junior Anna Lennon and senior Mia Gleason recently won the Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council #16369 in Orland Park. Mia and Anna had to complete an essay discussing the meaning of virtue

and how they live and embody the virtue of charity. This contest encourages youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. Both girls continued to state competition.

"We are very proud of our students for their excellence in the classroom and within the community," says Dr. John Harper, Principal at Providence Catholic. "One of the most important aspects of education is aiding students in finding and developing their potential. Their success in these essay competitions demonstrates their devotion to continual educational growth."



# THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS "ELF THE MUSICAL"



1 Nick Pugh, Brant Singler (Buddy), Chloe LaBine (Jovie) enjoying the first snowfall. 2 Kate Kozulinski (Deb) and Nick Pugh (Buddy) are excited for Christmas! 3 Ashley Cairo (Emily Hobbs) and Emma Budd (Michael Hobbs) make their Christmas wish list. 4 Store Manager Sam Connors (center), directs his team of store elves (L-R) Ryan Gade, Samantha Costello, Rhea Gleespen, Paige Shepherd, Paige Smart, Ashley Chaveriat, Ellie Swanson, Wyatt Goorsky, Emily Kenny, Joshua Hecht, Hunter Chentnik, and Bailey Griffiths. You can see all the Elf photos from Bruce Burns Photography by going to [providencecatholic.org](http://providencecatholic.org) and choosing "Photo Gallery" at the bottom of the homepage.

FOOTBALL

STATE CHAMPIONS

Aug. 28th	Sept. 4th	Sept. 11th	Sept. 18th	Sept. 25th	Oct. 2nd	Oct. 9th	Oct. 16th	Oct. 23rd
WILLOWBROOK	WHEATON NORTH	BROTHER RICE	NOTRE DAME	CARMEL	ST RITA	DEPAUL PREP	ST LAURENCE	MONTINI

2020 SCHEDULE

**"BEING AT PROVIDENCE HAS MADE THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF MY LIFE MORE THRILLING, MORE POWERFUL, AND MOST OF ALL, MORE MEANINGFUL THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE!"**

**I HAVE DISCOVERED MY INNER STRENGTH HERE, AND WHEN I LACK IT, I HAVE FOUND FRIENDS WHO BUILD ME UP AND MAKE ME WHOLE."**

**MARY GRACE MCGRATH**  
SENIOR, JOLIET, IL

COLOR GUARD, IALAC 2.O, SACRISTAN, INTERNATIONAL CLUB, MATH TEAM, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, PRISM, RESPECT LIFE CLUB, SCHOLASTIC BOWL, STUDENT AMBASSADOR, THEATRE

Check out the sophomores, juniors, and seniors highlighted as Celtic Spotlights this year by visiting [providencecatholic.org/celtic-spotlights](http://providencecatholic.org/celtic-spotlights) or #CelticSpotlights on social media.





PCHS athletic teams accumulated many great achievements over the fall and winter. Working hard in the classroom and on the court led the Celtics to some exceptional news.

The Girls Basketball Team became the first in the program to win a Sectional Championship. They also set a record for most games ever won in a season by girls basketball with 27 wins. Lauren Knight was named Co-player of the year in the GCAC White Division and also reached over 1,000 career points. Coach Copenhaver was named as a Coach of the Year by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

During indoor track season, Sam Spencer broke a record for pole vault with a vault of 13'5.5" and Jake Renfro broke the school record for shotput.

Boys Golf won a Regional Championship. Golf team member Ryan Hilty was a state qualifier and Davis Billows earned 9th place and a spot on the All-State Team.

Girls Volleyball won a regional championship.

Boys Soccer won the Conference Championship, and several players were chosen as Chicago Catholic League All-Conference players: Carter Appleton, Mason Hall, Dom Bucciferro, Nick Warren, Aidan Bagley, and Nick Orszulak.

2019 CCL/ESCC Green All Conference Football Players included RB Aaron Vaughn, LB Anthony Prucha, DB Kevin Countryman, OL Jake Renfro, and DL Elias Valdez. Elias also won Most Outstanding Defensive Player.

Emma Davis took 3rd place in 1A tennis at state and was named GCAC Girls tennis player of the year.

Emma Kulpinski qualified for state in Cross Country.

In addition, several other athletes were named All-Conference in their sports:

- Elizabeth Martello - Girls Golf
- Emily Dykas - Girls Golf
- Drew Brasky - Boys Golf
- Emma Kulpinski - Girls Cross Country
- Emma Davis - Girls Tennis
- Aaron Vaughn - Football
- Lauren Knight - Girls Basketball
- Ashley Raymer - Girls Basketball
- Claire McGrath - Girls Basketball



Billy Meiszner, Kevin Countryman, and Ryan Boersma all qualified for IHSA State Finals in wrestling. Boersma finished 5th in the state at the 285 pound weight class and Coach Donny Reynolds was named the CCL Lawless award winner.

