

St. Mary's Catholic School Spirit Newsletter April 2024

St. Mary's Catholic School
Development Office
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O'Neill NE 68763
402-336-1602
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President

Father Bernard Starman

Principals

Mrs. Paula Atkeson, '84
Mrs. Jennie Schneider, '84

Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Paula Atkeson, '84

Athletic Director

Mr. Tony Allen

Development Director

Mrs. Jennifer Wallwey

Director of Operations

Deacon MJ Kersenbrock, '74

Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic School is committed to forming students in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, through the hands of Mary, fostering the formation of the whole person, body, mind and soul.

Change of Address

To notify us of address changes or personal updates, please fill out the on-line form at stmarysoneill.org under the Alumni Tab or call the Parish Office at 402-336-1602.

Annual Alumni Weekend: June 28-29, 2024



This year's Alumni Weekend will be held Friday June 28 & Saturday June 29. Our 10 classes this year are **2014** (10 years), **1999** (25 years), and **1974** (50 years.) Each year, the alumni weekend is to be arranged by the honor classes. The 25 year class (**1999**) handles the banquet decorations, speaker, and clean up. The 50 year class (**1974**) is in charge of the mass. The 10 year class (**2014**) is responsible for the social before the banquet dinner. Please contact Peg Gray at 402-340-4308 to make sure arrangements are lined up, and she will get you details. **Please Note:** If your class would like to make special arrangements for seating together or assistance with finding a place for other gatherings—please do not hesitate to ask!

Friday, June 28

6-8 pm Wine & Cheese Social in the St. Mary's High School commons

Saturday, June 29

5:00 pm Alumni Mass at St. Patrick's

6:00 pm Honor Class Pictures on the church steps for classes of 1974, 1999, and 2014

6:00 pm Social in St. Mary's Commons

6:45 pm Banquet Dinner in St. Patrick's Parish Hall in basement of St. Mary's

Contact any of the Alumni Banquet committee members for further information:

'70 Peg (Hammond) Gray 402-340-4308 (grayp1970@hotmail.com)

'73 Ann (Hershiser) Wrede 402-336-3948 (awrede73@q.com)

'62 Mary Lois (Jansen) Mlnarik 402-336-1664 (mlmlnarik@q.com)

'79 Linda (Ziska) Schneider 402-340-7923 (lschneid91@gmail.com)

Name (including maiden name) _____ Year graduated: _____

Guest Name _____

Address: _____ City, State _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Alumni Banquet tickets are \$30/each. Please reserve by June 21st.

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$30/each

Total enclosed: _____

Checks should be made to St. Mary's Alumni Association. Return registration form and check to:

St. Mary's Alumni Association
c/o Peg Gray
PO Box 12
O'Neill, NE 68763

You can also register and pay for your tickets online at www.stmarysoneill.org/alumni-weekend

P.S. We can hardly wait to unveil our Operation Tribute military recognition wall for you!! It will be located just off the St. Mary's Commons beside the main high school office!

Please Note:

Throughout the newsletter, you will find various items you may wish to support financially. You can find a form on the back of the newsletter to fill out regarding these, or donations may be made online at give.smcards.org. We do ask that Alumni Banquet tickets are reserved & paid for separately.

Upcoming

EVENTS

St. Mary's Graduation

May 12, 2024

Alumni Weekend

June 28-29, 2024

Homecoming

September 27, 2024

Greetings to our St. Mary's Alumni!

Along with our normal academic lessons, we are working hard to incorporate a sense of community and evangelization. Our students and teachers have really stepped up in this area!

In the elementary school, the fourth grade delivered inspiring messages from St. Therese (along with handmade flowers) to members of our business community in October; held a Grandparents Mass and Open House in November; hosted a 'Muffins with Mom' event in kindergarten; and our fifth graders held a living nativity in December. So many fun things that help to bring people together and see all the great things that are happening at St. Mary's!

In the high school, the juniors and seniors have taken on the task of unloading the food bank truck each month; our Campus Ministry sponsored a Community Rosary for the people of Israel; and students held a coat drive and helped with the Christmas Closet over the holiday season. Students also organized and staffed a blood drive early in 2024.

Teachers from both schools, and especially Mrs. Otte, our art teacher, worked hard to make our first 'Blue Mass' happen at the end of September. The Blue Mass traditionally honors those who are actively serving as first responders and law enforcement, and is also an opportunity to remember and honor those who have died in the line of duty. In the Catholic Church, the Blue Mass is a time-honored way to show praise and gratitude to those who serve our communities and their families. It is our plan to make this an annual event at St. Mary's!

We tried something different this year and celebrated Catholic Schools Week during the week leading up to St. Patrick's Day to include more parish pride into our celebration. The students delivered 'thank you' cards to area businesses, had a 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' challenge with proceeds going to the Holt County Animal Shelter, watched a movie at the Evergreen Assisted Living, and went bowling! We had plans to do a balloon Rosary outdoors, but the weather didn't cooperate, so we moved it to the high school gym! We finished out the week with an all-school Mass, Bible skits, and we were entertained by a magician. It was a fun-filled, full week!

Along with all of our service and community outreach projects, students are busy with extracurricular activities, sports, and St. Mary's High School was named as Class D 2022-2023 Girls' NSAA Cup winners for overall program excellence! Our one-act play received state runner-up in play production with many of our actors and actresses receiving 'Outstanding Actor' nods. Both our boys and girls basketball teams made an appearance at the state tournament, we had one state qualifier in wrestling, and our speech students placed fourth as a team at state speech with several individual medalists! We have so much to be thankful for here at St. Mary's! On to the spring sports and activities, graduation, finals, and we'll wrap up another year!



Please be assured of our prayers for you, our beloved alumni. We remember you at our weekly Mass and every day in our morning prayer! Please keep all of us in your prayers, as well. We are so very grateful for your continued support!

