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TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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The Link



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One Day of Giving 2022

The 2023 Trinity Annual Fund raised over \$85,000 this past year, thanks to the generous donors on the following pages. Over \$71,000 of this was raised through our One Day of Giving fundraising drive that was held on November 2nd. This amazing show of support from our community and alumni was mind blowing and a true blessing for our school! Much of this money was used to ensure that no child is denied a Catholic education at Trinity. Inflation and post-pandemic changes have made it difficult for some families to afford Catholic education. We are able to bridge the gap for them, thanks to your generosity!

On November 8, 2023, we'll once again hold our One Day of Giving. We hope you'll consider donating whatever you can. Remember to tune into our Facebook page, as we feature our classes throughout the day so you can see just *who* benefits from your generosity! We also look forward to pairing up with WMSA again to broadcast live via their radio station with the amazing Elijah Winfrey!



Drawing by Anna in 1st grade, 2022-2023



On the Cover: A student picks an apple from the school's apple trees for her teacher.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OUR 2022-2023 TRINITY FUND!

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Catholic Schools Week 2023



Monday we started with a pep rally with each class doing a cheer. Then students and families went to Mass and ended the day with BINGO!



Tuesday we made Valentines for the community.
Wednesday we had mismatch day, and held our Talent Show!



Thursday we had pajama day and Teacher Swap.
Saturday we held a Sweetheart Dance.



2023 A "Knight" in Las Vegas

On Saturday, May 20th, Trinity Catholic celebrated our 7th Gala with A "Knight" in Las Vegas theme. The event was sold out, and we're so grateful to the MANY hands that went into making a successful evening! This event raised almost \$30,000 for our beloved school. This funding helps the school in many ways, notably, providing funding for families who cannot pay tuition and for unforeseen expenses that continuously crop up.

We mingled, enjoyed outstanding Vegas-style entertainment, which included current staff, many alumni, and even a couple priests. We had a delicious meal prepared by Coach's Corner, ate yummy desserts from Main Street Perc, and of course we danced!

Additionally, the Gala celebrated two amazing women! Tish Laneuville and Denise Laneuville have been involved with our school for many years. They were both very supportive and involved when their daughters attended Trinity, and continued to work toward our school's success. They have been involved with our Gala since it's very inception. We cannot imagine this event without either one of them! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

We also thank our sponsors: *Diamond Sponsor Donaldson Funeral Home*, Orvis St. Discount Wines and Liquor, Frenchie's Chevrolet, Massena Savings & Loan, Laneuville's Beverage Center, Mark Bogdan CPA, Eagle Beverage Company, Anson Burke, Allstate Insurance Agent, and Fay Motors Inc. Without these local businesses our Gala could not happen. Please support them, as they support us.

If you think this sounds like fun, just wait for the 2024 Gala! We'll begin planning soon. The theme will be celebrating Trinity's 40th year as a Catholic school in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. If you'd like to be involved with this event, please reach out to Trinity Catholic School Advancement Department at advancement@trinitycatholicschool.net, or call (315) 769-5911. Stay tuned for the date of this amazing event to be announced.



Photos courtesy of DualTone Photography

THE STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER

This year's "alumni update" focuses some of Massena's former Catholic school students, who decided to become teachers themselves! Many have said that their decision to teach can be directly traced back to experiences they had while attending St. Mary's School, Sacred Heart School, St. Joseph's School, Holy Family High School or Trinity Catholic School. Read on to learn more about these amazing students, who became teachers.

~Sarah Tsibulsky, Advancement Director

Amanda Morris just graduated from SUNY Potsdam this past May, but she has been in a classroom for several years already! She began her teaching career right here at Trinity a few years back, when she was a teaching assistant in PreK4. During this time, Amanda was inspired to go back to school to complete her teaching degree. She is now looking forward to teaching 2nd grade. We wish you all the best!

Aside from loving the lunches at Trinity, Amanda remembers feeling like she was part of a family while attending Trinity, and strives to create that same safe and loving classroom environment for her students. She also said that attending a Catholic School gave her an opportunity to grow as an individual, as well as finding God's love.



Amanda Morris



Hannah Laneuville

Hannah Laneuville just completed her first full year of teaching in her own classroom as a 7th grade ELA teacher. She also has had several years of teaching experience through the Future Teaching Fellowship as well as substitute teaching.

She told me that there are a lot of reasons she felt called to teach, but credits her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Barb Tredo with sparking this passion! Through the encouragement of all of her Trinity teachers she has flourished. Hannah said, "Where somebody might've called me bossy, Ms. Bombard would have called me a leader. Where someone might have called me a know-it-all, Mrs. Borsellino would have called me knowledgeable. Where a person might have called me loud, Mrs. Doe would have said that I was assertive. When anyone could have called me a perfectionist, Sister Judy would have called me precise and a critical thinker. When I could have been called controlling, Mrs. Tredo called me a teacher." Hannah knows the true impact of great teachers, and we're sure that she will be on that list for the students she'll meet along the way.

