

# THE Aggie Archives

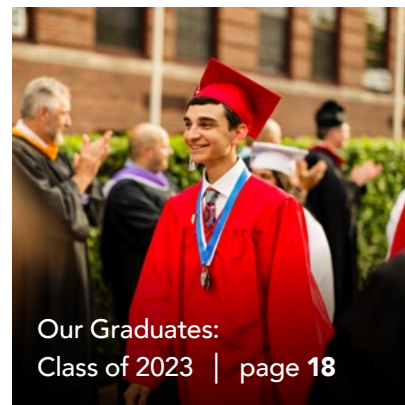
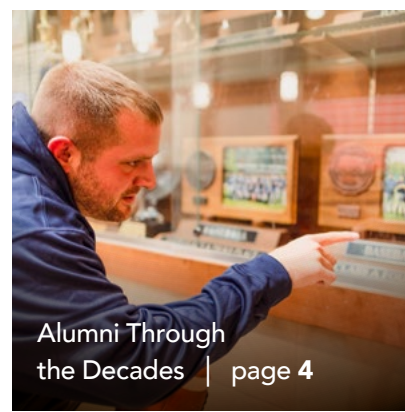
Keeping alumni, families and friends connected to Saint Agnes School • SPRING 2023



Once an Aggie,  
Always an  
Aggie



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**On the cover:** 1963 graduates Mary Bilder, Sandra Tretter, Karol Schmitt; 2023 graduates Hermela Dawit, Lucia Damm, Veronica Rosales

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Dear Saint Agnes Families,

It was in our 135th year that I had a first-ever Aggie graduate of my own. The oldest of my five children, Julia, graduated with a phenomenal class of Aggies (the Class of 2023), whose virtuous and faith-filled influence our world desperately needs. It is different when it is your own child graduating! I have told parents of high school seniors for over 30 years that God gives them to us for 18 years, and then we have to give them back to the Lord. This year, I needed to hear those words of counsel from myself to myself, and it's tougher to swallow as a dad than it ever was to give as a teacher, coach, or administrator!

It seems only fitting that as we conclude the academic year and celebrate the Class of 2023, we also give thanks for all of the alumni who came before them, as well as for the faculty, administrators, and staff who have played pivotal roles in helping to form our students in the classroom, on the field of play, on the stage, and in the life of the Church. In the fall's edition of the *Aggie Archives*, you may recall reading several stories and interviews from our alumni through the decades. We continue those reflections in these *Archives*, and I hope reading some of the memories and insights from the Aggies in these pages will allow you an opportunity to reflect on your own time in these hallowed halls.

I mentioned in the fall that the challenge before us at Saint Agnes School is an important one, wherein we must determine the most responsible way to continue to grow in accordance with the will of God while remaining true to the cardinal and theological virtues that we teach in our classrooms. We continue to strategize about this challenge every day, and one thing has become abundantly clear: as our school has continued to grow in size and spirit (we are full or almost full in every class), so must we continue to preserve, grow, and celebrate that same Aggie spirit in our extended community—from the alumni and friends of Saint Agnes still living, to those who have just graduated.

So, as we conclude our journey through 135 years in this issue of the *Archives*, I ask you to once again consider your own time at Saint Agnes School and reflect on how God used this institution to help form who you are today. And, with that consideration, I ask you to join us in our challenge. First, please pray for our beautiful school and our generous benefactors. God has been smiling on Saint Agnes School for a long time now. Second, please help us to grow responsibly—help us to reconnect with your classmates who might have lost contact with our community since their graduation. Third, invite new faces to come and see what an impact a Saint Agnes education can have (and is having). Show them how our graduates can change the world as educated and ambitious, yet rooted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for your intercessory prayer for our school, for our parish, and—most importantly—for the students, faculty, and Aggie alumni who will continue to call Saint Agnes School their alma mater and home for the next 135 years. My daughter ('23) joined the ranks of Aggie alumni this past June 2nd. Her picture is now on the wall next to the Class of 2022, and I am proud to say that she will be an Aggie forever—because once you're an Aggie, you're *always* an Aggie!

Blessings to you and your family,

Dr. Kevin Ferdinandt  
Headmaster

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# Alumni Through the DECADES



As we conclude our 135th year at Saint Agnes School, we pause to reflect on the alumni throughout the decades who have passed through these halls. We are grateful to those who have shared their stories and memories. They are the product of our mission, the life of our history.

## Thomas Johnson '08

The oldest of five, Thomas Johnson grew up in Saint Paul and is a 13-year Aggie. Actually, he is a 12 ½-year Aggie. A family move in grade school found him at the local public school, but it didn't take long for him and his family to realize that Saint Agnes was where they belonged and Thomas soon returned, earning him 13-year Aggie bragging rights.

From a young age, Thomas loved phy-ed and athletics and he participated in football, basketball, and baseball. A favorite sports

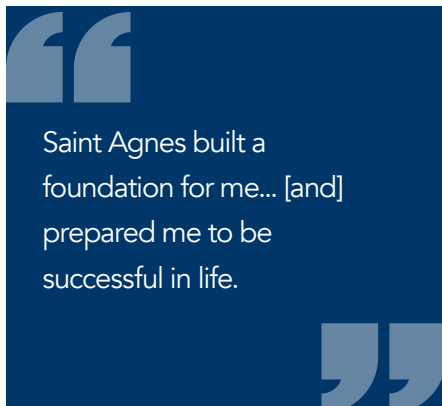
memory was the State Baseball Tournament in 2006. As Thomas remembers it, "I was a sophomore and a pinch runner. The very first inning I was sent in to run. I stole second base and was advanced to third. Alex Hilpisch was in the batter's box and Coach Streitz gave the signal – suicide squeeze! The pitcher wound up, I put my head down, and bolted for home. I sprinted



as fast as I could and when I finally looked up, there was the catcher with the ball in his hand just waiting for me. I railroaded him and touched home plate. I was called out and ejected from the entire tournament and that was the end of my state tournament experience. If only Alex had gotten that bunt down..."

Thomas formed great relationships with various teachers and coaches like Mr. Koltes, Mr. Medlo, Deacon Pedersen, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Walter and Coach Streitz, and credits them with instilling in him a desire to get into education. After high school, he earned his undergraduate degree and played football for St. Cloud State. Thomas received all-conference honors and competed in the national playoffs twice. He then spent the next eight years coaching college football at Hamline, St. Cloud, and a university in Illinois, while also earning his master's degree. "I learned a lot from a bunch of individuals – what worked, what didn't, what I liked and what I didn't," said Thomas, "I planned to use that knowledge and land my dream job of becoming the Defensive Coordinator for





the University of Texas. But plans and goals change and I realized I wanted to be back near my family and back to my roots in St. Paul."

When asked what brought him back to Saint Agnes, Thomas responded, "Coach Sam Thompson went to St. Bernard's and we played against each other in high school. I like to remind him that the Aggies beat the Bulldogs in the playoffs our senior year. Anyway, when he learned



I was back in St. Paul, he asked me to consider coaching. I started last year as a 5th grade basketball coach. Being back in Gruden Gym where I had spent so much time as a youth tugged at my heart. I'm now all in. I am the defensive coordinator of the varsity football team and hope to

spread a little knowledge to these young men and help them to compete at the highest level."

Thomas advises young Aggies to treasure their time at Saint Agnes because it goes by so quickly. "Saint Agnes built a foundation for me. Everything I've done in some way is related to what Saint Agnes has done for me - whether in the classroom or on the football field. If I were to tell a 17-year-old Thomas Johnson that he was going to get a master's degree and get a 4.0 in those master's classes, I would have been very surprised. Saint Agnes prepared me to be successful in life. I've made great relationships with teachers and coaches and still remember coaching points from years ago. Things I've learned here are stuck in my soul; it's part of who I am and the biggest reason I came back. I love this place. It is home and I hope to do my part to help these young Aggies on their paths to success."





## Tim Steigauf '84 and Christine (Larrive) Steigauf '86

**Q: Where did you grow up and how did you come to attend Saint Agnes?**

**Christine:** I grew up in the Macalaster/Groveland neighborhood. My mom, Barbara (Gontarek) Larrive '57 was a 13-year Aggie and there was no question my four siblings and I would attend Catholic schools. My two sisters and I went to Saint Agnes and my brothers went to St. Thomas and Cretin.

**Tim:** I grew up on the East side at St. Pascals. My mom was a 1949 grad of Saint Agnes so we had no choice but to go to Saint Agnes. I'm not sure if she was a 13-year Aggie—I don't think they went to school 13 years back then.

**Q: How did you get to school each day?**

**C:** City bus. I transferred once or twice to get here. I remember going to Sr. Leona each month to get our bus pass and being scolded about using more punches than allowed. She knew I was sharing with friends.

**T:** I, too, took city bus #3 or #12 and transferred to #7 downtown which brought me to school. Occasionally I could con a friend into bringing me home but being from the East Side was like driving out to the farm.

**Q: What were you involved in?**

**C:** Sports were important. I played volleyball and softball. I was also co-winner of the Myra Grelson Award, sharing the honors with friend and classmate Peggy Steigauf, Tim's sister.

**T:** I played football, hockey and golf, and I was in the AVSO club, but sports were most important. I'm pretty sure I was the best athlete Saint Agnes ever had, although I don't think it was noted anywhere.