Paula Atkeson and Jennie Schneider, St. Mary's Principals



Megan & **'17 Jack Reiman** welcomed home baby girl Charlotte in August 2023.

Lydia & **'12 Alex Fuhrer** welcomed home a daughter, Ophelia Lenora, on September 5, 2023. She joins 4 year old sister, Octavia.

Melinda & **'08 Nic k Podany** welcomed home a son, Calvin, on November 2, 2024.

Willa Hawthorne was born to Scott and **'10 Sarah (Spencer) Hawthorne** on September 15, 2023. She joins brother George (3) and sister Fraeya (1.5) at home in Omaha, NE.

'09 Brittany (Petersen) & '09 Matt Boyle welcomed home baby girl Palmer Emily on November 23, 2023.

Ben and **Carol (Koenig '06) Doolittle** welcomed their 4th son Leo David Doolittle on December 22, 2023.

Blake & **'14 Carissa (Soukup) Barwick** gave birth to Sadie Jean Barwick on December 31, 2023 in Hastings, Nebraska. Her middle name, Jean, is after grandpa and '72 grad Gene Soukup. They also have a son, Henry, who is 4 years old.

Michelle & **'08 Jake Reiman** welcomed home a daughter, Tessa Jane, on January 26, 2024.

Alumni Notes

Former St. Mary's State Champion football coach, **Rich Rethwisch**, ended his refereeing career at the St. Mary's Sub-State boys basketball final game. He's pictured here on the right with some former players--'85 Bill Mlnarik and Steve Schneider and '86 Tim Schneider.



'22 **James Krotter** received his private pilot's license in July 2023.

'57 **Arnold "Arnie" Babl** was inducted into the Irish Hall of Fame for O'Neill during this year's St. Patrick's celebration! His love for O'Neill & St. Patrick's Day has been strong and unwavering for over six decades. Arnie is an enterpreneur, starting "Frontier Auto Sales" in 1983, starting Babl Aerial Spraying in 1970 until retiring from flying in 1986, and serving as the first bartender at the Sky-Hi Bar in O'Neill and later buying it in 1974 only to sell it in 1993 and turning around to buy Dugan's Bar in 1994 and renaming it Arnie's Shamrock Bar where he loved to serve green beer by the gallons until he sold it in 2001. Arnie helped organize many years of road trips in the green bus, promoting O'Neill as the Irish Capital of Nebraska. In 1977, Arnie was the St. Patrick's Booster Club Chairman and picked Al Hamik as his co-chairman. That year they raised more money than any other year at that time. Arnie and Pete Mathews would travel to all the surrounding towns buying up all the green food coloring they could find to help get ready to paint the famous Green Horse. He always served a free breakfast on the Sunday of St. Pats. *(Shared from 3/13/2024 Holt County Independent)*

'59 **Larry Tomlinson** is being inducted into the 8 man football hall of fame. The induction ceremony is scheduled for June 15 at the Tom Osborne Center in Hastings, NE where there will be an all-star football game at 6 pm and inductees are introduced at halftime. Larry now has many more credits to his resume besides athletics and is now living in Canada with his wife Pam.

In high school, Larry was named to 1st team in the Niobrara Valley Conference in 1957 and 1958, followed by 1st team All Holt County, and 1st team All-State in 1958. Larry participated in the very first high school Shrine Bowl game and was nominated for the athlete of the year award in 1959. He also participated in track and set school records in the mile, 120-yard-high hurdles, 180-yard low hurdles, shot put, discus and 880-yard relay and still holds the school records for the shot put, 880 and mile relay and finished 2nd in the state pentathlon meet. Regarding his time playing basketball, Larry started all four years averaging 20 points per game his senior year. In 2009, Larry was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame.

UNL recruited Larry with a full ride scholarship, and he was part of the Devaney era in which he caught the first touchdown pass which scored the first touchdown for Bob Devaney during his tenure. Larry was also playing for UNL when the team began the consecutive sellout of the stadium for Nebraska fans which exists yet today. While playing for UNL, Larry played with Frank Solich who was running as a fullback at the time. Tom Osborne was a graduate assistant who helped coach Larry. While at UNL, Larry lettered three years and played in the Gotham Bowl, giving Nebraska their first bowl game win there against Miami 36-34. In addition to the Gotham Bowl, Larry played against the University of Auburn when they won the Orange Bowl. After graduating from college, he went to Canada to play in the Canadian Football League (Montreal Alouettes) for three years and then went into teaching.

'00 **Ryan Ohri** celebrated his retirement and 20 year career with Kearney Police Department on March 1, 2024. Ryan has served as a Community Service Officer, Uniform Patrol Police Officer, Field Training Officer, Motor Officer, SWAT Operator, Crash Reconstruction Team member, Honor Guard, Firearms Instructor, VirTra Instructor, Peer Support Team founder and member, FOP leader, mentor, and leader, and most recently Uniform Patrol Sergeant.



'17 **Breanna (Hedstrom) & Wyatt Fiene** were married in O'Neill on June 10, 2023.

'15 **Bridget (Schneider) & Luke Bulau** were married at St. Patrick's in O'Neill on

'17 **River & Amanda (Brown) Kramer** were married at St. Patrick's in O'Neill on September 2, 2023.

Cardinal Volleyball

Each one of our players showed incredible selflessness throughout the season. The season started with some exciting games, and we quickly realized how successful of a season these girls would have. The pressure started to build when the girls saw our winning record grow and the losses remain at zero. We won our District Final against Paxton and punched our ticket to State. We faced a few trials leading into the week of State with some unexpected injuries and battled sicknesses. The girls remained focused and offered that selfless mindset we talked about at the beginning of the season. All of them responding with “Yes, coach!” “I’ll adjust.” Or “What can I do to help?” It made me extremely proud to see how willing some of them were to sacrifice a little bit of playing time or a lot of playing time to find our perfect plan for State. Selflessness for the greater good of the team. We did not walk away with the result that they envisioned for their end of this season. We took Sumner-Eddyville-Miller, D-1 State Champions, five sets in some highly competitive fun volleyball. Before we walked away from the court for the last time as “this team” I reminded the girls how proud of them I was. We will see greater things in our life compared to a State Championship medal. They will never get another chance to embrace each other and acknowledge each other as “this team.” They shared a moment of gratitude and heartache before signing off as St. Mary’s 2023 State Qualifying Volleyball Team.



