

Celtic

REVIEW

PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SPRING 2023



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Girls' Basketball hosted a special-needs basketball camp for some amazing athletes.

Two big names come to coach basketball and soccer at PC.

A Look Back: How three Sisters shaped Providence Catholic.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*“What does God do all day long?
He gives birth. . . God is creating this
whole universe,
full and entire in this present
moment.”*

*-Meister Eckhart, Dominican
Theologian*

May celebrates new life. The flowers on the property are budding (some are blooming a little early!) May is the month of Mary, and the celebration of our mothers. May is an Easter month which marks our new birth into life with Christ.

Although we have come to the conclusion of the school year, there are signs of new life even among students and staff that are exhausted from their efforts this year. This issue of the Celtic Review highlights so many accomplishments and initiatives. Coach Eileen Copenhaver led the way, beginning with the Girls' Basketball Special Needs Coed Basketball Camp in January. We celebrated 50 Years of Girls' Sports at Providence Catholic, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the historic Title IX. I'm so proud of Kailee O'Sullivan's dedication to promoting mental health through Morgan's Message. My heart was moved at

the similarity of her message with that of Brent Sopel, the former Chicago Blackhawk who addressed our hockey program. Both conveyed the importance of Community in emphasizing, "You are not alone!"

Academically, you will see the updates about the success of the Math Team and the impressive number of Illinois State Scholars. Note the pictures of smiling students who are involved in so many creative classroom endeavors and service projects. Mr. "Kenny" Raymond, who serves as our institutional memory, provides a tribute to the "Big Three" dynamic religious Sisters of Providence whose work was foundational to our success. Oh, and don't miss the achievements of our Fine Arts program!

It has been a challenging year in many respects at times, but a year of accomplishments and progress as well. I hope and pray that we have advanced in the most important area, the formation of character. May God guide our mission to instill courtesy, kindness, discipline, dedication, effort, good humor - faith, hope and love! St. Augustine gets the last word:

*“What does it avail me
that this birth is always happening
if it does not happen in me?
That it should happen in me is what
matters.*

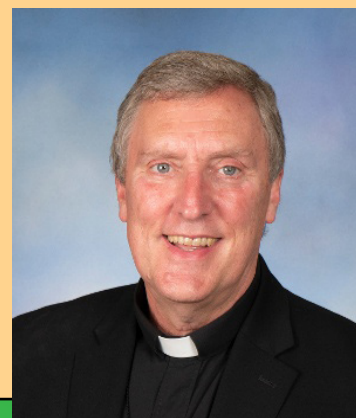
*What good is it to me for the
Creator to give birth to his Son
if I do not also give birth to him in
my time and culture?*

*This, then, is the fullness of time:
when the Son of God is begotten in
us.”*

My heartfelt thanks and admiration,



Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A.



REGISTER ONLINE! **PROVIDENCECATHOLIC.ORG**

Registration is now open for Academic and Athletic Summer Camps! The camps are designed to help young people embrace their talents, learn something new, refresh their skills, and have some fun. See full details and register online at www.providencecatholic.org!

**ACADEMIC
& ATHLETIC
SUMMER CAMPS**



SUPER CELTICS

Girls' Basketball hosted a special-needs basketball camp for some amazing athletes.



"When everyone's included, everyone wins."

Providence Catholic Girls' Basketball hosted a Super Celtics Special Needs Co-ed Camp in January, along with some special Providence Catholic student-athletes and coaches.

"We were excited about this opportunity to welcome area grade school students with special needs to have some fun while learning a little basketball," says Coach Jenna Maziur. "This is really something our team has wanted to put together, and we were excited to host it for the first time. The camp was nothing short of amazing. We were so lucky to have been blessed with the greatest campers around for our Super Celtics Camp. From the parents, to the campers, to the buddies and coaches, it was simply the best. We can't wait to do it again!"

Athletics are an important aspect of growth and development for students. Student-athletes work every day to develop their skills and sportsmanship. Through this camp, they had the opportunity to share their knowledge with some incredible campers!

"It's important for athletes to provide opportunities for others to share in the love of a sport they are so passionate about," says Providence Catholic Head Girls Basketball Coach Eileen Copenhaver. "And that includes anyone who would like to participate in basketball. As the saying goes, 'When everyone is included, everyone wins.' Super Celtics Special Needs Camp is in the books as a fantastic WIN for all. The campers gave their heart and soul for two days playing and learning some basketball. The parents (and grandparents) were so encouraging and proud, there was experienced leadership from Coach Jenna Maziur, Maureen McMahon, Meesh Bommers, Noah Senffner, Max Baldermann, our high school players and two football players, and behind the scenes personnel making the day awesome. Our high school buddies were absolutely awesome teaching, encouraging and being true buddies to the campers."



"This was everything," says Meghan C., mom to Vito. "His smile. His participation. His teamwork. His confidence. His happiness. It's been months since I've seen him this happy. A huge thank you to Providence Catholic High School, Jenna Maziur, and the girls basketball team for putting together this amazing Special Needs Co-ed Basketball Camp! Watching Vito's smile, enthusiasm, positivity, and confidence radiate the entire time brought me to tears. This school year has taken those things from him. From the social story that was provided ahead of time, to the calming break area, to the sensory friendly environment, to the use of hand signals and prompt cards... you truly thought of everything to make this incredible for our kiddos! I couldn't have been more impressed with the patience and kindness from each 'buddy' (Providence basketball team members). Vito just loved his 'buddy'. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this happen! We are forever grateful."



SCHOOL NEWS

SENIOR ZINN AMOS NAMED A SEMIFINALIST IN THE 2022-2023 COCA-COLA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Providence Catholic is proud to announce senior Zinn Amos has been named a Semifinalist in the 2022-2023 Coca-Cola Scholars Program.



“This is certainly a significant achievement for Zinn,” says Mr. Paul Houston, Principal.

“There were 1,557 Semifinalists chosen from more than 91,000 applicants. Zinn was chosen in recognition of his exceptional leadership, academic achievements, and devotion to the community. We are very proud of Zinn and his leadership, both in and out of the classroom.”

Semifinalists are in the running for 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000. The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. With the addition of the 2023 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than 6,750 Coke Scholars nationwide with over \$81 million in scholarships over the course of 35 years.