**Q: Describe your lunch hour.**

**C:** We all brought our bag lunches from home, then traded on the table. What I remember most is that the home-ec room was just outside the lunchroom and they would constantly burn things. We'd all have to go outside, the fire department would come, smoke would be billowing out the window, and Sister would come out flapping her apron. That happened at least once a month!

**T:** I remember a soda machine, a soup machine, and the cantina to get snacks. We brought our own lunch and John Thiesen ate my snickers bar every day for four years. My mom eventually started packing two so he could have his own. The place I sat my freshman year was the exact place I sat the last lunch my senior year. Nobody ever moved.

**Q: Name a teacher or coach who influenced you.**

**C:** Tim Flood. He came my sophomore year as a biology teacher. He taught from a perspective that was maybe a little

more forward thinking. His class was tough but his expectations rose the bar more than what I had experienced freshman year. My second favorite was Mr. Boone, who I had freshman year. I admire the way he could command a room and keep your attention for 55 minutes. The overall experience was pretty

cool. My favorite coach was my volleyball coach, Dwight Johnson. He was dedicated beyond belief and knew how to get the best out of every player. He pushed us every day to work hard with no excuses, but he was always positive and was never in a bad mood.

**T:** My favorite teacher was Bill Davies. Though he only taught one physics class, he had a lot of influence on me. Overall, John Heller was the biggest influence on my life to this day. When I get together with my buddies, we still talk about the lessons we learned on the football field. The lessons

we learned from him were very simple but very profound—the work ethic he taught, his disdain for self-pity, the need to be driven and focused,

and many more. It's hard to quantify the impact he had on our lives and the lessons he taught simply by the way he conducted himself. I'm a big fan of his.

**Q: Can you tell us a favorite memory?**

**C:** Everyone knows Mr. Peper and we feared him. His office window overlooked the street and parking lot. I had a small, and I'll say light car that I parked on Lafond every day. By about 10:00 am I'd be getting called to the office because my car would be parked with the back end out in the boulevard. He'd







ask if I was having trouble parallel parking or what my issue was and I'd have to go straighten it out. Then the next week a few funny guys would again pick up my car and move it sideways and I'd get called down again. There were no cameras back then so with a little imagination, you could have a lot of fun. We have fond, fond memories of high school and we laugh about it all the time. I feel bad for the kids these days. Everything they do is being watched and recorded. The 80s were a great time to grow up!

**T:** Many of the friends we have today we met here so we have been friends since we were 13 years old. We are still the best of friends, our kids are friends, even our grandkids are friends. We all hang out and do things together, and we laugh like crazy over the stories we tell. It's the little things that stick with you: the food fights at lunch, bus trips to football, what you did on the weekend or before or after the dances. Those little interactions are what we sit around and laugh about. It's a huge part of who we are.

**Q: What did you do after graduating from Saint Agnes?**

**C:** I went to St. Cloud State to pursue Criminal Justice. After two years I learned I wasn't made for that. I needed a job and moved home and education kind of fell on me. I was accepted at St. Catherine's and landed my first teaching job at St. Pascal's.

Tim and I weren't married at the time, and I asked him if he knew where it was. He looked at me dumbfounded and said, "Where do you think all the Steigaufs went to grade school?" I had no idea! While on a one year sabbatical and working on my master's degree at St. Kate's, I took the opportunity to teach



at St. Matt's and St. Bernard's, otherwise, I taught for 24 years at St. Pascal's.

**T:** I went to St. Thomas right after Saint Agnes but I transferred to Notre Dame to get my Mechanical Engineering degree, then I went back to St. Thomas to get my MBA. My career started in the control business with Johnson Controls, then I popped around a bit before starting The Energy Services Group with some guys I met at Johnson Controls. We helped schools, universities, and public institutions reduce their demand side energy costs. That business naturally moved into improving air quality which eventually moved into long term facility planning.

**Q: Have the years at Saint Agnes made an impact on your life?**

**C:** Saint Agnes absolutely influenced me. You don't realize it at the time but as you get older you definitely see that Saint Agnes did implant those same qualities you look for in the people you bring into your circle. I give Saint Agnes a lot of credit for teaching me boundaries and work ethic. Whether on the sports team or in the classroom, you were being pushed in a way you didn't see. I think it helped me set goals and manage my time. When you think about it, we had 3-4 minutes to get to the next class and there were no excuses as to why you weren't through that door when the bell rang. I still hang out with a group of gals from my class and at least once a year we talk about

how, as adults, we never call in sick to work. I think that comes from our school days. It was more of a hassle to miss class than to show up. And of course, there is the faith piece. It's in you and an important part of who you are. When you become a parent you realize just how important it is to pass on your faith and make it a priority. Our three kids also attended Catholic schools.

**T:** We were adequately prepared academically and socially for

the next phase of our life but the long term attributes for life were embedded here. When we talk about ethics, morality, work ethic and social skills, being able to not only interact with but befriend people from all over the spectrum, these are the things I've carried farthest in life, and they were from this institution. How you conduct yourself as a human being, how you do business—those sorts of things that make up your persona were learned here. When you look back you say the reason I acted that way or did those things was because of the way we were brought up and the way we were taught, the group of friends we had, our parents, all of which came through this place.

# GOOD NEWS!

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We closed out the month of April with our annual Spring Musical, *Good News!* Over the course of its two-weekend run, nearly 3,000 members of our Aggie community enjoyed the production and witnessed the singing, dancing, and acting talents of 190 of our students. That's almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our entire school!









## Mary Jo (Schierman) Feltl '59

Mary Jo (Schierman) Feltl has always been on the go. As a child of twelve, she would go to school and then report to work at her father's neighborhood bakery, making 50 cents an hour. After graduating high school, she moved just down the road and kept the books for both Ryan Plumbing and Dale Street Plumbing. Her marriage to John Feltl took her way across town to Hopkins and she quickly got a job at the local paint store and got to work remodeling houses.

Though considered a "stay-at-home mom", she was not one to sit at home. She was the consummate volunteer at the kids' school, at church, and in the community. It wasn't until her youngest was a senior in high school that she went back to work full time, working for her husband at RJSteichen.

When asked how her husband felt about working alongside her she exclaimed, "He wouldn't let me leave! I found a \$14,000 mistake in billing that rightfully belonged to the previous owner. He'd never let me go home after that!" She worked toward getting both her broker's license and her principle's license, and, after the death of her husband and a merger, she started Feltl and Company Securities Brokerage and Investment Banking. Her son John

now runs the company, but Mary Jo continues to work. Though most people would have retired by now, Mary Jo says, "I like to work! And I have such good people around me."

The third of eight children, Mary Jo grew up in St. Columba parish where she attended grade school. Having no desire to go to an all-girls school like many of her classmates, she followed in her oldest



sister's footsteps and enrolled at Saint Agnes. We sat down with Mary Jo and asked her to reminisce.

### Some favorite memories:

- As a freshman, I would sometimes sit at the lunch table with my sister, a senior. Though my sister didn't like it, her friends thought I was funny!
- I was reading through my yearbook and I had forgotten how much fun we had! Sometimes we would sneak behind the books in the library and take the elevator to roam the halls on another floor.
- Deavels' Drug Store on the corner of Dale and Thomas was a favorite hangout, especially after school and after games. Occasionally we would slip out during school to get a Coke.
- For our senior class trip, we rode the train to Washington DC. I have a photo here of me and some of my best friends: Kathy Newpower, Kathy Whalen, and Gayle Solheid, boarding the train. The next year, the seniors got to fly!
- Sr. Mary Peter was my favorite teacher. We had an all-girls Social Studies class in the basement, which was very unusual. Sr. Mary Peter would greet us every morning with a booming, "How are all the girls in my nunnery?" One day I asked her, "Sister, do you know what a nunnery is?" "No," replied Sister. "It's a place where they can nuns," I jokingly exclaimed! Sister laughed and said she wanted me in her homeroom next year. And I was!
- I got a lead in our senior class play as Katie, which required I speak with an Irish brogue. Every time I tried to talk, I burst out laughing. I got dumped out of that to be a stage hand.
- When Mr. Kight wanted the class to settle down, he would say, "I've got the floor now." A kid in my class brought him a board and said, "Now you have the floor!"



- In the basement of my father's bakery was a party room. We used to host lots of dances there. We had so much fun!
- A friend was taking her drivers exam and asked me to go with her. I hadn't even studied but she said, "Come on anyway. You can always take it again." I passed! I went home and told my dad that I wanted to learn how to drive. One week later, I got my license.
- I used my mom's push button Plymouth and drove my younger siblings to school. It was very unusual for a student to have a car at school, especially a girl. Having that car kept me in line because I didn't want to lose that privilege. When I was able to buy my own car, I bought myself a '55 Pontiac convertible. I was pretty cool!

When asked about the influence Saint Agnes had on her life, Mary Jo states that all the teachers were really, really good. There were excellent nuns and



Catholic education is first and foremost for me. That's what's helped me succeed. I depend on the morals and values I learned in school.



excellent male teachers like Mr. Kight, Mr. Schuman, and Mr. Asenbrenner. The students were great too. No one got into too much trouble because classmates supported one another, and teachers were well respected. She had many great friends and learned how to work.