Did you know that volleyball Coach Podany was nine months pregnant heading into the NSAA State volleyball tournament? Coach Podany realized she was going into labor the morning of the quarterfinals game. But having the team at the forefront of her mind, she wouldn't let them know until the game was over. Coach Podany and her plus one made the difficult choice to give it a go and be part of the quarter-final match. Podany endured a lengthy five-set match and after the game, broke the news to the girls. With everyone informed, one last step remained for the safe arrival of her baby boy. Podany and her family embarked on a three-hour drive back to O'Neill. Now with her healthy baby boy, Calvin, Coach Podany is grateful for the experience and extremely proud of her girls for how far they have come!



Cardinal Football

This year's football team finished the season at 3-5. The year started out pretty well but key injuries forced a lot of younger players into action. The boys played hard all season, but with the tail end of our season being the toughest part of our schedule, we were not able to come out on top of those games and just missed the playoffs by one spot. We are excited about our future, as we finished the year playing as many as six freshmen and two sophomores. There is a lot of talent coming through the program in the near future.



Dance Team

SMH Dance team received the Academic Excellence Award because of their outstanding overall GPA.

O'Neill Band

The O'Neill High School Band earned the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association's "Excellence In Academic Achievement" Award for the 2023-2024 school year. This requires that the high school band needed an accumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. This is the 3rd year in a row the band has achieved this accomplishment.



Cardinal One Acts

St. Mary's One Act team earned the title of State Runner Up in Play Production with their incredible production of the play "Dirt" by Mandy Conner.

Cardinal Basketball

This year showed some impressive play from the St. Mary's Cardinals. The Lady Cardinals ended their season with a 23-4 record, coming to an end with a fourth place State Tournament placing. Their longest



win streak was 16 wins and their highest score match was played February 6 when they downed Boyd County 83-36. The Cardinal Men ended their season with an 18-7 record, ending with a trip to State in Lincoln. Their longest win streak was six wins and their highest score match was played January 16 when they bested Santee 88-45.

Speech Team

It was an amazing speech season with so much growth. They ended the season as District Champs AND by placing 4th as a team at State Speech! With 15 district speech medalists, we had 9 that qualified for state! State Speech individual results included: Anna Otte (5th in entertainment), Lauren Winkelbauer (5th in Persuasive), Kaylin Gaughenbaugh (3rd in entertainment), Claire Popkes (3rd in humorous), Kaylin Gaughenbaugh & Emma Otte (3rd in duet), and Kaylin Gaughenbaugh, Emma Otte, Claire Popkes, Addy Shald, and Delaney Wohlert (1st in OID!!) Congratulations!!



Cardinal Wrestling

This year we had 8 boys and 2 girls out for high school wrestling. Congratulations to junior Jace Rosenkrans on making it to State Wrestling! Dalton Herley also had an impressive 23 wins as a freshman at 190 lbs. In the junior high, we had 5 boys and 2 girls. Jaiya Johnson, in junior high, broke all statistical records for St. Mary's High School wrestling, both boys and girls. The wrestling program at St. Mary's has big things to come!

Omaha Archdiocese Rural Elementary Teacher of the Year

St. Mary's is proud to announce that after 39 years of dedicated service to Catholic education, Mrs. Carole Willis, first grade teacher, has been named Omaha Archdiocese Rural Elementary Teacher of the Year! We are so blessed to have her at St. Mary's. She has started so many traditions that our alumni still talk about and she plays a pivotal role in the memories of her students. What a blessing she is to us and it is a well deserved honor for her! She will be officially recognized at the Archbishop's Dinner in September.



Keeping up with all of you is no easy task! If you would be willing to help out by sharing information, including updating me with email addresses, phone numbers, deaths, marriages, etc., it would be a HUGE step in keeping us better in touch! You can visit our website at www.stmarysoneill.org/alumni-updates and fill out updated information there. (Parents—let's get your kids listed at their own addresses!!) Or reach out to me at the parish office at 402-336-1602 or email jmwallwey@archomaha.org. Thank you!

Jennifer Wallwey, Director of Development & Stewardship

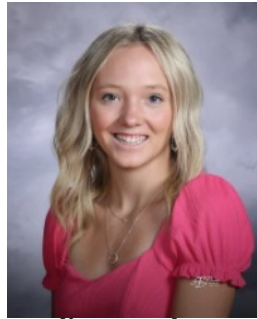
SMPH Senior Class of 2024



Samuel Barlow
Parents:
Kevin & Julie Barlow



Sydney Birkel
Parents:
Mike & Abby Birkel



Alissa Brabec
Parents:
Josh & Ashly Brabec



Carson Dannenbring
Parents:
Nick & Kelli Dannenbring



Joslyn Eby
Parents: '85 William &
Jessica Eby



Kaylin Gaughenbaugh
Parents: '84 Wayne &
Rebecca Gaughenbaugh



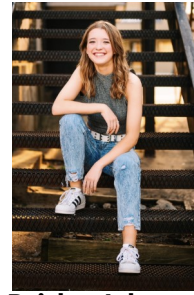
Hannah Gleason
Parents:
Tim & Kari Gleason



