



SCHOOL MATTERS

ST. MALACHY SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

WE ARE A FAMILY IN CHRIST.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Covid-19 affected everyone, not just St. Malachy School. However, I thought I would share how we responded to the pandemic from our little corner of the world. Principals throughout the Diocese of Peoria were directed in February to establish E-Learning plans in preparation for a potential closure due to the coronavirus.

On March 12, 2020 I received notification from the Office of Catholic Schools that March 16-20 would begin a mandatory closure, not realizing it would be extended for the remainder of the school year. Therefore, on March 13, teachers instructed students to take home school materials such as spelling workbooks, math textbooks, and all necessary items to learn from home. Students left school that day with book bags filled to maximum capacity.

E-Learning began; students were excited and apprehensive about their new adventure. Parents had the option of picking up a school issued chromebook for their St. Malachy School child(ren) via a drive thru. The chromebooks were absolutely instrumental to the success of our E-Learning journey.

Thank you to each and every person who has supported St. Malachy School through donations, Car Party, Lasagna Supper, and Parents Club fundraisers. Your generosity allowed our school to deploy over 70 chromebooks to our 81 school families; however, we were equipped to provide a chromebook to each of our 113 students. In fact, families had the option to keep their chromebooks through the summer to continue learning.

Teachers and students used digital platforms and communication tools during E-Learning such as Google Classroom, SeeSaw and Zoom to assign and submit homework, post videos, hold weekly classroom meetings, and provide and receive direct instruction. I thoroughly enjoyed attending a Zoom lunch meeting with 5th and 6th grade classes!

There were many initial obstacles to E-Learning, but those subsided over time as everyone got used to a new normal and decided what worked best for their family. Our staff discussed early on in the E-Learning process that parents would face many challenges within their day such as working from home, taking care of younger siblings, and the social-emotional component of their children not being able to socialize in-person with their friends. Our staff not only provided excellent instruction, they offered constant support, understanding and kindness to our school children and families.

Thank you to our school families, who were very engaged in E-Learning. Each family's situation presented its unique set of circumstances. Therefore, staff, students and parents adopted a shared flexible mindset, combined with a commitment to quality instruction. Some students completed lessons at night after their parents returned home from work, and for others it worked best for their family's schedule to finish lessons in the morning. We also used a pass/incomplete grading model per guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools and Illinois State Board of Education. Our school families were very supportive and by working together apart, we taught our children as a family in Christ.

God Bless,
Heather Francque

For God did not give us a spirit of fear and timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.
--2 Timothy 1:7

HAPPY RETIREMENT, MRS. GOETHALS!

By Kristin Wilson

Anyone who has had the privilege of having a child in Mrs. Goethals' class knows that she has an extraordinary gift and ability to teach St. Malachy kindergarteners. Her wisdom and expertise in the classroom is not limited to academics. With patience and kindness she teaches children to read their first few sentences, to add and subtract, to put on their own boots, to share, to wait their turn, to say, "I'm sorry," and to forgive as Jesus forgave.

Teaching is her ministry, and she pours her faith and love into her students and colleagues every day. She has a sneaky sense of humor that we will all miss in the teachers' lounge. She evangelizes through the quiet example of her life, humbly and faithfully following God's will. For 30 years, Mrs. Goethals has shared the love of Jesus through her passion for teaching and willingness to selflessly serve others. St. Malachy School is her second home and her influence extends further than she will ever know.

Even though we cannot celebrate in person with a party, our thoughts and prayers are with Bev in her retirement. School staff, past and present, gifted her with a handmade quilt that we hope will remind her that she will always be covered with love and prayers from her school family.

We are so grateful to you, Mrs. Goethals, for your many years of dedication to our school and we pray that you will be blessed in your retirement!

We love you, Mrs. Goethals!

Everyone is in awe of the lion tamer in a cage with half a dozen lions.

Everyone but a kindergarten teacher.



THANK YOU, FATHER PAKULA

By Deacon Robert O'Rourke

It's been a joy for our family to have you as our priest for the past 25 years at St. Malachy Parish. The first experience I would share with anyone about you would be the love you have for the sacraments and the importance they have in your life and ours. When serving with you on the altar, I see the intense love you have at that moment for the Eucharist and what it does for our parishioners. We know we have the hope of eternal life now and forever. What a great gift we carry with us in our lives and give it away to all those we meet along the way.

Another gift of your priesthood is our parish's engagement in prayer, lots of opportunity and ways of praying. During the past years of working on some planning efforts for the parish and looking at all the ministries, events and programs we do by age group, showed a vivid picture of how much our parish is engaged in prayer. I believe it's a reflection of what is important to you.

It is amazing to many in our parish the interest you have in each person and their family, it's like you grew up here.

