

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## AT GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### TRAVERSE CITY KEEPS THE FAITH NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SET TO OPEN SOON

What seemed like a faraway dream has become an almost reality, as construction crews work to complete the new Immaculate Conception Preschool and Elementary. The new building will serve students in preschool through grade 5. Completion and occupancy are dependent on a number of factors, so an exact move-in date is not yet known. Donations are still being accepted to fund playground equipment, chapel appointments, and other items needed for the students' use at this great new facility. Contact Wayne Mueller at (231) 995-8428, [wmueller@gtacs.org](mailto:wmueller@gtacs.org) for details.



*Below: Fr. Anthony Citro, Immaculate Conception Church pastor, along with associate pastor, Fr. Christopher Jarvis, tour the site with members of the GTACS administrative team on the Feast of the Annunciation, April 9, 2018.*



*Assistant Principal Maureen DeYoung poses with students in front of the new Immaculate Conception school building on the last day of school in the old building – June 8, 2018.*



*Demolition of the circa 1961 section of the former elementary school began on August 30, 2018.*





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# CHERISHED TRADITIONS

WE ARE BLESSED WITH SO MANY SPECIAL EVENTS ALL YEAR



**Classroom blessings** at the beginning of the school year | November **All Saints Day** presentation | **May crowning** | Buying **4-H livestock** for our school dining services | **GladMeals**, a community meal served each Saturday at our high school | **Sixth grade retreat** | Making **Rosaries** during the month of October | **All School Mass** | Collecting **toys** for the Fire Department, followed by a movie at the State Theatre | Cherry Festival **Prince and Princess** | Senior **day of service** | Greeting **Honor Flight** veterans at the airport | **Ash Wednesday** | **Kairos** senior retreat

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# PAST MEETS PRESENT

## 1961 TIME CAPSULE UNEARTHED

Alumni alerted the school to the possibility of a time capsule in the cornerstone of the 1961 section of the old school building. On September 7, 2018, the copper box was unearthed and found to contain a variety of photos, a year-book, parish bulletins, prayer cards, medals and other artifacts of the day. A time capsule will be placed in the new school cornerstone, and the two original cornerstones will also become part of the new school structure.



To view the contents of the time capsule, visit our website: [www.gtacs.org/history](http://www.gtacs.org/history) and click on the link to the online photo album.



Superintendent Buell, Principal Lesinski, Fr. Citro, Fr. Hayden, and Deacon Younker pose with the time capsule.



The annual **8th grade trip to Washington, DC**, was especially poignant this year. While visiting the Vietnam Memorial, students watched as a “rubbing” was taken of the name of **Ralph von der Hoff**, the only St. Francis High School alumni who lost his life in Vietnam. It was 2018 Hall of Fame inductee and former Washington Post photographer, **Gerald Martineau**, who joined the students in the ceremony and snapped this photo. **Michael Novak**, another 2018 Hall of Fame inductee, worked behind the scenes to upgrade the quality of Ralph’s photo on the traveling Vietnam wall.





## ANOTHER NOTEWORTHY YEAR

Marching Band had a great season last year. The band performed a show based on the music from the movie sensation *La La Land*. The music arranger for the MSU Marching Band, Mr. Jeff Kressler, was commissioned to arrange music specifically for the St. Francis Marching Band. Mr. Charles Taylor and Mr. Kressler began working on the project in early June and after a few amendments and adjustments to the original submission the final score and all individual parts were completed and delivered in time for the band camp the first week of August. The drill design was also commissioned by Mr. Patrick Ruddy, one of the most sought after designers in the Midwest. The band enjoyed working on the show and was proud to perform the full *La La Land* program at Homecoming.

The Wind Ensemble also continued to enjoy great success earning the highest ratings at last year's District Band & Orchestra Festival that was held in Elk Rapids on March 2. Consistent with the evaluations of the previous three years, all four judges that critiqued the band enthusiastically praised the ensemble citing:

Attention to details, balance & blend, dynamic contrast & musical expression-Bravo!

Excellent instruction, keep doing what you are doing!

A fine band with a lot of good players, I enjoyed your performance very much-Bravo!

A wonderful performance by a fine, well instructed band!

This now marks the fourth year in a row that the band has earned straight A's at the District Festival, a goal that was achieved for the first time in the history of the band program four years ago.

