



MORRIS CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Report



every
student
matters



NOVEMBER 2024



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ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the President

BRIAN VOHDEN



Throughout American history, from the first autumn feast of thanks in 1621 between the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag people to George Washington’s 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation, we have been encouraged to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the first official Thanksgiving Day. His proclamation called for “a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God” and hoped this act would help heal the wounds of the nation following the Civil War.

Earlier this month, many of our student-athletes signed their letters of intent, committing to the next level of academics and athletics at some of the nation's top colleges. During the celebration, our athletic director, Mr. James Smith, reminded students to be thankful—not only to their parents and families, whose sacrifices helped them reach this milestone, but also to God, who endowed them with their talents.

Morris Catholic continually reminds us of the gifts God has bestowed upon our community. From our gifted scholars and brilliant teachers to our talented artists, dedicated athletes, student leaders, and peer ministers, every student strengthens our school. Every student matters.

While Thanksgiving offers a special opportunity to reflect and express gratitude, it’s hard not to be thankful for the Morris Catholic community year-round.

We exist for our students: those currently studying here, those who have graduated, and those who will join us in the future. This would not be possible without our benefactors, and I am deeply grateful for your support in our mission to educate young men and women by growing in character, community, and commitment through the knowledge of the love of Christ.

I am grateful to our Board of Trustees for their boundless dedication to our school. I am thankful to our parents for entrusting us with your children each day. And, of course, I am endlessly appreciative of our students, who make Morris Catholic the incredible place it is.

Know that my prayers are with you during this season of gratitude. Enjoy time with your loved ones, and remember to give thanks.

Sincerely, Brian J. Vohden

Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert,
Dance Recital &
Art Show
DECEMBER 17

Boosters Bingo
JANUARY

Young Alumni
Event
JANUARY 9

Crusaders in
Florida
FEBRUARY

Annual 5k
MARCH 15

Spring Auction
APRIL 11

Spring Musical
MAY 1-3

Golf Outing
JUNE 16

Gridiron Golf
AUGUST 5

We Are Thankful

In this time of Thanksgiving, we would like to express our gratitude to all those who have donated to our students and our school. THANK YOU! All that we do would not be possible without YOU! If you are looking for ways to give, please consider making a donation during this season of giving.

GIVING TUESDAY

Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students. Gifts to the Fund for Morris Catholic provide scholarships for prospective Crusaders, enhancements to our facilities, and additional programming opportunities for our

students. Thank you for adding Morris Catholic to your donation list this holiday season. Click [HERE](#) to make a donation today.

DONATE TODAY

www.morriscatholic.org/givingtuesday



Words of our Students

"I am thankful for the friends that I have made through the welcoming community at Morris Catholic."

-AROOSH PATEL, '25

"I am grateful for the ability to always try new things and connect with new people at MC."

-BRADY BAXTER, '27

"I am grateful for my teachers, who are always super helpful and supportive."

-KATIE COSTA, '25

Field Signage Sponsorship

Are you a business owner who would like to advertise on our athletic fields? Learn more [HERE](#).

Paving the Way Campaign

Leave your legacy at Morris Catholic. Learn more about our Paving the Way legacy campaign [HERE](#). This makes a great gift for a tricky to buy for MC Alum!



THANK YOU MORRIS CATHOLIC BENEFACTORS

The donor listing includes cash, contributions, in-kind donations and funds raised through special events between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024

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Anonymous
Elizabeth Brinkman, '84
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Beverly Schunk Afonso, '61
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John & Noreen, '62 Risko
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*DENOTES A PAST OR PRESENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER
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[Crusader Leaders Club - \(\\$250-\\$999\)](#)

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Kelly O'Brien
Tim O'Brien
Maureen O'Connor+
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Gus+ & Gwendolyn Quintero
Rick, '90 & Jennifer Ranft
RBC Wealth Management
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THANK YOU MORRIS CATHOLIC BENEFACTORS

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Victory Circle (\$1-\$99)

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Dean DiGiacomo, '78
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Gary & Joanne Ferguson
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Thomas, '74 Kahler & Theresa Wallace
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Robert & Jaclyn Labar
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Christina Ortolani, '08
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Kathleen Miller Shera, '65
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Nicole Simonelli '93
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Keith Richardson
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Pat * & Lynne McAndrew
Paul Minnefor '89

Coach Mike O'Brien Memorial 5k St.