Jack Gydesen
Parents: Scott &
Tonya Gydesen



Mya Hedstrom
Parents: James &
Lisa Hedstrom



Paisley Johnson
Parents: Ryan & Kelly
Johnson



Aidan Kloppenborg
Grandparents:
Jim & Sue Kloppenborg



Matthew Koehlmoos
Parents: Jason & '00
Jennifer (Shoemaker)
Koehlmoos



Cecelia Mlnarik
Parents: Josh & Lisa
Mlnarik



Emma Otte
Parents: Matthew &
Ranell Otte



Claire Popkes
Parents: Eric & Kate
Popkes



Lorissa Reiman
Parents: Lawrence &
Jane Reiman



Delaney Wohlert
Parents: Kris & '98
Becky (Gray) Wohlert

Shoulders of GIANTS Capital Campaign Updates

The "On the Shoulders of Giants: Strengthening Our Legacy" Capital Campaign continues to move forward as our staff and volunteers work diligently behind the scenes. You should have received a Frequently Asked Questions document recently, and a case study will be coming soon. More details can be found on our website at stpatoneill.org/capital-campaign. We thank those of you who have already made gifts or pledges, and pray that all of you will consider how you can help to carry on the legacy of St. Mary's and/or St. Patrick.

\$10,000 Raffle

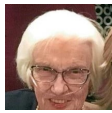
A few years ago, we shifted our annual \$10,000 Raffle to support the St. Mary's Activity Fund. This has drastically cut down on fundraising for our teams and activities, as it goes to support the costs of uniforms, equipment, and other necessary items for all of our activities.



Tickets for the \$10,000 Raffle will be on sale beginning May 1st, with only 250 tickets sold at \$100 each. Tickets will be sold through May 24, or until they are gone. Take your chance at winning anywhere from \$200 to \$10,000 by purchasing a ticket. Only 250 tickets are sold, \$100 each. The drawing will be Wednesday, May 29th. Winners will be contacted by phone. Need not be present to win. Contact the Parish Office to purchase your ticket—402-336-1602.

In Loving Memory

'44 Lucille (Reagle) Whitworth passed away on April 10, 2017. Lucille married Alfred F. Ebert with whom she had three sons. After her husband Alfred died in 1988, she retired but continued with church and Lions clubs and enjoyed dancing with her girl friends, which is where she met Winston 'Royce' Whitworth, whom she married in 1991. She was preceded in death by 2 brothers, 3 sisters, husband Alfred, and son Harold. Lucille is survived by her husband Winston Royce Whitworth, son Kenneth, sister June Schmidt, one sister in law, one daughter-in-law, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



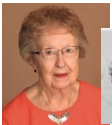
'41 Mary (Hamilton) Riter passed away on May 31, 2018. Margaret attended a one room country school before attending St. Mary's Academy. She joined the Army in 1945 after her brother Pat was killed in the South Pacific, but did not serve as the war ended prior to her finishing her nursing degree. She is preceded in death by her husband Gordon and their oldest son, James. Margaret is survived by her four sons, George, Joseph, Jeffrey, and Gary (Katherine), five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



'49 Lorene (Kayl) Prchal of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away November 12, 2021. She married Thomas Prchal in 1954 and together they were blessed with 5 daughters. Lorene loved spending time with her family and enjoyed cooking and making family dinners. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Thomas; daughters: Donna Prchal; Karen (Paul) Fitzpatrick; Connie (Bruce) Hoffman; Nancy (Shane) Lenhart; Julie (John) Williams; 10 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.



'71 Coleen "Coke" (White) Thompson passed away on June 24, 2022 from complications of kidney failure after a long battle with cancer. Coke's life was full since childhood. She performed as one of the original Irish Dancers, worked with racehorses, enjoyed camping, hunting, and fishing, and together with her husband Ron raised three boys. Coke worked in agricultural statistics, chasing down busy farmers to record key crop and livestock data. She loved to tend her garden and home in Trenton, which was always a place of love and welcome for family and strangers alike. She is survived by her husband Ron, her three sons, Cliff, John, and Ryne, as well as her siblings Francie (Kelly) Walton, '66 Jack Kelly, '69 William White, and '75 Shannon Caouette.



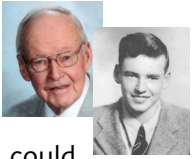
'51 Margaret (Coash) Bonenberger passed away at the age of 89 on May 7, 2023. She married Bernard Bonenberger in 1955 and had 4 children. She was a stay-at-home mom and took care of financials for Bonenberger Trucking and Mr. B's Bar. Her biggest passions in life were her quilting and her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leo; brothers, Harold and Roman Jr. "Red." She is survived by children, Mike, Deb (Darel) Sewell, Steve, and Brian; her sister, '52 Joan (Gene) Krysl; sisters-in-law, LaVonne Coash, Karen Bonenberger, and Mary Ann Albrecht; brother-in-law, Ronny Bonenberger (Ellen); along with eight grandkids and ten great-grandkids and numerous other family members.



'63 Robert Pollreis passed away on May 16, 2023. Robby was the oldest of 14 children. In 1964, Robby enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he was an Electrician's Mate - 3rd Class Petty Officer stationed on the USS Austin (LDP-4) in VA and served during the Vietnam War. Robby was a Class A Journeyman Electrician, an avid guide and tournament fisherman who found pure joy in teaching people about fishing, owner of Robby's Bait & Sports and Robby's Guide Service, and later became a Certified Home Inspector and owned Midsota Home Inspections. Robby was always willing to help friends, family, and strangers. Robby will be dearly missed by his wife, Dottie and daughters: Traci, Kelli Gauthier, Jodi (Brent) Vetsch, and Kristi Schelske (Brandon Broschofsky); six grandchildren, and his surviving siblings: Trisha Schwartz (Ken); Kathy Kunkel (Bill); Mary Pollreis; Nancy Pollreis; Jan Stockinger (Mark); Colleen (Frank) Meyer; Jeff Pollreis (Lisa); Barbara Kleinsorge; and Brian Pollreis (Lisa.) Robby was preceded in death by his brothers: Jim, Dan, and Mike; sister, Susan; niece, Lynn; and granddaughter, Amanda Jo Gauthier.



