



Summer 2021



A PUBLICATION FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BISHOP DWENGER AND CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bishop Dwenger High School, a diocesan Catholic school founded in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, provides a faithcentered community dedicated to academic excellence, growth in the spiritual life, a Christ-centered active life outside of class, and a Christian life of service to the community.

> ADMINISTRATION Jason Schiffli Principal

Tiffany Albertson Assistant Principal

Amy Johns Assistant Pincipal

Greg Slee Athletic Director

Katie Burns Director of Development & Alumni Relations

Julia Schultz Marketing & Communications Coordinator

> Jason Garrett '88 Pastoral Minister

Lora McGuire *Guidance Director*

Lauren (Panza '97) Slater Special Education Coordinator

> Mary Sturm Technology Director

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dear BD Family,

It has often been said that what matters most is not the difficulties we face, but the way we respond. As a Catholic community grounded in the Church's teachings, we respond with faithful hope, fueled by prayer and commitment, forging character and resiliency. These basic tenets of our faith are the values we strive to instill in our students. Many of you, our faculty, and even our students, were witnesses of these values and principles. This past year was one that gave all of us in the Dwenger Family the opportunity to show the resiliency and commitment which was needed to be productive at the level our families and alumni expect, maintain traditions, yet still exercise the Pillars our students need to help them transform into "Citizens of Two Worlds." Your response to these conditions has been confirming and predictable. You haven't wavered in your support, and we haven't wavered in producing highly intelligent, morally centered, Christ-loving leaders. Bishop Dwenger High School remains strong in its role as a leading Catholic, college preparatory high school.

Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3

We are not going to allow the past year to slow us down. Like so many other parochial schools, we have experienced a slight drop in our enrollment this past year. However, BDHS is a school of distinction, on the move with a future full of promise. We want you to know how much we value your loyalty and support. I have heard from you in conversations, through your emails and letters, and through your amazing financial assistance. Your generosity in both spirit and resources is inspiring. Even with the newly expanded School Choice scholarship availing itself to more families for the 2021-22 school year, we still have many families who need help bouncing back from last year. We know your commitment to our community is long-term; we can continue to count on you for the resources and stability needed to educate our students.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

In 2021, we are challenging ourselves—the administration and staff—as well as students to "step it up" and "bounce back." Let us show the world what it means to be a Bishop Dwenger Saint! In word and in deed, we will solidify the unity we have with our students, faculty, staff, families, and alumni (more than 11,000 strong). Let's challenge each other to use our gifts to the fullest and take that extra step to make a difference in our communities. In this issue, you will read about Dwenger Saints who have made a difference, and who have been wholehearted in their service to others. I thank them for their dedication and true witness of the Faith and for being excellent representatives of us all.



asa Mr. Jason Schiffli

On the Cover... Newly ordained priests lay down their lives in service to the Lord, three of whom are Dwenger graduates. See story on pages 8 & 9. Photo courtesy of John Martin.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you are at the beginning of something else." ~ Fred Rogers

As a Pittsburgh native, home also to Mr. Rogers, I thought it was relevant to share his words with you that resonate with me. Never did I imagine that I would live my adulthood in Fort Wayne, Indiana, let alone spend eleven years working at Bishop Dwenger High School! I have been honored to work at such a fine school and have felt like part of the "Family" since the very first day. Thank you.

It has been a blessing to be surrounded by our Catholic faith, with students who are determined and diligent, and with staff who are dedicated and loving. Although the work was plenty, and the hours were long, it was pure joy to be of service to this school. The love the Dwenger Family showers upon its school and its people is nothing less than spectacular. You make this job easy! You are invested, you believe in our mission, and you continue to be generous and supportive!

There is nothing better than having a job that you love, because then it is not work, it is a vocation. Having a fun, committed, passionate, and creative team makes it all the better. Having a boss who trusts you to just get it done and gives you the tools to get it done well, is a bonus, as well as appreciated and treasured. Being with people who bring out the best in you is a true gift. The people whom I have met as donors, have become friends. The volunteers have become like family. The lasting relationships formed in these hallowed halls will be a blessing I carry with me forever.

Bishop Dwenger has been a beautiful and important part of the Burns Family. For me, it was work with a purpose - helping to raise money to generate "Citizens of Two Worlds." And the strong Catholic education received by my husband, **Kevin '84**, and our children, **Colin '16**, **Molly '19**, **Erynn '21**, and **Clara '23** is counted among our greatest blessings.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Bishop Dwenger High School. It has been a privilege to play a part in the formation of the school, its programs, and our students over this past decade. I will always look back on my time here with a sense of accomplishment and fondness. I am forever grateful for being part of the Dwenger Family; thank you for being my home. God bless you!

Kati

Mrs. Katie Burns Director of Development and Alumni Relations



Shhh... Katie thought the rest of this page was going to be filled with photos, but her Development Team wanted to share the following about her, as they bid her farewell in her retirement and thank her for her awesome leadership! Surprise, Katie!

During her tenure at Bishop Dwenger, Katie led the fundraising charge, including a \$7.25 million capital campaign, which encompassed the renovation of the Main Gymnasium, Cardio Room, Weight Room, thirty-six original classrooms, Front Office, Faculty Lounge, and the addition of the Multi-Purpose Facility and beautiful Queen of All Saints Chapel. She also spearheaded the successful fundraising effort for the Shields Field Stadium, a \$3 million campaign, that provided for the first time in school history, a true home field. She accomplished this while playing an integral part in hosting the Saints Alive! series of events, as well as adding Purse Bingo and Trivia Night to the event schedule, raising millions of dollars over the years for the school. Katie also developed a cohesive school brand for all communications and goods, which included developing social media platforms and branding the "Tuffy" mascot image we see everywhere. Her greatest gift, however, in addition to her enthusiasm and energy, is her ability to connect, reconnect, invite, and develop meaningful relationships with BDHS students and their families, alumni, and benefactors. Principal Jason Schiffli says, "Katie's relationships with others are genuine. Her special charism brought Dwenger alumni back to the school, where she has shared her excitement readily, and it has been contagious. I am so proud and feel blessed that Katie has been there for BDHS the past 11 years. Thank you for being our defender and protector of the BD reputation, our close friend, advisor, confidante and, most notably, part of our family."