Mary Jo has been very supportive of not only Saint Agnes School but many

Catholic schools - elementary through college. "Catholic education is first and foremost for me. That's what helped me succeed. I depend on the morals and values I learned in school. Parents who send their kids to Catholic schools should be canonized because it's expensive! We can't ask teachers to work for less than a decent salary because they work in a Catholic school. We must do everything we can to keep our Catholic schools going. We need more and bigger Catholic schools, not less."

In parting, Mary Jo relayed her all-time favorite memory of Saint Agnes. "I accompanied a group of 27 young men from the high school on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2014. It was an amazing trip! I am still friends with many of those boys, who are now married with families of their own. What a great example of what Saint Agnes is all about."





## Mr. Bob Ercolani and Mr. John Heller

### Teachers, Administrators, Coaches

**Q: How and when did you first arrive at Saint Agnes?**

**Heller:** In the spring of 1968, I was coaching football at North Dakota State. A friend, Bill Dunn, who was a first-year teacher at Saint Agnes, called to say there was a coaching and teaching position at Saint Agnes. The following year, my NDSU football teammate, Bob Ercolani, was also looking for a teaching job in the Twin Cities. He came down to interview with Sr. Nicolette and was hired on the spot as a 6th grade teacher.

**Ercolani:** I think she was just looking for a big guy to hire.

**Q: What positions did you hold throughout the years?**

**Heller:** I was hired as a Social Studies/History and Phy-Ed teacher and soon after became Head Football Coach. I also was Assistant Hockey Coach, Head Hockey Coach and Athletic Director during my 16-year tenure.

**Ercolani:** I was hired as 6th grade teacher, teaching History and Geography. The next

year I moved to the high school and served as Phy-Ed teacher, Assistant Football Coach, and Athletic Director. Then I became the Grade School Principal for several years before heading back to high school as Assistant Principal under Bill Peper. I retired after 30 years in the fall of 2000.

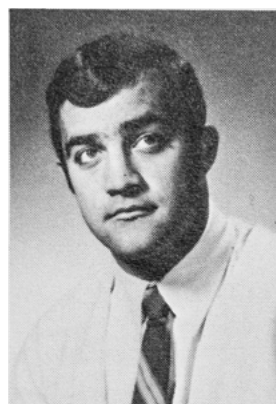
**Q: Did you teach with religious sisters?**

**Heller:** Sr. Assumpta was the principal who hired me and there was about a 50/50 ratio of lay teachers to sisters. But the lay teachers were very new,

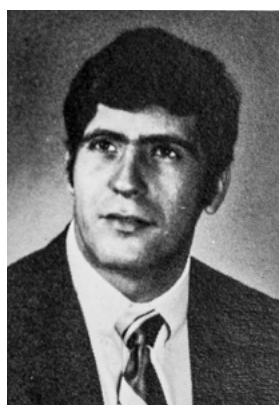
only in their first or second year. The lay teachers and the sisters got along marvelously.

**Ercolani:** Monsignor Schuler was the man in charge but I was hired by Sr. Nicolette to take over the Grade School Principal position from her. One of my favorite teachers was Sr. Joannette. She was just a tiny lady but she only had to give one stern look to bring order to a class. I used

to visit every classroom at the end of the day. When the bell rang, the students rushed out the doors but when I passed Sr. Joannette's



Mr. Heller



Mr. Ercolani

room, half the class was still there—helping with chalkboards, trash, straightening desks. That spoke to how much they loved and respected her.

**Q: Tell us about an accomplishment you are proud of:**

**Heller:** When I took over the football program, we were 0-8. Within three years, with the assistance of Bob Ercolani and Mike Fitzgerald, we turned the program around to 8-1. The next year we were not only 8-1 but beat Grace for the conference championship. When I left in the fall of 1985, Bob took over the program and it just exploded. He handed it off to Tom Flood, who continued the great work. Part of the success is due to the fact that we encouraged the hockey and

basketball players to come play and we all had the same philosophy of “play hard and good things will happen.”

**Ercolani:** To expand on that, my favorite football memory is beating Cretin! I had great mentors. Eighty percent of what I know about football came from John Heller. Bill Peper was also a great advisor.

He was a great person to

bounce ideas off of and he had a tremendous amount of common sense and wisdom.

As grade school principal I did make some changes, some right away, some took more time. The first thing I did was expand the kindergarten to a full day program. It was a great success. I also changed the reading program and implemented a WINGS program for struggling students. A humorous fact was that since this was through the public school system, they had to come into the classroom to evaluate what we were doing and noted that I would have to take the crucifix off the wall. Needless to say, that never happened.

I also tried to allow advanced junior high students the opportunity to take high school level classes in foreign language and math.



Never quite got that off the ground at the time but am happy to see that happening now!

**Q: A favorite memory?**

**Ercolani:** Fundraising! The grade school had been selling religious candles. My first year as principal the students took preorders and delivered later. When the shipment came, there were no wicks in any of the candles! We had to refund some of the orders, though most just donated the funds. We quickly switched to candy the next year. The high school sold World's Finest Chocolate bars and it was an enormous deal. Students would

playground, where we held our football practices, is a good six blocks away. The players would have to carry the tackling dummies back and forth every day. They never questioned it. We still run into former students and it's still the same respectful, "Hello, Coach Heller!" or "Hello, Mr. Ercolani!"

**Q: What are your thoughts of Saint Agnes today?**

**Heller:** Saint Agnes has always been an island in a sea that can be a little rough. It is a safe place for kids to be and the structure and discipline is what parents are looking for.



start taking orders months in advance and when the trucks pulled up to unload, some had stacks and stacks of boxes. Saint Agnes had the most sales of any institution in Minnesota. We always made our school goal to get a day off school and I allowed the top sellers to call the first play at a football game.

**Heller:** It was a very blue-collar neighborhood and I remember how easy it was to work with the students and how respectful they were. They learned that from their parents. When you asked them to do something, they did it without reservation. West Minnehaha

Saint Agnes hasn't deviated from offering a good, solid Christian environment with reasonable discipline. I made life-long friends at Saint Agnes and am thankful for all it has done for me, my wife, and my family.

**Ercolani:** Saint Agnes was the perfect place for me to be at that moment in my life.

The philosophy of the school, how it's run, the coaching, all played a part in who I am today. All of that hasn't changed. It's still the greatest place to be and is in the very best of hands. I'm so proud of Saint Agnes and am so happy to have been part of its history.



## Announcing the Establishment of the Bob Ercolani Endowed Scholarship

For more than 30 years, Mr. Bob Ercolani served as a teacher, coach, and administrator at our school. The Bob Ercolani Endowed Scholarship will honor the legacy Mr. Ercolani created at Saint Agnes and provide financial assistance to young student-athletes.

This scholarship in his name will fund four \$2,500 scholarships annually for students who qualify academically and who are active in athletics. The student can earn the scholarship for the next three years by remaining in good academic standing.

"I really do have the gift of gab, but when I heard about this scholarship I was truly at a loss for words," Coach Ercolani said. "I always feel a lot of gratitude for the 31 wonderful years I spent at Saint Agnes. It is a special place, an inner-city school that offers a traditional education rooted in faith and discipline. I was honored to be a part of it for so many years, and I thank the creator of this scholarship, which will help so many young men and women for years to come."

If you would like to honor Bob Ercolani and donate to the Bob Ercolani Endowed Scholarship Fund, please visit our website or scan the QR code.





## Carline (Jackson) Bengtsson '82

As a 10 year-old girl, Carline left the island of Jamaica and settled in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul. It was the summer of 1973 and, looking to continue her Catholic education, Carline enrolled in the 4th grade of Saint Agnes School that fall. Here is a snippet of Carline's story:

*I am so grateful for my 4th grade teacher, Sr. Joannette. It was my first year in school since leaving the island and she really formed me into who I am today. She was really there for me. She made sure I came along and she, as well as the entire class, was very supportive. The young girl I sat next to that first day, Eileen (Gubash) Meyers, has continued to be my friend to this day. Being that our last names were close alphabetically, we would end up sitting near one another our remaining years of school.*

*As I advanced through high school, I became involved in choir. We had many choral performances—singing at high*



*Mass, competing in the MN music competitions, and I even performed in the annual school talent contest, taking first place one year by singing "Memories" by Barbara Streisand. I really enjoyed Spanish and Art classes. Miss Thul, my Spanish teacher, was my favorite. She was a great teacher. She understood the language, was very engaging, and kept the class moving along. But Art probably played the biggest role. I continued my studies at Concordia College, studying business and art, and both proved beneficial in what I do now with my cooking and food presentation.*



*Though the grounds may have changed a bit over the years, the spirit of what it was is still here today. I felt that just walking through the doors.*



*I remember how much fun homecoming was, participating in all the activities leading up to the big football game. But I was primarily focused on my education. The Christian values and the new skills I learned at Saint Agnes were a driving force of who I am today. I was given all the tools I needed to move on to college. I learned to manage my time and had the confidence to be prepared for what was coming next.*

*After college, I held two positions before landing a job at Medtronic. Through the years, people had often suggested that I open a restaurant or write a cookbook. I have always loved cooking and after my*



*husband passed away in 2012, it caused me to reflect. I asked my family and friends to critique my cooking, and the responses prompted me to go ahead and publish a cookbook. Thanks to the wealth of people waiting in the wings to help me, I had cookbooks in hand within a year with requests for a second book. In 2019, after almost 30 years, I retired from Medtronic as a People Program Manager. Medtronic allowed me many opportunities to give back to the community which revealed to me a way to not only continue to cook but to combat hunger as well.*

*I used the next several months to create a business plan and on June 13th, 2020 I launched Dine4Dinners. I provide an in-home, restaurant-style dining experience and pay it forward to those in need. 25% of all profits go to a food organization of the clients' choosing. This is my third year in operation, and, to date, more than 180,000 meals have been donated.*

*I have a great affinity for my community and especially for Saint Agnes. It's been here for 135 years. Though the grounds may have changed a bit over the years, the spirit of what it was is still here today. I felt that just walking through the doors. It brought back all those memories of being a little girl wearing a uniform. I want to give back so students of today have the support of great teachers and counselors and are afforded the same educational opportunities I had.*

If you'd like to find out more about Carline's Dine4Dinners, visit [dine4dinners.org](https://dine4dinners.org).