You have an innate ability to recognize certain talents in people and then ask them to serve the Lord with those gifts. Sometimes individuals did not recognize they had the talent.

Kathy and I would also like to personally thank you for all of your encouragement and support when we were discerning the Diaconate program. Your patience and wisdom was a guiding light that we needed to make the commitment.

The St. Malachy community is truly grateful for your many talents and the time that you have unselfishly given to this parish which leads the flock to imitate you in all we do for our church, school, and our families. Your priesthood has had a positive life giving impact on Geneseo and the surrounding parishes and communities.

Your words and actions have opened our eyes, ears, and hearts to the message of Jesus, our good shepherd. May your transition to retirement be a peaceful journey.

My tribute to you would be that I strive for holiness.



Welcome, Miss Corey Panicucci

St. Malachy is very excited to have Corey come “home” to St. Malachy School as our 2nd grade teacher.

Hello!

I am Corey Panicucci, I have lived in Geneseo all my life and went to St. Malachy School from K-6th grade. I am graduating from the University of Wisconsin Platteville in May of 2020 with my bachelor's in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. I have three brothers and I love spending time with my family and friends, baking, and drawing. I am so excited to be able to come back and teach at a school that is so important to me and my family!



Drawdown for \$5,000!

The event includes a drawdown with a grand prize of \$5,000. Plus, you have the chance to win consolation prizes to several local businesses. All ticket holders will be placed in a random name/number picker and results will be generated electronically and announced throughout the duration of the event. The drawdown for the final 5 tickets will be recorded. The number of tickets sold has been reduced (normally 200) to increase your chances of winning!

Online Auction

The event also includes an online auction, hosted by Stenzel Auction Services. All items will be silent bids beginning Wednesday, June 24 and ending Sunday, June 28.

The auction is open to the general public, you need not be a ticket holder to participate!

A link to a preview of the online auction items will be posted to the Car Party website in June.

Monetary Donations

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Parents Club for the 2020-2021 school year, please donate via Paypal and include “Parents Club” in the note. We are accepting donations through June 28.

Auction Items/Tickets

If you would like to donate items to be included in the online auction or purchase a ticket, please contact Stephanie Seals, Car Party Chair, stephseals@gmail.com. Donations are due by May 31.

www.carparty.org

COMMIT your work
TO THE LORD,
and your PLANS
will SUCCEED.
PROVERBS 16:3

CONGRATS TO OUR SIXTH GRADERS!

Harry Air
Greta Bolme
Aidan Bries
Jonathan Freadhoff
Lucas Herstedt
Alexia Johnson
Kate Lehman
Lizzie Rapps
Hayden Schaaf
Katy Wilson



St. Malachy School typically recognizes sixth graders at the last school Mass of the year. This year each of the students and their families joined the staff on a Zoom meeting to share their words of thanks and special memories of their time at St. Malachy. The staff also recognized each of the students for their unique gifts and individual contributions to the school. While it was not the “norm,” it was very heartfelt and highlighted the most valuable quality of our school, that *we are a family in Christ*.

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

We could not host a graduate "homecoming" this year, but we are proud of all of the graduates who attended St. Malachy School at any time during their academic career!

Caitlin Cannon

Elaina Hines

Kyle Hofer

Madison Kensinger

Clare LeGrand

Tim Lehman

Eden McAvoy

Carson Mariman

Jacob McConnell

Joseph McConnell

Gavin McGuire

Colby Rapps

Ethan Saucedo

Olivia Schilling

Hannah Staub

Mary Thomas

Noah Thompson

William Venneberg

Eric Verplaetse

Malcom Westcott

Joshua White



A Prayer for Graduates

At this exciting time of changes and challenges, no matter what life brings, may you always be:

Gracious, your life a reflection of our good and gracious God.
"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus," 2 Pet. 3:18
"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit," Pm.1:25

Reliant, on God in every area of life, work, and relationships.
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding," Proverbs 3:5

Assured, of God's love, presence and protection always.
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you," Hebrews 13:5
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;" Jeremiah 31:3

Diligent, remembering always—you serve the Lord Jesus.
"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God," 1 Corinthians 10:31

Unwavering, in your commitment to what is right.
"So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left." Deut. 5:32

Attentive to your Lord because he promises to guide you.
"Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it," Isaiah 30:21

Truthful, never lying in any way to yourself or others.
"Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment." Proverbs 12:19

Eternally-focused, so all else in life is in proper perspective because:
"Only one life, will soon be past.
Only what's done for Christ, will last."



I would like to support St. Malachy School!

Enclosed is my gift of \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ other \$ _____

My gift is made in memory / honor of _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Please make checks payable to St. Malachy School & return with this form to:
St. Malachy School, 595 East Ogden Avenue, Geneseo, IL 61254

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