The Tassle was Worth the Hassle!

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 Top Ten! Pictured left to right: Valedictorian - Grayson Gabet, Salutatorian - Benjamin Hoffman, Third – Adam Yaggy, Fourth - Andrew Filler, Fifth – Olivia Zimmerman, Sixth – Jacob Schroeder, Seventh – Grace Salzer, Eighth - Kelly Connolly, Ninth – Sarah Cisz, Tenth – Grace McAlary.



Saints Alive! 2021 - Come What May

What a year it has been! When Monica & Bob Buescher and Lesley & Chad ('93) Wright said "yes" to being this year's Saints Alive! chairpersons, they knew that the year would be a challenge. How does one plan an event like Saints Alive! during a pandemic with so many unknowns and constantly changing guidelines? With commitment, ingenuity, flexibility, fortitude, laughter, and prayerthat's how! Our chairs, volunteers, donors, and supporters all showed us what dedication to Bishop Dwenger High School truly looks like!

As the 2020-2021 school year progressed, and the pandemic restrictions did not lift, the Saints Alive! team quickly realized the normal routine for Dwenger's largest fundraiser needed to be revised. The date was postponed from the usual early March to mid-May, in hopes that a later date would allow for an inperson event. We also decided to decorate the gym differently, in a beautiful way, while saving money, time, and allowing for volunteers to socially distance. So, the theme was changed from "Sweet Home Indiana" to "Come What May" and with it, a new direction and a renewed sense of hope and willingness to tackle whatever came our way!

Everyone rose to the challenge and created an event that was different, but still had the Saints Alive! energy, uniqueness, and flare! The feeling in the room the night of the event can only be described as awe-inspiring! The excitement and joy of finally being together in person was palpable! That energy continued as Adam Yaggy '21 delivered an amazing speech that inspired the crowd to pledge the largest Supporting Our Saints appeal amount in Saints Alive! history. After all the numbers were tallied, the total amount raised from this year's series of events was a record-shattering **\$670,155**! These funds are used for tuition assistance (including SGO- Scholarship Granting Organization and scholarships), capital improvement projects, and general operating expenses, which all helps keep our tuition fees lower for every family.

Saints Alive! is only possible through the generosity of everyone in the Dwenger Family! On behalf of the Bueschers and Wrights, our staff, School Board and, most especially, our students, we extend our gratitude. Although it was an unusual and difficult year, the Dwenger Family showed up in their usual way and made it truly remarkable! We are so blessed!

Photos by Steve Bentz

2021-2022 Saints Alive! Events Everyone is welcome to attend!

> Diamond Dinner October 9, 2021

2021 Grand Total: \$670,155! Holiday Tables Luncheon December 8, 2021

Warehouse Open House January 3, 2022

Grand Opening Night March 3, 2022

Dinner & Auction March 5, 2022

For more information contact: Dayna Horner, 260-496-4804, dhorner@bishopdwenger.com or visit our website bishopdwenger.com/Saints-Alive









Leaving a Legacy

The Gillig Family Scholarship

Our Bishop Dwenger education provided all 7 of the Gillig children (**Diana '77, Chris '78, Ed '79, Greg '81, Steve '83**, **Phil '87** and **Susie '89**) with a tremendous foundation and life-long values we each draw upon every day. Therefore, we wanted to give the same opportunity to future generations, some of whom might have been classmates of our second generation Gillig Saints (**Kelsie '13, Spencer '14, Grace '16, Abbie '19** and **Quinn '21**).

In 1999, we established the Gillig Family Scholarship to honor our parents, David and Mary Del, and the sacrifices they made for so many years to provide each of us with a Catholic education, which instilled the necessary values to prepare us to live a strong and faith-filled Christian life. This scholarship specifically focuses on students from Most Precious Blood, where our Mom grew up, and St. Jude's, where our parents were lifelong members and where we attended grade school. Over the past 21 years, we are happy this scholarship has benefitted so many students and their families. The individual notes we have received from the recipients have been very heart-felt, including, "Attending Bishop Dwenger has been a life-long dream of mine and your scholarship has made it possible."

When our Mom passed away in April, the family discussed how to further endow the Gillig Family Scholarship so it could continue in perpetuity. A decision was made to offer two \$1,000 scholarships each year, since the endowment has now exceeded \$40,000. Coincidentally, in 2021, the last Gillig in the foreseeable future graduated from BDHS. As Katie Burns so eloquently said to us,

"The last Gillig has left the house"... perhaps? Although there may not be any family members currently attending BD, we are still connected to the school which played such an integral role in developing us spiritually and intellectually.

This scholarship is also a tangible way to keep our Mom's spirit alive and continue to show our Dad how much we appreciate his commitment to Catholic education. There are numerous other families within the BD Family who have set up similar scholarships and, hopefully by sharing our story, it will motivate some of you to experience the joy of helping others, honoring loved ones, and creating a perpetual cycle of giving back.

Sadly, after this article was written, Susie lost her hard fought battle with cancer. May she rest in peace.

The Mastrangelo Family Scholarship

It is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news that Dr. Mike Mastrangelo died on Sunday, April 18, 2021. Dr. Mike and his wife, Grace (who passed away in 2012), have been providing scholarships for Dwenger students since 1992. Over 30 students have received a scholarship for each of the four years they attended BDHS. Their generosity to scholarships was also equaled by their support of Saints Alive!, capital improvement projects, and extensive volunteer work. They were a kind and generous couple who loved their faith and were committed to our community, especially to Catholic education.

Over the years, Dr. Mike maintained a spreadsheet of the scholarship recipients. He always wanted to know how they were faring, if they continued their education beyond high school, what jobs they had, whether they married and if they have children. And, if he heard news of them from the Dwenger Times, the newspapers, or friends, he would update his spreadsheet, accordingly, with that information. In recent years, he would visit the Development Office to meet the scholarship recipients for lunch. He was so happy, and honored, to be able to help. For his 90th birthday, we reached out to every scholarship recipient to share their news and a note of thanks in a book for him. Every recipient responded. It was a beautiful present!

