FOOTSTEPS

IN-STEP WITH TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Semi-Annual Newsletter to Alumni & Friends of Trinity Catholic School • Winter 2025 • Vol. 32

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025

CLASS OF 2025 – Ms. Vinita Mosher, sixth grade teacher, presented the Class of '25 at their commencement ceremony. Students included Hannah Bourdon, Jericho Julian, Torin Mott, Michael Ohnmacht, Ari Otokiti, Kerrigan Pritchard, Claire Sprowson, and Sarah Stevens, All students will continue their education at the Oswego Middle School, with the exception of Jericho Julian, who will be attending Christian Brothers' Academy in Syracuse.

Trinity Catholic School Mission Statement

We are Trinity Catholic School. We follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Diocese of Syracuse to develop the minds, bodies, and souls of the students of Oswego County.

Trinity Catholic School: 115 East Fifth Street • Oswego, NY 13126 • 315-343-6700 • oswegotrinitycatholic.org • email: vvespe@syrdiocese.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Growing up in Oswego, I was surrounded by loving parents and grandparents, who nurtured my Catholic faith from the very beginning. As the oldest of six children with deep family roots in this community, returning home after raising my own children in Southern California has been a true blessing. After moving back a year and a half ago, it quickly became clear that God had led me to Trinity Catholic School.

I have served in Catholic education for more than 30 years, beginning after my graduation from Franciscan University of Steubenville. My time there profoundly shaped my spiritual life and vocation. I was inspired by professors, religious, and classmates who lived their faith with great sincerity. It was during those years that I came to appreciate more deeply the beauty of the sacraments, the Eucharist, Reconciliation, the Rosary, the intercession of the saints, and the tender guidance of our Blessed Mother.

Throughout my career in Southern California, I taught while raising my family, worked in ministry, and eventually, through God's gentle direction, entered school administration. Over the past eight years, I have learned much about leadership, service, and the daily reliance on God's grace. My administrative roles have included serving as a principal in an under-resourced PK–8 school, vice principal in a thriving parish school, and Director of Development and Business Operations at Our Lady of Malibu, where I managed finances, advancement, and capital projects for both the parish and school.

Walking the halls of Trinity for the first time last June, I was immediately struck by the kindness, respect, and joy of our students. That spirit has only deepened my love for this school. Trinity is a remarkable community, filled with dedicated faculty and staff, supportive families, and students whose hearts and minds shine with potential. Anyone who steps inside our building can feel the warmth and faith that define our mission.

As your principal, my focus is on strengthening the pillars that make Trinity strong: academic excellence, faith, physical and emotional security, affordability, and the stewardship of our historic building. This requires ongoing development and fundraising efforts, and I am grateful that so many Catholic alumni in Oswego County continue to support our school's mission. Your generosity truly helps us provide a faith-filled, high-quality education for every child we serve.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our first "Trinity Alumni & Friends Annual Gala" this spring, along with sharing aspects of our strategic plan for fundraising very soon. Graduates of any Catholic school in Oswego County are warmly invited to attend our spring gala. Also, whether through prayer, participation, or financial support, your involvement makes an enormous difference.

– Valerie Vespe

SPORTS' DAY – Our Physical Education teacher, Ms. Stacy Kearns, did a phenomenal job switching gears when she saw the weather forecast for Sports' Day '25. Outside activities would have to be canceled! Rather than disappoint the students, she demonstrated her flexibility by organizing new, innovative indoor activities to test the students' skills. Home & School Co-President, Matt Victory, recorded student scores at this event.

SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT – It wasn't easy. Rain forced the cancellation of the tournament on the scheduled date. With the help of Will Weimer and his staff at Stone Creek Golf Course, a new date was secured. This was Sean Ohnmach's final tournament as chairman. Over the last 11 years as head, he and his committee raised over $100,000 to be used for student scholarships. This year's winning team consisted of Matt and Tyler Emmons, Adam Ellis, and Will Weimer. Mark your calendars for the '26 tournament on May 30th! Steve Carroll will be chairing this event moving forward. Thanks Sean for everything you've done for Trinity!