## MODERN MILLIE WAS THOROUGHLY DELIGHTFUL

In the 11th year of revitalizing our high school musical program, the 2018 show of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* had at or near sold-out capacities and generated rave reviews. More than 50 students were involved in some aspect of this production and three of the show's leads – Ally Taylor, Grace Zucco, and Daniel Simaz – are pursuing musical careers at college. The 2019 show will be *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and sure to be fun for the whole family! Mark your calendars: February 15, 16, and 17 and February 22, 23, and 24 with Friday and Saturday shows at 7:00 pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm. Tickets go on sale January 21, 2019 at [mynorth-tickets.com](http://mynorth-tickets.com) or calling the Box Office at (231) 946-0715.



## CHOIRS ARE PRAISE WORTHY

The 2017/18 school year was laden with success for the Choir. Grace Zucco participated in the MSVMA Musical Theater Solo and Ensemble Festival and received solid 1's. Several students received highest honors at the MSVMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Participants included Daniel Simaz, Grace Montroy, Olivia Donahue, Emma Laible, and Miriam Peck. The female ensemble *Bel Canto* also received a rating of 1 at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Our Choir, *Dei Cantanti*, earned an invitation to States by receiving a solid superior at District Choral Festival.

We were especially proud of our students this year who are studying music at the next level. Daniel Simaz was accepted into University of Michigan and is a freshman voice major. Western Michigan University accepted only 15 or 16 applicants for their prestigious and rigorous Musical Theater program. Ally Taylor and Grace Zucco were two of the fortunate to be selected. Jessie Williams selected the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in music.

We are thankful that our choir family came together and glorified God through music.

In order to graduate from St. Francis High School, students must complete at least one immersion mission trip experience. For the 2018/2019 school year, students have the following options from which to choose:

**Safe Harbor**

Traverse City, Michigan

**Family Missions Company**

Abbeville, Louisiana

**God's Kitchen and Dégagé**

Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Capuchin Missions and**

**Gleaner's Food Bank**

Detroit, Michigan

**Freedom Builders**

Northern Michigan

**St. Teresa Project**

**with Missionaries of Charity**

Ave Maria University, Florida

**Christ the Lamb Retreat Center**

Paradise, Michigan



The **Keegan Mission Project** was established in honor of Keegan ('13) Tarrant who had a particular passion for mission work. Additional information is available at [www.thekeeganmissionproject.com](http://www.thekeeganmissionproject.com).



## ANOTHER BANNER YEAR

Our sports teams continue to make news – and history – as they diligently work to develop their skill and sportsmanship. Among the highlights of the past year:

**Tennis.** Girls tennis was a State semifinalist in 2018, and 2 singles player Paige Davies was a State champion. Boys tennis made history in second place overall, with 2 doubles Sean Navin and Brendan Chouinard as State champs.

**Cross Country.** In 2018, girls cross country conquered districts, conference and regionals. Kaitlyn Duffing became a 4-time All State runner.

**Track.** Girls were conference champs in 2018.

**Basketball.** Boys and girls won their conference last

year, and welcomed new coaching staff in the wake of Hall of Famer Keith Haske's retirement.

**Baseball/Softball.** Both teams won their District championships in 2018.

**Swimming.** The Triton co-op team earned Coastal Conference championship title in 2018.

**Volleyball.** Girls made it to the State semifinals in 2018.

**Football.** In 2018, the Gladiators competed in the State semifinals.

## CLASS OF '18



### GLAD GRADS AT-A-GLANCE

The 93 members of the Class of 2018 had a composite ACT score of 25.2 versus the State average of 20.8.

Valedictorians were Kelly Klettner, Rori Richardson, Meghan Rysztak, and Isabelle Thelen. Mary Frances Myler was Salutatorian.

Two grads were appointed to military academies: Kelly Klettner, Naval Academy and Theodore (Teddy) Prichard, West Point. Ally Taylor and Grace Zucco were accepted to the Musical Theatre program at Western Michigan, and Daniel Simaz, into the music performance program at U of M. A dozen grads are playing collegiate level sports, at least one went to work in the family business, and one is attending the Air/Hospitality Academy in Vancouver, Washington. The Class of 2018 is on its way!

## OUR PARISHES

CHRIST THE KING  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
ST. JOSEPH – MAPLETON  
ST. PATRICK

# SAVE THE DATE

**2/02**

All School Mass

**2/15-17, 2/22-24**

High School Musical

**5/23**

Faith in our Future  
Fundraising Breakfast

**5/23**

Festival of the Arts

**5/24**

All School Mass /  
Grandparents Day

**5/29**

Baccalaureate Mass

**5/31**

Golf Classic

**6/02**

Graduation





PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG BEARD

## FLOORED BY THE GENEROSITY

Band Director Charles Taylor dreamed of an indoor practice field to give the marching band precious more minutes of instruction each day. He contacted Britten, Inc., one of the world's foremost experts in large format printing which is owned by Paul Britten, son of Jean Britten, long-time Immaculate Conception teacher and music devotee. Voila! This innovative, transparent practice field has been such a blessing to our Band program! Thank you, Britten, Inc. and Mr. Taylor!