His impact on our school is as legendary as his impact on the Fort Wayne community. If you had the opportunity to meet him, you know we have lost a special Saint. Thanks to his generosity and planning, this special scholarship will continue well into the future. Please join us in praying for the repose of his soul and for his children and grandchildren, who are grieving the loss of a true gentleman and scholar.





GIFTS FROM THE HEART

My name is James Myers, aka Jimbo, Class of 2012. My wife, Crystal, and I have two beautiful children, Ava and Kai. As guests as well as volunteers, we have been lucky enough to be involved with the Bishop Dwenger Golf Outing, Saints Alive!, Trivia Night, Purse Bingo, Basketball Alumni Night, and Alumni Phone-a-thon. Our involvement has given us great appreciation for all the people at BD who put together these events and have really opened our eyes to how much support Bishop Dwenger has to offer to its students.

Nearly every aspect of my life has stemmed from my four years at BDHS. To this day, my closest friends are the ones I made my freshman and sophomore years. They are rather unique friends, to say the least, but the experiences we encountered at Dwenger are what gave us our strong bond. Continuing to be involved with the alumni events has helped our group strengthen our friendship by allowing us to relive our fondest memories on campus. Along with the friendships made, my faith was strengthened and has been the foundation I use to raise my family. I was also given the chance to truly push my leadership abilities to see how far my skills could extend in helping my friends, family, and community.

I feel compelled to give back to Dwenger to show my gratitude for the gifts the school has given me. There were several people at Dwenger who gave their time and energy in helping me become the man I am today. Without those people and the resources the school had to offer, I would never have achieved what I have today. I want to make sure I can provide that same support to the current students at BD so their high school career can be as impactful on them as mine was on me. My hope is that my efforts will lead to a domino effect, and the next batch of BD alumni will give their time and energy and this support will continue to flow throughout the years to come. Live your life as a Saint.





We have been supporters of Bishop Dwenger High School for many years and have many fond memories. Our three children, **Jane '87**, **David '90**, and **Sarah '93**, son-in-law, **John Christensen '87**, and eight grandchildren are all graduates.

It all began in the mid '80's when the first of our children was about to start high school. We were impressed by Principal John Gaughan, who was willing to meet with the parents of 8th graders to answer any questions they had, and he actually came to our home to meet with a group of us. He also had some great advice on raising teen agers at the time!

Later, when Fred Tone was principal, a bullying incident that had been observed by a teacher and reported to him was handled with a no-nonsense attitude and such grace, that the student was never bothered again. Of course, Mr. Tone was a friend to all and a great mentor. Now,

Mr. Schiffli is following in their footsteps as a fine principal. We are grateful for all of them.

The excellent education that our kids and grandkids have received has given them a real advantage when going to college. We remember them saying how some of their new friends from other high schools were not nearly as prepared, so we are grateful for the wonderful teachers, too. In 2020, they personally delivered BD blankets to the homes of the seniors who had missed so much because of Covid. Such dedication!

We have enjoyed watching our kids and grandkids in cheer, poms, football, track, dance team, volleyball, tennis, basketball, and speech team, and are grateful that BD offers so many opportunities for them to grow and achieve.

Most of all, we are thankful that their spiritual lives have been nurtured along with the academics and many extracurricular activities. As we all know, that is the most important part... to attain Heaven in the end.

Finally, we are grateful to have been able to have our monetary contributions matched by Jerry's company, so as to make an even bigger impact to benefit such a great school. We are proud to be part of the wonderful Dwenger Family, and pray God will continue to bless the school and all involved for many years to come.

Sharon (Masanz CCHS '62) and Jerry Nuerge

Christ the Teacher Award



Congratulations to Mrs. Christy Maloney, the 2020-21 Christ the Teacher Award recipient! Christy began her teaching career in 2010, after earning a degree in Music Education with a focus in Tuba, which is interesting, considering her small stature. After gaining experience in several local schools, she joined the Dwenger Family in 2014, quickly earning accolades

from parents and students alike for her determination, dedication, and the deep connections she makes with her students.

She accomplishes this by incorporating themes into their musical selections, like service, faith, sacrifice, and the acceptance of others. Christy often invites people with related experiences to share their testimony with the students. She loves how her students are so empathetic to those stories and then sees them use those influences to not only grow their art, but also carry them along and continue to make the world a better place. This school year was a tough year for music teachers, as teaching music remotely, or with masks and socially distanced, was a challenge. Christy related, "I was holding choir rehearsals in the parking lot outside my room, distanced and masked, and the advanced choir sang "Be Still" by David Kauffman. It was the first time most of us had performed or heard live music in MONTHS, and it was such a relief and so emotional to be doing something we loved and to be together again." Christy added that "Be Still" is one of her personal favorite hymns, explaining, "Today, with so much constantly hitting us in the face, be it on social media, busy schedules, and whatever else, it's such a good reminder and thoughtful, albeit simple, meditation. 'Be still my love, know that I am God.'"

It is this mutual love for music, trust, and respect between Christy and her students that makes her such an effective educator and valued mentor. Congratulations, Christy!

"Be Still my love,

and know that I am God."

BDHS Alumna who also received this award in the 20-21 school year:

<u>Christ the Teacher Award</u> Grace (Grutsch) Dykhuizen '11 – St. Joseph School, Fort Wayne

Congratulations! You share the light of Christ with our students and our gratitude is beyond measure.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

The special needs classroom for our Mother Teresa Program is dedicated to Mark Tippmann, son of Lois and the late Vincent Tippmann. Sadly, Mark passed away only a few months after his father in the fall of 2019. Lois Tippmann and her family gave a very meaningful gift, in memory of Mark, toward the expansion and construction of this new room. To pay tribute to Mark, a mural of his favorite character, Woody, from Disney's Toy Story is on the wall in this room. Mark's nieces, **Cecilia Perez-Dunifon '06** and **Olivia Perez '11** painted this masterpiece.







