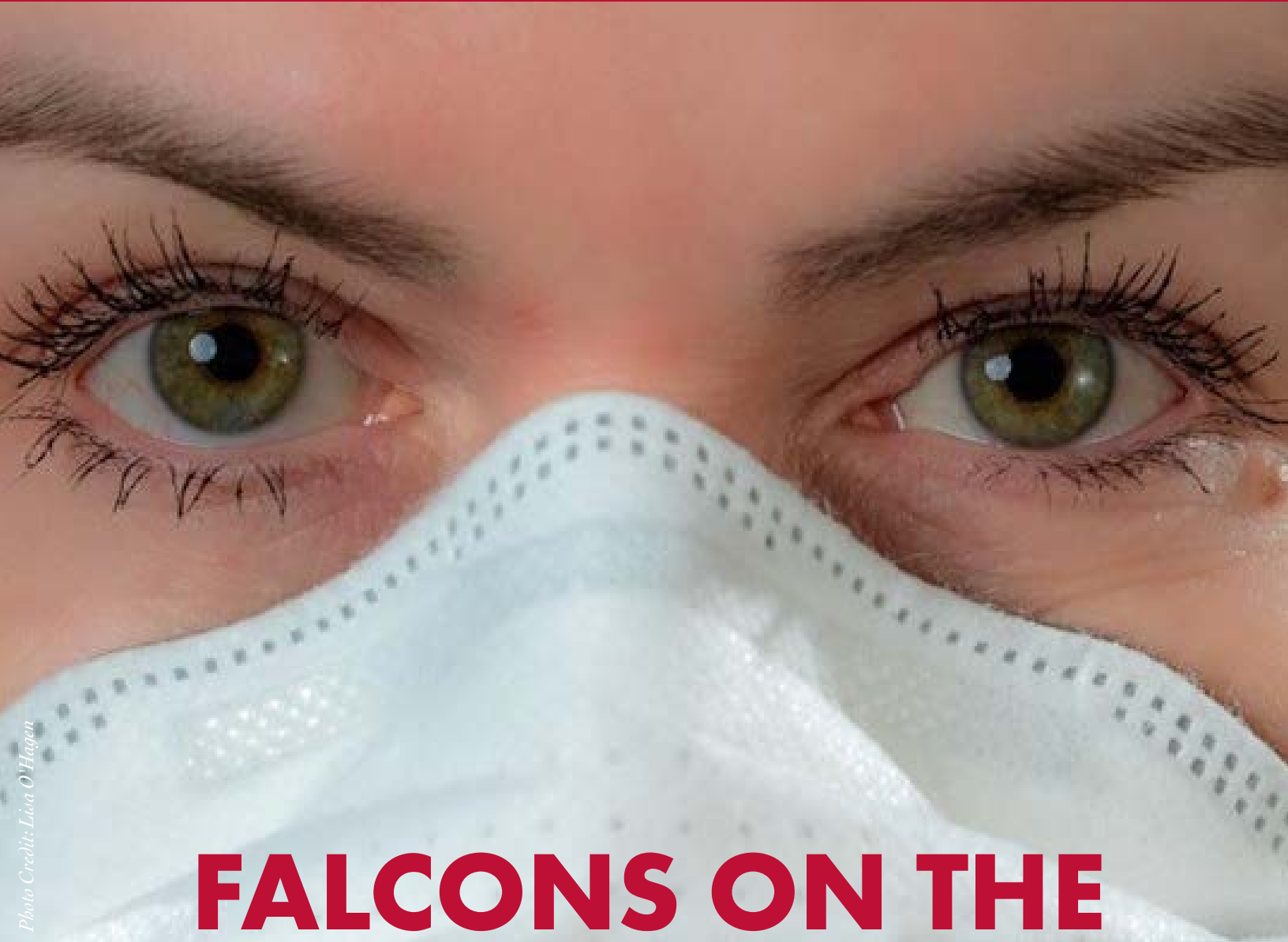




# Once a Falcon

Summer/Fall 2020



**FALCONS ON THE**

**FRONTLINE**

*Rising above the pandemic*

*Plus, Coach Mif retires and a new "Legacy Garden" houses old alumni bricks*

Photo Credit: Lisa O'Hagen

## SUMMER/FALL 2020

### Editorial

Aubri (Marchetti) McNamara '97  
Colleen (Beard) Johnson '00

### Design & Layout

Marie (Stawasz) Boyle '07

### Printer

Progressive Printing

Once a Falcon magazine is published semi-annually by the Divine Child Alumni Association for graduates and friends of Divine Child.



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### CORRECTIONS: WINTER 2020 ISSUE |

DCAA offers sincere apologies to classmate Michael Bourlier '63 and his family for the printing of misinformation. We are pleased to share that Michael remains well after making a turnaround upon receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Ryan Schreiber '02 and wife Amanda welcomed their second son, Alistair John, born on December 9, 2019, weighing 6 lbs 2 oz, measuring 18 inches long, Alistair joins big brother Luke (18 months).

### Questions or feedback?

Call Us: 313-261-0891

Email Us: [advancement@divinechild.org](mailto:advancement@divinechild.org)

Connect with Us!

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 @DivineChildFalcons

### Publish an alumni update!

Share your stories and photos with us! Contact us on Facebook, Twitter or by email: [amcnamara@divinechild.org](mailto:amcnamara@divinechild.org). For inclusion in the next issue, please submit updates and articles no later than 12/15/20. All content submitted becomes Divine Child property and may be edited prior to publication.



### Advancement Office

Colleen (Beard) Johnson '00  
Director of Advancement

Marie (Stawasz) Boyle '07  
Director of Marketing & Communications

Matthew Saxer  
Director of Admissions

Aubri (Marchetti) McNamara '97  
Alumni Relations Coordinator

Olivia Doyle '13  
Marketing Coordinator

Connie DiMarco  
Special Events Coordinator

### High School Leadership

Eric Haley '98  
Principal

Jessica Spearman  
Assistant Principal

Matthew Mooney  
Assistant Principal

### Alumni Association

The Alumni Association is built on a strong foundation of dedication and a belief in the motto *Once a Falcon, Always a Falcon*. The Association actively promotes the family tradition of continuing a Divine Child High School education.

Greg Cibor '89  
President

Karen (Mulholland) Gessler '89  
Vice President

Mike Vecchioni '72  
Treasurer

Katie Zakar '99  
Secretary

Cheryl (Oros) Nelson '75  
Member at Large

Jennifer Topolski '85  
Member at Large

### Class Agents

Alumni volunteers serving as liaisons between their classmates and the DCAA.



Since 1950, the Church of the Divine Child has been a strong Catholic presence in Dearborn and today remains one of the largest and most vibrant Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Together, Divine Child Elementary School, founded in 1953, and Divine Child High School, founded in 1958, have grown into the largest co-educational Catholic school community in Michigan.

With a history spanning more than 60 years, Divine Child High School has imparted "goodness with knowledge" to generations of students and continues to provide a Catholic education emphasizing spiritual, academic, social, and creative excellence. Over 11,000 alumni have gone forward to build success on these values. Today, over 850 Divine Child High School students enjoy the opportunity to study numerous academic disciplines, compete in various sports, and participate in many extracurricular activities, all built on a strong spiritual foundation.



**Aubri McNamara '97**  
Alumni Relations Coordinator  
313-216-0891 ext. 232  
[amcnamara@divinechild.org](mailto:amcnamara@divinechild.org)

### A NOTE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

What a Spring we had! So many of our usual events were cancelled, ending our school year abruptly. Just like that, the students and teachers packed up their lockers and classrooms and school work started from home. Our Falcon family did it with style and grace. So many important roles were needed to get us through a very tough time. From the stay at home parent to the grocery store worker, Falcons showed their strength, faith and perseverance. Falcon heroes were everywhere. We don't know what fall 2020 will bring us, but what we do know is that Divine Child will deliver a first class product. The DC community continues to be a blessing to my family and I everyday. I love connecting with alumni, so please reach out with ideas, questions, updates, etc. Be well and God bless.





## A Message from OUR PASTOR

On Tuesday, May 19, Divine Child had its first public Masses after nine weeks where parishioners could not attend. It seemed like many months had passed since our last open Mass. I felt like singing the Etta James song, "At Last!"

People look to see if any good is coming as a result of the pandemic. One common theme that I hear concerns an increased hunger to return to Mass. When things return to where there is no fear or need to social distance, people will cherish the opportunity to attend church and gather as a family. These were things that many of us used to take for granted.

It reminds me of a time when I was on vacation as a young boy. For some reason, drinking water had to be rationed. When I returned home about ten days later, I was so grateful to go to the faucet and get a drink of water. That appreciation of water stayed with me for at least ten years. When we reach the end of this pandemic, I pray we will always have an increased love for attending church and receiving the sacraments.

We have to rely on teamwork in order to get the job done well in times of great difficulty. This has certainly been the case in the last few months at Divine Child.

Our principals, teachers, faculty, and the entire Divine Child team have responded with wisdom, courage, perseverance, creativity, and compassion. As always, excellence is the expectation for every aspect of our students' education, despite our school year

concluding in a way that no one could have imagined back in at the start of the school year.

We were blessed to have our annual auction and our Divine Child Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Tastefest. Both events were great times for alumni and friends to gather. Thank you to all who attended and who worked so hard to make them both successful!

I think Divine Child comes in at a close second. Although our parking lot is not full for weekend Masses, you are welcome to join us in person or via live streaming on our Divine Child Facebook page. In addition to our regularly scheduled indoor Masses, weather permitting, we will have outdoor Masses on our football field. The times for these Masses are Sunday at 10:15 AM and 12:45 PM. People love the outdoor Masses! They are a creative response to the need for social distancing.

**JOIN US FOR MASS**

**WEEKDAYS**  
6:30 AM | 8:30 AM

**WEEKEND**  
**SATURDAY**  
8:30 AM | 4:30 PM + LIVE STREAM

**SUNDAY**  
8 AM | 10 AM | 12:30 PM  
**+ NEW OUTDOOR SUNDAY MASSES**  
10:15 AM | 12:45 PM  
*(weather permitting)*

Our Advancement office is doing a fine job of keeping people informed of Divine Child

events. You can sign up for text updates by texting the keyword DIVINECHILD to 84576.

The pandemic has created a worldwide crisis. We thank God that as St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 8: "Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ." (Romans 8:35)

Let us remember to pray for one another and all who are suffering at this time. Let us pray for all first responders and all who put themselves in harm's way in order to serve others. Their courage and dedication have been an inspiration.

All of us are grateful for the many ways Fr. Matt has added to the life of our parish. He will be missed by everyone. I will miss him greatly! He has been a joy to serve with for the last year. I also thank God ahead of time for the blessings that will be ours through the ministries of our new associate pastors, Fr. Paul Graney and Fr. David Pellican.

I have come to the end of my first year as your pastor. I look forward to things getting back to a safe and healthy normal. New York is known as the city that never sleeps. I was always impressed with Divine Child Parish and Schools. Now, after seeing the magnificent response our Divine Child team has made in these unprecedented times, I am in awe. Thank you for all the ways that you support Divine Child schools and our entire Divine Child family.

God's Peace and Joy,

*Fr. Bob McCabe*

## Meet our new PRIESTS



| Fr. David Pellican

I grew up in a strong and loving Catholic family along with my seven sisters, where my parents homeschooled all eight of us. Though I always wished for a brother, we were certainly never lonely, and are still very close. I have always loved the outdoors: camping, hiking, fishing, etc. I also enjoy sports, and spent a good part of my childhood playing roller hockey with friends. Throughout high school, I spent the summers working on a hay farm and in residential construction, while also raising pigs on the side.