“Zinn is an incredible student,” says Kyle Murphy, Counseling Dept., Junior & Senior Counselor at Providence Catholic. “Not only does he excel in the classroom, but I’ve had the privilege of coaching him on the basketball team where the same dedication and determination he utilizes in the classroom is displayed on the court. We have no doubt he will do great things in college and beyond.”

46 PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC STUDENTS NAMED ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Forty-six students from the Providence Catholic graduating class of 2023 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars, representing 26% of the class.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state’s college access and financial aid agency, presents this important recognition of academic achievement to exceptional Illinois high school students annually.

This year, more than 17,000 honorees join

the other outstanding students who have been honored since the designation was first introduced in 1958.

“We are very proud of our Illinois State Scholars,” says Mr. Houston. “This is quite an academic achievement. Their commitment to excellence in academics truly defines them as leaders in the Providence Catholic community. We congratulate them on this success, and look forward to seeing what they accomplish as they continue their academic careers.”



17 PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC STUDENTS SCORE 30 OR HIGHER ON THE ACT

Seventeen students scored a 30 or higher on the ACT.

“These students have excelled academically during their tenure at Providence Catholic. We applaud their dedication and hard work, which is demonstrated in their results on the ACT and in the classroom,” says Mr. Houston.

The complete ACT profile for the Class of 2023 will be available at the end of the school year. For the Class of 2022, the top 10% of the class scored an average of 32.5, which is in the top five percent of all test takers in the country. The top 50% of the class scored an average of 27 on the ACT, while the average for the entire student body is 24.2 (while the national average is 21).



SCHOOL NEWS

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED

Mr. Paul Houston announced Elizabeth Kulpinski as the Class of 2023 Valedictorian and Marissa Massaro as Salutatorian. “The Celtic community is very proud of Ellie and Marissa, who are both academically gifted students. These young women are strong leaders among their peers at Providence Catholic and have contributed greatly to the Celtic family. They have very bright futures in and out of the classroom, and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish,” offered Houston.

Elizabeth Kulpinski is the daughter of Merita and Todd Kulpinski. She attended Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School and her home parish is St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr. She will be studying mechanical engineering at the University of Notre Dame. While at Providence Catholic, Ellie participated in Augustinian Youth Ministry and Habitat for Humanity. She served as a Sacristan and Kairos leader. Ellie is a member and officer of the National Honor Society and is a three-year member of Student Council, serving this year as Secretary. Ellie is a four-year member of the Volleyball team, serving this year as Captain. She has been named Volleyball All-Conference and All-Tournament at Rich East Tournament. She has earned academic honors including Algebra 1 Honors, Biology Honors, Chemistry Honors, English 2 Honors, AP United States History, Geometry Honors, AP Statistics, Precalculus Honors, Catholic Social Teaching, AP English Language and Composition, AP Scholar with Honor, Illinois State Scholar, National Merit Commended Student, GCAC Scholar Athlete: Volleyball, AP Calculus BC, AP English Literature & Composition, AP Physics C, AP Spanish Language and Augustinian Scholar.

Marissa Massaro is the daughter of Mike and Lea Massaro. She attended Oak Prairie Junior High School and her home parish is St. Bernard’s in Homer Glen. She will be studying Business Analytics at the University of Notre Dame. While at Providence Catholic, Marissa participated in Augustinian Youth Ministry and IALAC 2.0. She served as a Sacristan and Student Ambassador. Marissa is a member of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She is a four-year member of Student Council, serving this year as President. Marissa is also a member of the Girls Lacrosse Team and a 4-year member of Varsity Cheerleading where she has been named National Cheerleaders Association All-American and Cheerleading MVP, also serving this year as Captain. She has earned academic honors including AP Scholar, Illinois State Scholar, GCAC Scholar Athlete: Cheerleading & Lacrosse and Augustinian Scholar.



Elizabeth Kulpinski



Marissa Massaro

63 STUDENTS AND FIVE OFFICERS INDUCTED INTO AYM



Fr. Rich Young, O.S.A., presided over the induction of 63 students and five student directors into the school’s Augustinian Youth Ministry organization. “Truth, unity and love aren’t just happy words,” he said. “They are a way of life and the Augustinian Youth Ministry members are going to show us what that way is.”

The Augustinian Youth Ministry (AYM) is charged with promoting Christian service and Augustinian spirituality in the community. AYM organizes blood donor drives, food drives, clothing drives, and many other service activities. Their service projects benefit the community at large as well as the high school. AYM members are also required to complete 10 hours of service to their parish or community.

“I am very proud to be moderator of Augustinian Youth Ministry because each year, I get to see the incredible capacity of these students to give back,” said AYM Moderator Jennifer Williams. “Whether it’s here on our campus or out in their communities, these students continue to live out the values of Providence Catholic and make the community a better place.”


LEARN MORE ABOUT PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC AT:

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 PROVIDENCECATHOLIC.ORG

 (815) 717-3160

SCHOOL NEWS

AUGUSTINIAN SCHOLARS NAMED

Providence Catholic is proud to announce the 2022-2023 Augustinian Scholars. “The Providence Catholic Augustinian Scholar distinction was created in 2020 to honor outstanding students who push themselves academically during their time at Providence and earn the Top 10 grade point averages of the graduating class,” says Mr. Houston. “This is an incredible achievement; the culmination of four years of hard work, determination, and focus on studies. These students are awarded the Augustinian Scholar stole to wear over their gown at graduation.”

The Augustinian Scholars of the Class of 2023 are:

- Zinn Amos, Wake Forest University
- Sara Cooper, Clemson University
- Andrew Dau, Villanova University
- Ryan Dusak, Marquette University
- Cameron Fultz, University of Alabama
- Elizabeth Kulpinski, University of Notre Dame
- Marissa Massaro, University of Notre Dame
- Mallory Ritter, University of St. Francis
- Paige Shepherd, Emerson College
- Sophia Wilko, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Congratulations to these senior scholars for the dedication they have demonstrated over the past four years.



MATH TEAM TAKES 8TH PLACE IN STATE

The Math Team took 8th at state this April. In addition, members took home several awards. Mrs. Walker, moderator, says: “Last year, the team made it a goal to break into the top 10 in state for the first time in Providence history. After their initial cheers of joy, they immediately turned and said we are doing better next year. Here’s to the hard work and dedication that brought home a trophy, never settling, and dreaming for more. Go Celtics!”