'45 William Kelly passed away on July 5, 2023 at the age of 95. After graduation, he enlisted into the United States Navy and served on the USS Caelum, the USS General H.W. Butner, where he spent time in the Great Lakes and Singapore. Kelly returned to O'Neill after his Honorable Discharge in July of 1946 to work for his father at Kelly's Plumbing/Well Service. He was introduced to Marie Fox by his friends '45 George and Opal (Marie's sister) Bosn. They were united in marriage in 1951. When William's father passed suddenly in 1957, he took over the company and added trenching to the business, operating it until his retirement in 1998. Soon after his retirement, his wife Marie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. William became her caregiver until he was diagnosed with Colon Cancer in 2006. Marie passed away in 2009. He is survived by his two children, Dana (Kord) Benson and '83 John (Trudy Freudenburg) Kelly; two grandsons; siblings, '41 Eileen Spittler and '52 Jim (Virginia) Kelly; brother-in-law, Jerry Austin. William is preceded in death by his wife, Marie Kelly; daughter-in-law, Margaret Kelly; brothers, Fritz Kelly and George Kelly; and sister, '51 Mary Lois Austin. *Please note that both Eileen and Jim have passed since the time of this obituary.*



'48 Edward Boyle passed away on August 12, 2023. Edward was the eldest of 12 children, and they grew up working on the family farm. After high school, he worked on the family farm and in the blue grass fields. Ed was drafted into the Marines in 1952, was stationed in Japan and Hawaii, and was honorably discharged in 1954. He married Bette Mahony in 1957. Ed was a talented maker of almost anything he could imagine. After retirement, Ed devoted much of his time to woodworking and produced many beautiful items. All of his children have furnished their houses with his furniture, and St. Patrick's Church contains many examples of his work, including the wooden cross behind the altar. Edward is survived by his wife of 66 years, '54 Bette (Mahony); his 7 children and spouses, Kathy (Jim) Parsons, '78 Ed (Karen) Boyle, '80 John ('84 Christi Wallen) Boyle, '81 Rick ('81 Kathy Schaaf) Boyle, '83 Joe (Ann) Boyle, '84 Paula (Bob) Atkeson and '93 Ann (Ryan) Crumly; 25 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; and one sister, '59 Margaret Posch. He was preceded in death by 7 brothers; 3 sisters; and one great grandchild.



'54 Robert Mullen passed away September 5, 2023. Upon graduation he entered into the U.S. Army, where he served from 1954 until 1956. He then entered the U.S. Navy, and served 18 more years, until he proudly retired as a Hospital Corpsman Chief in 1974. During his years in the Navy, Robert enjoyed many ports of duty, especially overseas in the Philippines, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. After leaving the Navy, Robert worked at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD for 20 years in the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit. Following his retirement, he moved to live with and care for his sister Irenaeia. Robert is survived by his sister, '44 Irenaeia (Mullen) Dobson, a nephew, and a great-niece. He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Henrietta Bladgett, Francis Mullen, Bernard Mullen, and '41 Leone Leibert.



'68 Randy Chaney passed away September 8, 2023 at the age of 73. Randy's working years began at S & S Stores in O'Neill and he spent many years there before moving to Norfolk, NE. He made Norfolk his home and retired from Walmart after a number of years due to health problems. Randy had many interests throughout his life that he enjoyed. He liked playing cards, woodworking, and gardening. He became an accomplished cook and cake decorator. Randy was an old soul at heart. He loved the classic country music of long ago and he would watch reruns of all the old western movies and TV shows. Randy is survived by one brother, '69 Doug ('68 Tish Lowery) Chaney; two sisters, Debra (Tom) Rhodes, '73 Micki (Bradd) Richter; and many other relatives.



'52 Shirley Ann (Leahy) Smith passed away October 17, 2023 at the age of 88. Shirley was an amazing mother and Nana. Always quick to offer a smile, an abundance of patience, guidance and wisdom to her children. At the age of 7, a tornado in Ewing changed her life forever when she lost her parents and 2 sisters as they were running for the storm shelter and was appointed to a foster family. After graduating from college in 1957, she was immediately hired to teach at Cure d'Arts Catholic School in Denver. Shirley attended mass with her students every day. It was there she was spotted by the organist, Lillian Smith. Lillian played matchmaker to Shirley and her son Ed. Being the determined young lady that she was, Shirley got tired of waiting for Ed's proposal and asked him instead. Both Ed and Shirley were married for 55 years until Ed passed in 2013. They had 8 children together between 1959 and 1973, and she left teaching to raise her family, living only 2 blocks away from her husband Ed's family. Shirley is survived by 6 sons and 1 daughter: Bob (Jodi), Ed (Sue), John (Michelle), Dave, Christy (Kirk), Matt (Karen), and Phil (Wendy), 14 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and other family. She was preceded in death by her husband Edward, son Mark and daughter-in-law Trish.



'65 Donald Conway passed away October 21, 2023, in Jacksonville, Florida after a 3 year valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. A proud United States Veteran, Don served 3 years in Vietnam on the US Naval ship LPH-3 USS Okinawa from 1965-1968. Don enjoyed a successful, lifelong career in Telecommunications. He was known for his kind and generous spirit, always first in line to lend a helping hand to those in need, friends, family, and strangers alike. Don was survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda (Haupt) Conway; children Heather Hammond and Christopher Conway, and 1 grandson. He was also survived by his sisters '64 Margaret ('65 Tom) Pribil, and '67 Dorothy Wahrman, in addition to many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother '63 Edward Conway.