The thought of the priesthood first entered my mind when I was ten, and it never really left me. As I grew, so did my understanding of what it means to be a priest, and the sacrifices involved. I decided this was not for me. But God was persistent, and that thought, "be a priest," remained with me despite my best efforts to ignore it. Eventually I decided to follow this call, and after eight years of seminary I have by God's grace been ordained a priest. I cannot imagine a more joyful or fulfilling life for me.



| Fr. Paul Graney

Hello everyone! I am so grateful and excited to be welcomed to Divine Child as one of your next associate pastors. Everything that I have ever heard about your parish is awesome! I have been an associate pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington for the past four years, which is how long I have been ordained as a priest. I am 35 years old and grew up in Oxford, MI with my parents Paul and Judy and sister Katie who is just eleven months younger than me. I attended Oxford Public Schools and graduated high school in 2003.

hockey all the way into college for Oakland University's club team. I may be a little slower but I have continued to play weekly the past few years in men's leagues. I also like to golf, fly fish, ski, and go camping.

I attended Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit for six years and was ordained on May 14, 2016. I absolutely love being a priest and never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever end up doing what I do. But it is amazing! I am ever grateful to live a life that brings peace, hope, and love to the people of the world, especially through the sacraments. I am very much anticipating joining you on your journey as disciples of the Lord Jesus! I am praying for you, pray for me, and we will see each other soon!

I grew up playing a lot of sports but my favorites were hockey and football. My dad taught me how to skate when I was just 4 years old and I continued playing



## Goodbye & thank you from

## FR. MATTHEW HOOD

When I was studying to be a priest, I often would spend time daydreaming about different aspects of priesthood. I would imagine what it would look like to be saying Mass, preaching, hearing confessions, spending time with students and parishioners. It is a natural part of seminary that as we talk about the dimensions of priestly life that we also have images associated with those thoughts. At that point, there was no way to predict where I would be assigned as a priest. The whole process for new priestly assignments doesn't even begin until soon before ordination, at the end of seminary formation. The strange thing was, without even doing so intentionally, for all those imaginary

scenarios in my mind, they always took place at Divine Child. I would imagine myself preaching from the ambo here in our church, standing at the altar, sitting in the confessional, and running around our beautiful schools. I was familiar with the parish having visited a few times but had no indication that this would be my first assignment. It was just something that intuitively made sense to me that I would end up here at Divine Child.

Looking back now, at the end of my time here, it has been a profound grace for me as cloudy imaginings have become reality. What were then only ideas have now become concrete experiences in my heart and mind. Real faces, events, joys, trials, new opportunities, and relationships have taken the place of hazy expectations in the back of my

mind. I could never have imagined the blessing it has been to begin my priestly life here at Divine Child these past three years. Now, as I prepare for my new assignment at St. Lawrence Parish in Utica, MI, I carry all of you in my heart and prayers as I look back with profound gratitude. I want to thank Fr. Jim Bilot and Fr. Bob McCabe for their mentorship and example; the parish and school staffs, who I have been privileged to serve alongside; the many students who have been through our doors, who have taken seriously their call to be disciples of Christ; and the whole parish community, for inspiring me through their lives of holiness.

God bless,  
Fr. Matt





HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

A Message from  
OUR PRINCIPAL



While the school year ended without the celebrations we had planned and hoped for, we still found several opportunities to celebrate and recognize our graduating seniors. We were able to have a Senior Parade, Honors Night, and we even had some fun with the Faculty Revue. Although the final days looked very different from previous years, our Class of 2020 is prepared to go into the world and do amazing things! I can also confidently say that the faculty and staff will be ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead as we plan and prepare to educate our students next year.

It is bittersweet that I share with you that I am taking a new position as an associate superintendent of the Archdiocese of Detroit. In this new role, I will be overseeing Catholic schools in the AOD's south and central regions and working with their pastors and principals to ensure the long term viability of parochial schools. One of our current assistant principals, Mrs.

Jessica Spearman, has been named interim principal for the 2020-2021 school year, while Mrs. Christine (Ervin) Geoghegan '95, the current leader of our counseling department, will join the administrative team as an interim assistant principal for the 2020-2021 school year.

Both Mrs. Spearman and Mrs. Geoghegan have been members of the DCHS community for many years and understand the unique qualities that constitute a Divine Child education. Moreover, they have worked at a high-level to research, explore and formulate the strategic development of our 2020-2021 Return to School Plan, making them well-prepared to hit the ground running this fall and discern plans for the future. I am grateful that Divine Child will have continuity of leadership within this transition.

The situation we are in today is still a period filled with questions around what the future days will look like for each of us and our

students. I believe that our Falcons will take this as an opportunity to answer what the Lord calls us to do. We have such a strong community of students, parents and staff who truly believe in our high school motto of 'Goodness with Knowledge.' I am confident that under the leadership of Fr. Bob McCabe, Mrs. Spearman, Mr. Mooney and Mrs. Geoghegan, our students will continue to do good work and carry that with them upon graduation.

In Romans 15:13 we read, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Divine Child High School has been and will be a place where hope is added to the foundation of who we are. I know it has been for me. Let this hope be with each of us as we move forward on our journey to contribute to the world.

Eric Haley '98  
Principal

MR. NANNINI SAYS GOODBYE TO DCHS



As I move on from Divine Child, I look back on how the years here have been made bright by the staff and students who walk these halls. I want to thank the students for the memories and the learning that we have shared these last couple of years. Please know that each one of you have made an impact; I have learned from you as much as you have allowed me to teach you.

Make sure to take advantage of every learning opportunity that is placed in your path. Take time to reflect and always move forward. We are all called by our Creator to accomplish some purpose to help bring about the Kingdom. Listen to that still, quiet voice, and discover what it is you are called to do. As I have said, there is great peace in being who you were intended to be. I have found it twice, and my most ardent hope is that you do, too.



MAY  
Crowning  
*The tradition continues*

Every year on May 1st, in our Catholic tradition and at DCHS, we come together to honor Mary, the Mother of the Divine Child.

In preparation for the crowning ceremony, the senior girls are given the task of voting for the young women in their class who will be on the May Crowning court. These women are chosen by their peers based on who they think best

represents the qualities of the Virgin Mary; chastity, gentleness and obedience to the will of God.

The members of the court this year were Emily Walker, Regina Arriola, Avery Budz, Shannon Pavlak and Jewell Redman.

While the school community was unable to gather in-person for the ceremony, students were able

to tune in for a live stream of the service. Crowning court members prerecorded themselves reading the traditional reflections which were spliced in during the live stream. Emily Walker - who was selected by her class to crown Mary - was onsite at the church to crown the Blessed Mother.



Encountering Christ on Retreat

This year we were fortunate enough to complete the retreats for all of the classes before the recent crisis and closing of schools. The retreat for the seniors was held in November which truly turned out to be a blessing. The seniors have been forced to miss out on so many of the key events of their final year at DCHS; we are glad that they were able to experience this one.

The senior retreat is an overnight retreat that takes place at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt. The retreat center is owned and run by the Diocese of Lansing. It is a wonderful facility that is large enough to house and feed our group. It also has large grounds for the students to enjoy and explore. A walk in the woods can be very helpful when reflecting on the insights and emotions that are

encountered during the retreat.

This year's retreat was once again made more special by the tremendous support that we had from our priests. Our pastor Fr. Bob, our associate pastor Fr. Matt, and several other area priests made the trip up and back both nights, one night for each half of the senior class, to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation was offered during Eucharistic Adoration. Each student in their own heart knows best what the retreat meant to them, but to see a large number of the seniors taking advantage of this beautiful sacrament while the rest were before the Holy Eucharist lifting their voices in songs of praise announced the presence of the Holy Spirit.





Senior year and graduation are rites of passage for American youth. And the global pandemic could not take that away from the Class of 2020. While Divine Child High School's Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation Ceremony were postponed, our seniors completed their last semester of high school with determination, focus and an eye on the future. This experience - and all the experiences they've had during their four years at Divine Child - have shaped their perspective and molded them into Christian leaders. As these Falcons prepare to spread their wings and soar into the unknown, we are confident Divine Child has prepared them to not only take on the world, but more importantly, to change it.

## STATS ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2020



## THE TOP OF THEIR CLASS



VALEDICTORIAN

*Sarah Gawlik*



SALUTATORIAN

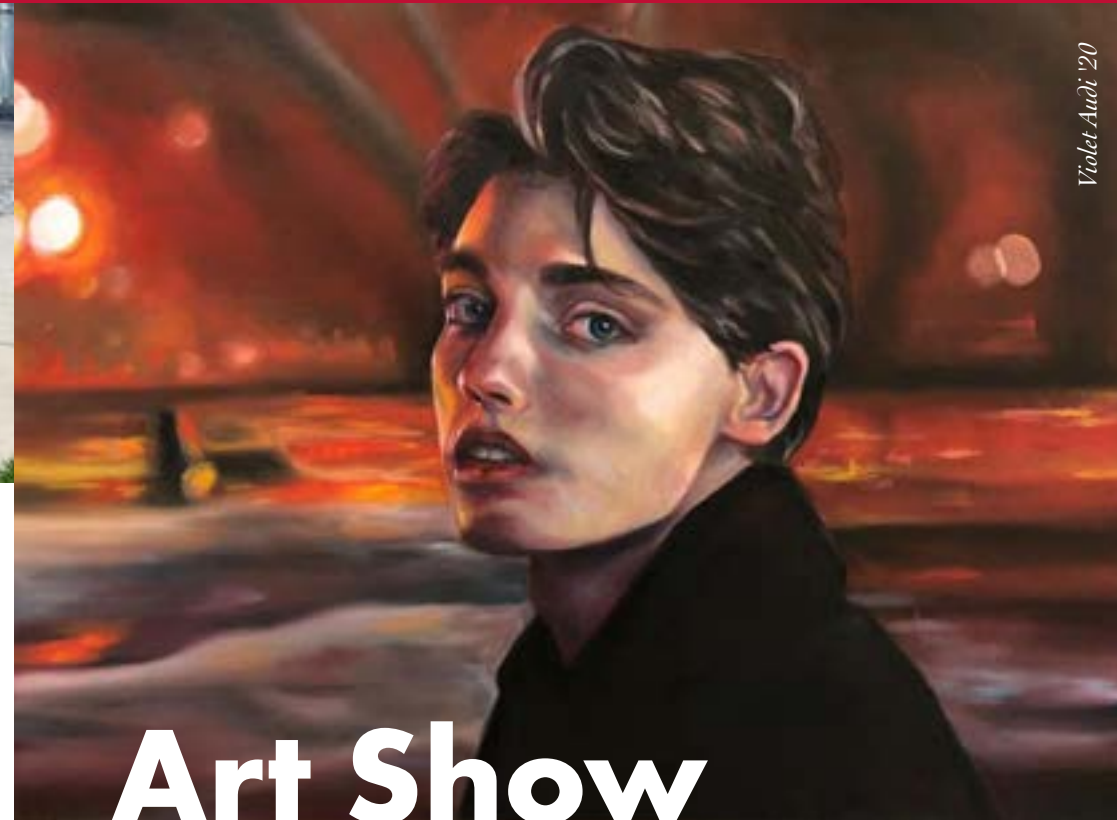
*Elizabeth Orozco*



SALUTATORIAN

*Kathryn Wolney*

Congratulations to Valedictorian Sarah Gawlik. Sarah will be attending the University of Houston Honors College. While attending DC, Sarah was active in Quizbowl, Link Crew, Latin and Greek Club, and Marching Band. The class of 2020 has two Salutatorians, Elizabeth Orozco and Kathryn Wolney. In the fall, Elizabeth will be attending the University of Notre Dame and Kathryn the University of Michigan Dearborn. Elizabeth was a 4-year member of the sideline/ competitive cheerleading team and a 2-year member of the track and field team. She also served as Varsity Club Executive Board treasurer, and a member of the National Honor Society. Kathryn participated in band, stage crew, Spanish Honor Society, and National Honor Society. All three women represent Divine Child in a positive light. They have been model students achieving academic excellence while remaining active in arts, athletics, clubs and more.