McKenna O'Neill returned to Trinity Catholic School 2 years ago as our art teacher. While teaching wasn't always her game plan, she's grateful that this is the path God had put her on, and "there is nowhere I'd rather do it than at TCS" she said. Having McKenna at Trinity was not new. Even after graduating, she could be seen at many of our school events, supporting her younger brothers who were still students at Trinity.

Thinking of her student years at Trinity, she remembers the love that the teachers had for their students, and the lasting impact they've had on her life. She used this as guidance for helping her own students grow. She also acknowledges that her Catholic education was the foundation for so many things in her life, and for that she's grateful. McKenna is now off on a new adventure and we will miss her dearly!



McKenna O'Neill

Julie (Thomas) White found her way into education through school counseling. Believing her calling was to help others, Julie says that working with students and their families, sometimes through heartbreaking situations, has been rewarding. She relies on her faith on those tough days. Julie credits her time at Trinity Catholic School with creating



Julie & Jocelyn White

her drive, curiosity, sense of responsibility, and being aware of the needs for those around her. She said that she felt safe and nurtured while at TCS. So much so that she wanted the same for her daughter, Jocelyn. “I see in her the same sense of responsibility, compassion, tenacity, and empathy that Trinity left in me,”

Kristan (Bulger) Laramay is entering her 12th year of teaching this coming fall. While she didn't always want to go into education, she watched her mom, who was a teacher, pour her heart and soul into doing the job well. To sum up her experience, she quotes author Donald Miller as saying, “Sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself. It is as if they are showing you the way.”

Kristan says that her favorite school teachers are from her Trinity days. She says that they, too, poured their lives into teaching and that they were great role models to follow. Sr. Diane, Ms. Bombard's state capital challenge, and the track and field competition are just some of the memories she has from Trinity Catholic School.



Kristan Laramay



Carson, Melissa, Keegan & Chris Roberts

Melissa (Serviss) Roberts has held many positions since becoming an educator in 2005, including teaching, school administration, and higher education. She currently teaches several courses at the junior high and high school level. When asked why she became a teacher, she said, “I became a teacher to be a positive influence in the life of a child. I enjoy working with teens and think it's fantastic that I get to be part of their journey to adulthood as contributing members of our society.”

Melissa attributes her strong work ethic and solid foundation to her Catholic education. These are just 2 reasons she chose to send her own children, Carson, and Keegan, to Trinity Catholic School. And when she thinks of the teachers that had the most impact on her life, she listed her TCS teachers. Their values, kindness and humor are characteristics which she hopes to emulate in her own teaching. She also recognizes that as a teacher, it's important to learn and grow, just as her students do.

Andrea (Pellegrino) LaValley is looking forward to her 13th year of teaching this coming September, though she did not set out to be a teacher. She originally went into social work so she could pursue her passion of helping people. She especially loved helping children and experiencing their zest for life. This joy inspired her to transition to a career in education. Now she enjoys being part of creating curious thinkers who love learning! Andrea shares, “being Catholic definitely influences my career. I love God, I love my faith, and I love being Catholic. My faith centers first around my love of God, then a love of all others. The love and influence of the Holy Spirit guides me in the classroom every day”



Andrea LaValley

Andrea and her siblings all attended Sacred Heart School. She said the school, as well as Sacred Heart Church was a familiar, warm environment that always felt like home. She enjoyed learning French from Sr. Louise, and especially adored her first grade teacher Sr. Mary Claire. With Andrea now being a first grade teacher herself, she has come full circle.

Kimberly (McGrath) Shofkom is a homebased visitor who teaches school readiness skills to 3 year olds and their families. She enjoys this position, as she's not just teaching the child, but the whole family to flourish and succeed. “I believe that having the Catholic education I was afforded has taught me to be humble, patient, compassionate and thankful,” Kim says. She also mentioned that when she walks into the school, it feels and smells just like it did when she was a student here at Trinity. Not only did Kim attend TCS,



Kim with Jordyn & Joie

but her 2 older daughters did as well. Joie and Jordyn are excelling in high school and junior high, respectively, and love to come back to visit and volunteer when they're able. Kim knows that when she drops her children off at Trinity, they are being loved and cared for while getting a faith-based education. A mother can't ask for anything more.

