

SUMMER 2025

EXAMEN

ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES

CELEBRATING
THE CLASS OF
2025

IMPACTFUL:

THE '07 ALUM MAKING

POSITIVE AND

POWERFUL CHANGE


PIUS XI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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Jack Herbert

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jack Herbert



This spring we celebrated the 89th commencement of Pius XI Catholic High School and welcomed 163 new members to our Alumni Family. For this year's graduation, we focused on the spirit of Esther 4:14, "Perhaps you were born for such a time as this." and I find myself reflecting deeply on these words spoken to Queen Esther. It is a call to courage, purpose, and presence—a reminder that we are each invited by God to step into moments that matter, not just for ourselves, but for the good of others. At Pius XI Catholic High School, we see this call lived out every day through our students, alumni, families, and friends.

This year has been one of incredible grace and momentum. Thanks to the generosity of so many, our Annual Auction Celebration (page 4) was a resounding success. Not only did we surpass our fundraising goal (raising over \$285,000 for scholarships and tuition assistance) but the event also showcased the love and commitment our community holds for Catholic education.

And we are humbled to feature a special family, the Kasprzaks, a two-generation family of faithful supporters whose gifts continue to transform lives (page 6). The **Kasprzak Family** is comprised of thirteen proud Pius XI Popes whose belief in the power of Catholic education ensures that many more young people will hear their own invitation to rise to the challenges of this time—and will be equipped to say "yes!"

Nowhere is the impact of this support more evident than in the celebration of the Class of 2025 (learn more about this year's amazing Popes on page 8), who walked across the graduation stage with confidence, resilience, and faith. These graduates—born for such a time as this—leave our halls ready to serve, to lead, and to answer God's call in the world. Their scholarship achievements, service hours, and leadership speak volumes about the formation they've received here and the future they will help shape.

On page 12, we also proudly spotlight one of our own **Jesse Stewart '07**: English Teacher, Department Division Head, Football Coach, Powerlifting Coach, and beloved "TAC Dad." Jesse embodies what it means to return and give back, forming students in the same halls that once formed him. His commitment reminds us that Pius XI is not simply a school—it is a family, a tradition, and a mission. This same spirit of purpose and legacy was celebrated on May 17, 2025 at our Athletic Hall of Fame Induction (page 15), where we honored individuals whose dedication, excellence, and faith-filled leadership have left an enduring mark on our athletic program.

Every article in this issue holds a story of purpose, resilience, and grace. Together, they form a vibrant mosaic of our school's mission in action.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your prayers. As we look ahead to another school year, I invite you to consider: How are you being called—for such a time as this? Whether through your time, your talents, or your treasure, your involvement is vital. And it is deeply appreciated.

With gratitude and hope,

MR. JACK HERBERT
PRESIDENT



We are pleased to share that **Joan Shafer '71** has been named Chairperson of the Pius XI Board of Directors. A passionate advocate for Catholic Education in the greater Milwaukee area, Joan has been a dedicated member of the Board since 2021, serving as Secretary and, most recently, Vice Chair.

Our outgoing Board Chairperson, **Michael Frohna '84** has given his leadership, guidance, and energy over the past six years. Michael will continue his service as a member of the Advancement Committee.

Both Joan and Michael are true servant leaders who have given countless hours to advancing the mission of Pius XI.

2025 AUCTION: Powerful Traditions. Bright Future.

Our 2025 Auction Celebration was a tremendous success and showing of love and support for each and every Pius XI Pope! On April 10, the Italian Community Center was full of passionate Pope-supporters—alumni, parents, board members, long-time supporters, and new friends—who celebrated the Powerful Traditions and Bright Future of Pius XI. Together, we were able to raise over **\$285,000** to fund scholarships and tuition assistance.

We were honored to be joined by Archbishop Emeritus Jerome E. ListECKi who received the XI Impact Award for his steadfast advocacy for Catholic education in Southeastern Wisconsin. His work over the years has strengthened the foundation of Catholic schools and the commitment to academic excellence and spiritual growth.

Our auction could not have been such a success without the leadership and support of this year's event chairs, **Joan Shafer '71** and **Danielle Bly**, as well as our presenting sponsor, **We Energies Foundation**. We look forward to celebrating again on May 7, 2026.



Powerful Stories:



Pius XI Catholic High School believes that every family's journey is a story worth sharing, and we are honored that two Pius XI families, the **Hill-Nwagbaraocha Family** and the **Clardie-Hook Family**, chose to share their experiences and perspectives, hoping to inspire and uplift others. You can watch the video by scanning the QR code below, or visiting our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@PiusXICatholicHighSchool>

Vevette Hill-Nwagbaraocha, proud mom of her three Pius XI Popes, is a woman of faith, courage and conviction. She holds an important role at Marquette University as the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry for Service Immersion and Pastoral Outreach with Students of African Descent.

Vivevca Nwagbaraocha '14 earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Lindenwood University and went on to receive her Master of Science in Community Psychology from Alverno College. She currently works as a Regional Pro Trainer at Playworks and continues to give back to Pius XI as an Assistant Track Coach and JV Head Basketball Coach. She has served as a Summer League Coach, Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach, Speaker at the National Black Catholic Congress in 2023, and AAU Coach.



Vashti Nwagbaraocha '15 attended college at William Penn University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, and received distinguished honors such as 2018 Dean's List and 2018-2019 Honor Society. After college she started her professional basketball career, first in Bolivia (2019), then Pennsylvania (2020), before going abroad once again to Austria (2021), and then to Portugal (2023 to present).