**Dine 4 Dinners®** Nourishing Body & Soul



# ALPHABET FAIR

Each year our Lower School librarians—Mrs. Sue Heather and Mrs. Tricia Roddy—coordinate an Alphabet Fair for our Kindergarten-2nd Graders. These young students are led through the fair by our 6th Graders, playing a variety of games to enhance their reading skills. Some of the activities include an alphabet beanbag toss, football throw, story time, basketball shooting, and even a photo booth!



Librarians Mrs. Heather and Mrs. Roddy



**Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Roddy** on her retirement after 20 years of service at Saint Agnes School! Next time you see her, be sure to thank her for her dedication to our students and school community.





LITURGICAL LIVING

# SANCTUARY TOUR

for the First Communicants

---

Fr. Mark Moriarty





Second grade is a momentous year for our young students because they receive First Confession and First Holy Communion. When children reach seven years of age they are considered by church law to have reached the age of reason. In other words, they are capable of understanding right from wrong, especially in regards to knowing what they themselves have done wrong—what we call a conscience.

Part of the preparation for First Holy Communion includes a tour of the sanctuary of the church, an area that is normally off-limits except for priests, altar servers and lectors. The second graders get to see the altar from close-up. The highlight of the tour is the tabernacle. I first explain the meaning of the veil, particularly that it is always composed of two parts, or it has a slit up and down the middle, which calls to mind what happened at the time of Jesus' death to the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem temple. The students all know that the curtain was torn in half at the time of Jesus' death. To this day, it is traditional that tabernacle veils are composed of two parts or have a slit down the middle. I lift or remove the veil completely to reveal the gold-covered bronze doors, then insert the key. I briefly explain the sculpture decoration, which contains angels holding a host and a chalice.

Next, I open the first set of doors, and inside is another set of doors which, when opened, reveal sculpture work on the inside of those doors. We all genuflect when the tabernacle is opened. While the tabernacle

is open, I point out to the children that the artwork on the inside of the doors has the Latin prayer of the angels—*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth*. This artwork is intended for Jesus to see from the inside of the tabernacle; it actually reads left to right on both doors from our Lord's perspective within! The angels remind us of how the Mass is very heavenly. There is still yet another veil, also split in two, that I pull back so students can see the ciborium, likewise veiled, that contain our Lord, truly present: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

At this point I like to explain to our young children that although our Lord is present in all Catholic Churches with tabernacles, He desires most to be present in their hearts. Jesus wants these young people to think like Him, love like Him and to act like Him, all with the help of His grace and His personal presence.

We conclude with a simple prayer and allow each student to come up and peer more closely. We genuflect one more time and close the tabernacle.

May all of us receive our Lord worthily and with great love at Holy Mass, and may we always do so with the same excitement, anticipation and purity as second graders.

Saint Agnes, pray for us.

In Christ,

*Rev. Mark Moriarty*

Rev. Mark Moriarty





# CLASS OF 2023



Samuel Acosta-Vega

Dominic Michael Adkins  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Ethan Charles Bettencourt  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Rosemary Caroline Blackstone  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

James Daniel Bloomquist

Emily Claire Boeser

Robert Benjamin Bushee  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Joshua Matthew Bustamante  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Matai Michael Butler  
*Cum Laude*

Andrew Robert Chlebeck  
*Cum Laude*

Mary Angelina Clyde  
*NHS, Cum Laude*

John-Pio Joseph Cummings  
*Cum Laude*

Lucia Therese Damm  
*Cum Laude*

Elijah Joseph Davis

Hermela Mengesha Dawit

Maria Bianca DiPietro

Joseph Chrysostom Draganowski  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Ismael Duran-Castro

Philip Joseph Eilen  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Angel Eduardo Espinoza Cruz

Israel Esquivel Flores

Julia Marie Ferdinandt  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Edgar Gomez Flores

Lillian Genevieve Marie Graner  
*NHS, Cum Laude*

Elizabeth Wakefield Grant  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Joseph Christopher Hintgen  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Daniel Huy Hoang  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Isabella Marie Hoke

Jonah Augustus Honerman  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Juan Andres Jaimes  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Nicholas Andrew Jurek

Henry Thomas Kaardal  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Breann Eileen Killion





Noah Manley  
Kurschner

Alexander Raymond  
Knight Lenzmeier  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

David Joachim Lopez  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Gregory Stephen  
Maloney  
*Summa Cum Laude*

Ryan Patrick  
McLaughlin

Isabelle Rose Most  
*Cum Laude*

Martin Dinh Nguyen

Tommy Hoang  
Nguyen  
*Cum Laude*

Tysan Nguyen  
*Cum Laude*

Christian John  
Michael O'Hara

Annika Marie  
Odenbrett

Selena Olivo Rodriguez

Julianne Elizabeth  
Peichel  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Aliana Rosa Perez  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Luke Gabriel  
Petruconis  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Paul Francis Plasch

Thomas Joel Rhein  
*Cum Laude*

Catherine Grace  
Roddy  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Daniel Salas Romero  
Iliana Marie Romero

Veronica Teresa  
Rosales

Isabella Nicole  
Schaps

Mary Karol Schmitz  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Rose Therese  
Stephenson  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Azelie Therese  
Thornton  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Henry Louis Tibesar  
*Cum Laude*

Peter Ambrose Toner  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Leah Claire Trembl  
*Cum Laude*

Elinor Marie True  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Mathias David  
Uppgaard  
*NHS, Magna Cum Laude*

Jake Patrick Vogel  
*Cum Laude*

Aidan Daniel Walsh  
*NHS, Summa Cum Laude*

Connor Matthew  
Zgodava



# COMMENCEMENT

As 66 seniors waited expectantly for their moment to cross the stage, they were addressed by their classmates and by Mother Amata Veritas, OP, Prioress General, Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

## PALM HONOREES

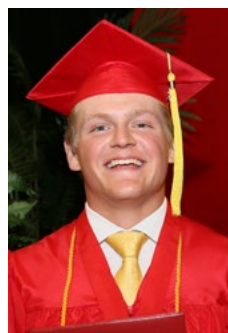
“The Saint Agnes Palm Award” is a great honor that bears the name of the symbol of victory of our patroness, the palm branch. The award’s honorees—one young man and one young woman from the senior class—are selected by the faculty and are students who model all that which Saint Agnes School hopes for in each of its graduates. These seniors embody the best of our school; these young people are well rounded and have achieved excellence in virtually all areas: faith, academics, activities, athletics, character, virtue, leadership, friendship, and service. As the plaque itself states for both the male and female recipients: “This senior represents best the hopes and goals as expressed in the mission and vision of Saint Agnes School.” On behalf of the faculty, administration, and the entire student body, we are honored to announce that

the 6th annual “Saint Agnes Palm Award” was presented to seniors Aidan Walsh and Elinor True!

### Aidan Walsh

#### PALM AWARD HONOREE

Palm Award Recipient Aidan Walsh is a parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Paul. Aidan is a member of the National Honor



Society and was President of Student Council. He was also involved in the Pro-Life Club, Service Club, Chess Club, Militia Immaculata, and played baseball

and football. He will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

At Commencement, Aidan shared that, “This school has brought me to the realization and the truth that only through God, only by God are great things possible.” He encouraged his classmates to reflect on the Sign of the Cross. He said, “Over the years all of us have spent here, whether it be one year or fourteen years, we have made the

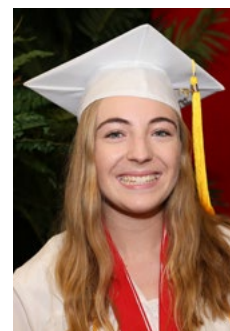
sign of the cross many, many, many times. But how often do we stop, and actually think about what we are doing? Class of 2023, as we go out into the big wide world of temptations and dangers let us take this sign, let us mark ourselves daily, and in so doing recall the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Death is dead! Fear is no more! Nothing and no one on this earth can harm your eternal soul! What, then, is holding us back? As Pope Saint John Paul II would say, “Be not afraid!” Live for Christ and bring all those around you in college, in your jobs, someday in your families or parishes, bring them to this hope, to the magnificent and unperishing strength in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### Elinor True

#### PALM AWARD HONOREE

Palm Award Recipient Elinor True is a parishioner of the Church of St. Joseph in West St. Paul. She is a member of the National Honor

Society and was involved in many clubs and activities including Drama, Creative Writing, Pro-Life, Spanish, Militia Immaculata,





Spring Musical, Mock Trial, Band, Choir, Track and Field, Cross Country, and Trap Shooting. She will be attending the University of Dallas in the fall to pursue a degree in Pre-Medicine.