*Violet Auai '20*



*Regina Arruda '20*

# Art Show goes online

*Submitted by Walt Grysko '07*

## The outbreak of COVID-19 has made normal change drastically different for our Falcon family

... we certainly felt it in the Fine Arts Department! From teaching remotely to the cancellation of the Art Show Gala to the Spring Musical being postponed, we felt the heavy blow of this virus as a school community. But, I am proud of how our school community rallied to do right by our students.

While the normal school-wide art show was canceled, we worked to produce a digital art show highlighting the tremendous talent of our graduating seniors. It was very important to us that these young men and women have an opportunity to share their artwork with their loved ones and the entire DC community! We felt it was important that they would have some way to be acknowledged for their work and the countless hours put in making our Fine Arts program what it is today.

I am especially proud of them all and yes, it pains me very much not to have our show like we traditionally do. But, I can say with 100% certainty that they, this year's seniors, have been one of the best classes I have taught in my 10 years at Divine Child. I hope they all take pride in that! They make not only myself but all former students of this school proud to be fellow alumni.

**Best of Luck to these graduating seniors pursuing art in college: Natalie Dziadzio - Pratt Institute; Ananda Ray - School of the Art Institute of Chicago; & Clare Garner - Michigan State University.**







## SPRING MUSICAL: Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The last two weekends in March would have ushered in Divine Child's spring musical featuring students from first through twelfth grade: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." At least 150 dedicated students, parents, faculty and staff, and alumni of the Divine Child community worked together since November, putting together costumes, props, choreography, live music, makeup, arranging meals, and of course, rehearsing on-stage. The high school production staff of Robert Bush (conductor, producer, technical director, and set design), **Elisa Noeske '00** (director, producer, choreography, makeup), Paul Abbott (music direction), **Walt Grysko '07** (art director), **Colleen Johnson '00** (prop director) and Emily Castine and **Ken Overwater '99** (assistant directors), were having the most incredible time working together on this joyous show. Sung entirely through without dialogue, "Joseph" also marked the first time in four years that the elementary school students were participating. Our high schoolers worked extra hard to be present at rehearsals and work with the elementary students too. We would be remiss without taking some time to acknowledge our wonderful seniors who will hopefully have their moment on the Divine Child stage again. Many of our seniors are planning on performing after high school or minoring in a theatre program. Others will pursue a music major. On-stage we had 14 seniors, four of which have performed on the Divine Child stage since they were in grade school: one of our narrators, Emily Walker, our Joseph- Ben Noethlich, Pharaoh played by Connor Kozlowski and the hairy Ishmaelite played by Matthew Balash.

Submitted by **Elisa Noeske '00**

### CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS:

Stella Arsenault, Matthew Balash, Kathryn Doyle, Luke Duncan, Brodie Kielb, Connor Kozlowski, Danielle Lewis, Nick Maccani, Rhonwyn Martin, Ben Noethlich, Jana Rida, Jonathan Sadler, Emily Walker and Hannah Young



## Making music in the *Music City*



In February, our students traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for our annual winter band trip. It was a super fun trip - not only did we see the sites of Nashville, we also performed at the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame! It was an awesome experience and trip to remember.

Moving into March, our pit orchestra musicians had just moved into the pit for tech week of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as the shut down began. Even though the rest of the school year didn't end as we hoped, we still kept the music making flowing with video and audio submissions, and we all are looking forward to this fall!

## ROBO FALCONS: ROLL OUT



Divine Child HS competed this year in the FIRST Robotics Competition (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). Team #8179, the Divine Child Robo Falcons are comprised of 11 robotics students, 15 business students, and 8 mentors (5 are DC Alumni). Students were exposed to problem solving, CAD design, electronics, C programming, vision systems, community outreach, fundraising and entrepreneurial skills.

"This program is amazing! It has allowed me to explore different fields and helped me decide to study Computer Engineering in college," said senior Matteo Ciavaglia '20. These Robo Falcons designed and built a robot in 8 weeks. We competed at the Southfield District Competition where the team won the Rookie All-Star Award celebrating a solid team partnership! On the field the team made it to the quarterfinals from a field of 39 teams. The team is excited by its success this year and preparing for next year's competition! Go Robo Falcons!

## 8-PEAT FORENSICS CHAMPS

The Eight-Peat defending State Championship Forensics team competed in 5 MIFA tournaments before their season was canceled due to COVID-19. Coach Mrs. Tar had high hopes for the team, but unfortunately the season was cut short. The team was led by 4 seniors; Sam Dudek, Jana Rida, Isabella Folloso and Lauren Grawburg. Sam is a 4 year member, team treasurer and co-captain. Jana is a 4 year member, team spirit leader and co-captain. Isabella is a 3 year member, team spirit leader and co-captain and Lauren is a 3 year member. Divine Child wishes these students the best of luck.



## SENIOR CAR PARADE



To mark the final day of school for the Class of 2020, senior parents organized a senior car parade! When the final school bell rang on Friday, May 12 at 2:30 pm, the seniors along with many parents and family members were lined up in the student parking lot with their cars decorated! The bell signaled the start of the parade, when the seniors would leave school together one last time. The Dearborn Police lead the parade of cars around the homecoming parade route. Along with Father Bob and Father Matt, families, friends, neighbors and faculty lined the streets cheering for the students. The parade finished by driving through the semi circle of the front entrance and passing the DCHS marquee. After a long eight week quarantine, the students and families were filled with much emotion - there were so many smiles on everyone, as they were filled with joy, happiness, and excitement to see one another again. The DC Senior Parade was even featured on a few newscasts that night!





# TEAM UPDATES

**BASEBALL** was looking forward to a promising 2020 season. With the whole pitching staff returning from a team that advanced to the round of sweet 16 in 2019, the Falcons were stunned when the season abruptly ended after one practice. Senior pitcher Nate Raniszewski, was looking to build off his dominating performance in 2019 by defeating the #1 ranked team in the state, Carlton Airport. Senior First Baseman Matt Balash was poised to drive in runs hitting in the middle of the lineup. Seniors Sam Tomasi and Brendan VanTubergan were working to provide solid defense up-the-middle and pitchers, Aaron Szostek, Josh Fitzgerald, and Jacob White were looking to shut the opposition down. These 7 young men have left their mark on the DC program by working hard and leading the younger players during the winter workouts. They have paved the path and will hold their heads high.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL** team finished the season 14-10. They placed 3rd place in the very tough CHSL Central Division. They won Districts before losing Regionals to the #1 ranked team overall. The team is graduating 6 seniors: Brianna McCormick, Mia Bidolli, Molly Soraghan, Makayla Rybak, Alex Stevens, and Ellie Reppen.

**GIRLS BOWLING** team in their third straight year of having won or shared the East Division regular Season Championship. They finished 2nd place in the CHSL Championship. They received 7 Recognition Awards; All-Catholic and Academic All-State Jewell Redman (Sr.), Emma Uetz (Sr.), Trianna Smith (So.), Amber Legenza (Fr.), All-League Marissa Kaniski (So.) and All-Academic Claire White (So.).

**BOYS BOWLING** team won the regular season East Division Championship and they won their 2nd Straight CHSL Championship. They received 4 League Recognition Awards; All-Catholic Jonathan Ligenza (Sr.), Noell Jackson (Jr.), All-League Anthony Kaniski (Sr.), and All-Academic Shane Green (Jr.). The team was a State Qualifier for the first time in 12 years, finishing 3rd in the region and 10th in the state in DII. They had 2 Individual State Qualifiers Anthony Kaniski (Sr.) Paul Scheuher (So.). Anthony Kaniski is 25th in the state and Paul Scheuher finished 34th in the state. Congratulations to Boys Bowling East Division Coach of the Year, Nicholas Ploucha.

**COMPETITIVE CHEER** team placed 5th at the Regional Championship this season. They were led by 9 amazing seniors that exemplified leadership and passion throughout the season. We will miss them so much and are so proud to call them alumni. We are so excited to see what our seniors will do in the future and for our program next season!

**FIGURE SKATING** finished their season stronger than ever. They placed first in the district, moving on to States with the hopes of placing in the top three. With this year being especially unusual the season was cut short, and States was cancelled. There were no seniors this year, so the team plans to have the same strong, hard working, and ambitious team in hopes of bringing home a State title next season!

**BOYS GOLF** started off the season with high expectations. We had 3 returning seniors, Mahmoud Saad, Nicholas Marcyan, and Nathan Drabicki, along with returning sophomores, that looked to continue the momentum of finishing 4th at the State Regional competition the previous season. Our team was to be led by Saad, a University of Michigan Dearborn commit, who was coming off his 2019 appearance at the Division 2 State tournament. Our team was looking forward to qualifying for the State Tournament as a team, which had not been accomplished in many years. We look forward to the introduction of 6 freshmen from 2020, and the possibilities the 2021 season brings.

**HOCKEY** team, despite a difficult season, managed to maintain a tremendous team-first mentality all the way through the last game of the year. Our captains did a great job of keeping the team focused. One of those captains, Senior goalie Adam Yost, had a great season in which he was awarded honorable mention All-State, All-State Academic, All-Catholic, and 1st Team Metro League West. He will be going on to play junior hockey in the Eastern Hockey League for the East Coast Wizards. We're excited to get things started for next year as soon as possible and will be led by our second year captain Nicholas Welch.



**BOYS LACROSSE** was looking to have a strong and successful campaign after an important rebuilding year in 2019 and plenty of off-season development. The program continues to grow with more than 50 boys participating this spring. It was disappointing to lose the season so quickly after a grueling week of tryouts, but our thoughts and prayers stayed focused on the devastating effects of the Coronavirus. Our seniors, led by team captains Pat Burke, Dawson Stec and Anthony Floro were looking to recapture the Catholic League Championship and help develop the underclassmen. The team was expecting big things and strong play from a talented group of seniors that included Jeffrey Harrison, Broadie Kielb, Elijah Dysarz, Evan Crandall, Nick Roland, Glen Nennering, Michael Moss and newcomer Santiago Morales.

**GIRLS LACROSSE** season definitely didn't go as planned. As a program girls lacrosse had 25 returning players and 10 new players between the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. They had 10 returning seniors that were essential to getting the program started last season and were looking forward to building off their successful first season into another successful season this spring. With new uniforms, a new varsity coach, but the same work ethic and determination, these girls were prepared for a tough but rewarding spring season. The coaching staff is sad to see these seniors go without being able to watch them play their final season but are very excited about the legacy these girls have left behind them. As always, Team First, Team First, Always Team First. Welcome Coach Grace Savage.