Victor Nwagbaraocha '17 earned his Associate of General Studies before going on to Drury University for his Bachelor of Business, and then his Master of Business from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. After college, he spent time as a Pius XI Summer League Coach in 2024, and High Jump Assistant Coach from 2022-24. His professional endeavors have taken him abroad to play professional basketball in Portugal since November 2024.



Serena Clardie and Jeff Hook, in addition to being proud parents to two Popes, serve the community each in their own way. Serena is a Psychotherapist and Family Mediator, practicing in downtown Milwaukee helping countless adolescents and families find their voice and their way. Jeff has been instrumental within the design of our city's landscape with his work in Real Estate Development, Design and Construction Consulting.

Max Clardie-Hook '22 is in his third year studying UX Design, graphic design and marketing at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). During his years at Pius XI, he was a High Honor Roll Student, Scholastic Art Award Winner, Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete Award and All-Conference Athlete Awards Winner, in addition to being Captain of the Boys Varsity Soccer Team his senior year. He was a member of the of State Championship team 2018, as the only freshman.



Ethan Clardie-Hook '25 will be attending the Maryland Institute College of Art to study Graphic Design. As a recent grad he is a High Honor Roll Student, Scholastic Art Award Winner, Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete Award and All-Conference Athlete Award Winner. He has also contributed to Pius XI by designing and creating graphics for the Pius XI Soccer Team designing, and the Pius XI Soccer Team shirt.



FAITH, FAMILY AND A COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Kasprzak scholarship honors a legacy while providing opportunities

When **Tim Kasprzak '08**, Principal at St. Matthias Parish School in Milwaukee, was growing up he didn't give much thought to his Catholic education or family dynamics, they were just a part of life as he knew it. He had no idea the influence both would have in leading him to his vocation and current role.

The youngest grandchild of Edward and Martha Kasprzak, Tim is part of a large family and was the last in a line of two generations of Kasprzaks who called Pius XI home over a 54-year timespan.

"Growing up, our family was always together and I thought that was normal," remarked Tim. "I recognized later on that this isn't always the case for all. Everything was rooted in family and faith. My grandparents had a deep love for Catholic education."

THE ENDURING VALUE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

That deep love and commitment meant sacrificing to send their seven children to St. Matthias and then on to Pius XI Catholic High School. In 2003, the family established the Edward and Martha Kasprzak Endowed Scholarship to honor their parents' commitment to Catholic education and provide opportunities for other families. The scholarship provides a one-year award to a graduate of St. Matthias who has demonstrated service to their community, finished in the top third of their class, and selected Pius XI for their high school journey.

"We wanted the scholarship to be a loving tribute to mom and dad," shared **Linda (Kasprzak) Sternig '71**. "We deeply appreciate the sacrifices they made to provide us with a Catholic education and when you look at our family you can see the value. Some of us have sent our own kids to Catholic schools and many of us are involved in Catholic schools, either as educators or volunteers, all because of mom and dad."

Like Tim, Linda and her husband **Mike Sternig '70**, dedicated their careers to Catholic education. Mike was the principal at Holy Angels School in West Bend for 35 years and Linda was a teacher there, filling multiple roles from second grade to leading foreign language instruction.

Tim's father, **John Kasprzak '79**, agrees that the foundation provided by their parents was a gift, noting that he and his siblings felt compelled to provide that same gift to others in their parents' names.

"Knowing that Pius XI provided all of us with a great faith-filled education and seeing the rewards of what this great institution has done for our family, it's very fulfilling to be able to give back," commented John.

One of the family's favorite parts of the scholarship, beyond the fulfillment and lasting legacy it provides, is being able to meet their scholar and their family at the annual scholarship breakfast hosted by the Pius XI Advancement Team. These annual gatherings allow the Kasprzak family to hear first-hand from their scholar about life at Pius XI today, as well as their interests and accomplishments.

"It's a big honor to meet the families and to help make their Pius XI experience possible," shared John. "And to have the opportunity to share our parents' story with them."

For Tim, it's become a full circle experience, joining his family's legacy with his new role as Principal at St. Matthias.

"I think that Pius XI and St. Matthias have values that are very much aligned. As the Assistant Principal and soon-to-be Principal, the things that I'm seeing and hearing, demonstrate that Pius XI is providing the quality, Catholic education I experienced," commented Tim. "And it's still very true that Pius XI is a community where everyone

Two generations of Pius XI Popes

The Kasprzak Family's Pius XI journey spanned two generations and 54 years, beginning in 1954 with Gerald and culminating with the graduation of the youngest grandchild in 2008.

Children of Edward & Martha Kasprzak

- 1958 Gerald Kasprzak
- 1960 Julian Kasprzak
- 1962 Kathleen (Kasprzak) Hoffman
- 1966 Rosemary (Kasprzak) Smith
- 1969 Daniel Kasprzak
- 1971 Linda (Kasprzak) Sternig
- 1979 John Kasprzak

Grandchildren of Edward & Martha Kasprzak

- 1985 Donald Smith
- 1986 Kevin Smith
- 1990 Carolyn Smith
- 1995 Edward Kasprzak
- 2006 Lauren Kasprzak
- 2008 Timothy Kasprzak

finds their niche. Pius XI does a great job of building that strong sense of belonging and you want people to feel like they belong.”