Serving the Lord Wholeheartedly

A member of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, **Fr. Dan Koehl '11** felt a call to the priesthood as a junior at BD in the context of the Sacrament of Penance during a retreat. He states, "I had made a particularly good examination of conscience and laid every bit of my sin out in front of the Lord. From there, He offered me the possibility of sitting on the other side of the confessional, so to speak. It is amazing what He will do with us when we surrender ourselves to His mercy."

After graduating from Dwenger, however, Dan says he ran from his vocation for a short time and attended Purdue University as a Mechanical Engineering student. He enjoyed his time at Purdue and formed a great relationship with the local Newman Center on campus. However, after a couple of years of studying engineering, he realized he was not at peace. He applied to study as a seminarian for the Diocese and transferred to college seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He continued his academic career at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he earned a Masters of Divinity, concentrating in Moral Theology.

Fr. Dan enjoyed his time at BD and is thankful to his Latin teacher, Mr. Chenowith, who made class a joy. He is also thankful to the good chaplain priests and to his friends who were serious about their faith and made living the faith a priority.

Fr. Dan looks forward to celebrating Holy Mass, hearing confessions, and taking on the role of Spiritual Father as Parochial Vicar at Saint Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne. He is pleased by the construction of the chapel at Dwenger and would encourage any current student to "purposefully take time before Our Lord in that place." He hopes to be able to celebrate Mass there soon!



Fr. Logan Parrish '13, of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, has many happy memories of his years at Dwenger. He states that the BD chaplains and teachers helped him in his faith journey by witnessing to the "reasonableness of the teachings of the Church." He found inspiration from Mr. Chenowith, his teacher for Latin I & II and Etymology, as well as from his AP US History teacher, Mrs. Bleeke. In fact, he concentrated his Theology Masters degree in Church History due to her influence. Serving Mass with Fr. Jacob Meyer was also a great help for him as well as for other BD seminarians.

Fr. Logan says his Dwenger friends were not all "saints" but, rather, "saints-in-the-making" and those friendships were essential to his faith formation. His involvement in athletics and his interactions with coaches, such as Mr. Bennett and Mr. Tone, were character-building experiences. He also discovered the Speech Team radio events, in which he participated, were great preparation for giving homilies. The parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist in Goshen will hear these homilies where he now serves as Parochial Vicar.

Fr. Logan felt a call to the priesthood by the end of his junior year at BD. After graduation, he went on to Holy Cross College and then Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, where he finished a BA in Philosophy and earned a Masters of Divinity and a Masters in Theology.

In his role as a new priest, Fr. Logan looks forward to ministering to families and to people of Hispanic cultures. He wishes to thank those who made the necessary sacrifices and planning for the Queen of All Saints Chapel at BD. He states, "Much of the heavy lifting by grace in making us good and holy women/men happens in the silence of the heart. One of the supremely unique aspects of a Catholic high school is a place where silence and prayer are fostered (especially when it's a beautiful place)."

Photos by John Martin

Fr. Keeton Lockwood '12 felt called to the diocesan priesthood as a sixth grader witnessing the ministry of Monsignor John Kuzmich, his pastor at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish. The idea of the priesthood remained on his mind throughout high school. One night as a junior, while he was praying over his college options, he heard a clear voice that said "priesthood" and he knew that God was calling him. After graduation, he attended Ivy Tech to study Computer Information Systems while he applied to the seminary. Once accepted, he spent three years at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and the remaining four years at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

As a student at Dwenger, Fr. Keeton enjoyed his math, speech, and English classes. He drew inspiration from his teachers such as Mr. Leffers, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. Noble. He says, "Being able to be in a place where the faith could be discussed openly and frequently helped me along my faith journey."

As a newly ordained priest, recently assigned as Parochial Vicar at Saint Therese in Fort Wayne, Fr. Keeton is looking forward to being able to minister to families at hospitals and funerals, and being with families who are hurting or suffering in order to bring Christ into their suffering to show them that they are not alone. He states, "It is at those moments when someone is suffering . . . that afford us an opportunity to reach out to them and be there for them to accompany them along the way. The priest is afforded a great opportunity to be able to be with families for their moments of joy and celebration, but also to be with them in their moments of sorrow and suffering. Both need Christ, for there was a Good Friday, but also an Easter Sunday."



When **Deacon Brian Isenbarger '08** was a youngster growing up in Saint John the Baptist Parish in New Haven, he loved serving at Mass. That is when he first started thinking about the priesthood. However, his journey to that goal has taken an indirect path. At one point, he was engaged to be married, and at another point, he was almost a Franciscan friar with two different communities.

At Dwenger, he became interested in playing and coaching baseball. He has fond memories of playing on the baseball team and winning the SAC. After high school, he went to the University of Saint Francis, primarily to play baseball. At first, he was a Health and Physical Education major, but began to take Theology classes and found himself falling deeper in love with Jesus. It was his sophomore year, when playing baseball in Florida during a spring break trip, that he realized the life he was living was actually unfulfilling. There was something missing. So, he stopped playing baseball and began to get involved with a youth group at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne and campus ministry at the University of St. Francis. He began going to Mass daily and prayed regularly, asking God what His plans were for his life. He switched majors and graduated with a BA in Theology. After college, he worked full-time in youth ministry and completed a MA in Pastoral Theology through St. Joseph's College in Maine. He is now finishing his fifth year of seminary.

Assigned to Saint Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol, Deacon Brian is looking forward to the opportunity to love the people of our Diocese in the ways that Jesus asks of him. He is looking forward to baptisms, being able to give Benediction during Eucharistic adoration, and performing house blessings. He would like to share that "prayer literally is our relationship with Jesus." He encourages us to "go to Mass every Sunday. Pray every day. And go to Confession every month. It will totally transform your life."



Congratulations as well to the additional newly ordained Priests and Deacon! Fr. Michael Ammer, Fr. Paolo Degasperi, Fr. Benjamin Landrigan, Fr. Augustine Onuoha, and Deacon Mark Hellinger. May God Bless You on your journey!

Well Done, Faithful Servants!