Awards included:

- Katherine Timm - 7th Place - Geometry
- Rina Jeong - 9th Place - Algebra 2
- Vince Murphy and Katherine Timm - 6th Place - Fr/So Two Person
- Freshman/Sophomore 8-Person Team - 4th Place
- Algebra 1 Team - 8th Place
- Geometry Team - 7th Place
- Algebra 2 Team - 7th Place
- Calculator Team - 9th Place



READ ALL THE NEWS ONLINE:

www.providencecatholic.org/news

STUDENT FEATURES

Providence Catholic students are doing incredible things! You can read all of the stories in the news section at www.providencecatholic.org.



Gigi is a five-year brain cancer survivor who is paying it forward. She has made it her life’s purpose to help other kids who have been affected by brain cancers.



Freshman Luke Rost has been a Scout for a large part of his life. He’s learned a lot in that time – and one of the most important lessons he’s taken to heart is respect for veterans.



Jude Horak will be ready for his next steps after high school by breaking in the boots he’ll need at the United States Military Academy, also known as West Point.

MENTAL HEALTH: IT MATTERS

Providence Catholic student Kailee O'Sullivan has a goal: promote mental health among athletes. To do this, she is working closely with Morgan's Message.



The goal of Morgan's Message is to "amplify stories, resources and expertise to confront student-athlete mental health, build a community by and for athletes, facilitate safe peer-to-peer conversations and provide a platform for advocacy." More information is available at <https://www.morgansmessage.org/>.

Kailee O'Sullivan knows the stress of being a student-athlete - which is why she sought to learn more about Morgan's Message.

"This organization was really made to break the negative stigma around mental health," says Kailee. "The organization got its name from a Duke lacrosse player named Morgan. Morgan had the 'ideal' life to most. She played Division I lacrosse, had a loving family, was smart, beautiful, creative, funny, and so much more. Morgan had dealt with mental health before and had received help. She then had a very bad injury that would end up postponing her lacrosse season. Even while speaking to her parents and peers, she never opened up much about how she was feeling during this time. Morgan had written in her journal that no one could understand how she felt. She chose to stay silent and sadly committed suicide."

"While working with Morgan's Message, I have started a club that has been having interactive meetings with whoever would like to attend," says Kailee. "We are just starting, but Providence coaches are working with me to encourage student-athletes to attend meetings when needed. My goal is to help people know that they aren't alone. If I can help at least one person get through a tough time, that's enough for me."

This initiative is important to Kailee because she related to Morgan's story. "So much," she says. "I went through a bad injury on my pitching hand and had to have three surgeries. That was definitely one of the roughest patches of my life. Everything I did was related to softball and it was taken from me in seconds and there was nothing I could do about it."

The devastation when she could barely

move at physical therapy consumed her to the point of Kailee not being able to watch any softball videos without breaking down.

"I felt like people just didn't get it and never would. If I didn't have the great support system and outlets that I had, things might be a lot different now," she says. "I found outlets other than just softball and learned that everything happens for a reason. Though it felt like my life was over, if I hadn't gotten hurt, I never would have found my current team which I love - the Lady Dukes. I never would have met the amazing people I have, I never would have developed the great work ethic I now have, and I never would have learned the valuable lesson to never take anything for granted."

Based on her personal experience, Kailee wants everyone to really understand that everything happens for a reason and that your story isn't over yet. "I promise that you aren't alone," she says.

Kailee says that the pressure athletes face today is different from the pressure athletes faced before, in her opinion. "Now things might be looked at as more serious," she adds. "Schooling is harder, which makes it harder to balance a schedule. On top of that, people are going to want some kind of social life which might make it even harder to balance a schedule. Many are competing at the highest level in their sport, so everything they have is given to that sport - time, money, experiences, etc. Although being a student-athlete can be demanding, if you find the right schedule it will be so worth it."

"For me, it was the loss of another student that really made me look at finding a way

to help," says Kailee. "I did not personally know him, but I knew he was a great guy, great at baseball, and had amazing things going for him. When he was gone, there was this immense hurt in the hallways. I knew I had struggled with mental health, and I knew action needed to be taken."

It wasn't an easy start, however, as Kailee was nervous to get the club started. She wasn't sure what the feedback would be like, or how people would react to her story. It was Jeremiah Jobe and Huda Hamdan of the Providence Catholic Counseling Department that worked with Kailee on getting everything started. "Coach Jobe and Ms. Hamdan inspired me to share my story and they have supported me through every step of this process. Without them, none of this would be possible."

As to her goals for the future? "My goals are to help people go and talk to someone, whether they are an athlete or not. Mental health is real and so, so important. This year I have realized that so many more people than I thought are experiencing anxiety and/or depression. I want people to know that what they are going through is okay and not something to be ashamed of."

Another goal is to help people remember that everyone is going through a struggle of their own, whether they seem perfect or not.

"A rule that everyone should keep in mind is the golden rule, 'Treat others as you wish to be treated'," she says. "This is a basic lesson that many of us learned at a young age but is so often overlooked. If you could make that slight effort to treat someone the way you'd like to be treated, you might just make that person's day ten times better."

ATHLETIC NEWS

TIM TRENDEL HIRED AS NEW HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

Doug Ternik, Athletic Director, is pleased to welcome back Tim Trendel as the new Varsity Boys' Head Basketball Coach.

"We are happy that Tim has accepted this position and we are confident that he will do very well and wish him the best of luck," offered Ternik.



Tim graduated from Dominican University Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Liberal Arts. He continued on with his studies to receive a master's degree in administration. He is currently an Assistant Dean, Assistant Frosh Baseball Coach and teaches psychology at Providence Catholic.

Tim served as head coach of the Celtics from 2010-2018. He brings a wealth of experience to the Providence Catholic Basketball program as he has coached throughout his entire professional career.

MIKE TAYLOR HIRED TO LEAD SOCCER

Coach Mike Taylor hired as new Boys' and Girls' Head Soccer Coach at Providence Catholic.



"Mike is an exceptional coach with a great history of success," says Mr. Ternik. "He will begin coaching at Providence Catholic in fall of 2023, and we look forward to the expertise he will bring to the soccer programs."

Coach Taylor, a graduate of MacMurray College, is the second all-time winningest boys' soccer coach in state history. He holds two state titles, 13 state trophies, and a 70-percent winning percentage. Taylor began his coaching career at Glenbard South, and continued on to Fenton before heading to Saint Viator. He is a member of the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame, Saint Viator's Hall of Fame and the Illinois High School Soccer Association Hall of Fame. Most recently, he has helped with the junior varsity girls' team at Willowbrook, assisted with St. Francis boys' soccer, and will be mentoring a first-year coach at Lake Park.