## GTACS HALL OF FAME

The 2018 Hall of Fame ceremony provided plenty of inspiration and powerful examples for students and families alike as the following people were honored:

**Michael J. Novak, Class of 1966**

**Robert and Mary Jean (Walters) Brick, Class of 1942**  
accepted by Bob Brick, Jr.

**Gerald M. Martineau, Class of 1964**

Nominations for the next Hall of Fame class are being accepted now. Please see the guidelines on our website: [www.gtacs.org/hall-of-fame](http://www.gtacs.org/hall-of-fame).



**CLOCKWISE:** Honorees pose with their plaques in front of the Hall of Fame sculpture located in the high school. Students examine the plaques. Newly inducted Hall of Famer Gerald Martineau proudly wears his class ring and varsity sweater while attending the Homecoming game at Thirlby Field.

## GLADHANDER

The theme for Gladhander 2018 was "Around the World," featuring sights and sounds from every continent. Net proceeds from the event were \$372,651. The grand prize raffle winner was Rachael Milliman of Traverse City. She chose the \$32,000 in cash.

Gladhander is a significant source of funding for our teacher salaries and student scholarships. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event in some way!



**Vince ('03) W. Prusick, MD** has joined the medical team at Shriner's Hospitals for Children Medical Center as a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon in Lexington, KY. His special interests are in spinal deformity, hip dysplasia and trauma. Dr. Prusick is also an assistant professor of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.



**Katherine ('12) DeYoung** has joined the Michigan Opera Theatre Studio. In May, Katherine completed her master's degree at the University of Houston where she had roles in all six of their operas. Her favorite role was in "Carmen" with Opera in the Ozarks. Last summer, Katherine was with Santa Fe Opera. This season with Michigan Opera Theatre, she will perform Sandman and cover Hansel in "Hansel and Gretel," perform Old Lady in "Candide" and cover Olga in "Eugene Onegin."

**Elizabeth ('15) Swan** graduated from the University of Michigan with honors in biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience on April 28, 2018. She is currently pursuing a master of social work program at Grand Valley State University.

**ENS Ryan McDonnell ('12)**, a 2016 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, recently completed a Masters Degree in Nuclear Energy from St John's College at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Ryan enjoyed his time at Cambridge, including playing rugby for St. John's College. He is currently attending the Navy's post graduate Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC in preparation for joining the Navy's submarine community.

**Kristen (Vaughan '88) Hennessey** has been elected to the National Food Nutrition Leadership Development Committee. She presently is employed by the Plymouth Canton School district as director of school nutrition and procurement. She has received several national and state awards in that position and has served on an advisory council for the Pew Institute and Georgetown University.

**Gregory ('95) Vaughan** has been hired as the head football coach of the Traverse City West Titans. He previously coached as an assistant at East Grand Rapids, Randolph Macon College and Grand Valley under Brian Kelly (ND) and was head coach for St Francis. He also serves as a director on the Michigan High School Football association board.



**Staff Sgt. Elizabeth (Stayman '10) Caulfield**, Air Force District of Washington has been named one of the service's top 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Winners for 2018. An Air Force selection board at the

Air Force Personnel Center considered 36 nominees then selected the final twelve airmen based on superior leadership, job performance and personal achievements.

**Maximilian ('08) Hofmann** is in the seminary preparing to become a priest of the Archdiocese of Berlin. Max is very thankful for the experience God allowed him to have during his exchange year (2007-08) with the Roush Family at St. Francis High School. "It was during this journey with former Principal Charles Taylor to the March for Life in Washington, DC in 2008 and the Kairos Retreat, just a few days afterwards, that I accepted God's calling for priesthood my first time," says Max.

**Dr. Benjamin ('10) Schell** graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in May 2018. Prior to graduation Ben was honored by Omicron Kappa Upsilon Chi Chapter, University of Michigan School of Dentistry, for scholarship, achievement and service within the School and the dental profession. Ben currently lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Megan, and began practicing dentistry in Hudsonville, MI in July, 2018.



**Katelyn ('17) O'Brien** completed her postulancy and began her first year of novitiate with Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor,

receiving the habit and her new religious name on July 26, 2018 to become **Sister Mary Walter O'Brien**.