Today, more than 20 St. Matthias graduates have experienced a transformational Pius XI education because of the Edward and Martha Kasprzak Endowed Scholarship, carrying forward the the couples' deep belief in the value of a Catholic education.



The Kasprzak children established an endowed scholarship in 2003 to honor their parents, Edward and Martha.



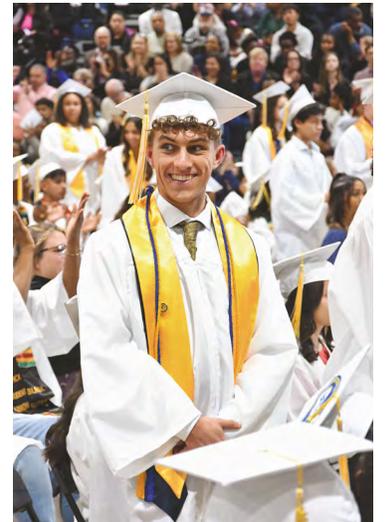
Edward and Martha with their seven children, all proud Pius XI graduates. (left to right: Jerry '58, Julian '60, Kathleen '62, Rosemary '66, Dan '69, Linda '71 and John '79)

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

On May 23, 2025 we welcomed 163 of the newest members of the Pius XI Alumni Family that is now 29,897 strong. Students from this year's graduating class earned over **\$19 million dollars** in scholarships to top universities and colleges. Congratulations to all the graduates and a big thank you to the families, friends, and teachers who supported them along the way. We would also like to give a special "thank you" to all of Pius XI's supporters. Because of your generosity, graduates from the Class of 2025 received more than **\$1,023,198** in scholarships and financial aid over the last four years to make their Pius XI experience a reality!



Where 2025 Popes are headed next



College/University

85%



Technical School or Trades

10%



Workforce

5%

2025 TOP XI!

This year's Top XI will be headed to the following universities this fall.



Karina Contreras-Tadych '25
Gonzaga University

Daisy DiCarlo '25 Milwaukee
Institute of Art & Design



Owen Hicketier '25 University
of Wisconsin-Madison

Jared Lindbloom '25
Iowa State University



**Georgia Institute
of Technology**

Jacqueline Mueller '25
Georgia Institute of Technology

Maryveth Ochoa Curiel
University of
Wisconsin-Milwaukee



Addison Pape '25
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Shannon Terry '25
Milwaukee School of Engineering



Christen Woodfaulk '25
University of Pennsylvania

CLASS OF 2025
Valedictorian

**MORGAN
PARR**



CLASS OF 2025
Salutatorian

**CONOR
RILEY**



More than **35%** of the
Class of 2025 received the
**Presidential Award for
Academic Excellence**



GPA OF 3.5 AND HIGHER

GPA OF 3.0 - 3.499



21% of the Class of
2025 received the
**Presidential Award for
Academic Achievement**

CELEBRATING HBCU MATRICULATION AT PIUS XI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

At Pius XI Catholic High School, college decisions are more than just destinations—they reflect student values, aspirations, and the pursuit of a community where students can thrive. Over the past several years, a growing number of Pius XI graduates have chosen to continue their academic journeys at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)—institutions with rich legacies of excellence, empowerment, and cultural affirmation.

Since 2019, nearly **50 Pius XI students have enrolled at 25 different HBCUs** across the country. These institutions have included renowned names such as **Howard University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Tuskegee University, Clark Atlanta University, and Fisk University**, as well as a wide range of other schools offering rigorous academics and vibrant campus life.

The **Class of 2023** saw a significant increase in the number of Popes choosing HBCUs, with **12 out of 150 graduates (8%)** attending one of nine HBCUs, including **Fisk University, Howard University, Florida A&M University, and Prairie View A&M University**. This upward trend continued with the **Class of 2025**, where **11 students—9%** of the class—have committed to HBCUs, representing an impressive ten institutions. Notably, this includes schools such as **Alabama A&M, Southern University, Elizabeth City State University, and Morgan State University**, reflecting a broadening interest in the diverse options within the HBCU network.



Howard University holds a unique distinction among Pius XI graduates—as the top sought-after HBCU for our students overall, with **five alumni** choosing to

attend and nineteen graduates having been accepted to the school. Additionally, **14 other HBCUs** have welcomed at least **two Pius XI graduates each**, demonstrating not only a consistent pipeline but also the strong reputations these schools have among Pius XI families.

The commitment of Pius XI students to HBCUs underscores the school's dedication to helping young people find environments that align with their cultural identities, academic goals, and professional aspirations. As this trend continues, we will continue to celebrate these students for honoring the legacy of HBCUs and helping to shape their bright futures on campuses steeped in tradition, leadership, and impact.





Two faculty members honored with Distinguished Alumni Award

Mary Talsky '81 and **Mary Eldredge '82** were honored at this year's commencement with the Distinguished Alumni Award. The award recognizes the excellence they have demonstrated as educators, their decades of service to their alma mater, and the profound impact they have had on countless Pius XI students and the community during their tenure.



Talsky has been a key member of the social sciences faculty for nearly 40 years, impressing upon thousands of Popes the importance of history and civics through courses such as Honors Government and AP

U.S. History. She has given her time to lead and advocate for many of the programs she benefited from as a student, serving as a moderator for Mock Trial and an advocate for Badger Girls and Boys State.

Eldredge has been an integral member of the Pius XI math faculty for nearly 30 years, leading thousands of Popes through algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and pre-calculus, inspiring those with a love for numbers to challenge themselves and patiently guiding those who need extra assistance. She served as Math Department Chair for 15 years and coached Pius XI's Mathletes Team to many victories.