TWENTY-ONE STUDENT ATHLETES COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Mr. Ternik announced that twenty-one student athletes will continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. "As always, we are extremely proud of these athletes. They are academically accomplished students who are leaders in the classroom and in their respective sports. We wish all of them the very best in college and in the future, and are excited to see them continue playing at the next level," said Ternik. Read more at www.providencecatholic.org.



STUDENT-ATHLETES INTERVIEWED BY CBS FOR FOOD DRIVE

Providence Catholic was proud to partner with CBS Chicago on National Food Day in April to collect food for the community. Thank you to all the schools across the area who joined in on this day of service to support the communities we live in, and to the Providence Catholic students who donated food to this important initiative.



HELP US
BECOME SOMETHING
GREATER, *Together!*

CAMPAIGN UPDATE!

Thank you for your support for our capital campaign, "CELTIC CAMPAIGN OF CHAMPIONS," to help improve our facilities. We are pleased to announce Phase 1 is complete, but we still need your help to complete Phase 2.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- New synthetic field turf
- New reconstructed tennis courts
- Track and Field high jump pad, pole vault pit replacements, and pads.
- New bleachers at both soccer fields

IN PROGRESS:

- New baseball and softball netting
- New softball bleachers
- Tennis Court striping

We still need your help...

PROJECTS YET TO BE FUNDED:

- New Stadium Scoreboard
- New Stadium Visitor Bleachers

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Corporate and Family Sponsorships are available. Levels begin at \$1,000 and extend to \$100,000. Pledges can be made over 4 years.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Ed Barrett at (815) 717-3164 or ebarrett@providencecatholic.org, or Doug Ternik '89 at (815) 717-3169 or dternik@providencecatholic.org.



Consider making an online gift today at www.providencecatholic.org/support-pchs.

CELTIC
CAMPAIGN
OF CHAMPIONS



SPRING 2023

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE
Celtics **AND THE CELTICS**
NEED You!



THE PROVIDENCE FUND

At Providence Catholic, we know the importance of providing our students with a quality Catholic education while striving to make it affordable for all.

We have created the "**Providence Fund**" to help cover the operating cost not covered by tuition, support academic programming by an accomplished faculty, and help with tuition assistance.

Making a gift to the Providence Fund will ensure that our school will continue to operate successfully for generations to come.

We encourage our alumni, parents of alumni, and current families to make a gift today! Any amount is appreciated.

Did you know?

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 PCHS
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\$3,695
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 DONOR GIVING SOCIETIES**

- Sisters of Providence = \$10/month
- Bishop Kaffer = \$20 /month
- St. Augustine = \$45/month
- St. Thomas = \$85/month
- St. Nicholas = \$250/month



3 Easy Ways to Give:
 Scan the QR code,
 Mail with the enclosed envelope, or visit
www.providencecatholic.org/support-pchs.



INSIDE THE CLASSROOM



One of the INCubatoredu teams filmed the celebration of 50 years of girls' sports at Providence Catholic, and 50 years of Title IX as part of their group entrepreneur project.



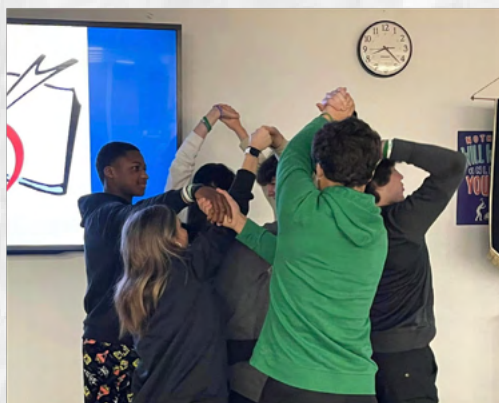
The Varsity Scholastic Bowl team, after a strong second-place finish in conference, challenged the Providence faculty to a match to help prepare for regionals.



Ms. Klod's junior English class discussed Carl Sandburg's poem, "Chicago". They made several lists, including what makes Chicago different from any other city in the world.



Mrs. Gaughan's Anatomy class presented to Grand Prairie Elementary School's kindergarten class. Students worked in groups to create a children's book on digestion and that book was read to the kindergartners via Zoom.



Mr. Murphy presented to freshmen and sophomores about Unity. They explored what unity means to them, how it relates to the school community, and how it can make PC a better place. They began by making a knot with each other, and having to unravel it without letting go of each others' hands.



Engineering Science students built catapults (trebuchets) and had fun on testing day! They headed out to the football field to take three test launches and see how far their projectile would fly.



Mr. Devine's robotics students worked on their builds and driving skills in class.



When homework is complete in study hall, students sometimes do a little brain exercise by challenging faculty and staff to board games!



Father Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., led the junior retreat where they focused on the Augustinian Values and becoming leaders. "I bet at some point, you have let fear rob you of a dream," he said. "How are you NOT going to let fear rob you? Don't let fear be a thief. Be your best. Do your best... and have fun doing it. Be who God has created you to be. Celebrate who you are. God doesn't make junk."

FINE ARTS



Senior Paige Shepherd has been selected to All-State Honors Choir – the sixth year in a row that a Singing Celtic has gone to State. Based upon judge’s scoring of the original video, Paige was named to the All-State Choir as a member of the Alto I section. She only had the one audition as her opportunity. Every choir student in the district choosing to audition was given the task to demonstrate their singing abilities on specific repertoire and tonal skills. Over 25,000 music students auditioned. Paige was selected to the District 1 ILMEA Music Festival, held in November along with fellow classmate Hunter Chentnik. Paige was also selected last year for the District 1 ILMEA Music Festival.



In December, the Music Department put on a wonderful and creative Christmas Concert. Thank you to Mr. Kyle Baltzer (band), Dr. Stacy Eckert (choir), and Mr. Brian McKee (bagpipes) for kicking off the holidays with beautiful music in celebration of the season!



Music students earned 45 Superior Awards (1st place medals) and three perfect scores for 18 performances at this year’s IHSA Solo and Ensemble Competition in March.