Kathy Klemme

Senora Klemme or Madame Klemme, depending on which foreign language you took from her, has been an unwavering example of humility and exemplary teaching since 1979. She perfected her craft and was always eager to learn new methods. In fact, when BD became a 1:1 Blended school (each student with a laptop computer), Mrs. Klemme led the faculty in learning digital skills and tools to utilize in her classroom. Many times, she out-paced the younger, more "tech-savvy" teachers.

If a new teacher struggled with classroom management, the Administration would suggest he/she spend some time in Kathy's classroom. She would provide students with a variety of modalities and transition seamlessly between them. She not only served as an instructor to the students of BD, but also to colleagues, especially novice teachers, as well!

Proficient in the classroom, Kathy realized that Bishop Dwenger educates the whole student. She moderated the French, International, and Spanish Clubs, supervised student volunteers for Saints Alive!, moderated the senior class, sat on the National Honor Society Board, and organized many student trips abroad. When asked, she counts these trips among her best memories and fondly remembers Del Nelson, former Spanish Teacher, as her cohort in these many adventures!

While Kathy's BD resume is long, she was always the picture of humility and grace. She was unpretentious in the way she carried out her vocation. Saints Paul and Timothy could have been describing Kathy when they wrote to the Colossians 3:12:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Regrettably, but at the prompting of her family (including daughter **Katie '93**), the pandemic cut Kathy's career shorter than she intended and she retired in the summer of 2020. This past year, she has spent time with family, reading, and, of course, discovering new computer technologies.

Kathy cites faith and friendship among the greatest gifts that Bishop Dwenger has provided her. Her absence this past school year was palpable, but she left us with a standard of teaching and learning for which future BD generations should strive.



Lisa Polhamus

Arriving in the fall of 1986, fresh out of college, Miss Murphy arrived on the doorstep of the school, interviewed with then Principal John Gaughan, and was hired immediately. It sure helped that her name matched Mr. Gaughan's wife's maiden name, too! She has remained a constant figure at Bishop Dwenger for the past 35 years, becoming Mrs. Polhamus, and only taking 4 years off when her children were young. That is dedication!

As a member of the Science Department, Lisa taught a variety of subjects, including Human Genetics, Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Biology II, Botany, Earth-Space, and Physical Science. Her use of technology to enhance the lessons and concepts always brought the subject matter alive for the students lucky enough to learn from her.

Over the years, Lisa served as the Student Activities Coordinator, where she was a Student Council and National Honor Society moderator, coordinated the school's end of the year award programs and ceremonies, oversaw the Academic Jacket Program, and served as a key person on the Enrollment/Marketing Committee, among many others. Her strong commitment to BD and the students was evident in every facet of our school. According to Principal Schiffli, "Lisa was sought after by everyone, and I do not think she ever told anyone 'No.' Wow!"

Lisa made lifelong friendships during her time at Dwenger. She can recall the early days of "lounge talk" with colleagues like Del Nelson, Betty Malloy, Carol Cornell, Joyce Gloman, Marsha Jordan, Laura LaMaster, and Diana Wallace. It has been a personal joy of Lisa to see her students grow to be productive citizens and have a positive impact in the world. Not to mention, some even became her colleagues at BD!

In her retirement, Lisa plans to spend more time with her husband, Jeff, her children and grandchildren, and her mom. Sadly, Lisa's dad passed away in June of this year. She has 3 children: **Chris '07**, **Sara '09**, and **Brian '13**. She is the proud "Meemaw" to Charlie, Joe, and Brielle. And whether it is remodeling something in the house or crafting, Lisa will keep busy!

Her smile, passion, and enthusiasm for education and being a BD Saint will be missed in our hallowed halls. We wish her much happiness and relaxation as she enters her retirement. Lisa always had the following on her emails: "May the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity Accompany You Today!" Lisa, may the Trinity accompany you always in all the adventures that lie ahead. Remember you always have a home at Bishop Dwenger. Thank you for the impact you have had on this school community!



John Bennett '77

We all agree that, as Athletic Director, John has been fully dedicated to the Bishop Dwenger Athletic Program: 20 IHSAA Sports, 5 Club Sports, 550 athletes and 135 coaches on the 2020-2021 rosters and 5 State Championships, and 6 State Runner-Up Championships during his tenure! We applaud him for his thirteen years of teaching math and ten years serving as Athletic Director.

"John has been a mentor and close friend and I am very thankful for who John is and all he has done for me personally, Bishop Dwenger High School, and the entire Community," said Football and Baseball Coach Jason Garrett. Coach Steve "Wik" Wiktorowski, Lady Saints Basketball Coach, a former AD himself, said John's dedication to BD and its Catholic ideals will be greatly missed. He pointed out that John made every effort to hire good coaches and allow them to do their job.

Coach Carlos Cruz, Saints Boys' Soccer Coach, said this, "John's advice and support has helped me grow as a coach and leader and I consider him a friend."

Volleyball Coach, Tim Houser, commented that John took a chance when he hired him 9 years ago, as he had no high school coaching experience. He said John was always very supportive and helped him build the program to what it is today.

Andrea Weadock, Saints Boys' and Girls' Swim Coach, appreciates that John was always available, helpful and a sounding board, especially during her first two years of coaching.

And, besides knowing what a Reifenschlagen wrestling move is, Coach John Tone recognized the time John spent with individual wrestlers analyzing match videos to improve their technique and plan strategy.

Matt Kostoff, Saints Boys' Basketball Coach, notes that John has always been a person of integrity and character. "His commitment is second to none! He has led us through major construction projects over the past ten years and helped to grow the athletic program into one of the best in the state! From his attendance at events, to being a problem solver, to always getting a heartfelt text after a good win or a tough loss, his support and guidance as AD has been unbelievable!"

Principal Schiffli would like to "thank John for ALWAYS being there for the kids and coaches. Thank you, John, for being a caring, committed, selfless worker!"



Kurt Leffers

There will be a changing of the guards at the end of the math hall for the next school year. After 19 years of teaching Geometry every single year (that's hard to do), as well as some Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 classes, Kurt Leffers will be trading his geometry proofs for golf clubs

Kurt's first day at Dwenger was a memorable one because Karen, his wife of 40 years, went into labor with their youngest child, Leah. Leah graduated this year and joins the ranks of her siblings as Dwenger alumni: **Pat '02**, **Laura '04**, and **Thomas '10**.