Long-time Pius XI teacher and former colleague **Pete Yaeger** said he can think of no one more deserving than these two women. "The loyalty they've both shown to the school they went to and the sacrifices they've made to be here says a lot about their integrity and character," commented Yaeger. "The fact that they've dedicated their careers to Pius XI is special, this type of tenure is unique in any profession."

Students **Itzel Sanchez '25** and **Karina Contreras-Tadych '25** presented the women with the award. Both agree that Talsky and Eldredge's dedication and caring approach are inspiring and motivating.

"Ms. Talsky encouraged me to do Mock Trial and I'm forever grateful to her for that," said Contreras-Tadych. "That's how I discovered I want to be a lawyer." Fellow graduate **Jackie Mueller '25** added, "I'm thankful I had both of these teachers. They each had different impacts on me, but both in very beautiful ways."

GREAT EXPECTATIONS:

Jesse Stewart '07 cultivates success, fosters relationships on the field, in the classroom and beyond

One might expect English Instructor **Jesse Stewart '07** to be familiar with the Charles Dickens' classic *Great Expectations*, but for Stewart it isn't just a novel, it's a way of life.

The English Department Division Head sets high standards in the classroom, as well as on the field and in the weight room. He's been challenging students to think critically in courses like Contemporary Literature and Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition since joining the faculty in 2021. He took over as Head Coach of the football program in summer 2021 and didn't hesitate to add powerlifting to his head coaching duties when the position opened.

The key to achieving these expectations? Creating the right environment. He's mastered creating a culture built on belief, engagement and strong fundamentals for his students and athletes alike.

IT STARTS WITH BELIEF

Believing his students are capable of analyzing text and mastering grammar. Believing his team can drive down the field and get the win. Believing his powerlifters can bench more today than they did yesterday. Stewart believes in his students and this, in turn, makes them believe in themselves, the team and the collective goals they are working towards.

And this belief has begun to pay off as evidenced by the football program's recent successes. The roster has tripled in size since Stewart's first year coaching and the team made their first playoff appearance in over a decade to close out the 2024 season.

The success extends into the classroom too. Stewart recounts the journey of a particular student who was very resistant to his encouragement to apply for his AP Literature course her senior year. While she ultimately did, it wasn't without reservations and complaints. She didn't enjoy reading and wasn't sure she wanted the challenge. The outcome? She performed well on the AP exam and ultimately earned college credit.

"I ran into her over the summer when my wife and I were at the farmer's market. She was working and shared with me how happy she was that she didn't have to take the English course at UW-Madison her first year," Stewart recalled. "It was a really cool moment and it gave me goosebumps to say 'do you remember when you were going to refuse it?' The initial resistance and then the trust to try it and see what can happen. That made me really proud."

Recent graduate **Sarah Slaske '25** has a deep appreciation for Stewart's influence on her life and said she requested a transfer to his TAC (Pius XI's version of homeroom) after experiencing his support and belief during freshman year English class.



“He has such a positive mindset and was someone who was always pushing me to do more, not the bare minimum like I was, because he knew I could,” Slaske shared. “He motivated me.”

ENGAGEMENT IS KEY

Stewart acknowledges that many students aren’t walking into his classes thinking English is their favorite subject and is quick to add that it’s his responsibility to find a way to connect. Stewart’s philosophy is to start with engaging, contemporary, and relevant content. He notes that it is imperative that English teachers pick the right novels, poetry and other works to study. “Our kids like to read something that is a mirror, they want to try to find themselves in it, and it’s good to push them to read things that provide a window where they learn about other perspectives,” Stewart said.

If the content isn’t interesting, students will check out. Selecting relevant content helps with buy-in. “[With the right content] you’ve got them,” said Stewart. “And then you can take the ‘boring skills’ like grammar and syntax and teach that within the context of relevant content.” Stewart also taps into students’ creativity and what can only be described as “childlike wonder” to help spur engagement. In AP Literature, one of the first assignments is to create a class mascot. The direction: combine an animal with some type of literary reference—a title, author or genre. Past mascots include “Charles Duckins” and “Snakespeare”. Once the mascot is agreed upon, it mysteriously begins to appear, much like the Christmas character “Elf on the Shelf”, throughout the classroom during the semester: taped under desks, on the smart board, or in commentary on essays and always with a message that reinforces what Stewart is trying to teach.

“You do this weird stuff and you do it well and not in a cheesy way, where you can have the kids come up with it and suddenly they’re running into the room trying to see if their desk has a message from Snakespeare,” Stewart remarked. “It’s just a funny thing and I’m sure there are students that are probably like, ‘dude, get over this,’ but the majority really lean in and it works.”



BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Stewart’s approach as both a teacher and coach is to plan with the end in mind, whether it’s earning the highest possible score on the AP exam or making it to the state championship game. From day one, he breaks down the goal into microskills and milestones so that everyone is getting that strong foundation and building upon it.

“Before you can try to get a sophistication point on an AP Lit exam question, I need to teach you how to take evidence and apply it to an argument,” Stewart explained.

Along the way, there are important tests of progress—from midterms to Friday night match-ups. Stewart said these tests allow him to be a reflective practitioner, another skill he tries to pass along to students. Whether it’s analyzing English test results or film on a Saturday morning, the process allows him to grow and learn as a leader.

“If they’re struggling with something, that means I’m not doing my job and I need to make adjustments,” said Stewart.