## BIRTHS

Reese Watson, February 8, 2018 – a daughter born to Alexis and **Zachary ('02) Jewett**

Ella Couture, February 15, 2018 – a daughter born to Shawna and **Anthony ('04) Coscarelli**

Joseph Carver, February 15, 2018 – a son born to Kecia and **BJ ('01) Brick**

Vincent Gregory, April 7, 2018 – a son born to Megan and **Daniel ('07) Swan**

Claire Marilyn, April 8, 2018 – a daughter born to **Ashley (Rochford '03)** and Adam Schober

Maura Katherine, April 9, 2018 – a daughter born to **Madisen (Klumpp '05)** and Conor Byrne

Lucy Elizabeth, April 25, 2018 – a daughter born to Rachael and **Brett ('04) Milliman**

Benjamin Toddy, May 6, 2018 – a son born to **Melissa (Arderly '04)** and Bryan Elkus

Emma Grace, July 30, 2018 – a daughter born to Heather and **Tyler ('04) Schell**

Luke Robert, July 4, 2018 – a son born to **Lizzie (Carney '06)** and Mike Many

Maive Claire Brick, August 14, 2018 – a daughter born to **Megan (Brick '04)** and **Joseph ('02) O'Grady**

Harper Marie, September 6, 2018 – a daughter born to **Lauren (Currie '08)** and Brian Shapland

Sawyer Burt, October 12, 2018 – a son born to Leah and **Nicholas ('00) Livasy**

## MARRIAGES

All marriages listed were in 2018:

Ashley and **John W. ('04) Bailey IV**, May 19

Brook and **Charlie ('09) Spencer**, May 19

Victoria and **Patrick ('03) Heintz**, June 13

**Rachel (Bott '08)** and Garrett Korson, June 16

Megan and **Benjamin ('10) Schell**, June 22

Katie and **Alex ('10) Rushlow**, June 30

**Jamie (Bott '10)** and Cody Wheeler, August 18

**Emily (Nelson '13)** and Daniel Tewers, September 1

**Lydia (VanRaalte '09)** and Phillip Elya, September 8

**Laura (Janis '05)** and Joshua Badall, September 22

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Clara (Kratochvil '48)** and **George ('48) McManus** celebrated 69 years of marriage on August 16, 2018

## DEATHS

Perella A. Tull '34  
Laurelie J. Yeomans '45  
Bud E. Johnson '48  
Beverly J. Merriner '54  
Kathryn "Katie" Kimmet '56  
Barbara Brief '57  
Carol J. Lipinski '57  
Raymond S. Pawloski '57  
Edith "Edie" Hines '60  
Patrick J. Riley '68  
Candice L. Golden '69  
Craig D. Dilloway '77  
Matthew W. Lord '98  
Virginia "Ginny" Schafer '64



**Class of '78** held its 40-year class reunion on August 25th at Centre Pointe in Traverse City. There were 85 in attendance, including several former staff members. Fr. Patrick Gavin celebrated Mass for the special intention of the classmates who have already passed away.

## PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Address changes and other alumni notes to [lschell@gtacs.org](mailto:lschell@gtacs.org) or (231) 946-8147





GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
123 East Eleventh Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

# OUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

## GIVE A GIFT THAT WILL MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Choose the gift closest to your heart and you will change lives. Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to return your gift. If you prefer to pay in installments or by credit card, contact the Advancement office at (231) 946-8147. To make arrangements for a gift of appreciated stock or other investment, please contact Wayne Mueller at (231) 995-8428.



By supporting our schools, you are helping  
keep Christ in Christmas and in the hearts  
of children all year long.

Chapel candles .....	\$100
Crucifix for new elementary school classroom .....	\$100
GladMeal (community meal hosted by school) groceries .....	\$150
Library books.....	\$200
Adopt-a-classroom (supplies).....	\$250
Chapel hosts & wine.....	\$300
Library on-line subscriptions .....	\$350
Science lab kits .....	\$385
March for Life adopt-a-student .....	\$500
Band instrument repairs and purchases .....	\$745
LED high efficiency lights, per classroom .....	\$900
Musical sponsorship .....	\$1,000
Robotics program sponsorship.....	\$1,000
Farm-to-school seasonal purchase .....	\$1,500
Adopt-a-student (scholarship fund) .....	\$2,500
Buy a bus* .....	\$7,500
Middle school gymnasium scoreboard .....	\$12,000

\*Be one of ten people to fund the next Gladiator bus