Kurt was the girls' golf coach for 10 years, and was the moderator of the Dart Club for three years. One of Kurt's fondest memories as the golf coach was when the girl's golf team sang "Happy Birthday" to him after they made it to the State finals.

Kurt has loved working with the entire staff and Dwenger, but especially the Math Department, because they always made it enjoyable and easy to come to work. He will especially miss his time with the students and the many friends he has made over these past 19 years.

Kurt plans to travel the country, visit friends and family, visit the grandkids in Florida, and play with the ones here in town. He plans to play golf daily, so if you ever need to get a hold of him, just look for him on the golf course!



Sue Zschernitz

Sue worked at BD for 9 years as one of the school nurses. She made it a point to help out and be involved with BD in ways other than nursing. She said it was a great way to spend time with students and staff away from the Nurse's Office, and get to know them a bit better. For instance, she enjoyed going into the theology classroom every year to discuss "End of Life" issues, as well as some of her Hospice Nurse experiences. She sold tickets at football games, chaperoned the Prom, helped out with Purse Bingo, and read one of the categories at the Academic Competition for several years.

What Sue has loved most about BD is the staff and the students. Of course, the friendly atmosphere, and the ability to be open, honest, and to practice her faith daily was also a "plus" for Sue. She appreciated the balance between being serious about education and, yet, needing to have a little fun, too. The support and

encouragement one receives at BD is a true blessing!

In retirement, the first thing Sue will do is throw away the alarm clock! She also plans, along with her husband James, to visit their daughter **Kathleen '14** and her family in Columbus, GA. Their first grandchild, Casper Ray, just turned 1. Sue also has a little photo/ scrapbooking project, estimating 3,000-4,000 photos, that will keep her busy. She also plans to work in her yard, read, crochet afghans, fish, and maybe even broaden her horizons in the kitchen! She will be returning to the Holy Land in November.

Thank You and God Bless!

CLASS NOTES

REUNIONS

For Reunion locations, times, etc., please visit www.bishopdwenger.com/Reunions

1967 - 55 Year Reunion

In Planning Stages for 2022! Contact: Margaret Ankenbruck, allenbruck@comcast.net

Class of 1970 – 50 Year Reunion *Rescheduled from 2020!* When: Saturday, October 16 Contact: Tim Kearney, tkearney@alumni.nd.edu

Class of 1971 – 50 Year Reunion When: Saturday, August 28, 2021 Contact: Tim Miller, rascal7216@msn.com

Class of 1981 - 40 Year Reunion

When: November 6, 2021 Contact: Sue Gladieux-Ulrich, susan.ulrich@cityoffortwayne.org Facebook: Class of 1981

Class of 1985 & 1986 - 35 Year Reunion When: Friday, September 10, 2021 Contact: Terry Anderson, terryanderson3593@gmail.com

Class of 1991 - 30 Year Reunion When: Saturday, August 28, 2021 Contact: meschreck@netzero.net Facebook: BD Class of 1991

Class of 1996 - 25 Year Reunion In planning stages Contact: Melissa (Smith) Weaver, melissaanne10@gmail.com

Class of 2001 - 20 Year Reunion When: Saturday, October 16, 2021 Contact: Alyssa (Schlatter) Keys, alyssa.keys10@gmail.com

Class of 2005 - Sweet 16 Reunion When: Saturday, September 18, 2021 Contact: Christine Foltz, christine.foltz@baesystems.com

Class of 2006 - 15 Year Reunion When: Saturday, August 21, 2021 Contact: Jake Slater, jake@electricfestivals.com

Class of 2011 - 10 Year Reunion When: Saturday, October 23, 2021 Contact: Grace Geha, gracegeha@gmail.com

1970's

Therese (McLinden '78) and Dan Roy were married on August 22, 2020, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

1980's

William Jordan '87 works for the Memorial Coliseum as well as Tri City Automotive Warehouse in Fort Wayne.

1990's

Betsy (Smith '99) Bartlett has worked at Parkview Health since

2004, specifically in psychiatry. Her two passions are caring for the mentally ill and fur babies. She and her husband Tim have been married since 2013. They are almost empty nesters as Betsy's youngest daughter recently turned 18.

Beth (Bobay '99) McAvoy, who is the Director of Operations at Neighborlink Fort Wayne, was named to the Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly 40 Under 40 for 2021.

2000's



Doug Lothamer '02 and wife Christina are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Brielle Chrisleigh, on October 29, 2020.

Alexandra Hall '03 was named one of Fort Wayne Business Weekly's Forty Under 40. In addition to her work as a studio artist, Alex runs a successful public art consulting business, A H Public Spaces Consulting. She consulted for the 2020 Make



It Your Own Mural Fest, and she developed and manages the Art This Way program for the Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District.

Allison (Stronczek '05) Purdy is currently living in Florida with her husband Kevin and their three children: Piper (5), Madeline, and Leo (2).

Jackie (Ehlerding '06) Lewis and husband Will welcomed baby Lennon Jaymes to the world on February 3, 2021.

Marissa Kay (Freson '06) Sauer and husband Jacob announced the birth of their son Eli in December 2020. Marissa has been promoted to Director of Children's Services at Crossroad Child and Family Services.



Meagan (Fairchild '07) Mocek teaches math at BDHS. After 4 years of foster parenting two young boys, Meagan and her husband Zachary were able to officially adopt the boys on March 11, 2021. Pictured are John "Matthew" (right) and Charles "Emmett" (left).

Chris Polhamus '07 and wife Kylene welcomed Brielle Elizabeth on June 7, 2021. Her proud brothers are Charlie (5) and Joe (3).

Lennon Grace was born on March 1, 2021. Her proud parents are Rachael and **Tyler Eifert '09**.







CLASS NOTES

2010's

Lauren Palmer '10 has her MAT in Spanish and works as a Spanish teacher at Bishop Chatard High School. She is also studying full time for her PhD in American Studies through Indiana University.