(Story continues on page 14)

A PASSION FOR THE POPES CULTURE

For Stewart, the opportunity to teach at his alma mater is one that just feels right and has been incredibly rewarding—for him personally, as well as the numerous lives he’s touched.

“There’s something special about the bones of this place and the kids that are here, as well as the staff and the leadership. We’re doing things right, following a good moral compass and Catholic social teachings,” commented Stewart. “Everything we do just fits with my personality and how I operate.”

There’s no denying the influence and impact his great expectations have had on many students and athletes, including Slaske who made the move to his TAC back in early 2022. Not too long after, her father was hospitalized and later died. Slaske credits Stewart with helping her through the exceptionally difficult loss.

“When I lost my dad, I lost myself, but he helped me find who I am again,” Slaske shared. “Without him, I don’t think I would have graduated.”



The Pius XI Catholic High School English Department got in the spirit for Halloween 2024.

AP at Pius XI: By the Numbers

In today’s world, earning college credit before you even set foot on campus is highly desired. To help meet this need, as well as challenge students, Pius XI offers a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses supported by the College Board and concurrent courses offered in partnership with post-secondary institutions, including Alverno College and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

- Pius XI offers **17** Advanced Placement classes and **3** concurrent credit classes
- **4** of these courses are taught by Pius XI alumni:
 - **Flannery Crain '09** - AP Human Geography
 - **Mary Eldredge '82** - AP Pre-Calculus
 - **Jesse Stewart '07** - AP English Literature & Composition
 - **Mary Talsky '81** - AP United States History
- In 2024, **302** AP exams were administered at Pius XI
- **70%** of students scored 3 or higher on AP exams
- **17** students were named AP Scholars
- **8** students earned the AP Scholar with Distinction designation
- **7** students earned the AP Scholar with Honor designation

Celebrating Our 2025 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Pius XI celebrated some of our many outstanding student athlete alumni this spring at the Athletic Hall of Fame. The 2025 inductees were: **Ron Hayek '64**, the **2015 Girls Basketball Team**, **John Hansen '70**, **Ed Garrett '82**, the **1989 Girls Volleyball Team**, **Alex Krauska**, and **Kevin Kehoss '91**.

Over 200 people gathered in the Fieldhouse to celebrate these special Popes and Lady Popes. Congratulations to our newest inductees!



← Scan the QR code to see the Hall of Fame program for full bios of this year's inductees.

2024-25 Sports Report



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING WOODLAND CONFERENCE SCHOLAR ATHLETES!

(From Left) **Jayda Kelly '25** - Volleyball; **Amalia Slavens '25** - Soccer; **Karina Contreras-Tadych '25** - Volleyball, Softball;; **Jacqueline Mueller '25** - Cross Country; **Christian Wood '25** - Football, Track & Field; **Conor Riley '25** - Volleyball, Baseball; **Owen Hickethier '25** - Volleyball, Baseball; **Ethan Clardie-Hook '25** - Soccer, Golf.

2025 PIUS XI ATHLETIC AWARDS

Dick Fischer Most Improved Athlete Award - **Imani Stockbauer '25**

Ruth Stromila Sportsmanship Award - **Vaughn Weber '25**

Tom Kloza Athletic Character Award - **Addie Pape '25**
and **Conor Riley '25**

BOYS BASKETBALL

Jayson Kowalski '26 - Honorable Mention, All-Conference;
Justin Jones '27 - Honorable Mention, All-Conference;
Preston Kirchoff '27 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Georgia Acompanado '25 - 1st Team All-Conference;
WBCA 2nd Team All-State; **Addison Miranda '25** - 2nd Team
All-Conference; **Tess Wiczek '25** - Woodland Conference
Scholar Athlete, 2nd Team All-Conference, WBCA 2nd Team
All-State; **Maricella Rivera '27** - Honorable Mention All-
Conference; **Chelinda Spector '27** - Honorable Mention
All-Conference.

POWERLIFTING

Congratulations to Pius XI's powerlifting team and head coach **Jesse Stewart '07** on their performance at the Powerlifting America High School Nationals Competition. Pius XI's JV Boys Team took second in the nation as and our JV Combined (girls and boys) Team impressively also took 2nd place in the nation!

Competitor Placement in Weight Class Nationwide:

- **Noella Weger '25** - 2nd Nationwide
- **Payton Denneau '26** - Personal records in all categories
- **Christine Moore '26** - 2nd Nationwide
- **Jordan Powell '26** - 5th Nationwide
- **Amari Amos '27** - 3rd Nationwide
- **Henry Baisley '27** - Personal records in all categories
- **Melvin Buford '27** - 2nd Nationwide
- **Selah Edmond '27** - 4th Nationwide
- **Elijah Morales '27** - 2nd Nationwide
- **Isabella Munoz '27** - 3rd Nationwide
- **Daphne O'Neill '27** - 3rd Nationwide
- **Jonel Rabell '27** - 12th Nationwide
- **Holden Benishek '28** - 4th Nationwide
- **Jackson Hurst '28** - 5th Nationwide
- **Devani Okimosh '28** - 9th Nationwide



BASEBALL

Conor Riley '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete;
Morgan Gillitzer '26 - Academic All-State, 2nd Team
All-Conference; **Mariano Rivera '26** - Honorable Mention
All-Conference; **Logan Polakowski '27** - 2nd Team
All-Conference.