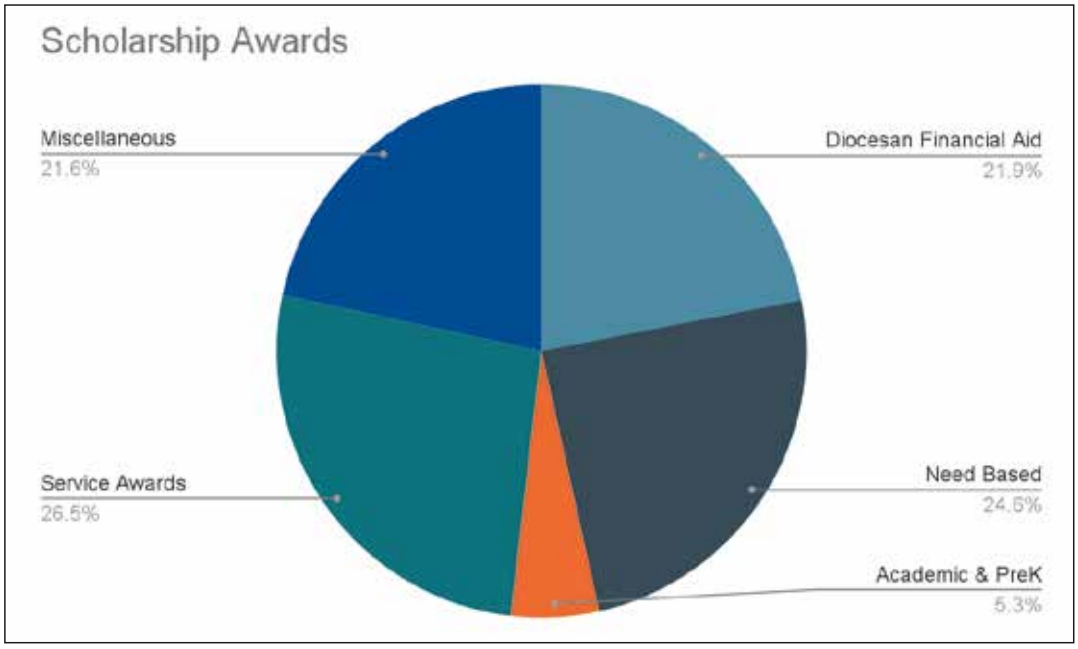
HAPPY RETIREMENT MRS. BAER – Mrs. Baer had a long career in education before joining the Trinity staff. Her years of experience in special education and as a middle school teacher prepared her for her 24 years as a Reading and AIS teacher at St. Paul's/Trinity Catholic School. In addition to her classroom duties, she was instrumental in our participation in the Battle of the Books Competition for 20 years. She served as a Reading Coach for 6 years, working with the primary team to improve literacy instruction. Her favorite memories come from her time at TCS. She formed many lasting friendships with both teachers and students. In retirement, Mrs. Baer re-located to Penfield and is focused on family, with husband Geoff, three sons and two grandsons. As she turns the page to the next chapter, we wish good health and happiness in retirement.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION WALK – One of the most popular events at the end of each school year is the Graduation Walk. Trinity alumni that are graduating from OHS, CBA, and Mexico gather for one last walk through their alma mater. Trinity staff and students line the halls as pomp and circumstance plays. The high school graduates make a stop in the attic to look for their signature on the rafters, which is a tradition for each Trinity 6th grade graduate. These students are truly reaching new heights!

Scholarship Awards

Through the generosity of many, the following scholarships were awarded; Bateman/Seinoski Memorial, Paul Carson Memorial, Jane Conaway Memorial, Kenneth Costello Memorial, Cullinan Scholarships, Mac & Mary McElhone Memorial, Knights of Columbus, H&S Legacy Awards, Linda Kieper Awards, Laborers' Local #633, Joan Leonard Awards, Merrill & Mary Agnes Young Memorial, John Sugar Memorial, in honor of Fr. Scardella, Lysbeth Santon Memorial, Fr. Quigley Memorial, Eugene Saloga Memorial, LaLa Ponzi Leprechaun Award, Mary Fran Ratigan Memorial, Owen Schwartz Award, Joe & Shirley Sugar Memorial, Fr. Smegelsky Award, Fr. Morisette Awards, Walsh Family Award, Zaryski Family Scholarship, Annual Fund Service Awards and Annual Fund Academic Awards. Additional aid was provided by the Diocese of Syracuse. These scholarships were received by the following families:

Allen
Asmus
Baldwin
Bateman
Bessel
Bosco
Bozek
Brown
Burdick
Buske
Canale
Cardone
Carroll
Clark
Crouch
Cummings
Dator
DeSantis
Digby
Dodd
Driscoll
Fenske
Gibson
Gilkey
Gilmore
Graves
Henderson
Inzalaco
Koscieelniak
Lorenz
Malone
McRae
Miles
Miller
Molinari
Moody
Musico
Nelson
Perry
Pytalk
Runge
Sprowson
Sugar
Talamo
Terpening
Vashaw
Verburg
Victory



TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DONORS

Anonymous Donors

3 Sisters Gifts

114 Reserve

5 Below

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Ancient Order of Hibernians Ladies Aux.