**POM PON** had another successful and exciting season this year! Thank you to all of the parents who helped make it another great Pom season. The team took 4th place in Large School High Kick Competition, won the Catholic League, and took 2nd place at States. The team graduates 6 seniors, Jessica Wildauer who is attending Schoolcraft, Claire Corcoran who is attending Michigan State University, Julia Maloney who is attending University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Marella DiDomenico who is attending L'esprit Academy, Micah Sullano who is attending University of Michigan-Dearborn and Micala Cagle who is attending Wayne State University.

**GIRLS SOCCER** team, prior to the cancellation of the 2020 spring sports season, was poised to embark on a spring filled with new goals and several new challenges. We were fortunate to add multiple, talented players, and in addition to planning to contend for a Catholic League Championship, we were prepared to compete for the program's third consecutive District Championship and second straight appearance in the MHSAA Regional Championship. The Varsity team finished the 2019 season ranked #7 in the state of Michigan in Division 2. Our staff is especially thankful to our program's seniors: Brooke Aho, Haley Aho, Mia Bidolli, Bree McCormick, Amber Morgan, Maddie Stack and Colleen Verla. Without this group, the DC Girls Soccer Program would not be where it is today.

**GIRLS SOFTBALL** team is graduating 6 seniors. Captain, Sidney Croskey, a four-year starter, will attend Lawrence Tech in the fall where she will continue to play softball. Elizabeth Kramp, a three-year varsity outfielder, will attend the University of Massachusetts Boston to play D1 college hockey. Marina Johnson, a very versatile three-year varsity player, will continue her softball career at Ave Maria University in Florida. Georgia Ploucha, a four year varsity player, is a very strong and athletic competitor and has signed to play softball for Rochester College. Natalie Santostasi, an explosive offensive and defensive four year varsity player, will be cheering at Central Michigan this fall. Katie Christenson, a transfer from Ladywood, quickly acclimated to our program. She was one of the fastest runners ever in the program. She will attend UM in the fall. Ila Roullier has been a team manager three years. She has been dedicated to the "team" from the minute she committed herself to our program.

**GIRLS TRACK** team had 9 seniors for this spring season, Brooke Aho, Haley Aho, Avery Budz, Anna Coyne, Isabel Dziadzio, Elizabeth Orozco, Macey Pappas, Madelynn Shannon and Lena Zielke. These young ladies were going to be the core of this year's team. They have been part of the CHSL Championships for the past 3 years and with them, the team was looking to win its 6th consecutive CHSL team Championship. Brooke, Haley, Elizabeth, Anna and Lena were our middle distance/distance runners. Avery and Macey were our leaders in the sprints and relays. Avery holds the school record in the high jump, and she was runner up at the State Championships for the past two years in the high jump. Isabel was the returning disc champion in the CHSL Championships while Madelynn was the returning shot put champion.

# 25

## CLASS OF 2020 GRADS signed athletic letters of intent:

**Aidan Bruce**  
Siena Heights University - Soccer

**Simon Jones**  
UD Mercy - Track and Field

**Nate Raniszewski**  
Schoolcraft College - Baseball

**Lauren Busuito**  
Albion College - Lacrosse

**Colin Kelly**  
Butler University - Football

**Mahmoud Saad**  
UM Dearborn - Golf

**Sidney Croskey**  
Lawrence Tech - Softball

**Elizabeth Kramp**  
University of Mass Boston - Hockey

**Natalie Santostasi**  
Central Michigan University - Cheer

**Joshua Fitzgerald**  
Henry Ford College - Baseball

**Jonathan Ligenza**  
Madonna University - Bowling

**Madelyn Stack**  
Madonna University - Soccer

**Anthony Floro**  
Madonna University - Lacrosse

**Chase Markavich**  
Adrian College - Soccer

**Aaron Szostek**  
Macomb County CC - Baseball

**Anthony Hancock**  
University of Michigan - Track

**Brianna McCormick**  
Madonna University - Basketball

**Emma Uetz**  
Madonna University - Bowling

**Michael Hancock**  
University of Michigan - Track

**Amber Morgan**  
University of St. Francis Ft. Wayne - Soccer

**Brianna Wallace**  
Alma College - Volleyball

**Jeffery Harrison II**  
Concordia Ann Arbor - Lacrosse

**Georgia Ploucha**  
Rochester University - Softball

**Adam Yost**  
East Coast Wizards - Hockey

**Marina Johnson**  
Ave Maria University - Softball





## Longtime girls' cross country & track & field coach hangs up his whistle

If you attended DCHS in the 2000s, chances are you know Coach Tony Mifsud. From his fluorescent yellow shirts and his hot pink shorts to his infamous chant, "hubba, hubba, walla, walla," Mif is hard to forget!

Under his leadership, the Divine Child girls' cross country team won eleven Catholic High School League titles, eleven Regional Championships and three Track State Championships (2010, 2012 & 2013), while maintaining a positive, supportive team experience for all runners.

"Mif was the kind of coach who genuinely cared for every single runner on his team. He kept track of all of our personal achievements, both in the sport and outside of it, and encouraged all the girls to celebrate each other's accomplishments. He made sure we weren't just a team, but a family," shared Mackenzie Brewis '12.

Mif made a difference in the lives of countless student-athletes and provided a powerful example of how to embrace life with excitement and to always have fun!


From coaching to directing the Annual Mark

Carpenter Falcon 5K, Mif dedicated a huge part of his life to his runners, and for that reason, he was recognized by MHSSA as Coach of the Year four times, and by the CHSL as Coach of the Year once. He was also inducted into the CHSL Hall of Fame.

Coaching partner Jack Benitez shared, "Coach Mifsud always puts the girls first and has been a dedicated coach. The Divine Child community thanks Tony for his many years of coaching and shaping our young runners on the track and off."

Tony Mifsud hit the track scene when he ran a 52-second, 440-yard dash leg on a medley relay team as a sophomore at Cody High School, after moving to Detroit from Malta in 1950. Upon graduation, he made All-American as the anchor leg of the 4-mile relay at the U.S. Track and Field News Magazine meet. From there, he made a name for himself at Spring Arbor Community College and Henry Ford Community College. Coach Mifsud attended Eastern Michigan University where in 1966 he set an EMU record for the indoor 2 mile (9:07.04). That year he became a U.S. citizen and as the 1968 Olympics

approached, Mifsud decided to file for dual citizenship, so he could run for Malta in the 10,000 meters. But, tragedy ended his attempt. He was involved in a 15-car accident on Labor Day 1967, landing him in the hospital with a lumbar fracture that kept him in the hospital with lower back paralysis for eight weeks. But, Mif's positive spirit, drive and determination helped him to overcome obstacles, and in 1977 he laced up his running shoes and began running again, while coaching at Henry Ford Community College.


Prior to making his way to Divine Child, Mif coached at U of M Dearborn, Henry Ford College, Allen Park High School and Southgate High School. 



# JOE CHARNLEY

## Remembering a **CATHOLIC LEAGUE GIANT**

On May 6, 2020, Joe Charnley, Catholic High School League Hall of Famer, former CYO Director of Athletics and former beloved DCHS Boys' Basketball Coach, was called home by God. Joe began his coaching career in 1974 at Catholic Central High School and continued his career at Riverview Gabriel Richard (1977), Redford St. Agatha (1979-1984), Detroit Benedictine (1984-1987), before coming to Divine Child in 1987. He has won over 300 games, 15 district titles and 3 regional titles. During his time at Divine Child, he led the boys to Regional Championships in 1991 and 1992, and District Championships in 1987, 1991, 1992 and 1995. He was inducted into the Catholic High School League Hall of Fame in 1997 and named Detroit News Coach of the Year in 1992, both honors received during his time at DC.

Charnley has served as the director of Catholic Youth Organization athletics since 1999 and has introduced the sports of cross country, bowling and lacrosse. He is a 1972 graduate of Shaw College and a 1968 graduate of Detroit St. Gregory High School, where he earned All Catholic Basketball, All State Basketball and All Catholic Baseball honors. Joe is survived by his wife Kathy, their two children Joe and Jen, and his grandchildren Madeline, Cassidy, Ryan and Isabella. 

*"I coached high school basketball for 28 years, but never had more fun than I did during the 8 years I worked at Divine Child with Joe. We used to call him the CD-Rom of the CHSL. He knew everyone! He was 100% genuine and loved by many. The championships we won pale in comparison to our friendship." - Bill Dyer '84*





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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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2 PM Shotgun Start  
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- \*One Exclusive Sponsor**

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# FALCONS ON THE FRONTLINE

*Rising above the pandemic*



**When the global pandemic flipped our world upside down, countless essential workers bravely stepped up to support, save and protect our families, friends and communities. These are the accounts of seven Falcons from the frontline.**

## **ALEXI (ANDRUS) KONEIG '03**

Registered Nurse  
Ascension St. John Hospital | Detroit, MI

I am a fairly new nurse. My unit is ortho/neuro surgery. Most patients we encounter come to recover from elective surgery. Before COVID-19 hit I had witnessed, or been involved in two codes total. I can no longer give a number as I've lost count as to how many I've experienced over the last 8 weeks. I do realize COVID-19 did not hit every city or state the same. I also know Detroit was one of the hardest hit; not just by statistics, but because I experienced and witnessed it.

I was a person who doubted all the COVID-19 hysteria and blamed the media for causing much of it; I still do to an extent. I rolled my eyes, told family and friends to continue washing their hands, and just encouraged everyone to be cautious. I had no idea what was ahead of us.

It was the third week of March, and it was finally "hitting home". My unit started being assigned "PUI" (person under investigation) COVID-19 patients. Even through my skepticism I remember thinking, "I'll be grateful if I can avoid having those patients under my assignment." Nothing could have prepared me for what was about

to transpire. I watched as my newer, 33 bed, private room unit became unrecognizable within days.

The CDC regulations were changing constantly and the result of new expectations was unsettling to say the least. I found myself looking at our "seasoned" nurses, the ones with 20+ years of experience and whose auras were always reassuring, and they were scared. Seeing their fear, in turn, made me terrified.

It was hard to keep up with the rapidly changing regulations. One day we were scolded for wearing surgical masks in the hallways outside of patients' rooms and hours later we would be told everyone needs to have a mask on. We watched patients go from talking perfectly fine on room air to needing to be intubated within 12 minutes. We quickly learned that COVID-19 does not discriminate against age, race or comorbidities. New protocols were constantly being presented and needed to be implemented immediately.

On top of our patient care taking a 180 degree turn, we didn't know (or trust) whether or not our well-being was being protected. We are a unit that is never strict with visiting hours. At any given moment, you could have seen one of us either hugging our patient or their

family members. Our new norm was to call the rooms of our patients to talk to them before going in. We had to cluster our care more than any of us would ever want. We looked to one another to help ensure that we were properly protected before going into rooms. We'd go through the checklist: Is our bare skin covered? Are we double gloved? Is our gown tied? Is my hair sticking out? Are we doing everything properly before we go into this patient's room? We were reassuring each other that the above precautions were keeping us safe, but none of us actually knew if we were. That was a fact we tried to put out of our minds.

Throughout those 8 weeks, my co-workers and I witnessed the unspeakable. We picked one another up, literally and figuratively. The perseverance I witnessed amongst my co-workers was my lifeline through this. We also experienced more support than we ever knew existed. We are forever grateful. Today, we don't really talk about what we went through. I'm not sure any of us have truly dealt with the trauma or the toll it's taken on us yet. The fear of another surge is always lingering. We will continue to pray for our co-workers, family, friends and community.