Elinor drew on the challenges her class faced and how they overcame them through trust and faith in the Lord. She said, "You overcame the obstacles of COVID, the setbacks of distance learning, the stress of junior year. I watched each and every one of you take senior year in stride without any prompting needed from teachers—flourishing, standing together, and enjoying every last minute of it: the retreats, the assemblies, the unprecedented amount of snow days." Quoting the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, she concluded by reminding that God is calling all of us by name. She said, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope, and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11). As we take the next step to fulfill these plans... God will truly do wonders in every one of you if you let Him. The world was brought a savior through one woman who said, 'Yes.' to the Lord. Think what He can do if each of us says yes and follows His plan for us."

## 2023 TOP HONORS

The following two students have earned our highest academic honors: the title of Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the class of 2023 for the best academic achievements among their peers. 2023 valedictorian is Gregory Maloney and the 2023 salutatorian is Joseph Draganowski. Joseph, as salutatorian, greeted the school community at commencement and Greg, as valedictorian, bid everyone farewell. Both Greg and Joseph have been awarded extensive merit-based scholarships for academics towards their college education.

## Joseph Draganowski

### SALUTATORIAN

2023 Salutatorian Joseph Draganowski is a parishioner of the Church of Saint Agnes. He was involved in Choir, Quiz Bowl, Math Team, Chess Club, Drama Club, Spring Musical, Pro-Life Club, Militia Immaculata, Altar Serving, NHS, Cross Country and Track and Field. He will attend the University of Notre Dame where he is planning to study Pre-Medicine.



In his opening remarks, Joseph stated, "No honor could be greater than to address you, my Class of 2023. You who have been my family for the last four years.

Although I know some of you better than others, the more I think about it, the more I realize that my years at Saint Agnes would not have been complete without each and every one of you. Hence I say: I love you all, and I am so glad that each one of you is here tonight."

*Karamazov*: 'You must know that there is nothing higher, or stronger, or sounder, or more useful afterwards in life, than some good memory, especially a memory from childhood.' My

fellow Aggies, let Saint Agnes be one of those memories. Let your friendships and your studies be the foundation of your faith. As

you move from here your separate ways, do not forget your parents who gave you your faith, your teachers who grounded you in your faith, and your classmates who encouraged you in your faith. Remember, you have been given much. No one goes to heaven on his or her own, so cherish these friendships and this education, because they are necessary. I would like to leave you with these words, again from Dostoevsky: 'Dear friends, do not be afraid of life! How good life is when you do something good and rightful!' To you, my fellow Aggies, I bid a fond farewell and God's blessing upon the Saint Agnes School Class of 2023."



## Gregory Maloney

### VALEDICTORIAN

2023 Valedictorian Gregory Maloney is a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony Village of Minneapolis. He will attend the University of St. Thomas where he will be enrolled at St. John Vianney College Seminary pursuing his vocation to the priesthood. Greg plans to double-major in Physics.

Concluding Commencement Exercises, he shared with his classmates that, "It is my privilege as Valedictorian of the class to bid you one final farewell. This is from Dostoevsky's novel, *The Brothers*

### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

## Mother Amata

### Veritas, OP

Mother Amata Veritas, OP traveled from Ann Arbor, Michigan to share words of wisdom with the graduates. She talked about the many and typical changes that young people go through in stages of life, and reminded them that as adults, we are called to be strong witnesses to our faith and to work to evangelize others, wherever we encounter them.

Mother Amata earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from Northern State University ►

**66**

students

**2**

Commended Scholars:  
Robert Bushee and Gregory Maloney

**4**

accepted to Notre Dame

**1**

National Merit Scholar:  
Joseph Draganowski

**65**

students attending 2 or 4 year colleges/universities such as:

University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) • Benedictine College • University of Notre Dame • University of St. Thomas • University of Dallas • Hillsdale College • Wyoming Catholic College • University of Mary • St. Mary's University, Winona • Luther College • Century College • St. Paul College • Augsburg College • Belmont Abbey College • North Dakota State University • Dunwoody Institute • University of Minnesota, Duluth • University of Wisconsin, Madison



prior to entering religious life in 2001. She earned her Master's degree in Theology from Providence College, completed a one-year spirituality year at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) and completed her Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Dayton. In June of 2021, she was elected by her community's General Chapter to serve as Prioress General.

Encouraging the graduates to find the Newman Center, FOCUS, or SPO group on their college campuses right away, Mother Amata emphasized the importance of seeking out friends who will support them in their faith. But most importantly, she encouraged the graduates to seek out the Eucharist no matter their postsecondary plans, calling the Eucharist "home" wherever we may find ourselves. This message is especially powerful and important, given that most graduates will be living away from home on a college campus in the coming year. Being grounded in the Eucharist will always provide a "home" for our graduates to encounter God-Who is our ultimate destiny.

## Department Awards

**Band** • Rosemary Blackstone, Elinor True

**Drama** • Catherine Roddy, Robert Bushee

**English** • Elinor True, Joseph Draganowski

**History** • Andres Jaimes, Aidan Walsh

**Latin** • Julia Ferdinandt, Alex Lenzmeier

**Math** • Elinor True, Greg Maloney

**Physical Education** • Lucia Damm, Elijah Davis

**Science** • Joseph Draganowski, Luke Petruconis

**Spanish** • Aliana Perez, Andres Jaimes

**Studio Art** • Leah Trembl, John-Pio Cummings

**Theology** • Julia Ferdinandt, Greg Maloney

**Vocal Music** • Elizabeth Grant, Joseph Draganowski

## Recognition of Service Awards

**Student Council President and Vice President** • Aidan Walsh, Henry Kaardal

**Senior Council Members** • Isabelle Most, Julianne Peichel, Catherine Roddy, Mary Schmitz

**Yearbook Senior Editors** • Maria DiPietro, Annika Odenbrett

## Honor Awards

**St. Paul Chapter of the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution** • Henry Kaardal

**Sr. Adrienne Award and Amy Hansmann Memorial Scholarship** • Mary Schmitz, Joseph Hintgen

## 2023-2024 Awards

**Newly elected 2023-24 Student Council President and Vice President** • Eileen Dobie, Cadman Foley

**All-State Choir** • Monica LeVesseur, Micah Lehn

**All-State Band** • Noel Varco, Charlie Wallisch

**Donna May Vocal Music Scholarship** • Monica LeVesseur, Micah Lehn





# JUNIOR HIGH AWARDS

Students and faculty gathered for the annual Junior High Awards Ceremony to honor the many gifts and talents of our junior high students. First recognizing the service of altar servers, ushers, and Junior High Student Council, the Junior High faculty and administration proceeded to acknowledge the following individual accomplishments. Congratulations to these students for their excellent work!

## Student Awards, Nominated by Classmates

**St. Thérèse of Lisieux Award:** For doing small things with great love, being helpful and thoughtful, showing kindness to classmates.  
**Norah Hermerding, John Donohoo**

**St. Barnabas Award:** For showing kindness and forgiveness to classmates, including everyone, ensuring nobody feels forgotten or unwanted.  
**Amaya Perez, Jude Adkins**

**St. Paul Award:** For choosing to do what is right, even when it is a hard choice to make.  
**Joseph St. Martin, Joseph Williams**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Award:** For displaying a love of learning and a desire to know the truth.

**Gemma Spencer, James Alt**

**St. Philip Neri Award:** For exuding joy and cheerfulness, uplifting those around them to see God's love.

**Anastasia Kiehl, Samuel Sandquist**

## Academic Awards

**National Latin Exam: Silver medal *Maxima Cum Laude***, for their performance on the Latin exams.

**Intro Exam:** **Bethany Marquardt, Anthony Alt, Anthony Graff, Georgia Bratt, John Donohoo, Augustine Hartwell, Serena Duggan, Charles Lu, and Isabel Shrake**

**Latin I:** **Margaret Coyne, William Buss, Michael Merabella, and Caden Kroona**

**Gold Medal *Summa Cum Laude*** honors for their top scores of 38 out of 40.

**Intro Exam:** **John Pepin**

**Latin I:** **Katelynn Campbell, Madeline Wernet, Peter Brownell, Norah Hermerding, Dominic VanHeel, Sarah Lehnen, Joseph St. Martin, Henry Misenor, Jane Kuwata, Madeleine Berthiaume, and Lucy Kirkland**

## Perfect scores on the Latin Exam

**Latin I:** **Gemma Spencer**

**Junior High Science Fair, Top Projects:**  
**Grade 7:** **Annika Chandler, Gus Harwell, Peter Brownell, Lucy Kirkland**

For representing Saint Agnes at the finals of the Big Bang Catholic STEM Fair.