Asmus, Catherine Higgins

Backus, M/M Mark
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Bateman,Corine

Bateman, M/M Randy
in memory of Betty Bateman and Mary Seinoski

Bertonneau, Susan

Bison Children's Scholarship Fund

Bletch, Johnny

Bornheimer, M/M Kevin
in memory of Mary Fran Ratigan

Branshaw, M/M Robert
in memory of Nancy & Jim Metcalf

Burns, M/M Thomas

Cabrini Health Foundation

Cady, Charlotte

Campbell, M/M Gordon

Canale's Restaurant

Canale Insurance

Cavellier, Daniel

Church of the Holy Trinity Altar Rosary Society
In honor of Fr. Scardella

Circle T's

Clancy, M/M Patrick
in memory of Bob & Theresa Farrell

Clark, Bridget

Clavelli, Frank Jr.
in memory of Frank, Amy & Maria

Clavelli, Joe

CMOO

Coleman, Lou Ann Rucynski

Compass Credit Union

Conaway, M/M Frank
in memory of Jane Conaway & Owen Schwartz

Connelly, M/M Robert

Corso,Charles & Dr. Gail
in memory of Tom Conaway

Costello, Roseann
in memory of Ken

C's Farm

Curious Kids

Davis Bros. Meats

DeSantis, M/M John
in honor of Shannon & Brandon

DiBlasi, Margaret

Donovan, Dennis & Mary Cay
in memory of Ronald Panzica

Donovan, M/M Dennis
in honor of TCS Class of '25

Dowdle, Adrian

Dowdle Funeral Home

Dufore's Jewelers

Duggan, Allison MD

Enwright, M/M Martin
in memory of Brandon

Fajita Grill

Feeney, M/M James
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Fierro Family

Fitzpatrick, M/M Daniel
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Furdi's Modular Homes

Furlong Family

Generation Bridge

Gilkey, Caitlin Reynolds

Gilkey, Craig, LMHC

GJP

GS Steamers

Gwynn, David
in memory of M/M Robert Farrell

Hageny, M/M Robert Jr.

Hogan, Louanne
in memory of Janet Matthews

Holgado, M/M Phil

Jabbers Wing Sauce

James Comerford Memorial Fund

Kieper, Linda
in memory of Ann & Al Pisa

Korta, Patricia

KSG Law, PLLC

Laborers' Local #633

Lake City Police Club

Lanigan, Terence

Lavner, Debbie
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Lebaudy Law Office

Lighthouse Lane

2024-2025

(Donations from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Mancuso, M/M Joe
in memory of Tom Conaway

Man in the Moon

Markham,M/M Frederick
in memory of Tom Conaway

Mathes, M/M Richard
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Matott, M/M Ed

Matott, M/M Ed
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Metcalf, M/M Ed
in memory of Agatha Kelly

McKinstry, M/M Robert

McNamara, Michael

Mexico Middle School Sunshine Club
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Millwrights Local 1163
in memory of Tom Conaway

Molinari, M/M Ronald

Morisette, Rev. Richard

Nalle, M/M Stan
in memory of Tom Conaway

Nelson Funeral Home

Nicholson, M/M Robert

Novelis

Nylen, Kristen

O'Brien, Ms. Margaret
in memory of Jean & Martin O'Toole

Olson, M/M Andrew

Ontario Orchards

O'Reilly, Patricia
in memory of Merrill & Mary Agnes Young

Oswego Mechanical

Oswego Speedway

Palmer, Mark

Palmer, Pam

Perlman, M/M Arthur
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Perry, Liz