Hilary (Fink '10) Thomas and husband Drew added to their family with the birth of Madison Lynn on July 26, 2020. Madison joins big sister Emersyn.

Andrea Filler '11 is the Director of Operations at Northwestern University for the Softball and Field Hockey programs. She plays professional softball for the Chicago Bandits of National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) and

Saronno Softball in the Italian Softball League (ISL) in Italy. She is also on the Italian National Team competing in the Tokyo Olympic Games this summer. In March, Andrea married Kyle Ruchim, who played baseball at Northwestern, and professionally for the Chicago White Sox and Schaumburg Boomers.





Morgan (Eifert '11) Martin and husband Zack added to their family on January 7, 2021. Remi Ann joins big brother Charlie (2).

Morgan (Korte) Nierman '11, graduated

from Midwestern University's dental medicine program in May 2021. She joined Dr. Michael Luarde as

an associate dentist at Luarde Dental Care in Fort Wayne. She married Rob Nierman, in September 2020. He will also join the practice as an associate dentist in May 2022.



Emma (Collis '11) O'Heeney and husband Quinn were to delighted to welcome Evelyn Rose to the world on September 25, 2020.



Jenna (Eschbach '11) and Sean Stevens '06 were married on February 1, 2020, and have since welcomed Maximilian Michael on December 28, 2020.



Alexander Wharton '11 and wife Katie have three little girls and welcomed their first boy, Joseph Alexander, on May 1, 2021. Alexander works for Peter Franklin Jewelers designing 3D custom jewelry as well as goldsmithing. He has been in the National Guard for 10 years, and is currently a transportation officer. Sarah (Killion '11) Woldmoe has been traded for the fourth pick from Sky Blue FC to the Chicago Red Stars of the National Women's Soccer League. She has played in 116 NWSL games since being picked second overall by the New Jersey-based Sky Blue FC in 2015, scoring 11 goals and nine assists.

Erin Cinadr '12 is a Mechanical Engineer Supervisor at General Motors in Parma, Ohio. She is also active in her home parish as a Eucharistic Minister and building/leading a Young Adult ministry program.

Brian Downey '12 and wife Brittany added to their family on December 3, 2020, with the birth of Sunny Catherine.

Congratulations to **Benjamin Evans '13**, as he received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery Degree in May of 2021 from Indiana University School of Dentistry in Indianapolis. Ben has joined Summit Dental Group in Fort Wayne and will be practicing at the Dupont and Southwest locations.



Masie (Korte '14) and husband Trey Casaburo '14 who were married July 6, 2019, are now ready to welcome their 1st baby in January 2022.

After graduating from the University of Saint Francis, **Ryan Cinadr '14** is living in Fort Wayne and building his business as a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual. He was

a member of the University of Saint Francis NAIA National Football Championship teams during his junior and senior years.

Rachel (Freygang '14) Geiger and husband Davon welcomed baby Hudson to the world on September 16, 2020.

Caroline (McGraw '15) and **Thomas Roesler '15** were married on October 17, 2020.

Lauryn Cinadr '16 is working on her Physical Therapy Doctorate at the University of Saint Francis in Loretto, PA. She graduated from the University of Akron where she was an accomplished scholar-athlete on their NCAA Rifle team.

Madelyn Omo '17 graduated Summa Cum Laude from Indiana Tech School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies in 2021. She will return for her 5th year of volleyball while earning her MBA. She is a member of Chi Sigma Alpha Academic Sorority, was nominated Athlete of the Year, and was named Outstanding Graduate of Entrepreneurial Studies, WHAC All-Academic Team Volleyball, and WHAC All Conference Second Team.



Delaney Hogan '20 plays volleyball for Xavier University and was named the Big East Volleyball Freshman of the Year. She was also named to the Big East All-Freshman Team and All-Conference Team. A middle

blocker, she led the Big East in hitting percentage this season (.356), while ranking 100th in the NCAA. She led the Musketeers in total kills (131) and total blocks (45) this season as well.



Save the Date!

Class of 1956 – 65 Year Reunion Saturday, September 25, 2021 Classic Café Contact Leanne Mensing (260) 485-0290, Imensing1@frontier.com

Class of 1965 – 56 Year Reunion Saturday, September 25, 2021 Coyote Creek Golf Course Contact Mary Lou Morris (260) 483-1646

Class of 1971 – 50 Year Reunion

Saturday, September 11, 2021 Orchard Ridge Country Club 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm Contact Laura Megles Taliaferro ljtal@yahoo.com or Carole Shaffer Elder caroletelder@outlook.com Reservations required. Cost is \$50 per person

Annual Alumni Association Meeting/Luncheon

September 15, 2021: 11:00 am at Classic Café on Hillegas Road

It Has Been 50 Years! -

2022 marks 50 years since the last class graduated from Central Catholic High School. In order to celebrate all that our years at CC meant to us, we will hold a celebration on June 11, 2022, at the site of our beloved school. Kathy (Hettinger '68) Walker is chairing the event. Contact Kathy at (252) 414-1336 or paulkathy102@gmail.com if you would like to help. We're looking forward to a great event!

Congrats! _____

Congratulations to Andrew Filler '21, recipient of the \$500 CCHS Alumni Award! His was the winning essay on the importance of Catholic Education in his life.



Staying Steadfast!

"Marcella Hayes Morgan, who graduated from Central Catholic in 1940, currently lives in a retirement facility in Elmhurst, about 20 miles west of Chicago. She turned 99 this past June. She is doing well with only some mobility issues. The quarterly magazine comes

to my address, but I make sure that she always gets it. Thought you'd like to know you still have some old Central Catholic grads out there. P.S. She's wondering why there was no info on the 80 year reunion!"

Submitted by her son, Joe Morgan '89





Memory Lane

Our CC memorial site is a beautiful place to visit when you are in Downtown Fort Wayne! Sit on a bench, follow the bricks, say "hello" to the Christ of Lewis Street, and give a prayer of thanks for Dave, who keeps our place looking beautiful!