**Annika Chandler, Isabel Shrake, Lucy Toner**

**Academic Excellence Award:** Given to a male and female student from each grade who display academic excellence in all subjects throughout the year.

**Grade 7:** **Annika Chandler, Jack Pepin**

**Grade 8:** **Madeleine Berthiaume, Peter Brownell**

**Junior High Aggie Award:** Presented to a male and female from each grade who represent the goals of a Saint Agnes education and exhibits all-around excellence. Qualities considered include: excellence in faith, academics, activities, athletics, virtue, leadership, service, and school spirit.

**Grade 7:** **Greta Walter, Joaquin Martinez**

**Grade 8:** **Norah Hermerding, Joseph St. Martin**

Mr. Hendrickson presents the Latin awards. Mr. Adkins presents the Aggie awards.



# AGGIES TAKE FLIGHT

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Mr. Karl Hendrickson's Honors Physics class FLEW this semester at iFly Indoor Skydiving! Before taking flight, they reviewed the physics and various forces at play—including acceleration, velocity, gravity, drag force, etc.—and completed a lab using the equations and algebra they have been studying this semester.

Who says science isn't fun?!







# ADVANCEMENT OFFICE



Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person.

*Saint John Paul II*



The value of high school athletics is significant and has a profound impact on individuals, schools, and communities. Athletics promote school pride and create a positive atmosphere. Students, along with the broader community, can put their differences aside and come together to support their team. School spirit bridges gaps and creates bonds that last a lifetime.

For the individual, athletics can be a powerful academic motivator, especially for those who may not excel in the classroom. With the risk of losing playing time, athletics can also be a powerful deterrent for making poor decisions. But perhaps more importantly, virtues are learned through athletic participation, such as respect, determination, teamwork, self-discipline, and time management.



## Sample of Yearly Athletic Costs

Facility/field rentals	► \$60,000
Officials	► \$28,000
Busing	► \$30,000
Uniforms per team	► \$2,500
Football uniforms	► \$5,000
Wrestling mats	► \$12,000
Hockey fees	► \$15,000

More than 75% of Saint Agnes Upper School students participate in at least one sport with more than 50% of student-athletes participating in more than one sport. With no campus-owned fields or outdoor sports facilities, we rely on renting space for games and practices while providing limited transportation when available. Just this spring, on one afternoon we had nine different teams playing at nine different locations.

Maintaining a competitive and robust athletic program at Saint Agnes comes at a cost, namely \$500,000 a year. Participation fees are too much for some families. **The Aggie Rouser Athletic Day of Giving** is one way to help cover costs and allow all students a chance to participate regardless of ability to pay. **Can we count on you to be part of our team?**

## Athletic Offerings

- |                 |                             |                       |                        |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • Football      | • Boys Basketball           | • Alpine Skiing Co-op | • Boys Lacrosse Co-op  |
| • Volleyball    | • Girls Basketball          | • Boys Hockey Co-op   | • Girls Lacrosse Co-op |
| • Boys Soccer   | • Swimming and Diving Co-op | • Girls Hockey Co-op  | • Track and Field      |
| • Girls Soccer  | • Wrestling                 | • Baseball            | • Trap Shooting        |
| • Cross Country |                             | • Softball            | • Cheerleading         |





**JULY 17TH**



*Remember that notable game?*

*Inspired by a former coach?*

*Teammates who became life-long friends?*

*Funny happenings on the bus ride?*

*Did being part of a team have lasting effects?*

You are still part of the Aggie team and you can help provide today's student-athletes with that same experience.



**Support The Aggie  
Rouser Athletic  
Day of Giving**

## WAYS TO GIVE

### Cash Donations on July 17 (or before!)

- Donate online at [SaintAgnesSchool.org/Athletics](http://SaintAgnesSchool.org/Athletics)
- Venmo @SaintAgnesSchool - note ATHLETICS
- Send cash/check in the enclosed envelope and designate ATHLETICS
- Scan the QR code



### DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

4 former athletes have offered to match the first \$25,000 in gifts! Make a gift by July 17 to qualify for matching funds!



### Support the Aggie Open Golf Tournament

*All proceeds go to Athletics*

- Golf the Aggie Open 9 hole par-3 Challenge
- Monday, July 17 - 8:30am - Como Golf Course
- A hole-in-one can win up to \$100,000!

### Sponsor the Tournament

- For as little as \$200 you can honor a coach, team or classmate

### Donate prizes for raffle/auction

- Shop the Amazon wish list for ideas

### Bid on Auction items

- A variety of sports memorabilia, designer purses, and more
- Online bidding. Need not be present to win!
- More information at [SaintAgnesSchool.org/Athletics](http://SaintAgnesSchool.org/Athletics)



# ATHLETICS

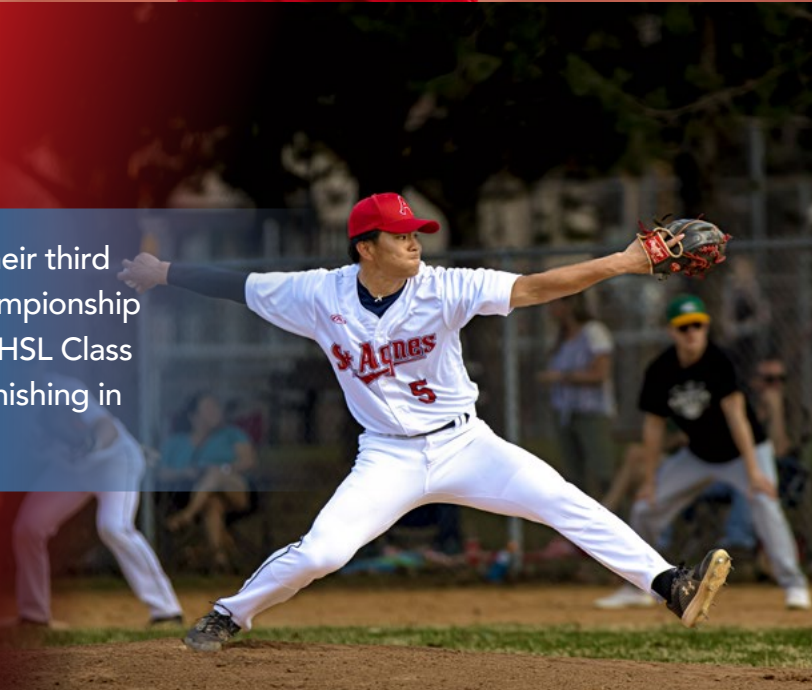
Girls Softball captured the Section Championship and advanced to the MSHSL Class AA State Tournament, finishing in fourth place!



Freshman Faustina Adkins earned a berth in the MSHSL State Track Meet in the 1600 Meter Run, finishing 16th with a time of 5:36.7.



Boys Baseball secured their third consecutive Section Championship and advanced to the MSHSL Class AA State Tournament, finishing in sixth place!





## WINTER SPORTS

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Girls Basketball Team had a record-setting year finishing with 18 wins—a 10-win increase from the previous season. Every girl who played varsity this season experienced career highs in every major statistical category. **Malani Sandifer** received her second All-Conference award while **Maria DiPietro**, **Maria Fischer**, and **Sarah Clyde** all received honorable mention All-Conference. In addition to this, Saint Agnes ranked first in the entire state among all classes in total rebounds and rebounds per game having had 1,252 total rebounds and averaging just under 45 per game. The team hopes to carry this momentum into the 2024 season as the Aggies will return a great core group of players!



### BOYS BASKETBALL

The Boys Basketball Team finished 16-12 on the season and made a great playoff run, returning to the Section 4AA semifinal game for the second straight year. The team was relatively young compared to others in our conference as they faced two State Runner-Up teams from Class A and AA. **Andrew Weber** became the newest member of the 1000-point club and earned All-Conference honors while **Paul Plasch** earned honorable mention. The Aggies look forward to a bright future, with talented upcoming junior and senior classes.

### GIRLS HOCKEY CO-OP WITH BURNSVILLE, ST. PAUL ACADEMY AND FARIBAULT

We had 5 Aggies participate in the Metro-South Phoenix Girls Hockey Co-op this

winter: **Ella Berthiaume**, **Zoe Berthiaume**, **Maddie Berthiaume**, **Annie Lynn**, and **Eden Sitko**. The team finished 9-16 overall in their inaugural season with four South Suburban Conference victories over Apple Valley, Farmington, Eastview, and Eagan. They received the #3 seed in Section 3AA and squared off against Eastview in the quarterfinal round of playoffs, where they fell 2-1 in a back-and-forth barn-burner. The team also won the Section 3 Academic Championship.

**Coach Dan Berthiaume** was the Section 3 Assistant Coach of the Year and was named head coach of the program at the end of the season.