Phelps, Melissa
in memory of Tom Conaway

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Proper Pest

Raby's

Reebel-Torrese, Jenn

Reiner, M/M Michael

Reynolds Law Office

River Walk

Ross, Connie

Rudy's

Ruttan, Noreen

Schneider, M/M Jim
in memory of Anne Riley

Sciarabba, Vivian
in memory of M/M Robert Farrell

Shannon, M/M David
in memory of Dr. LaTulip & Shannon Families

Slosek, Mark & Patricia

Smegelsky, Rev. John

Smith, Joyce
in memory of Tom Conaway

Smith, Kathy & Terry

Smithers, M/M Joel

Spath, Maureen
in memory of Carolyn Spath

Splash Car Wash

Splash Waterpark

Sterio, Ms. Nancy
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Stone Creek Golf Club

Sugar, Joe
in honor of Peg Sugar

Sugar, M/M Joe
in memory of Joe & Shirley Sugar

Sugar, M/M Robert
in memory of Janet & Pat Matthews

Sugar, M/M Robert
in memory of Pat Battelle

Sugar, M/M Robert
in memory of Theresa Farrell

Sugar, M/M Robert
in memory of Nancy Metcalf

Syracuse Mets

Vashaw's Collision

VonHoltz, Chuck

Walsh, M/M Evan

Young, Fran
in memory of Merrill & Mary Agnes Young

READERS' CHOICE AWARD – We always knew she was GREAT, but readers of The Palladium-Times, The Valley News, and Oswego County News recognized Trinity Catholic's fifth grade teacher, Heather Haskins, as the Best Teacher for 2025. Heather began as a substitute and found her home in 5th grade when longtime teacher Barbara VonHoltz retired. Heather commented that at Trinity, students are eager to learn and she does not need to spend her time disciplining, as was the case in the public school. She is now able to share her 'love of learning' with our fortunate students.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Increased enrollment in Kindergarten required us to form a second Kindergarten class. The successful candidate would work alongside veteran teacher, Stephanie Talamo. Abigail Chamberlain was selected for the position. What makes this pair of kindergarten teachers unique is that Abigail was in Mrs. Talamo's first Kindergarten class at Trinity! Ms. Chamberlain was asked to reflect on her new position. The following is a look at her thoughts. 'Walking into my classroom for the first time since I was a child felt both surreal and comforting. Returning to Trinity felt like coming home after being away for a very long time. My room looked clean, bright, and new - yet it was unmistakably my old third grade classroom. It didn't truly feel right until I moved my desk back to the spot where my teacher, Mrs. Reynolds, once kept hers. Teaching in the room where I was once supported and loved is an incredible blessing.' Already appreciating the new furniture and a modernization of the classroom via paint, when asked if Ms. Chamberlain noticed any changes in Trinity, she replied 'exciting new clubs bring wonderful opportunities for students'. Even with these changes, she notes that so much of Trinity remains the same. There is still a strong sense of community, kindness, and faith. She loves hearing the entire school singing together at Mass and to see the students in their adorable uniforms.

The building holds the same gym where I made my first basket in the Leprechaun League, won the spelling bee, made lifelong friends, and always felt free to be myself. She is honored to work alongside Stephanie Talamo, my own Kindergarten teacher, who continues to be just as patient, supportive and as kind as I remember. Other teachers, Mary Annal and Kathy Cummings taught her as well, each of them played a role in inspiring her to be a teacher. Each morning, she is excited to see her students and grateful that she gets to call this work. Her students often tell her they wish they could stay at school forever, which is exactly how she felt when she was at Trinity. She hopes that when her students look back on their year together, they remember the songs we sang, the books we read, the laughter we shared, and most importantly, how special and valued they are.

Mrs. Talamo distinctly remembers Abigail's favorite book was "Love One Another', a book about Jesus' love for us and his encouragement for us to forgive and love. They are virtues that were instilled in her as a student and it has shaped her into a loving, caring teacher for our Kindergartners.

ARTISTIC & MUSICAL ALUMNI – Trinity graduates continue to excel in extra-curricular activities at the middle school and high school level. Shown above is Leah Kelly, TCS 2020 grad who earned the title of Drum Major with the Oswego High School Marching Band. Some additional students who participate in marching band, orchestra, art shows, and school musicals are: Joscelyn Coniski, Trevor Griffiths, Maggie Jerred, Janae Julian, Leah Kelly, Elliot Newell, Nora Newell, Julia Pearson, Nick Schell, Andrew Shaver, Madeleine Shaver, Liam Sugar, Colin and Ainsley Wallace.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

The following articles were submitted by students in Mrs. Bonoffski's sixth grade class.