“This is an exceptional accomplishment for our student musicians,” says Dr. Stacy Eckert, Director of Choirs, Liturgical Music and Theatre at Providence Catholic. “I am so very proud of their work ethic and performance abilities. They did a wonderful job and represented Providence Catholic well.”

“These student musicians have worked incredibly hard all year to better their skills and performance, and it is reflected in their results,” adds Kyle Baltzer, Director of Bands at Providence Catholic. “We are grateful for our success, and to the parents and Celtic community for supporting us all year long.”

Awards included:

Superior Solos

- Amelia Connors, Soprano (Perfect Score)
- Meghan Connelly, Trumpet
- Kalina Gandurski, Eb Alto Sax
- William Garrison, Marimba
- Anna Gleason, Tuba
- Addison Gosslin, Soprano
- Cassidy Lloyd, Soprano
- Celia Minonne, Bb Clarinet
- Tyler Santry, French Horn
- Cecelia Santschi, Soprano
- Lillie Scherf, Bb Clarinet
- Paige Shepherd, Mezzo-Soprano
- Elise Stoub, Soprano

Superior Ensembles

- Honors Choir (Perfect Score)
- Percussion Ensemble
- Santschi/Shepherd Duet
- Singing Celts (Perfect Score)



The Singing Celts had the honor of performing at the Bishop’s Circle Dinner, held at the Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook. They ate a meal together prior to the performance and did a wonderful job of filling the room with song.



Sophomore Sophia Leverett won the 2023 August Wilson New Voices Regional Competition on Monday, March 27, 2023, held at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. “August Wilson is an African American Playright,” says Dr. Stacy Eckert, Director of Choirs, Liturgical Music and Theatre at Providence Catholic. “Sophia chose a monologue, and then competed against high school and college aged students at the finals. Now, she will compete at the national finals in May. We are extremely proud of her dedication to her craft and this incredible accomplishment.”



The University of Michigan Chamber Youth Choir is a program offered to high school students through the university’s School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. It is a yearlong program that meets every Sunday in Ann Arbor from August until April, and gives students the unique opportunity to learn under the direction of one of their professors and alongside some of the university’s graduate and undergraduate students. Sophomore Addison Gosslin was accepted into the program – an exciting opportunity as she continues on her high school journey. In this program, she was able to develop her choral singing and learned how to blend with other musicians while singing together. This year, twenty one students were selected to participate, including 17 high schoolers and four current University of Michigan students.

Five students participated in an art invitational held by the University of St. Francis. Students Ana Ullsmith, Maria Krumdrick, Eva Gabrisko, Samantha Dumstorf, and Alex Perkins all participated in the event. Ullsmith earned an Honorable Mention (middle right), and Eva Gabrisko (near right) earned an Award of Excellence.

In addition, Providence Catholic students recently participated in an art invitational held by the Lewis University Art Gallery – The Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Gallery. Lewis hosted a reception for the artists and their families, including Daphne Arispe, Samantha Dumstorf, Evangelina Gabrisko, Kira Gumenyuk, and Tabatha Shirley (right). Samantha earned an Honorable Mention while Kira earned Third Place.



FAITH & MISSION MOMENTS

The cross in front of school, as well as "Follow Me," has been restored and reinstalled on campus! This is the result of an Eagle Scout project by senior Ryan Gade. Thank you to Ryan and the Gade family; Coating Specialties; the classes of 1982, 1972, and 1971; the many donors; and the Gade family for making this renovation possible.



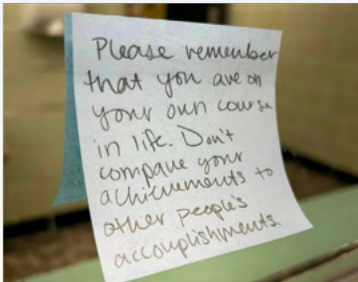
As part of restoring the cross in the front of school, Ryan Gade worked with fellow classmate Bobby Kernwein, whose family owns Coating Specialties. The cross was carefully disassembled and the pieces refinished. Thank you to Bobby and his family for their contribution to this project.



Over Christmas break, Celtic Baseball took part in community service at Feed My Starving Children - Aurora. Community service is an important aspect of life at Providence. Learn more about community service here: www.providencecatholic.org/faith-life/acts-hours.



The Men's Club and Women's Club celebrated the end of the Toys for Tots drive with Mass and a gathering. Thank you to everyone who helped make this the most successful drive yet, and the Men's and Women's clubs for the work they've put into this drive. We are proud of the Celtic community for the many ways they live out the Mission during the holiday season - and all year long.



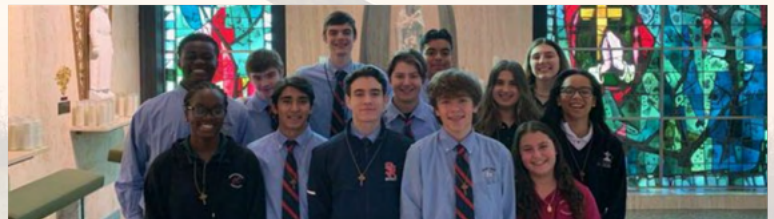
The Providence Catholic girls continue to encourage their classmates with these inspirational notes on the washroom mirrors.



Students in Bro. David's Drafting and Design class celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas in a unique way - making their own decorations! Students created pieces by programming a CNC Machine. "Creating the code to run carve the signs is a fun way to learn about machining and practice engineering skills," says Bro. David. The students even created ornaments to send to the donors who supported the initiative during last year's Week of Giving.



Service is an important aspect of the Celtic Family. Providence Catholic football players helped out at DayBreak Shelter in Joliet by serving food.



Several faculty and staff attended this year's Augustinian Values Institute in San Diego, California. The discussion focused on how to implement the Augustinian Values of Truth Unity and Love in our community.

Faith and values are an integral part of a Providence Catholic education. Each year, students come from all ten Augustinian secondary schools to attend the Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI). They deepen their understanding of the core values of Truth, Unity and Love through an experience of faith, friendship and service. SAVI XIII was held at St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago, IL. Scroll through the photos on social and read the captions to learn more about how our students participated! Learn more about SAVI here: <https://www.providencecatholic.org/faith-life/savi/>.



Each issue, we feature a special segment written by Ken Raymond, a long-time teacher, coach, and proud Celtic! Kenny Ray, as he's known around school, is a guru of Providence history and will be sharing more of his stories via our social media channels.