SOFTBALL

Karina Contreras-Tadych '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar
Athlete; **Amaya Sprewer '25** - 1st Team All-Conference;
Amanda Contreras-Tadych '26 - Honorable Mention
All-Conference; **Sydney Tilley '27** - Honorable Mention
All-Conference.

GIRLS SOCCER

Amalia Slavens '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete;
Julia Bach '25 - Honorable Mention All-Conference;
Maricella Rivera '27 - 2nd Team All-Conference;
Emery Pape '28 - Honorable Mention All-Conference.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Jeffrey Goodman, III '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete

BOYS GOLF

Ethan Clardie-Hook '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete

BOYS TENNIS

Alan Mitchell '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Isabella Vargas '25 - Woodland Conference Scholar Athlete

2025 WIAA State Championship Outcomes



- 3rd - 4x100m Relay - (**Ameena Harris '25**,
Caylen Todd '25, **Alanna Loyd '27**, and **Tyjah Horton '28**)



- 3rd - Pole Vault - **Mya Gencuski '26**
- 7th - Long Jump - **Alanna Loyd '27**
- 10th - 100m - **Tyjah Horton '28**
- 14th - 100m Hurdle - **Chelinda Spector '27**

HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PIUS XI LADY POPES

Girls Basketball head coach, **Scott Herrick '75** earned his 500th Victory as a Varsity Basketball Coach and Senior, **Addison Miranda '25** scored her 1,000th career point on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Miranda joins two other Pius XI Seniors, **Georgia Acompanado '25** and **Tess Wiczek '25** who also scored 1,000th career point this season.



KEEPING THE FAITH AT PIUS XI

At Pius XI, students and teachers live out their faith daily through prayer, compassion, and service. Making time to reflect and build upon the values of our Catholic faith is an important part of the Pius XI experience. Each day, we all pause for a few moments of prayer and thanksgiving

during a student-led Examen.



Campus Minister, Tom Holschuh looks on as student Amanda Contreras-Tadych '26 leads the school through the daily Examen and includes a special prayer for the installation of Archbishop Jeffrey Grob on January 14, 2025

As students, teachers, and families of our Catholic school, we recently celebrated two deeply inspiring moments in our Church's life: the election of **Pope Leo XIV** and the installation of **Archbishop Jeffrey Grob** in Milwaukee.

These events have ignited fresh hope in our mission of faith and learning.

At the beginning of Semester 2, a group of Seniors had the chance to visit the beautiful grounds of the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary as part of our continued Catholic Schools Week programming. The visit started with Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael Malucha, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in the stunning chapel of Meyer Hall.



Over Spring Break, students had the chance to spend time in Italy and Greece, re-tracing some of the paths of early church leaders and visiting Vatican City. This group of students had the unique opportunity to experience the city during Jubilee. Students visited the Vatican and were able to walk through one of the city's holy doors that is opened only once every 25 years. This experience was extremely impactful and allowed them to have a moment to say prayers for loved ones and reflect on their own faith. Many students brought home items blessed by the Cardinals including rosaries and jewelry.



Did you know?

Pope Leo XIV's Pius XI Catholic High School Connections

- Pius XI Alumna, **Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, Ph.D. '54**, taught Pope Leo XIV scripture while he was a seminarian at Catholic Theology University (CTU).
- Sister Jeanette Salbert, SLW taught Pope Leo XIV during his grammar school years at St. Mary's Riverdale in Chicago, IL, and is the grandaunt of Special Studies faculty member **Cayleigh Nixon**.
- During his mission work in Peru, **Pope Leo XIV** worked side-by-side, ministering to those in need with members of the **School Sisters of Saint Francis** (one of Pius XI's founding religious orders).

Pius XI Proud

ALUMNI UPDATES

Mary Jo (Halmo) Suminski '71 retired in 2019 from Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) and resides in Brown Deer, WI with her spouse of 43 years. Together they are parents of a son, Eric, who graduated from MSOE in 2005 and specializes in Business Intelligence and Analytics.



Jim Haertel '75 is the Chief Steward of The Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery, together with his wife, **Karen '78** welcomed their sixth grandchild into their proud family.

Robert Jones '75 lives in Prairie Village, KS and is a Quality Assurance Inspector.



Kristine Wehse '75 is retired and lives in Lexington, NE.

Larry Gallitz '80 is a television director and broadcast engineer at WITI FOX6 Milwaukee. He also directs sporting events at various sports venues in the area and does audio and video work for network sports events throughout the State. He has three sons and lives in Milwaukee, WI with his partner, Wendy.

John Patrick '80 lives with his family in Henderson, NV and has worked in aviation for over 40 years. He has been employed by Spirit Airlines for over 21 years and is currently a captain of an Airbus A320 airliner. He has also been a volunteer for the Civil Air Patrol for over 38 years.



Susan (Gorak) Schrage '80 is the owner of Merry Madam Pies in Mequon, WI and also works as a Registered Nurse Case Manager for Community Care, Inc.

John Carini, JD, PhD '84 is a retired attorney and business consultant living in Milwaukee, WI.

John Pfaffl '84 was named associate head coach of the UW-Milwaukee women's basketball program. He



resides in Fox Point, WI with his wife, Janice. Together they are parents to two daughters, Sofia and Karli.

Michelle (Chudzinski) Baake '85 is a proud mom to two grown children, Taylor and Mari and grandmother to two. She is a breast cancer survivor and currently resides in West Allis, WI and works as an administrative assistant at Access Home Care Solutions.