**GREG CIBOR '89**

Physician, Family & Sports Medicine  
Ascension Providence | Southfield, MI

One can only imagine my emotion when I was asked to cover a COVID-19 floor at Ascension Providence Southfield Hospital on April 1st. The anxiety was palpable. I don't recall getting much sleep that night as I feverishly researched the disease and panned through old "on call" resources to prepare for what was to become one of the most challenging, downhearted and gratifying moments of my 20-year career in medicine.

I am a family medicine and sports medicine physician, and as a result haven't done inpatient medicine since my residency days 20 years ago. I didn't know the hospital documenting/charting system very well or how to place orders in the system, but soon realized, after some tutorials by the family medicine residents, it was like "riding a bike."

Providence Hospital in Southfield was basically a "ground zero" hospital and was hit very hard by COVID-19. We were at maximum capacity and as soon as you discharged a patient there was another one coming up from the ER. Fortunately, we had enough resources and personal protection equipment, but most days we were asked to conserve supplies by using only one mask, face shield or gown when seeing patients.

The nurses were really the true heroes. It was awe-inspiring witnessing the care they provided without any fear. Rounding on patients was very nontraditional. We would actually call patients on their phone and interview them from outside their room (ask them how they were feeling, changes in symptoms etc.) in order to minimize exposure. Then we would go inside the room and examine them. Unfortunately, many patients weren't coherent enough to do this protocol, so you had to resort to spending more time in the room.

One patient I will never forget, had mild dementia and was blind from years of glaucoma. He couldn't find the phone or even his food to eat or water to drink so I would spend extra time with him just making sure he was able to get his nutrition and stay hydrated. Long hours were spent on the phone with patients' families updating them



Photo Credit: Greg Cibor

on their loved one's progress or many times, unfortunately, their decline. That was very emotionally draining for me having to watch a patient spend their last moments alone. We would try and FaceTime or call family members and hold the phone so they could at least provide some final words of comfort.

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**Egos were set aside for one common purpose. Everyone . . . did their part, without any hesitation.**

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At the opposite end of the spectrum were the patients who seemingly had little chance, but were able to recover and return to their homes and loved ones, knowing that you had a little something to do with it. I ultimately covered nine shifts (7AM-7PM) during the month of April, typically 3 days on, 3 days off. I have never been a member of a team that functioned in such unison. The cooperation between the primary care doctors and the specialists was especially gratifying.

Egos were set aside for one common purpose. Everyone, including, but not limited to, the nurses, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, pastoral care, doctors, residents, and custodial staff all did their part, without

any hesitation. Even the community support was amazing. The flood of lunches and dinners from the community shed a different meaning to COVID-19! Again, it was an experience that encompassed a range of emotions and one I will never forget. |

**MARIANNE (ERVIN) VESTERFELT '89**

Nurse Practitioner MSN, ANP-BC ACHPN  
Optalis Health Care | Southfield, MI

Optalis Health Care has nine skilled nursing facilities and three assisted living facilities. When COVID-19 arrived, our worlds stopped all normal function. Our patients suffered without family contact. Staff suffered with fear of the illness and learning to work with PPE equipment on. Our workforce suffered as many would not come to work out of fear for themselves or family members. About 10-15% of our workforce was affected directly by the virus at some point.

We had two of our facilities designated as regional hubs, but seven of our facilities had COVID-19 units. In the beginning we battled, begged, and bartered for PPE equipment (masks, gowns, gloves, & hand sanitizer). Now supplies are adequate. We had daily changes to regulations and guidance trying to keep up knowing frequent visits from surveyors were coming. Work stress was high. Our owners were supportive and really showed it to the staff.

Katie, my 18-year-old daughter just finished her first year of college and is pursuing Nursing. She signed up for the COVID-19 unit at one of the regional hubs having no idea what to expect from this new world of health care. We moved out of the house knowing we would be in constant contact with the virus. The units themselves were exhausting, but not scary. We are often asked what people look like? They look like your mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, grandparents and friends. They could change condition in a few minutes time, so when working on the unit, focus was needed. There were sweet moments and patients so thankful for the personal connection. So many lives have been affected in so many ways. We are happy to say we had less than 5% of staff on any of our COVID-19 units contract the virus. Our protective measures work.



Photo Credit: Alexi Konieg

My time with my daughter was greater than either of us anticipated. College years seem to bring the natural push away, but the intensity of the days and her learning first-hand what I did at work was special and seemed to bring a new closeness. To see her fearlessly care for the patients and offer a calm presence at 18 was amazing. She is raking in the marriage proposals from those over 80, but has managed to resist and stay grounded.



Photo Credit: Marianne Vesterfelt

Back at home was more difficult. We did not see my husband Blair and my other two kids, Kayla and Noah, for two months. We had a few short, outdoor visits a couple times a week, but it was not the same. Home schooling for them was rough, particularly with only one parent to help, who was not the normal "homework parent." Plus Blair was running an industrial business 12 hours a day and taking regular conference calls. Kayla and Noah were left to try and motivate

themselves for school. Our oldest is out on his own and would call often, but visits were seldom – outside and social distanced. He lives in Lansing and the thought of us being the carrier from Detroit to Lansing was scary.

We have given COVID-19 proper attention but have not let it consume us. We have grown in many ways that we would not have in everyday life.

We are blessed to have a very concrete way to be a good and faithful servant.

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**Don't be afraid to be attentive. Wear masks in public areas, wash hands before and after everything . . .**

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Our advice to all is ... don't be afraid-be attentive. Wear masks in public areas, wash hands before and after everything, wash face when returning home. Pay attention to the space 6 feet around you. And please if nothing else, be kind even if you don't understand.

A special thank you to MaryAnn Lehnis,

whose children, Sarah Lehnis '92, Cindy (Lehnis) Richter '94, Michael '97 and Katie (Castel) Lehnis '97, made hundreds of masks for my staff to protect their N95s. |

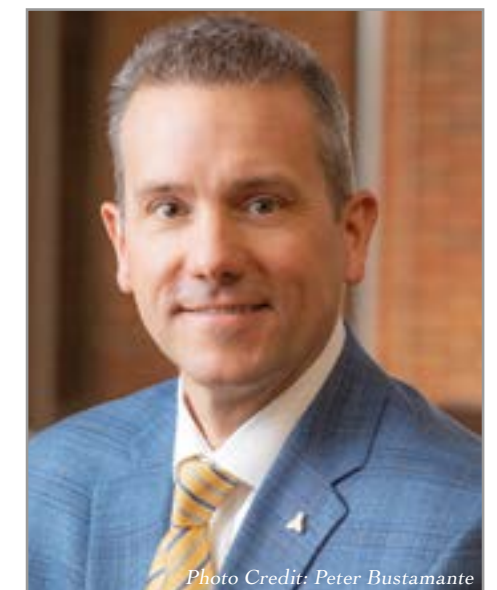


Photo Credit: Peter Bustamante

**PETER BUSTAMANTE '92**

Regional Chief Medical Officer  
Ascension St. Vincent | Northern Indiana

At Ascension St. Vincent Indiana North Region, the COVID-19 pandemic changed healthcare forever. It shook the foundation of everything we do and, in some ways, we will never return to old habits. It



forced us to find new ways to deliver excellent care to those most vulnerable. COVID-19 made us reassess how we do everything at every point in the care continuum, literally. We postponed a large segment of our operations, and limited entrances to our hospitals to focused entry points. We implemented visitor restrictions and used video conferencing so patients and loved ones could see each other. Telemedicine grew from a rare encounter to over 3,000 visits daily. We scaled our physician capacity by several-fold with new and innovative approaches.

We created protocols and procedures at an incredible pace based on rapidly developing information. Multidisciplinary teams across all of Ascension were quickly formed across the system to take in information, evaluate options and develop solutions. Our ability to pivot based on new information coming in from around the country and locally was unprecedented.

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### **We no longer saw obstacles, rather we created solutions to seemingly insurmountable barriers.**

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Every day the delivery of healthcare improved. COVID-19 provided us the opportunity to innovate, to see new pathways. We no longer saw obstacles, rather we created solutions to seemingly insurmountable barriers.

I believe the underpinning to this success and growth lies in our President and CEO, Joe Impicchie, who at the outset declared our priority was to take care of patients and to take care of our associates, including a pay continuation for all associates.

I have never been more proud to be part of an organization so committed to the loving ministry of Jesus as healer with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

Watching my colleagues and associates perform at such an exceptional level, during

such a stressful and difficult time is nothing short of inspiring. I am truly blessed to be part of it. It was an incredibly unique and difficult time, yet everyone pulled together and rose up to meet the challenge together.

Every day brought success and positive stories. Every day saw another acknowledgment of an associate going above and beyond, showing up with a positive attitude and doing good for another person.

Our Mission to serve others was being lived and our core values were on full display every day. It was energizing. It was fulfilling. I've never been more proud to be part of an organization. I am blessed to be part of Ascension and work with such incredible people. I am thankful and look forward to continuing to live out our mission together. |



*Photo Credit: Lisa O'Hagen*

### **LISA (MAREK) O'HAGEN '90** Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Beaumont | Dearborn, MI

On the morning of March 17, we were paged overhead to intubate a gentleman that we were informed had Coronavirus. He coughed a lot during the intubation and that was when we realized that we need to develop our own plan to protect ourselves during this viral outbreak and we realized we needed to prepare ourselves to be doing many, many more intubations with COVID-19 patients. No one had any guidance for us at the hospital. We

scrounged up any protective equipment we could find (no one had enough to care for the volume of patients coming in!) and we developed a plan with the help of colleagues at different hospitals and from our professional organization.

It was a scary time at work. No one even looked at each other as we passed in the halls; we were scared of the patients, and we were scared of each other; we were terrified to take it home; and we didn't even know if we were protecting ourselves enough to not get it!

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### **We scrounged up any protective equipment we could find (no one had enough to care for the volume of patients coming in!) and we developed a plan with the help of colleagues at different hospitals.**

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Six or seven of my co-workers came down with the virus in those first few weeks; one of them was critically ill and hospitalized with it. Thank God he has since recovered.

My co-workers all came together to provide for our patients in need of intubations and for those patients with coronavirus that needed surgery. We changed our schedules, some volunteered to be laid off, and some of us worked in the ICUs helping place lines or position patients on their bellies to help them oxygenate better. And a lot of us cried together.

That being said, we all felt the prayers and there was so much appreciation from the community. It truly helped to feel appreciated at a time when none of us wanted to go to work. It was hard hearing about how little there was to do because everyone had to stay home, yet we were going to the "front line" as it was called. It did feel like the front line - it felt like I was being called to duty when I didn't feel like I signed up for it! But at the end of the day, we were proud of ourselves for handling it so well. It isn't over;

and it will be here for a long while I imagine. In fact, I have to give someone with COVID-19 anesthesia as soon as I finish my lunch break. I'll put on my hazmat suit, my face shield, and N95 and hope I don't take it home today. Stay well and please continue to protect yourself and others. God bless us all. |



*Photo Credit: Tim Gibbons*

### **TIM GIBBONS '96** Chief of Police | Garden City, MI

Zoom is not an option for police officers responding to an assault in-progress. So, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique and difficult problem for police departments across the nation. The need for a police response must now be weighed against the risk of officers contracting or spreading a deadly disease. When COVID-19 suddenly arrived in the Metro Detroit area, the Garden City Police Department, and all area law enforcement, were forced to adapt quickly to an uncertain and pressing problem.