STEM CLASS
By Catherine Canale

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is taught by Mrs. Dodd, and the sixth grade class has it on Thursday mornings. In STEM so far this school year, the sixth graders have learned about simple machines, which are the pulley, wedge, lever, wheel and axle, screw, and inclined plane. Students also played Blooket to learn about the simple machines and made flag poles by using a pulley system. Pupils made foam using a potion for Halloween, too. The sixth graders also learned about the five senses, and played a game where they had to guess the scent on a cotton ball. Students had to look at objects, then write down description words for the objects. Pupils had to guess mystery objects by the sound they made. Students also had to put their hand in mystery boxes in order to describe the way the objects felt. The sixth graders completed a taste test to guess the substances: sugar, salt, lemon juice or lime juice. Students also went outside and learned about different kinds of bubbles, then played with the bubbles. That is what the sixth grade students have done in STEM so far this school year. (*Photo Credit: Trinity Catholic School Facebook Page)*

TRINITY TRADITIONS:
BACK TO SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT
By Gabby Brown

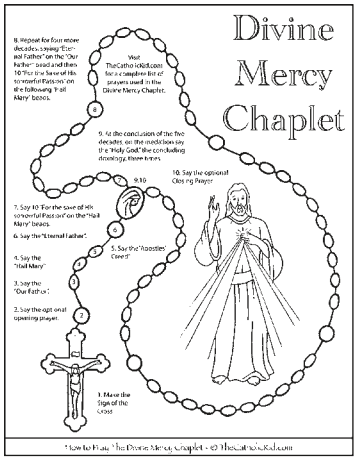
Every year Trinity Catholic School has a Back to School Movie Night in the gym to get the year started with a school-wide event. Students take a paper home with them and get to vote for which movie they want to watch. Before the movie, the families can play on the playground outside and eat. Everyone who attends gets to have salad, pizza, and drinks outside before the movie. After that, the families watch the movie with their friends inside the school gym. Back to School Movie Night is one annual tradition at Trinity Catholic School. *(Photo Credit: Mrs. Barb Sugar)*

ART: TRINITY'S CREATIVE HUB
By Paul Cardone

Art is one of the special classes at Trinity. It is taught by Miss Henry, who is an artist, and has illustrated a children's book. The class is held on the ground floor of Trinity in a quaint room with a view of the block around Trinity. The class is held at various times, and on different days for different classes, but sixth grade goes to Art class on Tuesday mornings. So far this school year, the sixth graders used white and black paint to illustrate a birch tree on blue paper. After the pupils made the trees, they painted a fall forest background on yellow paper. Then, the students cut out their birch trees and subsequently glued the trees to their fall forest backgrounds. Once you have been to Trinity's Art class, you can't deny that Art is Trinity's creative hub: the place where anyone can express themselves through art. *(Photo Credit: Ms. Henry)*

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Trinity students went to church to learn how and why to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Fr. John told students it can be prayed at any time and ordinary rosary beads are used. We pray this chaplet because we are asking God for mercy, both for us and for the whole world. In St. Faustina's diary, she said that if you pray the chaplet, you will be graced with God's mercy in life and in death.



Trinity Catholic School

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UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 25-30	Catholic Schools Week
March 13th	Seussical Musical
Spring '26	"Trinity, Alumni & Friends" 1st Annual Gala
April 25th	Trash & Treasure & BBQ
May 30th	Golf Tournament

Welcoming our new principal, Valerie Vespe!

PRESCHOOL GRADUATIONS

PRESCHOOL GRADUATIONS – Our Preschool program is the future of Trinity Catholic School. 80% of our currently enrolled Kindergarten students attended our PreK program. Ms. Tabitha Pelkey and Mrs. Kara Murray work with our 3 yr. olds, helping them adjust to being away from home and having to share. Our 4 yr. old teachers, Mrs. Mary Annal, Mrs. Maura Kenyon, Mrs. Gina Allen, Mrs. Lori Kenney, and Ms. Morgan Fuller work closely with our kindergarten teachers to develop the skills that will be necessary for their student success in Kindergarten. Our PreK teachers have a reputation for offering the BEST program for 3 and 4 year olds in Oswego! Before and Aftercare is available for families in need of extended care. We currently have 3 and 5 day options available.