Maria (Koch) Bartsch '85 is mother to three children and grandmother to nine. She lives in Woodruff, WI and has worked as a finance clerk at Lake of the Torches Resort Casino in Lac Du Flambeau, WI for 24 years.



Dave Bugarino '85 is a field sales manager with Harley-Davidson Motor Company and resides in Knoxville, TN.

Kris (Wied) Carey '85 is a math teacher at the School District of Waukesha. Residing in New Berlin, WI, Kris is married to Jeff and together they have five children and two grandchildren.



Sue (Jerde) Daschner '85 lives in Waterford, WI and is an elementary school teacher.

Rita DeRango '85 lives in West Allis, WI.



Mary (Otterson) Fox, MD '85 is an ENT Physician in private practice and is the proud mother of two.

Mary (Luecke) Hammond '85 lives in Caledonia, WI with her spouse, Kerry. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. and works as a director of behavioral health, outpatient services.



Julie (Pfannerstill) Herman '85 resides in Franklin, WI and is a financial advisor for Edward Jones investments.

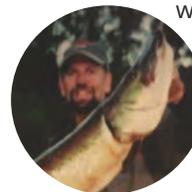
Jill (Pakulski) Holmes '85 resides in Milwaukee, WI and is the proud grandmother.



Mike Kapp '85 retired after 31 years with Kimberly Clark. He resides with his wife, Deb, of over twenty years in New Berlin, WI.

Bob Klar '85 lives with his wife, Jenni and their three sons in Greenfield, WI.

Greg Nimmer '85 is the owner of Nimmer Swimmer Musky Lures and was the winner of the 2012 World Championship Musky Lures Building contest. He resides in Tomahawk, WI with his wife, Carol, their nephew who they adopted in 2023 and two dogs, Zildjian and Geno.



Anthony Panagopoulos '85 is owner and stylist of Tony & Friends Salon in Brookfield, WI.

Rick Petfalski '85 is the Mayor of the City of Muskego and owner of Graphic Innovations.





Tammy (Landolt) Viola '85 is a senior HRIS analyst at Baptist Memorial Healthcare and resides in Mukwonago, WI with her two adopted children.

Angela (Phelps) Baltz, DVM '90 recently retired as owner and veterinarian of Elmbrook Veterinary Clinic. She married **Chris Baltz '88** in 2022. Together they live in Estes Park, CO and also established "Fluffy Pants Farm" where they raise calves, pigs, and countless hens, and a couple of roosters. Her children **Rory '19** and **Daniel Niemann** both attended Pius XI.



Lori (Ray) Bunch '90 is the South East Regional Territory Sales Manager at Bake 'N Joy Foods and resides with her spouse, James (Doug) in Sherrills Ford, NC.



Craig Drummy '90 lives in Hubertus, WI and is a detective with the Village of Pewaukee Police Department.

BethAnne (July) Kulig '90 lives in Waukesha, WI and is an Executive Assistant at Elkay Interior Systems.

Bryan Lyday '90 lives in Milwaukee, WI and is the Principal at St. Joseph Academy.



Julie (Conway) Mayer '90 lives in Greenfield, WI and works at Milwaukee Public Schools as a 4th Grade Teacher. She is also the proud mother of Nick (31), Alyssa (27) and Emily (17).

Jane Possell '90 is Executive Vice President and Global Chief Information Officer at CNA Insurance in Chicago, IL.



Kanika Burks '91 was named the first Chief Schools Officer of Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy in November 2024.



Catey (Ott) Thompson '91 is the Artistic Director of Catey Ott Dance Collective, faculty member of Milwaukee Ballet School and Academy, faculty member of Marquette University, Dance Department.



Stephen Blaha '92 was named Director of Campus Ministry at Marquette University.

Mike Berndt '95 is the owner of M. Berndt Design an Pedal of the Day. He resides in Weaverville, NC with his wife of 12 years, Marisa, their daughter, Amaya, and their three dogs Scout, Stella, and Bruce.



Angela (Katrichis Gremler) Knight '95 resides in Pewaukee, WI with her spouse Jake and eight children. Angela is an attorney at law firm Walden, Neitzke & Taylor, S.C in Waukesha, WI.



Jessica Koth '95 was recently awarded the Mary Neville Bielefeld Award by Marquette University.



Jamie (Hansen) Krohn '95 resides in Madison, WI with her spouse, Nick, and two sons, Cameron and Connor. Jamie is a 1st Grade teacher entering her 24th year in the field of education.



Andrea (Kolasinski) Marcinkus '95 resides in Aurora, IL and is the Director of Research & Insights at Boundless Learning.

Marisa Merkl '95 is the Brand Director of Video for Advocate Health and is a board member of Tiny Hooves Sanctuary in Wisconsin.

Nicole Skowronski '95 resides in Milwaukee, WI and is the 5th-12 Grade Choir Director at University Lake School in Hartland, WI.



Lynda (Dinamarca) Wood '95 is a Production Planner at Xylem Water Solution and resides in Hartland, WI with her spouse, Paul Gibson. Together they have two adult children currently attending college.

Joe Anderson '00 is a management consultant and data scientist. He resides in Wauwatosa, WI with his spouse Clara Clifford and their three children, Woodrow, Francis, and Rose. Joe teaches Sunday School at St. Sebastian Parish in Milwaukee and is the current president of Tosa's Night Out event.

Mike Carey '00 resides in Waterford, WI with his spouse and three daughters and currently works as a General Sales Manager at Lynch Chevrolet.