The Hockey Team took second in the Kennedy Cup. Tom Davis was named All-State. Hockey players Tom Davis, Peyton Botich, Luke Brzezinski, and Tom Zschach were selected as Chicago Catholic Hockey League All-Stars.

The Dancing Celtics were named Catholic Conference Champions for the first time in school history. They also finished 11th in IHSA State.

Girls Tennis finished in 7th place at IHSA State.

Providence Catholic Cheer qualified for the IHSA State finals.

Boys Bowling had three members qualify for sectionals - Carson Pass, Sean Fitzgibbons, and Drew King.

Girls Bowling had their first sectional qualifier this year, Carly Kowalik.



READ MORE ATHLETICS NEWS AND SEE PHOTOS FROM ALL OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA





# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Bill Trost '85 and Erin (Keane) Trost '85**, have moved to the Northwoods of Wisconsin and are excited to start their next chapter. "We re-located, we didn't retire. We still have a few more years before that happens but at least we have beautiful surroundings."

**Monica (Gill) Soller '90** married Mark Soller.

On December 15, 2019, **Capt. Ryan Hill ('97)** administered the Oath of Office to **TSgt. Danielle Fary ('99)** during her re-enlistment ceremony in the Air National Guard. Ryan is an RPA pilot and Danielle is an aerospace medical technician. Both are members of the 110th Attack Wing in Battle Creek, Michigan.



**Erin (Gustafson) Barton '00** welcomed a new son, Corey, in February. Corey joins big brothers, Connor and Colin.

**Mary-Eileen (Davey) Turkowski '03 and Tim Turkowski '03**, welcomed their second baby, Cecelia Mary, on February 6, 2020.



**Kristen (Domico) Huebner '05** and husband Dan welcomed their third child, Hannah Rose, into their family on March 1. Her older brother, Jacob (3), and older sister, Caroline (2), love her!



**Dana Ponshe Schroeder '05** and husband Chris announced the birth of Blayne Christopher Schroeder on July 16,

2019. Blayne joins sister, Arya.

**Taylure Wagner '07** and her husband Brian welcomed their first child, Owen James Wagner, into the world on November 18, 2019. Owen was born at 5:19 a.m., 7lbs., 6oz. and 19.75 inches long. Owen can't wait to be a Celtic!



**Frank Cavallone '09** and his wife Robin, welcome baby boy Frank Cavallone on November 4, 2019.



**Katie Edgeworth '12** is a nurse at OSF Little Company of Mary Hospital working the frontline fighting COVID 19.



**Alexandra Krejci '12** graduated from Dominican University with a Masters in Library and Information Sciences.

**Meaghan Elizabeth Mormann '12** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2016 with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Hispanic studies. Meaghan has since earned her MD and will be completing her residency in pediatrics at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and hopes to build a career working within a critical care environment with patients who are underserved.



**Nick DiNardi '14** is making a difference for those with Crohn's disease, along with the Bigger Than Basketball Foundation. Nick presented the University of Chicago IBD Center with a

check for \$30,000, which will go to help with research and support.

**Jack Brody '15** became the eighth player in basketball program history to record 200 or more career steals at Saint Xavier University.

**Bridget Fudala '16**, will be graduating a semester early from University of Illinois in December of 2019 with a BS in Advertising, a minor in Psychology and a sales certificate with the highest honors.

**Reed McCool '16** returned to Providence Catholic this spring to pick up school supplies collected by AYM (Augustinian Youth Ministry). He will bring the supplies back to Uganda, where he helps to build educational opportunities for children.

**Jack Barrett '18** donated peripheral blood stem cells through Be The Match, which is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program.

**Olivia Goodwin '19** competed in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association's competition in Platteville Wisconsin where she was High Point Rider for the first and second in limit for The University of Notre Dame Equestrian Team.

**Mary Mathieu '19** attended a fall break mission trip to Nazareth Farm with USF Ministry. "During this trip we helped serve the residents of West Virginia by repairing homes and getting to know the community. It was a life changing experience, one that I am forever grateful for."

**Shannon Smith '19**, Carson-Newman University freshman third baseman, was named the Tennessee Sportswriters Association State Player of the Week.