'72 Roberta Ann (Ruzicka) Tasler (Bertie) passed away on October 25, 2023 at the age of 69, in Casper, Wyoming. In 1973, Bertie married Wayne Tasler and they made Casper, Wyoming their home. To this union two sons, Robert and Ryan were born. In 1983, Bertie and Wayne divorced. In 1984, Bertie met her life partner Brendan Coleman and they shared a life together of 30 years before Brendan's passing in 2014. She was known for being a wonderful cook, quilting, planting flowers and spending time with family and friends. Left to cherish her memory are her sons Robby (Robbin) and Ryan, 5 grandchildren, brothers, '75 Loren (Sharon) Ruzicka, '76 Roger ('77 Terri Novak) Ruzicka, '78 Lyle Ruzicka, and '80 Neil (Stephanie), as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins.



'54 Ben Bazelman passed away on December 1, 2023. Ben was an integral part of the O'Neill community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, JayCee's, O'Neill Chamber of Commerce, and Holt County Visitors Committee. Ben took great pride in being a member of the O'Neill Fire and Rescue Department, including serving as President and Ambulance Captain for several terms. His

membership on the Fire Department spanned 52 years, during which he made thousands of trips to Omaha and surrounding hospitals transporting patients for medical treatment. Ben was a member of the O'Neill City Hall of Fame and received numerous service awards from the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce. Ben and Cecelia were honored as Irish King and Queen in 2014. He was a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and attended weekly services throughout his life. He often joked that he attended church so often because he had to help sing in the choir despite having no singing experience. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, '57 Cecelia (Babl), son, Joe Bazelman (Debbie), daughter, Tracey Kaup (Scott), and daughter, Sue Carmody (Tom); 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.



'55 Mary (Remter) McCarthy passed away December 1, 2023 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. She attended a one room country schoolhouse in her early grade school years, traveling to and from home by horse every day. Mary then boarded and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in O'Neill in 1955. After graduation, Mary began a ten-year career with Bell Telephone Companies. She married Patrick McCarthy in 1996 and were happily married for 57 years. Although Mary and Pat made Wisconsin their home, she took great pride in their Nebraska roots. She especially loved her family's farm and thanks to care of the Michaelis Family carried on the legacy of her beloved uncles Dave and John Langan. Mary was preceded in death by her sister Carol, and Pat's brothers and sisters. She is survived by her loving husband Patrick, daughters Michele (Morris) Esses, Renee (Terry) Dederich, and Stephanie (Jacob) Wondercheck, five grandchildren, and dear friends & family.



'62 Mary "Janet" (Devoy) Reisbig passed away on December 20, 2023 after battling Lewy Body Dementia for several years. Janet was a twin with her sister, Mary "Jean" and the oldest of 7 children. Janet was the most loving, caring, and committed wife to Dave, and she displayed an exemplary motherly love to her children and grandchildren. Janet's sincere kindness and genuine concern for others, especially her family, was nothing less than admirable. The unconditional love, the protection, the providing, and the patience are all qualities she embodied for which her family will forever be grateful and will miss immensely. Her departure from this life to be with God has left a big hole in everyone's hearts. Janet is survived by her husband of 55 years, Dave; her children: Mike (Beth), Greg, Mark (Marianne), Katie (Brent), and Julie (Shawn); her adored 12 grandchildren, and her treasured grand-pups. Janet was preceded in death by her twin sister, '62 Mary "Jean"; brother-in-law, Robert Bonge; several cousins and all of her aunts and uncles.



'66 Pat Mahony of Spalding, NE, died Sunday, December 31, 2023. Pat was united in marriage to Elva Loree Gettert in 1971. The couple lived in many places including the Stanton/Pilger area, Valentine, Spalding, Burwell, and Ord, before returning to Spalding in 2014. Pat originally sold feed and then worked at the Spalding Livestock Market for his brother Charles and they later became co-owners of the Spalding Livestock Market. They purchased the Ericson Livestock Market to become the Ericson Spalding Livestock Market, ESLM. A highlight of his career and a shining moment in his father's life was when all 4 Mahony brothers were involved with ESLM. Pat is survived by his wife of 52 years: Elva Mahony; seven children: John (Amanda) Mahony; Matt (Amy) Mahony; Bill (Melody) Mahony; Mike (Sara) Mahony; Cortney (Shawn) Ryan; Tim (Stephanie) Mahony; Tom (Emily) Mahony ; 19 grandchildren; siblings: '54 Bette Boyle, '57 Charlene Boyle; '60 Pauline Carr; '59 Charles Mahony; '61 Agnes Halverson; '65 Mike Mahony; '63 Rosemary Cooley; '72 Kevin (Patty) Mahony; '74 Theresa (Gary) Parker; brothers-in-law: '47 Frank Rohde and Jim Gallagher; along with many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his sisters: '52 Maureen Rohde; '53 Mary Jo Gallagher; '56 Karen Ramold; and '68 Sister Colleen Mahony; brothers-in-law: '47 Edward Boyle; Nick Ramold; '51 Dick Boyle; Jim Carr; and Ron Cooley.



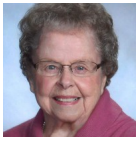
'57 Connie (Bazelman) Hollenbeck passed away on January 1, 2024. After graduation, Connie prayerfully contemplated being a Catholic Nun before deciding the desire to be a mother was the path God had chosen for her. Connie married John (Jack) Hollenbeck in 1958 a local boy who was serving in the US Army. They moved back to O'Neill where Jack started his career at NPPD. They adopted two children, Todd in 1968 and Monica in 1973. Connie's most impactful achievements came in the form of being a devoted Catholic, stay-at-home mother, and giving her time and care to her family, friends, church and community. Family was immensely important to Connie, and she spent much of her free time making connections and plans with her cousins so lifelong communication between family would remain. In 2016, her time doing what she loved was changed forever after being diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia. To remember and honor her life, she leaves her husband of 65 years, Jack Hollenbeck, her son Todd Hollenbeck of Lincoln, her daughter and son-in-law Monica and Andrew Huber, and 2 granddaughters.