At GCPD we quickly obtained appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) for officers. We developed protocols for when officers needed to wear PPE. We developed COVID-19 screening and testing procedures. We adjusted the officer's schedules and moved workspaces to separate officers from each other. Our goal was that if we had an outbreak at GCPD we could minimize the spread and still have enough officers to step in to replace those that were infected. We also developed protocols for responding to calls for service that balanced the importance of an in-person police response

with the risk of infection or spread. Calls for service involving in-progress crimes or the collection of perishable evidence continued to be performed in-person by officers wearing PPE. For other calls for service, we began taking reports over the phone, online, and even from the outside of a home through an open window. We reduced arrests and traffic stops, only making those that outweighed the risk of exposure to officers and the arrested person. Essentially, the COVID-19 Pandemic has been an exercise in finding ways to continue to deliver essential police services with less in-person contact.

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### **It was not easy, but I think we have learned some valuable lessons and are much better prepared for any future outbreaks.**

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It was not easy, but I think we have learned some valuable lessons and are much better prepared for any future outbreaks. If I have learned anything, it's that the dedication of first responders, health care workers, and all front-line workers is amazing. So many of these workers, with no complaint, risked their health and the health of their families, to protect, care for, feed, and help maintain our communities. That should not be forgotten when things return to normal, whatever the new normal might be. | 



## **ALUMNI MAKE HAND SANITIZER AT LOCAL DISTILLERIES**

Most craft distillers in Michigan were forced to shut down along with many other "non-essential" businesses due to the coronavirus outbreak, but for employees at Rusted Crow Distillery and Spirits in Dearborn Heights and Two James Spirits in Detroit, that wasn't the case. Instead of vodka and other beverages, these two businesses turned to making hand sanitizer to help fill a gap with that shortage in the market.

"There was kind of a call to arms for us," said head distiller [Andrew Starnes '02](#). With some alcohol on hand already, the distilleries were able to start as soon as the recipe for the World Health Organization's guidelines was made public. Over at Two James Spirits in Detroit they are also doing a "leave one" or "take one" toilet paper exchange. [David Landrum '94](#), founder of Two James Spirits, said, "I don't know about you but I haven't been able to find toilet paper anywhere. So, if you have too much at your house bring it in, and if you don't have any, take a roll!" Thanks to these two alumni businesses for providing hand sanitizer to our community during a time of need and doing their part to help fight back against the coronavirus.





## CATCHING UP WITH CLASSMATES

**Cheryl (Oros) Nelson '75** is cutting back her hours as a math teacher at our alma mater and starting the early stages of retirement. While she will not be teaching regular classes anymore, she plans to stay on as a part-time tutor in the DCHS math department.

**Elizabeth (VanMeerbeek) Thompson '80** and husband Kent live in White Lake, Michigan where Liz recently earned her Real Estate license in 2019. She discovered she loves helping people with all of their real estate needs and finds it more satisfying than working in an office environment.

**Christopher Marano '85** and his wife Natasha reside in Maryland and have three children. Their oldest son Angelo (27) lives in Colorado, works at a restaurant and is a white water rafting guide. Christopher and Natasha also have 25 year old twins: Megan, who works in accounts payable/receivable for the Maryland state board of elections, and Kyle, who is in the U.S.Navy as a Nuclear Machinist Mate and will be deploying to the U.S.S. Columbus, a Los Angeles class attack sub based in Pearl Harbor.



**Mark Meyers '89** was named Police Chief for the City of Dearborn Heights. Mark is a 24-year veteran of law enforcement starting his career with the Detroit Police Department. He has remained a public servant and resident of Dearborn Heights for the past 23 years. Meyers served in several specialized roles as a police officer that include Field Training Officer, Special Operations/Undercover Investigator and Tactical Response member. Meyers attended Eastern Michigan University completing a Bachelor of Science in Public Law and Government in 1994. He later received a Master of Science in Business Administration and a graduate certificate in Advancement Criminal Justice Administration from Madonna University in 2006.

**Irene (Onken) Pizzimenti '89** and husband John live in Westland, Michigan. Irene is a certified counselor with Healing Hearts Ministries, working with women one-on-one or in small groups to find healing and wholeness

following trauma, including abortion, abuse, divorce, anxiety and depression. Additionally, she sings with Renaissance Voices, a women's vocal group out of Henry Ford College.

**Ronald Wisniewski '89** and wife Yukiko live in Macomb, Michigan where Ronald is an IT Developer for GM. They have two sons and two daughters.

**Mary (Murray) Laney '95** was inducted into the CHSL Hall of Fame this summer and recognized as an extraordinary girls' basketball coach. Mary has served as the DCHS girls' basketball head coach since 2004 and led her student-athletes to win five regional championships, eight district championships, a CHSL championship title in 2012 – as well as four second place titles – and, one state championship in 2011. She was also recognized as the CHSL Coach of the Year in 2006, 2012 & 2018.



**Chuck Williams '95** and **Lisa (Messina) Williams '96** are proud to announce the opening of My Relief Health (MRH) CBD store in Southgate, MI. Chuck notes, "So many of us are overworked, overtired, and overstressed; instead of reaching for traditional medicines that have a litany of unwanted side effects, Cannabidiol (CBD) offers a safe, natural alternative for your much-needed relief. MRH is licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and offers third-party testing results for all the products." The pair is also building a hemp extraction facility, expected to be operational this fall.

**Suzanne (Blevins) Tola '98** is a Sr. Consultant of Total Rewards at Trinity Health in Livonia, Michigan. She recently graduated in March 2020 from Michigan State University's Executive MBA program with a degree in Integrative Management. Suzanne resides in Southgate, Michigan with husband Kurt.

**David Moore '09** is a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and works in the Emergency Room at McLaren Macomb hospital where he has been on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Bernadette Bacero '09** accepted a position at Schoolcraft College as an Instructional Designer after six years as a teacher at our alma mater. She will be working with instructors to design and develop courses while supporting the integration of new technology.



**Shelley Popiel '11** is an elementary school teacher at nearby St. Anselm Catholic School and was recently recognized as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year. Shelley also serves as Divine Child High School's Varsity Cheer Coach.



**Madison Dostine '14** graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2018 with a Bachelor's of Science. She recently relocated to Tennessee and graduated from Union University with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. She is set to start her job as a Bone Marrow Transplant Nurse at Sarah Cannon Cancer Center in Nashville, TN.

**Riley Blair '15** was inducted into the CHSL Hall of Fame this summer, and recognized as a record-breaking, two season athlete, having played both volleyball and basketball at DCHS. Upon graduation in 2015, she continued playing basketball at Ferris State University (FSU) where she proved herself to be a stellar athlete, helping take FSU to the next level competitively.

**Joshua DePaulis '19**, was featured in a New York Times article June 15, along with several other coaches and players around the nation about the challenges of starting a collegiate football program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Josh is eagerly awaiting his very first game this fall, as part of Madonna University's brand new football team.

## WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to these Falcon newlyweds!



**Timothy Sitkauskas '02** married **Jordan Rogers** on May 4, 2019.



**Allison (Makowski) '12** and **Michael Leporowski '12** were married at the Church of Divine Child on Sept. 28, 2019.



**Katie (Sophiea) '02** married **Jeff Luttrell '02** on September 6, 2019 at St. John Neumann Parish. Twenty DCHS alumni attended the reception held at the Inn at St. John's and all but three members of the bridal party were alumni. Katie is a math teacher at DCHS and Jeff works for Progressive Printing.



**Kelly (Mrzyglod) Sparks '07** and **Ryan Sparks '06** were married on May 23, 2020, surrounded by immediate family, best friends and ZOOM! They made the best of their pandemic wedding day and are looking forward to a larger reception on April 23, 2021. Kelly is a registered nurse and works in the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Michigan, and Ryan is a manufacturing and supply chain consultant.

### IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of these lost but not forgotten Falcon classmates:

**Charles (Skip) Wehrle '66 | Rob Jares '71**  
**David Parzyck '73 | Seamus Quinn '91**



## Congratulations to these Falcons on the birth of their children:



1. Sarah (Leirstein) Krater '04 and Ben Krater '04 welcomed Thomas Alan, born on June 23, 2019. He was Baptized with cousin Rose Ruby Dwan by Father Bob on December 1, 2019. Rose was born on July 21, 2019 and is the baby girl of Katie (Krater) Dwan '02 and her husband John.

2. Ashley (Matusz) Fisher '07 and husband Joseph welcomed son Graham Joseph, born on December 19, 2019, weighing 7 lbs 1 oz and measuring 20 inches long.

3. Andria (Scappaticci) Hazergian '01 and husband Gregory welcomed Luca David, born on December 23, 2019 at 4:24 am, weighing 7 lbs 6 oz.

4. Katie (Zakar) Jones '99 and husband Jason welcomed their third child, Lyndon Clay, born on Dec. 23, 2019. Lyndon joins big brother Lincoln (4), and sister Liberty (2).

5. Genevieve (Yavello) Boyle '97 and husband Jamie welcomed their third child, Anna Marie, born on January 16, 2020, weighing 6 lbs 12 ounces. Anna joins big brothers Matthew and Patrick.

6. Ashley (Loftus) '03 Mastroianni and Mike Mastroianni '02 welcomed their third child, Marco Alexander, born on January 12, 2020, weighing 7 lbs 3 oz, measuring 21 inches long. Marco joins big sisters Liliana (3) and Angelena (2).

7. Andrea (Chih) Boswell '97 and husband Barry welcomed their second child, Leo Joseph, born on January 16, 2020, weighing 7 lbs 1oz and measuring 20 inches long. He joins big sister Isabella (3).

8. Kasia (Lisecki) Rakowiecki '09 and husband Pawel welcomed their first child, Aniela Veronika, born on January 18, 2020, weighing 5 lbs 12 oz and measuring 20.5 inches long.

9. Frank Nasal '01 and wife Stephanie welcomed their fourth baby, Abigail Rose, born on March 12, 2020, weighing 6 lbs 2 oz, and measuring 20 inches long. Abigail joins Frank (9), Lilianna (8), and Nicholas (5).

10. Matthew Marchetti '02 and wife Melissa welcomed their first son, Luca James, born on April 4, 2020, weighing 5 lb 2 oz, measuring 17.5 inches long.

11. Darcie (Martin) Ruby '00 and husband Ben welcomed their second son, William Christopher, born on April 21, 2020, weighing 6 lbs 8 oz, and measuring 20.5 inches long. William joins big brother Jake (2).

12. Trisha (Belmore) Duke '07 and husband Chris welcomed daughter Alexis Jade, born on April 25, 2020, weighing 7 lbs and measuring 21 inches long. Alexis joins big sister Violet Kay (2).

13. David Matusz '09 and his wife Erin welcomed son Dakota Ryan, born on May 1, 2020, weighing 6 lbs 11 oz and measuring 20.5 inches long. Dakota joins fur siblings Zeus and Rayna.

14. Brittany (Majors) Kelly '01 and Charlie Kelly '01 welcomed daughter Stella Lynn on May 4, 2020, weighing 6 lbs 8 oz, measuring 19.5 inches long. Stella is welcomed by big brothers Ben (6) and Jack (4).

15. David Moore '09 and wife Alyssia welcomed their first son, Noah Robert, born on May 9, 2020 at 8:25 am, weighing 7 lbs 8 oz and measuring 21 inches long.