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Kyle Edwards
Essentia
Flynn & O'Hara Uniforms
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Mariachi Mexican Restaurant
Orange Theory
Prospects Baseball & Softball Academy
Pure Barre
RBC Wealth Management
Shamrock Express
Thatcher McGhee's
Target Transportation
The Berg & Medley Families
The Family of Barbara Rhodes
The Geddes Family
The Hawaii & Maryland O'Briens
The McGuire Family
The Shepard Family

Paving the Way - Legacy Brick Campaign

Peter Pallozzi, '73
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James Lord
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Robert Hagerty
Cindy Tichy
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Matching Gift Companies

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Bruce Delaney, '64 & Iris Burke
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Joseph, '61 & Sandra Novak
William Weiss, '61
John, '64 & Katherine Zipko

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MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

In Honor of The Riordan Family

Maureen O'Connor

In Honor of The Peter Clarke

Virginia Kearns '62

In Honor of Coach Hack

Margaret Donovan

In Honor of Trevor Kresofsky

Robert Kresofsky

In Honor of Caitlin Girouard '20

Girouard Family Charitable Giving Fund

In Honor of Catholic Schools Week

Resurrection Parish

In Memory of Coach Dick Demasi

C. Anthony Moschella '70

In Memory of My Dad, Coach Michael O'Brien

Kelly O'Brien

Michael O'Brien

In Memory of Albert Capuzzi

Bill '89 and Karen Capuzzi

In Memory of Coach Michael O'Brien

Tim O'Brien on behalf of Amelia, April and Tim O'Brien

DJ O'Brien on behalf of the Hawaii and Maryland O'Briens

Lascelles Geddes and Dominique Forte

Nick and Christine Berg

Joseph Capecci '02

Renee Caruthers

Jane Collins

Rob and Lesli DeMarco

Tom Donahue '77

Mark Donahue

Kyle Edwards

Glenn Essert '79

Curtis and Katherine Gilfillan

Kevin + and Barbara Hays

Emme Jaramillo

Patrick Lorenzo

Robert McCormick

Grant and Karen McGuire

Jordan Medley

Susan Merberg

George Mikula

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Maureen + and Thomas O'Connor

Donald and Diane Pierce

Gerald and Lon Shepard

Ryan Uhrynowich

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Prospects Baseball Academy

Jersey's Finest

Pfund McDonnell, P.C.

Marachi Mexican Restaurant

Target Transportation

RBC Wealth Management

KBJB Industries Inc.

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Scholarships and Memorial Funds

Morris Catholic is proud to award these scholarships to its students and welcomes their continued support so that future students can benefit from the gifts of a Morris Catholic education:

Christopher Thomas Harris Memorial Scholarship
Coach Mike O'Brien Memorial Scholarship
Cestone Scholarship
Goldring Family Foundation Scholarship
Friends of Marty Scholarship
Football Challenge Scholarship
Jack Lavery, '64 Scholarship
Morris Catholic Class of 1974 Scholarship
Morris Catholic Class of 1982 Scholarship
Morris Catholic Class of 1983 Scholarship
St. Gemma Scholarship
St. Genesius Scholarship for the Arts
Waldele Peace Scholarship

Ways you can make a difference:

Annual Giving

Supporting the Morris Catholic Fund provides support for the immediate needs of students and faculty. Gifts of all sizes foster student success and have a meaningful impact on their lives.

Committed Crusader Club

Making contributions to Morris Catholic High School has never been easier! Enroll in the Committed Crusader Club and have your tax-deductible gifts to Morris Catholic automatically deducted from your credit/debit card each month.

Donor-Advised Fund

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), allows donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund over time.

Matching Gift Companies

Many companies will match the amount of your donation to Morris Catholic. Check with your employer or visit www.morriscatholic.org/Giving for more details.

Named Scholarships and Endowments

Donor scholarships and endowments make a significant difference in the lives of deserving Morris Catholic students, providing much-needed financial support and can be established in honor of a loved one, faculty member or to leave your own legacy.

Online Giving

Make a difference immediately simply by using your credit card on our secure online giving site: www.morriscatholic.org to make your gift today.

Planned Giving

When you include Morris Catholic in your estate plan, you are helping to ensure that our educational mission continues into the future. Those who include Morris Catholic in their estate plans become members of the Crusader Legacy Society.

Securities

A gift of securities, stocks and bonds entitles the donor to an income tax deduction; a gift of appreciated securities may also reduce capital gains tax liability. Visit Morriscatholic.org/Giving to make your gift today. For more information, contact Maureen O'Connor, Director of Advancement, 973-627-6674, ext. 402 or occonnorm@morriscatholic.org.