IN MEMORY

Since our last mailing, we have been notified that the following individuals have passed away. Please keep these alumni, extended family members, and friends of Bishop Dwenger and Central Catholic in your prayers.

Bishop Dwenger

Dennis Kitt '67 Stephen Muldoon '68 Joellyn (Sipe) Fox '70 Kevin Laisure '71 Dr. Barry Close '72 Jean Anne (McAllister) Hartman '73 Joseph Bragg '74 Patricia (Tweed) Goings '76 Jon Roy '76 Jeffrey Botteron '77 Christopher Holly '79 Kevin Curran '89

Central Catholic

Virgil Huguenard '40 Robert Connelly II '41 Mary (Metker) Voors '41 Phyllis (Hartman) Klug '43 Betty (Menefee) Geary '44 Mary (Hughes) Kellogg '44 Samuel Rizzo '44 Rita (Rehrer) Carteaux '45 James Fanger '45 Mary (Maroney) Rizzo '45 Bernadette (Haifley) Gardiner '46 Elmer Lauer '46 Thomas J. Maniscalo '46 Phyllis (Grothouse) Blee '47 Mary Ann (Clifford) Cottrell '47 Norman Gunkel '47 Charlotte (Vorndran) Smith '47 Robert Vodde '47 Sharon (Blackwell) Bamberger '48 Betty (Mullendore) Boedeker '48 **Richard Devine '48** Mary Ellen (Farley) Rajchel '48 Clarita (Dirig) Kocks Miller '49 Sharon (Hake) Savieo '49 Kenneth Buckmaster '50 Richard Daugherty '51 Carol (Mayers) McNabb '51 Thomas Stahl '51 Annrita (Mommer) McClain '52 Mary Lou (Jansen) Bienz '53 Jule Kleinrichert '53

Raymond Pelz '53 Phyllis (Robin) Huguenard '54 **Richard Miller '54** Mary Ann (Pichon) Snyder '54 James Noll '55 Delores (Franklin) Smith '55 Colleen (O'Keefe) DeVito '56 Barbara (Grimmer) Hoevel '56 Thomas Jackson '56 Richard Noll '56 Thomas Delanev '58 Carlos Parra '58 Sharon (Peden) Talerico '58 Philip Bonahoom '59 Lawrence Leon '59 Eric Vandagrift '59 Fr. Phillip Widmann '59 James Meese '60 Suzanne (Bettag) Geise '61 James Riemen '61 Stephan App '62 Nancy (Russell) Latham '62 Joanne (Snyder) Mahoney '62 Michael Obringer '62 Carolyn (Gator) Coder '63 John Marks '64 Daniel Thurber '64 Cynthia (Pease) Schmidt '65 Phillip Wisniewski '65 Richard Gabriel '66 Robert Rentschler '67 Geraldine (Cains) Lewellen '69 Tom Roehling '69

Friends

Dr. James A. Arata Dr. Patricia Bader Arlene Baker Supatra Boacheon Nancy Bordner Margaret Bromberek Mary Anne Brown Robert Buuck Austin Carey Jennifer Carney Lisa Ellert John Emerick John Fitzpatrick Mary Gillig Edward Grill Cheryl Hageman Kathrvn Hambel Helen Hayes **Evelyn Holly** Cyril Hubert Mary Kathleen Hunnicutt Joanna Jacobs Patrick Joyce Beverly "Gail" Kosiarek Larry Lee Jane Lomont Max Lordier James Lothamer **Ralph Maldeney** Dr. Michael Mastrangelo Donald McArdle John Minch John Newbury, Jr. Carol Nine Madeline Noll Vicky Nussbaum Maurice O'Daniel John Otto, Jr. Camilla Pelkington **Thomas Peters Gregory** Pressler Mary Ann Riebenack Donald Rodenbeck Elmer Schaefer **Robert Smith** Isabel Smulkstys David Springmann Barbara Steenport Marion Stone **DeWayne Turk** Angelina Ventruella Patsy Jean Weber William White Marilyn "Sue" Widelski Arthur Wilder Jeffrey Woods, Jr.



Reverend Father Phillip A. Widmann (September 3, 1941 ~ March 16, 2021)

Father Widmann spent most of his life rooted and serving in the Fort Wayne area. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1959, serving in several Diocesan organizations, culminating in being named the Outstanding Catholic Young Adult of the Diocese and awarded the "Eagle of the Cross" in 1969. While he began his college career at the University of Saint Francis, he later entered the Seminary of St. Pius X in 1972, moving to, and graduating from, Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in 1976, the first Diocesan seminarian to do so. Father Widmann was ordained January 15, 1977, by Bishop William McManus, and went on to serve 11 parishes in the Fort Wayne area. From 1977-92, he taught Theology courses at Bishop Dwenger High School, also serving as Chaplain to the football team during the Football State Championship seasons of 1990 and 1991. Numerous committees and organizations counted Father amongst their ranks, which included political, charitable, human, and animal rights interests, as well as historical, most notably Diocesan (Cathedral) Museum, which he founded and served as Director until his death. Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest in peace.

The information for this listing is provided by many individuals; we apologize for any inaccuracies. Please contact Bishop Dwenger's Development Office at (260) 496-4775 with submissions and corrections. You may also submit an online notification at bishopdwenger.com/Address-and-News-Updates.

Correction: John Sandor was incorrectly listed as James Sandor in the last issue of this publication. We sincerely apologize for the error.



1300 E. Washington Center Road Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825

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Twitter.com/BishopDwengerHS

in LinkedIn: Bishop Dwenger HS Alumni

YouTube.com/BishopDwengerHS

Tales From Tuffy

Hey there, sports fans! I hear there is an exciting opportunity to advertise your business or support your favorite player at the Stadium at Shields Field. Banners with company logos or special messages, measuring 3.5' H x 6' W, will be placed on the fence for optimum viewing from the home stands. It's a happening place with lots of advertising: BD football, soccer, track & field, lacrosse, CYO games and even professional soccer! The cost of a banner is \$1,500 for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact Julia Schultz at 260-496-4803, or jschultz@bishopdwenger.com. Limited number of spaces are available!

Act now to make the most of the season!

Peace, Tuffy