Catherine (Cameron) Leggue has been teaching the littlest of students, PreK3, PreK4 and Junior Kindergarten, at both St. Mary's in Canton and now at Trinity Catholic School, for 22 years! When deciding on her future occupation, she was deciding between working with animals in a veterinary setting or working with children. She decided on teaching children. Catherine said she "had great teachers at Trinity and wanted to share the love and excitement of learning that was shared with me." In thinking about her TCS teachers, she remembers feeling like they loved their work, and when they'd shared their personal interests like singing, their faith, or even mountain climbing it created a special connection with the students. When reflecting on her time teaching, I asked if teaching was all she thought it would be. She said for the most part, it was. She gets to have fun everyday but she was not prepared for how attached she would get to the students and how much she'd worry about them.



Catherine Leggue with daughters Abby and Mary



Michele Bombard

Michele Bombard remembers entering first grade at St. Mary's School here in Massena - the school that had also educated her mother and all of her extended family! She wasn't particularly easy to handle as a first grader and cried every morning because she didn't want to leave her mother. Yet, she'd cry every afternoon when it was dismissal time because she didn't want to leave Sister John Mary, her teacher. Michele says she, "was one of the kindest, most loving persons EVER to enter a classroom! I truly loved her."

Although she didn't realize it at the time, there was a particular occasion that year that forever shaped her thoughts and feelings about Catholic schools. "One day Sister announced to us that she would have to be away from the classroom for the afternoon and that we would have a substitute.

Well there simply was no substitute for Sister John Mary that I wanted anything to do with and I decided that she was NOT going anywhere, at least not without me. So I attached myself firmly to Sister's upper thigh (no easy task through layers of long black serge) with no intention of letting go. Trying to walk with even the tiniest human attached to a leg, was, I imagine, pretty difficult and quite a spectacle. But knowing that a little five year old was clinging to her with all her heart, Sister snatched me up, kissed me on the cheek and carried me from the hallway and deposited me right next to where she would sit in the Sisters' orange station wagon for what seemed to me, the adventure of a lifetime. We went to a meeting and to some places I can't quite recall and then she took me to the convent for hot chocolate and a Hershey Bar! Kindness and compassion oozed from Sister. I was the luckiest kid on the planet!"

Before Michele was even six years old she had gotten her first lesson on what Catholic education is really all about. It is about being exposed, on a daily basis, to the person of Jesus Christ made manifest in the words and actions of those he calls to carry out his mission. It is about the feeling we get when thinking of our favorite Catholic school teachers like Dan Case, Bob Halpin and, of course, Sister John Mary. Yes, they all insisted upon academic excellence. But mostly they insisted that each student feel like a child of God, protected and cared for. What a privilege that I have been entrusted with Sister John Mary's job! May all Catholic school teachers have kids attached to their legs for years to come!

Dan Rayome began his physical education teaching career in 1989 and recently retired in June of 2022. He spent a couple of years in the north country before "moving south" to the Syracuse area until his retirement. The spark of teaching was lit when Dan was a teen and served as a Massena Recreation summer counselor. He enjoyed teaching the children new games and interacting with them. He realized that this was his "calling" at a Sunday Mass. He saw Mrs. Borsellino taking the children to their catechism classes and also saw that Mr. and Mrs. Britton were at the Mass.



Dan Rayome

Between seeing his former teachers, the readings and the homily, he knew he was being called to be a teacher, and began to pursue his career as a phys. ed. teacher.

Dan also shared that he and his wife, Claudia (Creazzo), found out during their senior year of high school that they were baptized in the same ceremony at St. Mary's Church in Massena. God works in mysterious ways!

Aside from being a teacher and coach, Dan has also appeared in some movies with some pretty famous actors, including Cornwall's own Ryan Gosling! He credits his first acting role to Mrs. Britton, who cast him as a cat in a 2nd grade play.

Dan is also proud to share that his children, Austin and Gianna, are currently attending college to become social studies and English teachers, respectively.

"Throughout my life, whenever I pray the Our Father, I emphasize and remind myself "Thy will be done" - not my will. God's Will has led me throughout my life in many different ways, from my upbringing, education, relationships, different choices and other facets of my life."

Joan (Scully) Rufa spent 44 years in Catholic education in Massena between her time as a student at St. Mary's and Holy Family High School, as a teacher at St. Joseph's, and finally as principal at Trinity Catholic School.

She didn't always want to be a teacher, but she knew that she wanted to help others have a better future. Her parents encouraged her to pursue teaching in college and once she began taking classes and practicum experiences, she discovered "the joy and satisfaction" of teaching. When she began teaching full-time, she found that teaching was not a 9am-3pm job with holidays and summers off. Most people are not aware of the evening, weekend and summer work that goes into being a teacher. Joan thought back to her teachers in school and knows that she was blessed with talented, empathetic and patient teachers who made the profession look easy.