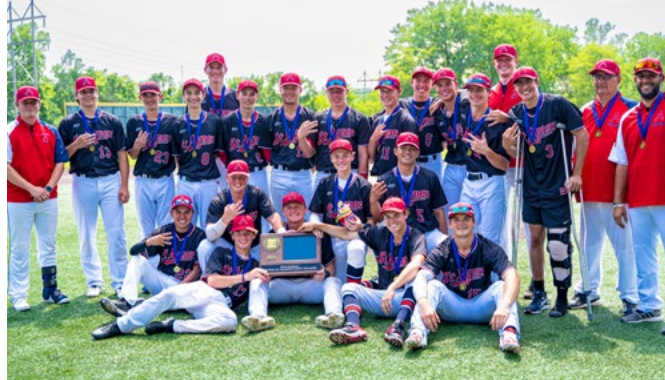
### WRESTLING

This year's wrestling team competed against some very tough teams but contended well. **Daniel Romero**, **Charlie Witzel**, and **Jacob McLaughlin** each had over 30 wins and seven wrestlers made it to the section semifinals. Charlie Witzel and Daniel Romero each missed qualifying for State by only one point, and Romero also earned his 100th career win at the Cannon Falls Tournament. As a team, the Aggies finished 16-19 and with the leadership and youth coming up, are looking forward to next year's season.

## SPRING SPORTS

### BASEBALL

The Saint Agnes Baseball Team is headed back to the MSHSL State Tournament for the third consecutive year. The Aggies were once again led by a strong senior class, recording over



20 wins on the season. Solid defensive play and a consistent pitching rotation—combined with power at the plate and **Coach Streitz's** trademarked aggressiveness on the basepaths—contributed to the Aggies' success. Early in the season, junior pitcher **Andrew Weber** threw a no-hitter to lead Saint Agnes past St. Croix Lutheran 13-0, emblematic of the Aggies' dominance throughout another cold spring.

In the postseason, after dropping their first game in the section tournament to Minnehaha, the Aggies came roaring back to win six consecutive games, winning their third Section 4AA title in as many years. In the Class AA State Tournament, the boys lost 0-1 in a pitching duel with Esko, moving to the consolation bracket. After defeating Holy Family, they fell to Bell Plaine in the final consolation bracket game, finishing their season in sixth place.

### ALL-CONFERENCE

**Dominic Adkins**  
**Aidan Walsh**  
**Jimmy Bloomquist**  
**Tysan Nguyen**  
**Andrew Chlebeck**  
**Andrew Weber**

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Alex Lenzmeier**  
**Peter Toner**  
**Noah Kurschner**

**Aidan Walsh** became the 7th Aggie baseball player to be selected to play in the High School All-Star Series.

### SOFTBALL

Aggie Softball recorded their best season in decades, not only qualifying for the MSHSL State Tournament, but finishing in 4th Place in the state in Class AA.





Earlier in the season, senior **Annika Odenbrett** joined the 100-hit club in good company alongside Aggie alumnae **Anna (Fossand) Leum**, **Annie Naughton**, **Naomi Hoke**, **Bailey Larkin**, **Maria Gutzmann**, and **Lily Hafner**.

At the state tournament, the Aggies notched their first victory there since 1983, defeating #3 Proctor before subsequently falling to the #2 and #1 seeds to finish the tournament. Freshman **Angela Proper** was named to the All-Tournament Team. With underclassmen making up almost the entirety of the Aggies' starting lineup, the future is bright for Aggie Softball in the years ahead!



### ALL CONFERENCE

**Annika Odenbrett**  
**Angela Proper**  
**Gianna Schmidt**  
**Monica LeVessuer**  
**Sienna Stefani**  
**Ella Berthiaume**

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Kira Parker**  
**Monica Barrett**

## TRACK & FIELD

Under the direction of new head coach **Dominic Shovelain**, the Aggies enjoyed great success. They had a record number 80 participants and the team competed well in every meet.

The Aggies had three conference champions: **Faustina Adkins**, **Jane Kuwata & Cleo Kow**! All

Conference Honorable Mention athletes were **Sarah Clyde**, **Klara Ferdinandt**, **Eleanor Walter**, **Jane Kuwata**, **Faustina Adkins**, **Terese Fischer**, **Lucy Kirkland**, **Jonah Honerman**, **Evons Plamann**, **James Grismer** and **Cadman Foley**.



Congratulations to freshman **Faustina Adkins**, who earned a berth in the State Track Meet in the 1600 Meter Run. She finished 16th with a time of 5:36.7.

## ATHENA AWARD WINNER

**Maria DiPietro**, along with forty-six young women representing St. Paul city and



suburban public and private high schools, was recently selected to receive the St. Paul Area Athena Award for outstanding achievement in athletics for the 2022-2023 school year. Now in its 29th year, the St. Paul Area Athena Awards honors female athletes for their dedication and excellence in sport. DiPietro was captain of the volleyball and basketball teams and earned All-Conference honors in each.

## WINFIELD AWARD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**Veronica Rosales** and **Tysan Nguyen** were awarded scholarships from the David Winfield Foundation. The foundation awards scholarship to one male and female

student athlete of color from each of the ten public and private schools in St. Paul. Veronica was a soccer player, and Tysan played football and baseball.





# Track and Field Coach Brian Walter



**“After 21 years of coaching track, I am stepping away,” announced Coach Brian Walter. We wanted to know more about his time coaching our Aggie sprinters, jumpers, and throwers, so we sat down with him to ask him a few questions.**

**Q: When did your career at Saint Agnes begin?**

I was hired as a high school science teacher in the Fall of 2001. What was intended to be a one-year stop to be close to my fiancée, Gwyn, before heading to med school, turned into over 20 years. After about year four or five, it became clear to me that this was my mission, and I wouldn't be going to med school. I was asked to assist with the track and field program that first year—which was a co-op with Saint Bernard's—and I agreed.

**Q: Can you relay some meaningful moments?**

My eldest, Anna, who graduated in 2021, ran track and field at Saint Agnes throughout Upper School and it was special to be able to spend that time with her. I really enjoyed coaching with Frank Webster who was a very accomplished Saint Agnes sprinter when he was in high school. We had our most successful seasons together. Probably my most accomplished runner was Anna Wilgenbusch '18, who became the first ever two-time All-American in the University of Dallas' history.

**Q: What makes Track and Field special?**

I love the fact that kids of all levels can participate. I do not coach with the notion that we will get lots of awards and set lots of records. Instead, I enjoy seeing each athlete set their own personal goals and strive to reach and exceed them. They are all successful in their own way, though many will never stand on the podium.



**Q: How has your role changed over the years?**

As assistant coach, co-head coach, and ultimately head coach, I have had the chance to work with quite a few different coaches. All brought unique skills to the program, so after dividing up the duties, I find I have had experience in coaching all 18 track and field events except for pole vaulting—we never had the room or equipment for that. At two separate times during my tenure, Saint Agnes and Saint Bernard's formed a co-op and ran as the Saints. I even coached our Assistant Athletic Director/Phy-Ed teacher, Mr. Sam Thompson, when he was a student at Saint Bernard's.

**Q: What is unique about the Saint Agnes program?**

We may have limited resources, but we make the best of it. Our running track is the sidewalk surrounding the campus. Three laps equal one mile. We use the walkway between the church and rectory to line up starting blocks and to practice hurdles. When the traffic gets lighter, we may do some relay baton exchanges in the larger parking lot, vigilantly watching for cars that may be traveling too fast. Very recently, both Como High School and Concordia have offered to share their facilities with us a couple of days a week. That has been a real boost.

**Q: What is next for you?**

I still have six more kids to get through school and for the time being, most are more interested in baseball and softball. So I am stepping away from coaching so I can be present at their games. I am very happy that my assistant coach, Mr. Dominic Shovelain, has taken over the program. Dominic is young and full of energy and enthusiasm and has already breathed new life into the program this spring. Since he also teaches Theology at Saint Agnes, the kids already love him and he had more out for track this year than ever. The program is in very good hands and I look forward to being on the sidelines cheering on my freshman daughter and the rest of the Aggie team.

# HONORING LEGACY GRADUATES

As we close our 135th year, it is fitting to recognize Robert Bushee, whose great-great grandparents were among the very first students of Saint Agnes School in 1888.



Robert Bushee '23



Mary (Everson)  
Bushee '88



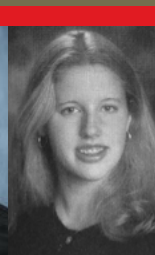
Louis Andraschko  
1891 Grade School



Mary Scheiderbauer  
1895 Grade School



James Bloomquist '23



Therese (Reak)  
Bloomquist '98



Matai Butler '23



Brigitte (Mueller)  
Gabrielle '04



Nick Butler '03



Maria DiPietro '23



Kelly (Pavlak) DiPietro  
'95



Isabella Hoke '23



Joseph Kneissl  
1938 Grade School



Noah Kurschner '23



Tricia (Manley)  
Kurschner '85



Mary Schmitz '23



Jolene (Rosenthal)  
Schmitz '91



Melita (Hermes) Rosenthal  
'33 Commercial Class



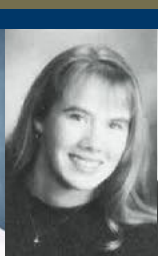
Connor Zgodava '23



Angela (Johnson)  
Zgodava '90



Henry Tibesar '23



Amy (Grau) Tibesar '93



Robert Tibesar '92



Rick Tibesar '65



Leo Tibesar  
1925 Grade School



Margaret (Gillen) Tibesar  
1930 Commercial Class

Carrying on  
the tradition of  
excellence at Saint  
Agnes School.