**Adam Taylor '19** was named NJCAA Men's Basketball Division III Player of the Week.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

## ALUMNI

**Olga Sebalj '47**

**Gloria Carugati '54**, sister of the late Norma (Carguati) Shepherd '45 and Janet (Carugati) Barnhardt '61

**Bernadette Wright '63**

**Paul J. Valek '68**, brother of Raymond Valek '75

**Lynda Gleason Cotter '69**

**Tom Furdek '73**, brother of Susan (Furdek) Tibble '77

**Jeanne (Nolan) Kuzmicz '75**

**Mark Gariboldi '78**, brother of Mary (Gariboldi) Peceniak '72, Rita Gariboldi '76, Lucy (Gariboldi) McBride '79, Matthew Gariboldi '82, Anne (Gariboldi) Rogers '83, Paula (Gariboldi) Mey '86 and Joan Gariboldi '89, uncle to Beth (Peceniak) '95, Timothy Peceniak '98, Joyce Peceniak '00, Jeanne Peceniak '06, Jacob Rogers '10, Jessica Rogers, Natalie Rogers '14 and brother-in-law to Larry Peceniak '71

**Daniel Poetzinger '79**, brother of Laura (Poetzinger) Malatia '80 and Linda (Poetzinger) Smith '80 and brother-in-law to Chris Smith '79

**David J. Sefcik '79**, brother of Stephen Sefcik '74 and Michael Sefcik '76

**Brian Peck '17**, brother of Colin Peck '21

## CHILD OF ALUMNI

**Carter D'Aguanno**, son of Maximilian D'Aguanno '94

## PARENT OF ALUMNI

**Patricia Gariboldi**, mother of Mary (Gariboldi) Peceniak '72, Rita Gariboldi '76, Mark Gariboldi '78, Lucy (Gariboldi) McBride '79, Matthew Gariboldi '82, Anne (Gariboldi) Rogers '83, Paula (Gariboldi) Mey '86 and Joan Gariboldi

'89, grandmother to Beth (Peceniak) '95, Timothy Peceniak '98, Joyce Peceniak '00, Jeanne Peceniak '06, Jacob Rogers '10, Jessica Rogers, Natalie Rogers '14 and mother-in-law to Larry Peceniak '71

**Sharon Grill**, mother of Jeanne (Grill) Billo '81, Thomas Grill '84, Rob Grill '85, Gregory Grill '87, Keith Grill '88, Susan (Grill) Grant '90 and Mary Jo Grill '92, grandmother to Meghan Grill '14, Bryan Grill '15, Elise Grill '17 and James Grill '19 and mother-in-law to Margaret (Walsh) Grill '87

**Thomas Hinsdale**, father of Patrick Hinsdale '03, Katie (Hinsdale) Plankinton '06, George Hinsdale '07 and Ryan Hinsdale '10

**Brian Karneboge**, father of Adam Karneboge '98

**Wendy Kelm**, mother of Melissa (Kelm) Broadhead '97 and wife of Larry Kelm '72

**John Lebert**, father of Rita (Lebert) Zalewski '73, Mary Ann (Lebert) Burke '76, Kathleen (Lebert) Worker '78, Mark Lebert '80 and Paul Lebert '82 and father-in-law to Catherine Morrissey-Lebert '77

**Marlene Lovato**, mother of Jennifer (Lovato) Slivinskas '92, Heather (Lovato) Koopmans '95 and Lance Lovato '98

**Kevin Mitros**, father of Colleen (Mitros) Manuszak '08 and Nora (Mitros) Serrato '12, and husband of staff member Anne Connelly-Mitros

**Lawrence Sukley**, father of Jeffrey Sukley '83, Kathleen (Sukley) Alberico '85, Lori (Sukley) Angelbeck '87 and Jeannette (Sukley) Springer '90, Grandfather to Alissa Alberico '13, Justin Alberico '15 and Gea Alberico '19, adopted by love Brian Masterson '84 and Gena (Masterson) Pilon '86

**Peter Valek**, father of Eve (Valek) Garcia '92 and brother of Paul Valek '68 and Raymond Valek '75

**Lorraine Zolna**, mother of Judy Zolna '72 and Jayne Zolna '74

## PARENT OF FACULTY/STAFF

**Helen Merkelis**, mother of Fr. John Merkelis

**Barbara Young**, mother of Fr. Rich Young

## FORMER FACULTY/STAFF

**Barb Stukel**

**Margaret Videtich**, former secretary at Providence Catholic, mother of Sister Paula Anthony Videtich '69, the late Carla (Videtich) Morin '72 and Paul Videtich '76

**Aloysius Wycislo**

## BENEFACTOR

**Dorothy (Dottie) Brown** Dorothy and her husband Laverne "Bitz" Brown were long time benefactors of Providence Catholic High School dating back to the era of Bishop Roger Kaffer when he served as principal. They were supporters of all major funding project since then including the 2002 Science Wing Addition and were most recently the PCHS Student Commons addition which is named after Laverne and Dorothy. Their picture hangs in the Brown Student Commons as a reminder of their lasting legacy.





PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH  
SCHOOL

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*All dates are tentative per government restrictions.*

**Harvest Drive**  
September '20

**Men's Club Celtic Chip-In Golf Outing**  
**Woodruff Golf Course, Joliet**  
September 26, 2020

**Green and White Hall of Fame Dinner**  
September 26, 2020

**Homecoming Weekend**  
October 8-9, 2020

*This year, we had to get creative with Academic Awards. See all the photos on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!*