Joan Rufa

Joan says, "having been a student, teacher and principal in Catholic education, I learned that teaching is not a job or occupation. It is a calling from God to lead others closer to Him and through that process you receive the benefit of becoming closer to God yourself. Answering this call won't increase your bank account but it will expand your soul with purpose, satisfaction and love."



Chris Britton

Christine (Brooks) Britton taught in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 43 years, including at St. Joseph's in Massena, as well as the majority of her time at Trinity Catholic School. Her vocation was planted in her when she was very young. Great teachers were placed in her path, starting at St. Mary's from grades 1-8 and then Holy Family for grades 9-12. She remembers that at this time there were 50 students per classroom and they spent time on religion, math and reading, and each student would have to get up to read out loud to the class. She then pursued her vocation at Trinity College in Burlington.

The teachers throughout her education showed her she could do anything with God's help. She wanted to teach children to never stop growing and to believe in themselves and that God will always be there to help them along the way. Christine says, "Every time a former student asks if I remember them, I smile! Not because I remember, but because *they* remember."



Dan Case

Dan Case began his Catholic Education at St. Patrick's in Watertown before transferring to St. Mary's in Massena, and ultimately graduating from Holy Family. (Dan would like to acknowledge the class of 1967!) After high school, Dan pursued a teaching degree from Fordham University. Thanks to Sr. Rita Marie Brennen, SSJ, his high school math teacher, he went on to be a math teacher.

Dan taught 7th and 8th grade math for years at Sacred Heart School. Later on, he was the last principal of Sacred Heart School as it closed in 1983 to combine with St. Joseph's to form Trinity Catholic School!

Welcome to our new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year!



Marianne Jadlos - Principal

Mrs. Jadlos is excited to be Trinity Catholic School's new principal! After having taught here for four years, she has gotten to know many of the students and their families. Mrs. Jadlos is a product of Catholic schools, having grown up in Rochester and attending St. Rita's, St Joseph's and Our Lady of Mercy High School. Her husband Greg grew up in Potsdam and attended St. Mary's. All four of Mrs. Jadlos' children also attend catholic school at St Mary's in Potsdam and Canton.

Mrs. Jadlos is very familiar with her new position having served as principal in two other Catholic school within the Diocese. This will be her 10th year as a school administrator. Catholic education is her passion and she is ready to roll up her sleeves and help Trinity Catholic School continue to shine as a valued, loved, and blessed treasure in Massena!



Melanie Racicot - PreK3

Miss Racicot (pronounced ross-i-coh), but soon-to-be Mrs. Currier, will be co-teaching PreK3 this year. Last year she was a substitute teacher at TCS for the younger grades.

She also has a son who is going into kindergarten this year at Trinity. She's very excited to be part of the learning experience for the new students coming in.

Outside of school and home, She enjoys playing softball on the women's league, as well as golfing.



Kay Weller - PreK3

Ms. Weller will be co-teaching our PreK3 program this year. She's a mom of twin 13 year olds. She attended SUNY Canton and BOCES for early childhood education, and student taught at St. Mary's in Canton. She enjoys working with children, especially when it can help guide them towards God. Her favorite thing to do is laugh.

Welcome to our new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year!



Danielle Stone - Kindergarten

Mrs. Stone will be teaching kindergarten this year. She attended SUNY Potsdam where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's in Literacy Education. She is certified to teach children from birth through 6th grade.

She lives in Massena with her husband, three kids, three cats, dog, and a gecko! She loves to read stories, do activities, sing, and dance! Mrs. Stone believe the best way to learn is to have fun while doing it!



Morgan Christy - 3rd Grade

Mrs. Christy will be teaching 3rd grade this year. She graduated from Massena Central, attended SUNY Plattsburgh where she received her B.S. in Human Development, and then went on to receive her MST from SUNY Potsdam. She completed her student teaching right here at Trinity with Ms. Bombard! She is excited to be a part of the amazing staff at Trinity!



Charity Dafoe - PE

Mrs. Dafoe is our new PE teacher! This school has a special place in her heart, as a Trinity alum!

She is from Massena but now live in Brasher Falls with her husband, 2 children, and pets. She loves music and dancing, spending time with her family having fun...and weird socks! She graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a BA in English and a BS in community health. She has recently partnered with Horizons and PAL on different youth driven programs and activities.

She is very excited to kick off the school year and meet all of the amazing students!



Vanessa Bishop - Art

Mrs. Bishop is looking forward to a year of fun and creativity in Art this year!

She attended Trinity as a child, and her two children will be attending Trinity in PreK3 and Kindergarten this fall.

Before having her children, she worked at TCS in PreK4. The past few years she's been volunteering for the fundraising and PTC committees, and is now so excited to rejoin the staff at Trinity.

The Link

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One Day of Giving Goal
on November 8, 2023!