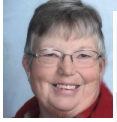
'52 Jean (Fahrenheit) Truman passed away at the age of 90 on February 7, 2024. She married Francis "Fritz" Holz in 1952 who passed away in 1996. She married John (Del) Truman years later and he passed away in 2012. She is survived by her children, '72 Vicki ('69 Tom) Earley, '73 Carolyn (Roy) Carr, Russ (Joanie) Holz, Terry (Julie) Holz, and Alan Holz; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister, Eleanor; twin brother '53 Gerald; her husband Fritz; infant daughter; daughter, Connie; and husband Del.



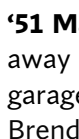
'52 James Kelly passed away February 9, 2024. He was preceded in death by sisters '41 Eileen Spittler and '51 Mary Lois Austin, and brothers Fritz, George, and '45 William.



'43 Betty (Flood) Wolfe passed away at the age of 98 on February 7, 2024. She married the love of her life, Gene, in November of 1945 and to their union, 7 children were born. Betty worked as a bookkeeper for O'Neill Auto Supply, NPPD, and worked as a city clerk for O'Neill after all of her children were in school. Betty often played the organ and piano for Mass on Sunday's and for many church events. Betty enjoyed spending time with her family and enjoying traditional family meals especially around the holidays. Betty is survived by her children, '66 Ann Mckay, '68 Mary (George) Wetzler, '70 Jed (Lea Frechette) Wolfe, '71 Tom (Pat) Wolfe, '75 Trisha (Tim) French, and '76 Tim (Jackie) Wolfe; 16 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and 5 great great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband; Gene Wolfe; son, '65 Dan Wolfe; brothers, '39 John and '51 Fritz Flood; sister, '47 Kathleen Hansen, and two infant sons.



'66 Ann (Kelley) Davis passed away March 28, 2024. After high school, Ann went to Norfolk Junior College, she then worked for a phone company. She married her high school sweetheart, Bob Davis in 1969. When all her kids were in school, Ann attended Central Community College in Columbus and received her LPN. After over 30 years of nursing, Ann retired in 2010. Ann loved spending time with her family, especially going to their sporting events. Ann is survived by her husband of 54 years, '66 Bob Davis; her two children, '92 Amy (Tom) Magnuson, Tim (Nikki) Davis; her son-in-law, Kevin Sholes; nine grandchildren; her brothers, Don (Mary) Kelley, Ned (Linelle) Kelley; her sister, Kay (Avery) Zediker; sister-in-law Dianne Kelley; and many nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her daughter, '90 Kami Sholes in 2017; her brother, Neal Kelley; and infant brother, Tim Kelley.



'51 Marlene (Kaster) Henn passed away on April 5, 2024. She married Floyd Henn in 1954, who passed away in 2016. Her Catholic faith was a very important part of her daily life. She enjoyed attending garage sales, camping, playing cards, gardening and the outdoors. She is survived by three children: Brenda (Paul) Kuhlman; Pam Braband; Kevin Henn; son-in-law Frank Bohaboj; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers-in-law, 2 sisters-in-law, and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Marlene was preceded in death by her husband, daughter Cindy Bohaboj; son-in-law Ray Braband, sisters Carol Schuster and Judy Kerkman, brothers and sisters-in-laws Roger & Marge Henn, Danny Henn, Delores Henn, Lois (Bob) Camp, Mary Jane Overton, Mary Jane Henn and Terry Henn.



Our sympathies to the family of **Dorothy Summers**, who passed away on August 1, 2023. Dorothy is survived by her children Donna (Eddie) Cox, Mike (Tammy) Summers, and Karen (Mike) Timm, 8 grandchildren, 4 bonus grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, 1 bonus great grandson, brothers Carl (Irene) Kamphaus, '60 Bernard (JoEllen) Kamphaus, '65 Frank (Dianne) Kamphaus, '62 Mike (Yvonne) Kamphaus, and '65 Paul (Carolyn) Kamphaus, 4 sisters-in-law, and 1 brother in law. She was preceded in death by her husband Duane, three sons, Joseph, Scott & John, brothers Joe (Leila) Kamphaus, Tony Kamphaus, John Kamphaus, and sisters Mary (Jim) Stewart, Gen (Bill) Shaw, and Julianna (Leonard) Svatos.

Our sympathies to the family of **Cory Wettlaufer** who passed away on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at the age of 43 in Nashville, TN. Cory attended St Mary's Schools and graduated from O'Neill Public School in 1998, where he excelled at wrestling and shenanigans. Cory is survived by his parents, Gary and '68 Peg Wettlaufer; siblings, Natalie Nanfito, '95 Cortney (Jason) Williams, and '00 Crystal (Ryan) Walters, nieces, nephews, great nephews, uncle, '68 Richard (Carol) Martin and Cathie (Garry) Eacker; and many cousins.

Our condolences to the family of **Joan (Etherton) Long** who passed away on September 1, 2023. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School before graduating from O'Neill High School in 1971. Joan is survived by her husband of 48 years, Randy Long, children and spouses Christy (Steve) Hostert; Julie (Noah) Maulsby; Michael Long; 7 grandchildren; brother Tom (Lorraine) Etherton; and 2 nephews, Ed (Shannon) Etherton and Pat (Kat) Etherton. She was preceded in death by her father, Edward Etherton, mother, '38 Mary VanEvery, and stepfather, Kenneth Van Every.