## Class of 1952

Gerald Hubbard sends a bit of history, "You have to imagine what the Saint Agnes "campus" looked like in 1934. Next to the church building, facing Thomas Street, stood a large two-story frame house. This was the Rectory. The next structure was a two-story upper-lower apartment. My parents rented the upper unit. On October 27, 1934, a baby son was born to Mr. & Mrs. Hubbard and he was named Gerald.

I am not sure when we had to move so the new brick school building could be constructed but I think it was 1937. Saint Agnes opened the new school in the fall of 1939 for K - 12 classes. In order to enter the kindergarten class, one had to be five years old before November 1st. I made it by four days. Thirteen years later I graduated as a thirteen-year Aggie!"

## Class of 1955 & 1958

John "Jack" and Carol (Jackson) Kufner note, "We were married on October 25, 1958 and have been married 64 years! We have raised four children, eight grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. We have been truly blessed."

## Class of 1957 & 1958

John and Jean (Meuwissen) Charpentier have been married for 58 years and are still going strong! Current family totals include 4 children, 14 grandkids, and 13 great-grandkids (bonus kids count).

## Class of 1975

Lawrence Persico sends an update, "My wife Sandy and I are getting ready to retire. We now have seven grandchildren and spend our time between residences in south Texas and Cody, Wyoming."

## Class of 1983

Elizabeth (McLean) Kelly send this, "My daughter, Ailish, completed her junior year and graduates next year. The time just flies! My husband, Michael, will be retiring this December and I am really looking forward to that. I am very excited to see everyone at the reunion."

## Class of 2000

Wesley Habedank (Rufenacht) and his wife Kate are happy to announce the birth of their son, Raymond Henry Habedank on July 2, 2022. They are now proud parents of six children.

## Class of 2022



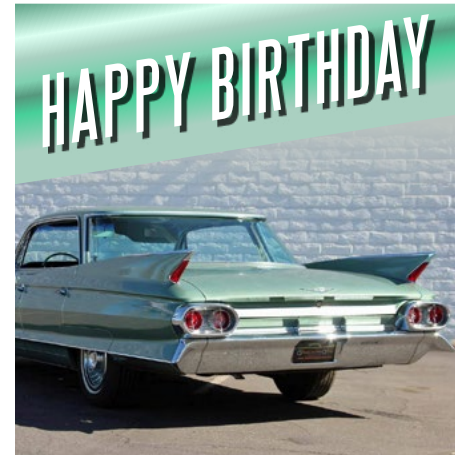
Mary Freas and Sophia DeRaad were visiting Lourdes and other locations in Spain and France with the UMary choir and ran into their 10th grade history teacher, Sr. Teresa Christi! Aggies are everywhere!



John Patros was the preschool Teachers Aid his senior year and came back to surprise them at recess.

## REUNIONS

### Class of 1961 turns 80!



Let's celebrate our 80th birthdays together!  
Tuesday, August 15  
Sucker Creek Picnic Area - Arrive at Noon.  
RSVP by July 30 to Don Schuett  
[dschuett6@gmail.com](mailto:dschuett6@gmail.com)

Bring a chair and beverage of choice. Wine is provided and lunch is provided by Jerry McShane and Leonard Hassel. If you haven't joined our class website yet, do it now! Lots of fun stuff can be found at [Aggies61.com](http://Aggies61.com)

### Class of 1963: 60 Years

The 60-Year reunion will take place on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at Gramersy Park Party Room in Inver Grove Heights from 1-4PM. If you haven't received your invitation, contact Helen (Law) Swanson at [hms714@hotmail.com](mailto:hms714@hotmail.com) or 651-488-5891.

### Class of 1973: 50 years

The 50-Year Reunion will be held on July 14, 2023 at Midland Hills Country Club. If you have not received your invitation, please contact Cheri (Pierson) Yecke at [cyecke@gmail.com](mailto:cyecke@gmail.com).



## Class of 1983: 40 Years

6:00-10:00 PM, Saint Agnes School

More details to follow. Be sure to join our class Facebook group [St. Agnes Class of '83 40th Class Reunion](#) and send your email address to Vanessa (Barton) Simonson [vnessamay@gmail.com](mailto:vnessamay@gmail.com) to stay in the loop.

## Class of 1988: 35 Years

Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 6-8th, 2023. We will have multiple

opportunities for people to gather over a lovely Fall weekend! Attend one, some, or all the events...you choose! Signups for the various activities to gauge attendance and interest will be sent towards the end of July.

### Weekend schedule:

- **Fri, Oct. 6:** Happy Hour Gathering (more details to come!)
- **Sat, Oct. 7:** Tour of the new school 3PM
- **Sat, Oct. 7:** Evening drinks and dinner (check your email for signup)
- **Sun, Oct. 8:** Mass at Saint Agnes /Brunch

The best way to know the latest is to join the Facebook group ([St. Agnes Class of 1988](#)). If you are not on Facebook, please contact the planners via the event email ([88-stagnesreunion@googlegroups.com](mailto:88-stagnesreunion@googlegroups.com)) so we can ensure you stay updated. Event Planners: Danielle (Harvieux) Sagnes, Katie (Warren) Dougherty, and Jeff Bovee.

## Class of 1993: 30 Years

Pencil in a Saturday in mid-November (11th or 18th) for our 30-year reunion at Shamrock's on West 7th. More to come!!!

If you have any questions, feel free to send Ken Lamb a FB message or email [lamb0044@gmail.com](mailto:lamb0044@gmail.com)

## Class of 2003: 20 Years



### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO IDENTIFY:

We are working on a display of all Saint Agnes Valedictorians and Salutatorians. We need help identifying the top student(s) from 1942-1980. Please contact us if you have knowledge of any of those years at 651-925-8811 or [alumnioffice@saintagnesschool.org](mailto:alumnioffice@saintagnesschool.org).

## In Memoriam

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Jeanette (Bizjack) Johnson, 1937 GS  
William Hafner, Sr., 1944 GS  
Edward Waschbusch, 1951 GS  
Thomas Edgett, 1952 GS  
Ervin Kirchhammer, 1952 GS  
Charles Purcell, 1944  
Grace (Roberts) Bevins, 1945  
James Fuenffinger, 1945  
Patricia (Schiltgen) Utecht, 1947  
Joseph Keis, 1948  
Joan (Henriksen) Schwartzbauer, 1948  
Mildred (Grosinger) Zook, 1949  
Joann (Rindfleisch) Clemens, 1949  
Joanne (Conroy) Barry, 1950  
Ann LaVerne (Devaney) Gleason, 1951  
Marlene (Mueller) Braun, 1952  
Roger Beran, 1953  
Rita (Holl) Willmus, 1953  
L. Michael Kelly, 1954  
Janet (Hollish) Odegaard-Reller, 1954

John "Jack" Schmidt, 1954  
Joseph Steiner, 1954  
Marilyn (Adamski) Hable, 1956  
Rose (Ripka) Kimlinger, 1959  
James Bednarek, spouse of Catherine (Ripka) '60  
Rose (Mooney) Hughes, 1961  
Patricia (Millette) Holman, 1961  
Gerald Tschida, 1962  
David Bonniwell, 1963  
David Forrette, 1963  
Victoria (Gimberlin) Grimes, 1963  
Eileen (Vogelgesang) Raasch, 1963  
Therese (Martin) Bieniek, 1964  
Thomas Selbitschka, 1964  
Frank Regner, 1966  
Patricia Wrbsky, 1966  
Patrick Reilly, 1967  
William Preiner, 1968  
Mark Rossini, 1968  
Rochelle (St. Germain) Reilly, 1969

Thomas Mahowald, 1973  
Donald "Jake" Mauer, 1974  
Nancy (Duclos) Muckala, 1975  
Robert Steiner, 1976  
Matthew Jamma, 1979  
Jeffrey Lindorfer, 1983  
Samantha Eisenhauer, 1997  
Vaughn Wolf, 2021  
Mark Helminiak, Grandparent  
Mark Shrake, Parish Member  
Sr. M. Rene Lorentz, SSND, Past Faculty  
Gloria Arntzen, Past Parent  
Julia Hobbs, Past Parent  
Barbara Keenan, Past Parent  
James Kohler, Past Parent  
Judy Lehnen, Past Parent  
Mary Reak, Past Parent  
Mary Solyntjes, Past Parent  
Delores Theisen, Past Parent

\*GS=grade school alumni \*CC=commercial class alumni



# Whispers OF THE PAST

We have had countless teachers, faculty, and staff impact the lives of our students over the years, each bringing their own instructional styles and unique personalities to their classrooms and to our school. Who were some of your favorites? You'll find

In our 1982 yearbook you'll find some especially impressive renderings of the school faculty that year. Taking a look at these delightful caricatures and jogging your memory, can you name them all?





## Saint Agnes School

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*Multiple copies?* If this magazine is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please contact the alumni office with a correct address.

CALL 651-925-8811 | EMAIL [alumnioffice@saintagnesschool.org](mailto:alumnioffice@saintagnesschool.org) | UPDATE ONLINE at [www.SaintAgnesSchool.org/alumni](http://www.SaintAgnesSchool.org/alumni)

# SAVE THE DATE

**THURS, SEPT. 14TH:**  
Memorial Mass & Brunch

**FRI, SEPT. 15TH:**  
Homecoming & Tailgate

**9/14**  
**9/15**