16. Michelle (Matusz) '03 and Anthony Arbini '01 welcomed son Dominic Anthony, born on May 22, 2020, weighing 7 lbs and measuring 20 inches long. Dominic joins sisters Ava and Victoria.

17. Lianne (Mifsud) White '01 and Aaron White '00 welcomed two healthy baby boys on June 3, 2020. Colton Anthony weighing 6 lbs 14 oz and Brayden Michael weighing 7 lbs 4 oz. The boys join big sister Liliana (2).

18. Leslie (Metcalf) Rohr '00 and husband Ed welcomed Sophia Andrea, born on June 12, 2020, weighing 7 lbs 13 oz and measuring 21 inches long.

19. Christie (Zakar) Journey '02 and husband Bryan welcomed Olivia Jean, born on June 16, 2020, weighing 7 lbs 6 oz. She joins big sister Isabella.

20. Daniel Beard '04 and wife Tiffany welcomed their second child, Rory Daniel, born on June 27, 2020, weighing 5 lbs 13 oz and measuring 18.5 inches long. He joins big brother Seamus (2).

### Have an Alumni Update to share?

We want to hear from you. Please send us a note explaining what is new with you!

We are seeking:

- Professional/ career updates
- Wedding, birth and & baptism announcements
- Feature stories
- In Memoriam announcements

Email [amcnamara@divinechild.org](mailto:amcnamara@divinechild.org) & include photos!





## DIVINE CHILD AUCTION - SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

The 29th annual Auction brought together over 500 members of our parish and schools, alumni and friends of Divine Child to raise funds to update the lower elementary classrooms with new furniture conducive to both individual and cooperative learning styles as well as completely renovate the high school home economics room. Roylene Hermann and family served as the event's honorary chairs. This year's event raised over \$140,000 for our schools, and the home economics renovation has commenced.

### ... EVENT RECAP



### THANK YOU SPONSORS:

**PRESENTING SPONSOR** | The Doran Foundation - Wayne Doran & Randy and Lisa Doran |  
**PLATINUM SPONSORS** | Autocatalyst Recycling - Ryan Swierlik '00 & Garrett Swierlik '04  
 • Driven Creative Supply Co. - Kevin Woods • Landscape Consultants - Brent Opiela & Mike Opiela '72 • Rodan & Fields - Sarah (Kuch) '00 & Sam LeBlanc '99 | **GOLD SPONSORS** | Shannon Clements • Culinary Innovations - Pete Veach • Italy American Construction - Ashley (Loftus) '03 & Michael Mastroianni '02 | **SILVER SPONSORS** | Rob Bovitz • Corporate Travel Service • Steve & Sandra Daniels • Keller Williams - Andrea (Felps) Fitzgerald '07 • Great Lakes Foot and Ankle Specialist - Dawn (Barszczowski) '93 & Dr. Matthew Hansen '93 • Kramar Jewelry • Orange Theory Dearborn - Chad & Mary Beth (Trainor) Smith '01 • The Ransford Family | **BRONZE SPONSORS** | Alliance Catholic Credit Union • The Carpenter Family • Cherry Hill Barber Shop - Lisa Sourbeck • Mike & Jackie (Oros) Chizuk '84 • C. Louise Jewelers • Dearborn Orthopedics & Sports Medicine • The Henry, Autograph Collection • Constance Hansen • Roylene Hermann & Family • Independent Carpet One Floor & Home - Cathy Buchanan • Kalitta Motorsports • Key Bank - Paul Whalen • Manno Clothing & Tailoring - Pat Manno & Anthony Manno '09 • Alex & June Salehi • Dr. Mark & Mrs. Ellen Zalupski | **DEAL ON WHEELS** | Jack Demmer Ford & Lincoln - Jim Demmer '75 • Pat Milliken Ford - Peter Battle '81 • Les Stanford Chevrolet & Cadillac - Gary Stanford '71 | **FALCONS CLUB** | Bangkok 96 • Peter Cogswell • Educational Data Systems, Inc. - Kevin Schnieders '90 • Divine Child Elementary School Parent Guild • Divine Child High School Parent Support Organization • Elisa Noeske '00 • Progressive Printing - Jeff Luttrell '02 • Real Estate One - Mike Moore '01 • John N. Santeiu & Son, Inc. - John Santeiu III '82, Elizabeth (Powaser) Santeiu '82, Anne Santeiu-Ellis '81 & Peter Santeiu '85 • Voran Funeral Home



LEARN MORE | Visit [www.divinechildhighschool.org/alumni-portal/homecoming](http://www.divinechildhighschool.org/alumni-portal/homecoming)

This fall, we might not have the same traditional Homecoming we're used to, but our family will come home, whether it's in-person or virtually.

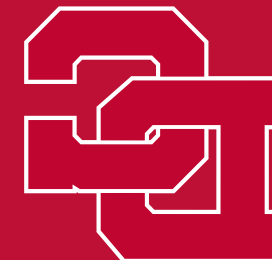
BUT, no matter what happens ... we know Falcons are STRONG and so is our bond.

These past few months have had us feeling like our world is UPSIDE DOWN ...

Friday, Oct. 2 through Sunday, Oct. 4



SAVE THE DATE





*Together  
we can make a*  
**BIG**  
*difference*



**Throughout the pandemic, stories of alumni giving back, serving on the front lines, or mourning the loss of a loved one, have travelled through the **Divine Child community**. Our Falcon family has rallied around these individuals to show love and support from near and far, and now we have the opportunity to take it a step farther.**

Dear friends: Together with God's help, we will get through this. Since mid-March, things have been very tense, and many people are discouraged. That's where each of us have the opportunity to *make a difference*.

In the midst of all these trials, there are ways we can help. Lifting each other up in prayer needs to be our first course of action. A simple phone call, or sending a note in the mail could help. Providing some encouragement or consolation can be so comforting when people are overwhelmed and may feel all alone. (Someone may live with others and still feel alone. We can change that!)

So many people have lost their job, been placed on furlough, or have had their hours decreased at work. The uncertainty of financial stability can wreak havoc on a person and on his or her family. One of the concerns that

some of our parents are struggling with pertains to having enough money in order to keep their children in a Catholic school. We all know Divine Child provides a wonderful education. There are some families who have had all their children attend our schools, but now, because of cutbacks or layoffs, they are uncertain how they will be able to afford sending their youngest child to Divine Child. In some cases, their youngest child will be a junior or senior this year! I am sure this is heart wrenching for their families.

For those of us who have been able to navigate these uncharted waters without significant impact to our financial or physical health, maybe you would be able to help a student at our elementary or high school continue with the excellent, Christ-centered education that has been such a gift for generations of students.

We have had, by the grace of God and the generous support of parishioners and alumni, a great track record of forming boys and girls in the faith. Many dedicated people have used their God-given gifts in order to help the light of Christ shine in our students.

Many people have generously gifted our schools with their prayers and financial support in order that our mission of raising up vibrant disciples and outstanding citizens might continue. Together, I am certain we can make a big difference. May the Holy Spirit guide each of us. In our own way, may we replace darkness with light. May we replace sadness with joy.

God's Peace and Joy,

*Fr. Bob McCabe*

Fr. Bob McCabe

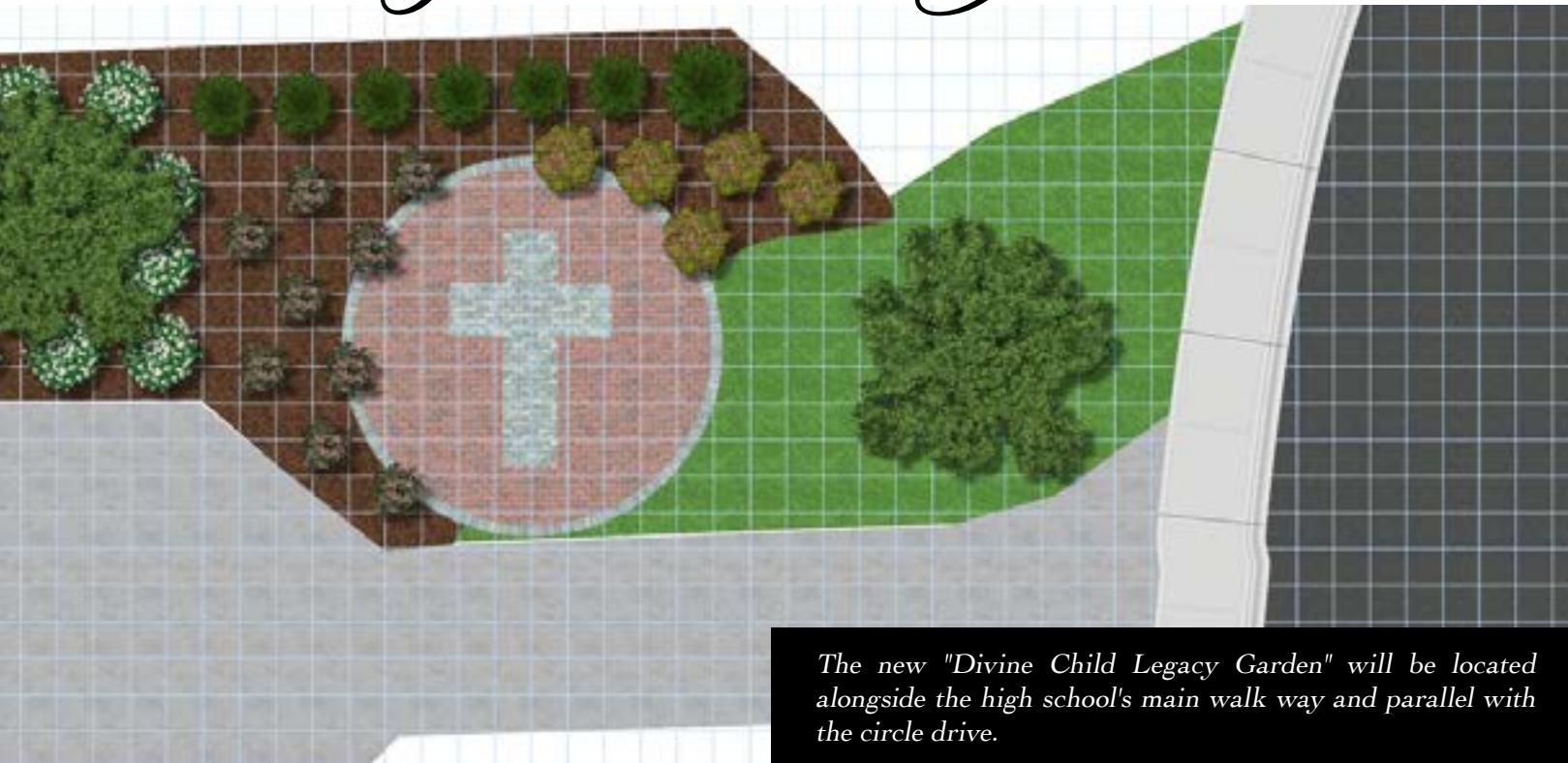
*Even in these uncertain times,*  
there is opportunity for growth and planning for the future, and we must continue to stay ahead of the curve no matter what the fall brings. If you are interested in helping, please consider a donation to Divine Child and support our many important projects through the Annual Fund. Or, give the gift of a Divine Child education through the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Contact Colleen Johnson, Director of Advancement, at 313-261-0893 or [cjohnson@divinechild.org](mailto:cjohnson@divinechild.org) to learn more.