I arrived at the Providence campus in the spring of 1965 to coach track. The principal at the time was Brother Edmund. He offered me a contract to teach in the social studies department and coach track for the 65-66 school year. The following school year, Brother Edmund was transferred and Brother Daniel took his place. There were three dynamic women who changed the course and direction of Providence: the "Big Three" are Sister Joseph Eleanor Ryan, Sister Julia Shea and Sister Janet (later Sister Jane Bodine).

Remember that Providence was originally a school for girls with a curriculum that reflected such: a basic high school curriculum with electives centered around business and secretarial skills providing job opportunities for young women. Both the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Providence agreed that the curriculum needed improvement. Brother Dan was busy recruiting to increase the number of boys in the school; he also chaired the effort to "Save Our School". The work of establishing a more challenging curriculum fell to the Sisters of Providence.

I found Sister Joseph Eleanor Ryan quite impressive. She taught English and managed the English Department. She was quiet and scholarly, and expected excellence both of herself and her students. After teaching for nearly fifty years, she undertook a new project for

the order, travelling from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN to Rome, Italy gathering research for the cause of sainthood for Mother Theodore Guerin. Sister Eleanor's work is nearly 900 pages and has been translated into English, French, Italian and Latin. She also wrote volumes of poetry currently in the Sisters of Providence Archives. She wrote, "Call to Courage: A story of Mother Theodore Guerin". Besides being a poet, scholar, and linguist, she wrote plays and a history of the Sisters of Providence. Born in 1909, she died in 1991.



Sister Joseph Eleanor

Sister Julia Shea was the last of the Providence Sisters at Providence. She was Assistant Principal for Fr. Kaffer, and much of the upgraded curriculum is attributed to her. She earned a bachelor's degree in social studies from Saint Mary-of-the Woods College and a Master's Degree in English from Indiana State University. As assistant principal, she wanted to make sure class content met high standards and that teachers were well organized and prepared. She insisted that teachers with less than five years'



Sister Julia Shea

experience submit written lesson plans to her. She toured classes regularly to insure that content matched presentation. After she left Providence, she would take a year sabbatical at Notre Dame before serving as an administrative assistant to the Bishop of Springfield from 1984 to 1997. She died in 2007.

The third member of the "Big Three" is Sister Janet, although she later would return to her own name, Sister Jane Bodine. The name "Bodine" in French is translated "bold one." Her father would often tell her that meeting and overcoming challenges is a Bodine way of life. Sister Janet met the challenges. Her education included a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and English at Saint-Mary-of-the Woods College and a Master's Degree in Chemistry from Notre Dame, with graduate studies in journalism and secondary school administration. Sister Janet was an assistant principal for five years. She had tireless energy, moving quickly down the halls - you had to be careful you didn't get hit by the cross she wore around her neck which swayed like a pendulum!



Sister Janet

Sister Janet left high school teaching to devote her energy to Adult Education. In 1970 she created the United Southside Community Organization Adult Education Program in Indianapolis which she directed for eight years. She said of this ministry, "There I learned the reality of poverty, the very limited options available to the truly poor." She was awarded the Service of Mankind Award by the

Sertoma Club of Downtown Indianapolis, the first given to a woman religious. They said of her that she “personifies the ideals of a Providence nun, as expressed in the writings of Mother Theodore.”

In 1978, Sister Jane created the Office of Congregational Advancement. In six years she raised funds to renovate the interior of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the building of Karcher Hall, the north/south wing of Mother Theodore Hall, and set the foundation for fundraising the Order continues to build upon. Her experiences and growing reputation as a pioneer in fundraising for women religious led to the Lilly Endowment in Indianapolis offering her a \$2.5 million grant to educate leaders of congregations on the principles and processes of fundraising. She has been called the “Wonder Woman of Development.” She was recognized two more times by the Lilly Endowment with their service award. Born in 1919, she died in 2017.

All of this material came from the website of the Sisters of Providence. I chose these three Sisters because of their educational background, and the leadership they provided at a critical time in our school’s history. Sister Jane and Sister Julia quickly realized that we needed to be co-educational not co-institutional. That was rare and in many ways groundbreaking for Catholic education in the Chicagoland area. Both merged the courses offered by the Brothers and Sisters to maximize efficiency. They determined which electives should remain and which needed to be changed to serve the needs of a school moving toward a college prep program.

I believed all three women had strong feelings for advancing the cause for women entering the field of medicine not only as nurses, but also as doctors, surgeons and technicians. Why couldn’t women be lawyers, CEOs and entrepreneurs as well? They were truly trailblazers!

These three women were all born before 1920 when there were limited opportunities for women. The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, and these sisters used their education to benefit others, particularly women. Their

strong leadership was essential at a time when Providence needed it the most. They not only talked the talk, they walked the walk.

Personally I enjoyed discussing literature with Sister Joseph Eleanor, along with her subtle humor. Sister Jane and Julia were mentors to me. As a young teacher, I needed the guidance and direction they provided. As a young department chair my interaction with Sister Julia was such a positive experience. What I remember the most are their smiles, the energy, the dedication to their professions, and the professionalism they exhibited. I was overwhelmed at how they displayed their Christian values. They accepted Christ’s two great commandments; love God and love your neighbor as yourself. This they did through a lifetime of prayer, service and sacrifice.

So many orders have been at Providence Catholic over the years. Stay tuned to our social media this summer for some interviews with Kenny Ray on this and more Providence history! Do you have a favorite Providence memory? Send it to celtics@providencecatholic.org.

Join the Celtic Alumni Club on Facebook for alumni updates, news and events! You'll even see photos posted from previous yearbooks (like these) once in awhile as we look back at Celtic history.



ALUMNI UPDATES

On Friday, January 27, 2023, Providence Catholic welcomed boys' basketball alumni back for the varsity game. It was a special night for one basketball alumnus in particular – Walter Downing, Class of 1981. "In Walter's four years as a varsity starter, his team collected 104 wins," says Frank Palmasani, Junior & Senior Counselor and Walter's former basketball coach at Providence Catholic. "They won four regional titles, four sectional titles, achieved three super-sectional victories, and had a third place state finish – in addition to a state championship in 1979." Palmasani coached Downing as the team fought their way to the state championship. During the ceremony, President Father John Merkelis, OSA, Principal Paul Houston, Athletic Director Doug Ternik, and Varsity Basketball Coach Kyle Murphy presented a replica of the jersey Downing wore during the 1979 state championship, and a ball that acknowledges his point totals.