Our sympathies to the family of **Helen (Sobotka) Bohn** on September 12, 2023. She attended St. Mary's Academy for a couple of years and then graduated from Inman High School in 1957. Helen was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, St. Patrick's Altar Society, and the Catholic Daughters. Helen is survived by two sons, '82 Michael (Shelley) Bohn, and '83 Fr. John Bohn; three grandchildren; and her sister, '65 Mary Lou Stauffer. She was preceded in death by her husband, '56 Max Bohn and brother, Warren Sobotka.

Our sympathy to **'65 Mary Ellen (Beha) Johns** whose husband Richard Johns passed away on October 27, 2023. They were married 48 years and have 2 daughters.

Our condolences to '72 Ron Schmit on the passing of his wife **Eileen (Kracl) Schmitt** on December 2, 2023 and is survived by her husband of fifty years '72 Ron Schmit; son Travis (Molly) Schmit; daughter Stephanie (Lee) Clark and ; 5 grandchildren, siblings Bob (Barbra) Kracl, Carol (Mike) Hedlund, Mike (Wanda) Kracl; brothers-in-law '68 Mike (Lexie) Schmit, '77 Don (Holly) Schmit; sister-in-law '71 Regina (Joe) Kafka; and many relatives, and friends.



Our condolences to the family of **Fr. Stephen Gutsell** who passed away on December 10, 2023 during a home invasion at the rectory of St. John the Baptist parish in Forth Calhoun, Nebraska. Fr. Gutsell served as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick following his ordination in 1984.

Our sympathies to the family of **Bette Rowe** who passed away on December 12, 2023 at the age of 92. She is survived by her six children, '71 Pam Rowe, Randy Rowe, Paula Peterson (Bill), '82 Russell Rowe (Pam) of Arnoldsville GA, Mary Jean Cope (Ed), and Nathan Rowe; her sister, Beverly Ann Hoelsing Chappelle; 8 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Bette was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Hoelsing and her husband Ray.

Our condolences to '66 VaReane (Gray) Heese on the passing of her husband **Terry Heese** on January 4, 2024. Terry is survived by VaReane, his wife of fifty-four years, his sons: Kevin (Kelly), Chris (Katina), and Patrick (Luke Pella), and 4 grandchildren. His surviving siblings are Karen, Bob (Vicki), and Patty.

Our condolences to the family of **Ethel (Suchy) Hershiser** who passed away on March 28, 2024. Ethel grew up in O'Neill and attended St. Mary's Academy through eighth grade and graduated from O'Neill Public High School in 1947. Ethel was an active member and supporter of St. Patrick's Church. She was an Associate with the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, the religious community of her daughter Jeannine. She is survived by her daughter, Sister '71 Jeannine Hershiser, '74 David (Margaret) Hershiser, '80 Daniel (Julie) Hershiser; 5 grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. Ethel was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd.

Our sympathies to the family of **JoAnn Wecker** who passed away February 23, 2024. She is survived by her children, Bruce (Kathe) Wecker, Mark (Kristie) Wecker, Dale (Kerrie Patterson) Wecker, Alan Wecker, '80 Dana (Valerie) Wecker, Shelley Fox; 13 grandchildren; 37 great grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren; sister, Lois Maas; brothers, Jim (Helen) Kudera, Adolph III (Linda) Kudera, and Gene Kudera.

Marian Award Scholarships

As you know, every year we award up to two graduating students the "Marian Award." The Marian Award is the highest honor that a student can receive from St. Mary's School. The Marian Award recipients are the students who epitomize the spirit of St. Mary's School summed up in the school motto: "Magnificet Anima Mea Dominum" (May My Soul Magnify the Lord). The Marian Qualities are derived from the life of Saint Mary who gave her total "yes" to God. These students, like Mary, are never self-seeking, but are quiet, humble, servants of the Lord. They have and express a lively faith, trust, and love for God above everything else and seek to magnify the Lord in all aspects of life in school and in the community. Their demeanor is never bombastic or demeaning or self-serving but rather embodies gentleness, positive attitude, good manners, self-sacrifice, patience, kindness, openness, cooperation, hard work, honesty and a generous sharing of their gifts and talents. They do active ministry in the Church, strive for holiness, model prayerfulness, promote and defend Christian morals and purity among peers, and offer spontaneous, joyful service to their peers, school, and community at large. While no student perfectly embodies these qualities, the Marian Award recipient is the student whom the faculty feels BEST exhibits these characteristics.

We have recently established an annual scholarship to be granted to our Marian Award winners. (\$1500 each at this time.) Finances that are donated to this fund will be placed in an account to gain interest, and those who have donated will be shared annually. At this time, donations have been made in memory of Sharon Reichmuth and Don Duffy. We are pleased to award these college scholarships to the honorable young men and women who exemplify the life of Mary.

Scholarships & Grants Program

Over the years, we have been blessed by the generosity of so many people who have continued to support St. Mary's School and its faith-based education. Your financial support of our Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program has enabled us to continue to provide a quality, Christian education at an affordable level, by assisting with tuition expenses for many of our students and families. Through this program, as well as two larger estates that were established several years ago, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to many of our families, both for academic excellence (scholarships) and for those who are in need of financial assistance (grants).

Will you help another student continue their education at St. Mary's? We ask that this form and the money be in to the parish office **May 6, 2024** so that it can be recognized at our awards time. If you'd like to give online, or see more details about the specifics of this program, please visit stmarysoneill.org/support. We will present the awards to our students on May 14th at the all school mass & academic awards. All donors will be listed in the program. It really is a wonderful way to honor a loved one through a gift to this program.

Once again, on behalf of our school, administration, staff, and school families, thank you very much for your support of St. Mary's Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated by our students and parents. Please contact Jennifer Wallwey with any questions 402-336-1602.

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\$ _____ to Marian Award Scholarships

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I would be interested in setting up a recurring donation. Please contact me.

I would like to discuss a planned gift to St. Patrick and/or St. Mary's. Please contact me.

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or make your donations online at give.smcards.org