Celebrate your legacy in the new

# Divine Child Legacy Garden



The new "Divine Child Legacy Garden" will be located alongside the high school's main walk way and parallel with the circle drive.

After many years of weather, wear and tear, the "alumni legacy bricks" located in front of the high school main doors are being reengraved and moved to a new home adjacent to the main walkway - the Alumni Garden.

The new bricks will be used to construct a circular brick plaza that includes a cross motif in the center. Beautiful rose bushes will surround the space and create a place of respite and reflection for all who visit DC. Landscaping of this new project will begin this fall.

All old alumni bricks will be reengraved. Additional legacy bricks may be purchased for \$200. Please contact Aubri McNamara at [amcnamara@divinechild.org](mailto:amcnamara@divinechild.org) to learn more.

**ORDER A BRICK TODAY!**

All bricks are 4 in. by 8 in. and allow for three lines of text, 16 characters each line.

**\$200 A BRICK**



## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!

Congratulations to the following 2020 graduates and their Divine Child alumni parents!

- Jack Anders - son of Julie (Walters) '92 and Sean Anders `91 • Marina Armelagos - daughter of Annette (Micallef) Armelagos `88 • Matthew Balash - son of Cheryl (Ciarelli) Balash `87 • Connor Beaudoin - son of Mary Beaudoin `83 • Mia Bidolli - daughter of Pete Bidolli `89 • Jessica Bingham - daughter of Kevin Bingham `88 • John Bustamante - son of David Bustamante `87 • Jennifer and Lauren Busuito - daughters of Monica Longe `88 • MacKenzie Campbell - daughter of Brian Campbell `83 and Nancy (Dewicki) Campbell `83 • Peter Ciarelli - son of James Ciarelli `86 • McKenna Coury - daughter of Robert Coury `84 • Roman Dalfonsi - son of Cynthia (Kalita) Dalfonsi `90 • Isabella De Guzman - daughter of Edward De Guzman `86 and Jeanine (Levy) De Guzman `86 • Marella DiDomenico - daughter of Quirino DiDomenico `90 • Luke Duncan - son of Karen (Hall) Cole `94 • Isabel and Natalie Dziadzio - daughters of Brian Dziadzio `84 • Claire Garner - daughter of Paula (Bonell) Garner `85 • Carlo Greco - son of Carlo Greco `85 • Jeffery Harrison - son of Jeffery Harrison `97 • Gabriella Joganic - daughter of Natalie (Tuema) Joganic `93 • Katelyn Landrum - daughter of Peter Landrum `97 and Stephanie (Dolle) Marek `97 • Nicholas Marcyan - son of Paul Marcyan `86 • Chase Markavich - son of Aaron Markavich `92 • Breanna McCusker - daughter of Marla (Decina) McCusker `88 • Brianna Mejia-Hans - daughter of Donika Mejina Hans `96 • Michael Moss - son of Patricia (Eicher) Moss `84 • Glennon Nenninger IV - son of Glennon Nenninger III `88 • Joseph Neumann - son of Julie (Kerry) Neumann `89 • Nora Nieman - daughter of Jean Taraskiewicz `91 • Hannah Nowak - daughter of Kevin Nowak `79 • Macey Pappas - daughter of Mark Pappas `90 and Julie (Marchetti) Pappas `90 • Shannon Pavlak - daughter of Patricia (Fitzgerald) Pavlak `88 • Kaitlyn Read - daughter of John Read `91 and Michelle (Przybylowicz) Read `92 • Henry Rich - son of Dianne (Fadler) Rich `87 • Makayla Rybak - daughter of James Rybak `86 • Jonathan Sadler - son of Marie Ann (Fundaro) Sadler `86 • Molly Soraghan - daughter of James Soraghan `82 and Cheryl (O'Donnell) Soraghan `82 • Dawson Stec - son of Randall Stec `90 and Cheryl (Dinatali) Stec `92 • Alexandra Stevens - daughter of Charmaine (Drewniak) Stevens `82 • Bryce Troher - son of Jocelyn Troher `98 • Emma Uetz - daughter of Paul Uetz `81 • Emily Walker - daughter of Teri (Jansen) Walker `78 • Jacob White - son of Sheila (Gallagher) White `93 • Joseph Wiercioch - son of Joe Wiercioch `77 • Jessica Wildauer - daughter of Gina (Monteleone) Wildauer `87 • Adam Yost - son of Tricia (Szegedi) Yost `90

The photo shoot for our traditional "legacy photo" was postponed due to the pandemic. We will share the 2020 legacy photo in the next issue.



## THE FALCON LEGACY LIVES ON!

# 39 Divine Child Alumni have enrolled their children in the class of 2024

Divine Child High School's incoming freshman class - the class of 2024 - will include 203 students with 37 students whose moms or dads were Divine Child students themselves! We are thrilled to highlight these graduates and their children:

- Luke Armelagos, son of Annette (Micallef) Armelagos `88
- Markus Armstrong, son of Debra (Howe) Armstrong `95
- Nora Asleh, daughter of Melissa (Fleezanis) Asleh `99
- Isabella Baran, daughter of Marianne (Kowalewski) Baran `92
- Cole Bartnick, son of Brett Bartnick `92 and Lesley (Rhodes) Bartnick `94
- Nadia Betts, daughter of Karen (Denton) Betts `93
- Mathieu Bourdage, son of Gerald Bourdage `81 and Maureen (Beatty) Bourdage `83
- Emma Brewis, daughter of Michael Brewis `78
- Caroline Carapellotti, daughter of Nancy (Coury) Carapellotti `88
- Peter Celani, son of Joseph Celani `88
- Jani Dickey, daughter of Scott Dickey `85
- Alessandro DiDomenico, son of Quirino DiDomenico `90
- Tyler Eby, son of Todd Eby `88 and Andrea (Gabriele) Eby `94
- Michael Esparza, son of Lance Esparza `93 and Jennifer (O'Callaghan) Esparza `95
- Jeffery Hickey, son of Veronica (Varga) Hickey `92
- Tyler Kalchik, son of Scott Kalchik `92
- Meghan Koss, Katherine Koss and Kirsten Koss, stepdaughters of Brian Dziadzio `84
- Madeline Kujansuu, daughter of Bridget (O'Donnell) Kujansuu `93
- Drew LePage, son of Lisa (Falkowski) LePage `94
- Jasmine Liwag, daughter of Michael Liwag `92
- Lincoln Loiselle, son of Benjamin Loiselle `92
- Emery McCusker, daughter of Marla (Decina) McCusker `88
- Aiden McVean, son of Karen (Williams) McVean `87
- Donovan Meyers, son of Mark Meyers `89
- Charles Murray, son of Elizabeth (Schous) Murray `00
- Jack Ostafin, son of Robert Ostafin `85
- Anthony Persichetti, son of Kelly (Zerilli) Persichetti `90
- Isabella Reale, daughter of Lynn (Uy Ben Dee) Reale `95
- George Rockwell, son of Joanna Kalis `92
- Alexander Rudzinski, son of Michael Rudzinski `89
- Salvatore Thomson, son of Monica (Galasso) Thomson `89
- Tyler Traub, son of Dina (Marchetti) Traub `87
- Matthew Van Antwerp, son of Loretta (McCarthy) Van Antwerp `86
- Elysa Varga, daughter of James Varga `93
- Peyton Wysocki, daughter of Leon Wysocki `83



## DCES UPDATE

This spring our students and teachers took innovation in education to a whole new level. None of us could have predicted that the school year would take such an unprecedented turn. Nonetheless, at the drop of a hat, the DCES community came together from afar to continue teaching, learning and growing academically and in faith.

Our faculty stepped up to the plate to create dynamic distance learning plans designed to engage students in a way appropriate for their grade level, while still managing to maintain that sense of community that is so critical to the social-emotional growth of school age children.

Similarly, our students amazed us with their diligence and sharp minds, navigating new digital learning platforms while continuing to strive for that same academic excellence

that has become synonymous with Divine Child Falcons.

Parents went above and beyond to make sure that their students were able to comfortably and fully participate in their online classrooms, while somehow creatively fitting their own work and parenting responsibilities for other children into that same 24-hour day.

As the fall approaches and we prepare to "return to learn" in whichever way that might be, one thing remains certain. DCES has been blessed. We are blessed with students who are hungry to learn; blessed with teachers who are passionate about their vocations; blessed with parents who care deeply about their about children's education; and by God's grace, blessed to continue instilling Catholic values.

- J. Mike Courage '98, Principal



### Ann Marie (McGinnity) Prevost '80 heads out West

I first entered the halls of Divine Child as an 8 year old and a beautiful sister wrapped her arms around me making me feel at home. I continued through the grade school and then walked across the parking lot to graduate knowing I had a solid foundation of faith & academics. Divine Child pulled me back to join the parish sending all three of my boys through the grade school & high school. During that time I taught Sunday School

and then found my passion as a teacher in the elementary school for the past 20 years. To all my former students, I thank you for working so hard and providing me with so many fun memories. To witness the Divine Child Community as it pulls together in good times and bad is truly a gift. As I move to Colorado I will hold DC close to my heart because as we always say, Once a Falcon ... Always a Falcon. God Bless you all.



## ADMISSIONS

Continue the  
**FALCON LEGACY**  
with your family!

### FAMILY TOURS

All prospective families are encouraged to visit DCES and/or DCHS to see firsthand what makes our schools so special.

### OPEN HOUSE

Tour our facilities, meet our staff, experience our classrooms and see what makes DCES home to the Falcons.

### APPLY

Our enrollment applications are available online at:  
[bit.ly/DCES\\_Admissions](https://bit.ly/DCES_Admissions)  
or  
[bit.ly/DCHS\\_Admissions](https://bit.ly/DCHS_Admissions)

### CONTACT

**Matt Saxer**

Director of Admissions  
313-216-0891 ext. 268  
msaxer@divinechild.org



Divine Child High School  
Advancement Office  
1055 N. Silvery Lane  
Dearborn, MI 48128



## HELP US UPDATE OUR ALUMNI DATABASE

Have you moved, started a new job or prefer another form of communication? Update your contact information with the Divine Child Alumni Association. Visit [www.divinechildhighschool.org/alumni-portal/alumni-directory](http://www.divinechildhighschool.org/alumni-portal/alumni-directory) to update your contact info, or contact [amcnamara@divinechild.org](mailto:amcnamara@divinechild.org).



## LEAVE A MARK ON DC

and support the development and continued growth of our institution. DC is now offering three ways for Falcons to leave their legacy on the grounds and facilities.

### BRICK PAVER

Set your name in stone by ordering a brick paver inside the Divine Child Alumni Athletic Complex.

### AUDITORIUM SEAT

Leave your legacy or honor a loved one with a custom engraved silver auditorium seat nameplate in the newly refurbished Divine Child theatre.

### MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Preserve the memory of loved ones on the Wayne Doran Memorial Wall located within the Divine Child Alumni Athletic Complex.

Visit [www.divinechildhighschool.org/giving](http://www.divinechildhighschool.org/giving) to order yours today!

## BECOME A CLASS AGENT

Share your talents with the alumni association! We're looking for class agents to help us reach alumni.

### As a class agent you would:

1. Connect with Classmates
2. Participate in DCAA meetings
3. Help organize and run class reunions/meet-ups
4. Be the first to learn about new projects at DC

**LEARN MORE** | Contact Aubri McNamara at [amcnamara@divinechild.org](mailto:amcnamara@divinechild.org) or call 313-216-0892

**ONCE A FALCON, ALWAYS A FALCON**