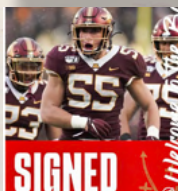
John MacBean '79 is currently tied for 4th all-time in the World for Raw Bench Press in the Master class 60 - 64 / 275lbs weight class with a bench of 446.6 Lbs. He is also the current State Discus Champion in the Senior Olympics 60 - 64 years old. "I hope to take the #1 ranking in the master bench by July of this year," he says.



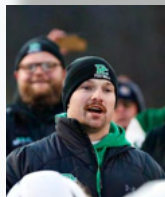
Alumni Mike Kashirsky '95 (White Sox pre-game instructor) and Dan Dement '96 (Tampa Bay hitting coach) recently caught up at the old ball game!

WJOL's Scott Slocum interviewed Brittany Pirc '14 about making it to the Boston Marathon. Brittany was involved in a terrible car accident in March of '12, during her time at PCHS, and had to relearn how to walk again - and she is now running marathons!

Congratulations to Providence alumnus Mariano Sorri-Marin, signed by the 49ers!



Head Football Coach Tyler Plantz '10 was named WJOL's Coach of the Year. Coach Plantz, a University of Notre Dame graduate, knows the value of academics and athletics together and led the 2022-2023 Celtic football team to a second place finish in the state championship.



Claudia Utz, part of the reigning NFCA All-American duo with Gina Followell, was named to the 2023 Tucci/NFCA Division III Player and Pitcher of the Year Watchlist.

Claudia ranks fourth nationally in home runs per game at 0.41, seventh in slugging percentage at 0.977, and 13th in home runs with 13.

Class of 2019 alumnae Abby Ragusa, Carly Renfro, and Maddy Bear met up in London. Carly and Abby graduated early from college and planned to backpack around Europe for a month, and Maddy headed to Europe for three weeks during her winter break to backpack as well.



Girls' basketball alums had the chance to square off against each other this season! Carthage College guard Lauren Knight played Lawrence University's Sophie Morey and Bailey Griffis.

ThrowbackThursday: Mr. Kenny Raymond came to PC in the spring of 1965 as a coach, and helped create the first girls cross country team (initially a co-ed cross country team) in 1977. Though it started with one female runner, Ellen Podoba, who ran against the boys, it has grown into a thriving team over the last 45 years. Mr. Raymond still assists in coaching, and brought in one of his oldest pieces of spirit wear from that 1978 team - a shirt emblazoned with the number 129 on the sleeve. This number represents the number of stairs the runners had to climb at the Palos toboggan slides, where they would practice once a week. "Terry (McAlpin) Grossmeyer and Ellen Podoba were the first two," says Mr. Raymond. "I believe Gerri Schubert ran as well."



Thank you to these very special Providence ladies for the surprise homemade treats for faculty and staff! Judy Legan, Marcia Smith and Barb Muehler were very gracious in making and serving the treats. Judy served as a math teacher, track coach and Director of Studies before retiring as Assistant



Principal at PC. Marcia is the mother of Providence grads and our very own Coach Mark Smith. Barb served as Providence's first Kairos Director and taught Theology, PE, German and History over the years. Once a Celtic, always a Celtic!

Providence Catholic Counselor Mr. Frank Palmasani has been elected to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, as a Friend of Basketball!



Mr. Palmasani followed Pat Sullivan as head basketball coach at PCHS. He started with a record of 2-22 but within a few short years he coached the 1979 state championship team. He began working in college admissions at Hinsdale South, later returning to Providence. He is a noted author, writing about the college admissions process, and is a consultant to WGN - as well as being featured in the Boston Herald and the Chicago Tribune. He is providing a vital support for families and students as they navigate college admissions!



CLASS REUNIONS

Looking to plan your class reunion? Contact Susan King, Director of Alumni Relations & Special Events, at skking@providencecatholic.org or 815-717-3162.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa was another wonderful event that saw many alumni return to campus with their families – all of whom are on the nice list! Thank you to the Celtic elves and of course Elsa for coming by to visit with the kids.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came out for Trivia Night! Parents, alumni, and friends of PC competed to see which team is the trivia champion. Check out more upcoming events at www.providencecatholic.org!



50 YEARS OF GIRLS SPORTS AND TITLE IX

Providence Catholic celebrated 50 Years of Girls Sports and Title IX. 50 years ago, Title IX created the opportunity for official girls sports, and teams began forming at Providence Catholic. Our panelists discussed what it was like to experience the start of female athletics, the obstacles and partnerships and wins along the way, and how much athletics and scholarships for female athletes have changed over the course of 50 years. The full video will be available online. Thank you to our panelists and keynote speaker for the incredible conversation and stories shared, and to Coach Eileen Copenhaver for bringing this event to PC. And thank you to all the female athletes - past and present - who came back to share in the celebration! Moderator: Shannon (Conroy) Withers '95. Keynote Speaker - Carolyn O'Connell. PCHS Alumnae Q&A Panel: Nan Airola, Judy Legan, Mary (Sullivan) Colbert '77, Leanne (Burla) Kubinski '79, Sue (Miller) Bell '82, Beth (Rancic) Shannon '82, Kim (Ogurek) Kramer '00, and Michelle Karr Bommersbach '08.



VISIT THE ONLINE SPIRIT SHOP TO PURCHASE YOUR PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC GEAR!
providencecatholic.org

Visit the alumni page online at www.providencecatholic.org/alumni for upcoming events, including:

Friday, September 29, 2023
 Homecoming - Alumni Tent

Saturday, September 30, 2023
 Homecoming -
 Alumni Mass and Tours

Tuesday, December 19, 2023
 Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 9, 2023
 Breakfast with Santa

Friday, February 23, 2024
 Alumni Trivia Night

Friday, April 19, 2024
 Green and White Alumni
 Hall of Fame

IN MEMORIAM

MAY GOD HOLD THEM IN THE PALM OF HIS HANDS. PCHS WAS NOTIFIED OF THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING . .

ALUMNI

Josephine (Bozich) Hamner '52

Norma Jean (Ward) Webster '50, Lillian (Ward) Mancuso '51, Patricia (Ward) Orosco '60 and Robert Ward '66

Joanne (Cresto) Legerski '56

Marilyn (O'Motta) Campus '65

Richard T. Fraser '81

Charles Beck '83, brother of Michael Beck '77

Bernard Petric '68, brother of Joseph Petric '67, Mark Petric '71 and Katherine (Petric) Kleinhoffer '75

Connor Jennings '18, brother of Meghan Jennings '21

Patrick J. Flynn '69, father of Patrick G. Flynn '00, brother of John Flynn '68, Mary (Flynn) Tibble '70, Terry Flynn '71, Michael Flynn '73, Daniel Flynn '78, and sister Eileen (Flynn) Kaleta '74

Cheryl (Zdziarski) Allen '99, daughter of Joseph Zdziarski '70, sister to John J. Zdziarski '01

PARENT OF ALUMNI

John Hamerla, husband of Rosemarie (Jadron) Hamerla '53, father of Janet (Hamerla) McClarence '88, grandfather to Anna Goggins '16 and Aidan Goggins '20 and father-in-law to Michael McClarence '89

Georgiana Pascente, mother of Angie Pascente '90

James Masterson, father of Brian Masterson '84 and Gina (Masterson) Pilon '86, grandfather to Andrew Masterson '17, Abigail Pilon '19 and Alexander Masterson '25

Richard Mandella, husband Norma (Marizza) Mandella '52, father of Richard Mandella '73 and Patricia (Mandella) Olszta '74, grandfather to Edwin Olszta '97, Richard Olszta '98, Megan (Mandella) Wells '99, Jennifer (Olszta) Glynn '00, Daniel Olszta '03, Ryan Mandella '03, Kaitlin (Olszta) DiVito '06, Kevin Mandella '07, great-grandfather to Edwin Olszta '25 and Isabella Olszta '26, and father-in-law to Edwin Olszta, Jr. '74 and Jean (White) Mandella '74

Peter Stipanovich, husband of Carol (O'Connor) Stipanovich '61, father of Sara (Stipanovich) McKinney '87, Tedd Stipanovich '88 and John Stipanovich '89, grandfather to Clare McKinney '18,

Grace McKinney '20, Isabella Stipanovich '24, Nathan Stipanovich '25 and Lianna Stipanovich '26

Earl Zastro, father of Michael Zastro '86, the late Kristen Zastro '87, Laura (Zastro) Cissell '89 and Ryan Zastro '94

Marietta O'Heir, mother of John O'Heir '95

Janet Boland, mother of Thomas Boland '99 and mother-in-law of Molly (Reiter) Boland '99

BENEFACTOR

Deacon Robert Kaminski, Cor Unum recipient and grandfather to David Kaminski, Jr. '14 and Christopher Kaminski '17, and great grandfather to Madison Hudek '24

CURRENT PARENT

Sara Arias, mother of Alicia Arias '17, David Perkins '21 and Alexandria Perkins '23

Tracy Kelleher, mother of Noah Kelleher '24

“THE MEASURE OF LOVE IS TO LOVE WITHOUT MEASURE.” ST. AUGUSTINE

LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL



Hello from the Midwest Augustinian Province offices in Chicago!

I pray that everyone had a wonderful Easter season. As the academic year draws to a close, it is evident that the teachings of Saint Augustine continue to thrive within the walls of Providence Catholic. It is with great admiration that I acknowledge the impressive accomplishments of the Celtic students in recent months.

Congratulations to the 45 student musicians for their first-place achievement at the state level, the Math Team for their fifth consecutive year as Regional Champions, the Cheer Team for their Sectional victory, and Girls Basketball for their Regional Championship win. As usual, the successes of the Providence Catholic community make me extraordinarily honored to have you all as a part of our Province.

Additionally, I would like to share some exciting news about our very own Br. David Relstab, O.S.A. Brother

David is being featured as a part of our Augustinian Vocation outreach initiatives – and we’re featuring his stories and love of woodworking on our Vocation social media accounts (even our new TikTok @beafriar)!

May God continue to guide and bless the endeavors of the Providence Catholic community as we strive to live out our faith and serve Him with love and compassion. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a talented community of students who inspire us all to strive for excellence and live our lives with purpose and meaning. Let us continue to support and encourage one another in our collective pursuit of fulfilling God's plan for our lives.

Sincerely yours,

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

ENROLLMENT

Learn more about Shadow Days, the Placement Exam, Junior High Nights, private family tours, Open Houses and more at www.providencecatholic.org!

FRESHMEN PARTY

In March, registered students for next year's freshmen class attended a party to welcome them to the Celtic community and introduce them to new classmates.

PLACEMENT EXAM

Look at those Celtic smiles! Members of the incoming Class of 2027 took the placement exam in December and received a PC sweatshirt to begin their high school journey in style.



FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

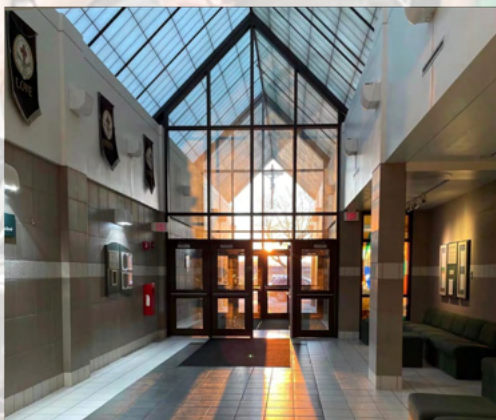
Student Council put together an awesome Spring Fling week. From dress down themes to pep rally and games, they created a memorable week for students.



Providence celebrated the annual Mother's Day Mass in April. Join us in thanking all moms, including the amazing leaders of the Providence Catholic Women's Club, for the love, dedication, and time they devote to their children and the school.



Providence student Sophie Lind was at school bright and early and captured these beautiful photos of sunrise on campus.



Celtic Time students wrote words of encouragement on the mirrors - a reminder to everyone who passes by that they matter!



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HARVEST DRIVE DIRECTORY

[HTTPS://WWW.PROVIDENCECATHOLIC.ORG/HARVEST-DRIVE/](https://www.providencethecatholic.org/harvest-drive/)

The Harvest Drive Directory is up online! Be sure to visit the directory when searching for a vendor or company for anything from realtors to restaurants and more! These businesses have generously supported the Harvest Drive Fundraiser, so let's support them in return.

Support the Harvest Drive by contacting Susan King, Director of Alumni Relations & Special Events, at skking@providencethecatholic.org or 815-717-3162.