Rebecca Chmielewski '00 is the Assistant Director of Athletics at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

Marisa Dondlinger '00 is the author of *Come And Get Me*, *Gray Lines*, *Open*, and *Scenes From a Bar*, as well as the forthcoming *SoulMates*. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Marisa practiced law for several years before devoting herself to writing fiction. When not writing, she enjoys watching her daughters play sports.



Andy Duszynski '00 resides in Monticello, MN with his spouse of 21 years and three children. He currently works as a Financial Professional at the University of Minnesota. Andy is the co-founder and co-organizer of Montipalooza - a music festival of 90's tribute bands with the goal of raising money for the Monticello Food Shelf and Help Center.

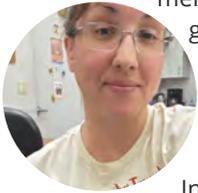


Carla Jones '05 is the Office Administrator at Surges Electric, Inc. She is proud mom to **Amelia '27, Philip '29**, and bonus daughter **Kyliegh**. Carla is the founding member of 414 local



Sofia Herrera, MD '16 graduated from the Medical School of Wisconsin and will be serving as an OBGYN Resident at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA.

Kellen Gonzales '21 graduated from Concordia University with a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, he will begin his second year of pharmacy school and works as a Pharmacy Intern at Aurora Health Care West Allis.



grassroots Native American community group, Urban Indigenous League and serves as Board Secretary of the newly formed Indian Summer Festival, Inc.

Jose Carmona '10 resides in Milwaukee, WI and is a Peer Program Coordinator for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Maricarmen Figueroa Hernandez '20 recently graduated from Marquette University as an OPUS Engineering Scholar with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.



Keira Johnston '22 is a Dean's List honor student studying Biology at St. Norbert College and she was recently named the Communications Vice President for Alpha Xi Delta Sorority.



Artie Turner '10 is a licensed psychotherapist at Children's Wisconsin and was named as one of Milwaukee Business Journal's 2025 40 Under 40.

Grace Gierach '20 graduated with summa cum laude from the University of Oklahoma in December 2024. She currently works as a Business Services and Programs Specialist for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.



• ALL ARE WELCOME •

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
NOON - 7:00 PM



**FOOD, BEER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL
 IN THE PIUS XI PARKING LOT**



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dan Carey '00 • Alumni Director
 E-mail: dcarey@piusxi.org • Phone: 414-290-8124



Scan me to update your contact information

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IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May the soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Joseph "Joe" Buneta '52
April 29, 2025

James C. Barany '53
February 2, 2025

Br. Terrence Thomas Bullock, OP '54
January 1, 2025

Alvin William Emmons, Sr. '56
December 23, 2024

Virginia Ann (Nelson) Emmons '56
February 21, 2025

Jerome "Jerry" Gallo (Guagliardo) '56
November 30, 2024

Betty (Kojis) Mathison '56
January 25, 2025

SMSgt. Robert Sambs '56
December 10, 2024

Carol (Gebhardt) Karbowski '57
November 23, 2024

Raymond Andres '58
April 18, 2025

Diane (Beaumier) Nolan '58
May 10, 2025

Marybeth (Knackert) Marsicek '59
March 14, 2025

Robert Stockfisch '59
March 23, 2025

Carol "Sue" Marie (Fetzer) Arseneau '60
April 20, 2025

George F. "Butch" Blanchard '60
April 12, 2025

Willard R. Behrens '61
January 11, 2025

James Buboltz '61
December 6, 2024

Michael Patrick Dineen '61
May 15, 2025

William Berkopec '62
December 2, 2024

Jerome "Jerry" Krajewski '62
March 20, 2024

Camille Ann O'Melia '62
December 2, 2024

Michal Duvencek '63
May 5, 2025

Roger T. Lambert '63
December 27, 2024

Janice (Kosterman) Jilling '65
April 12, 2025

Georgia (Williams) Dzwinel '66
July 22, 2021

Michael Seeley '66
April 22, 2025

Mary Paula (Zajackowski) Dix '68
December 21, 2024

James Fetzer '69
March 12, 2025

Daniel Jones '69
April 6, 2025

Steve Bowen '70
February 25, 2025

James R. Hammetter '70
December 11, 2024

Lois E. Stefanich '70
April 26, 2025

Mary Burke Ryan '72
December 7, 2024

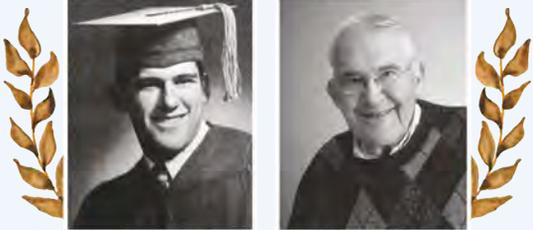
John F. Ehlinger '74
February 22, 2025

Karen Lynn (Wick) Benz '77
March 14, 2025

Robert "Bob" D. Younger '80
January 10, 2025

Pius XI celebrates the lives of Pius XI Alumni and current and past faculty and staff whose passings were recently shared with us. We rely on the information available to us and sincerely apologize for any names we have inadvertently omitted. Please contact Communications Manager, Kristin Bendlin, at kbendlin@piusxi.org for any memorial notifications.

In Memoriam
SEPTEMBER 11, 1934 - APRIL 29, 2025



JOSEPH S. BUNETA '52
Teacher, Coach, Dean, & Friend
1965-1998

PHOTOS

SUMMER 2025



COVER PHOTO:

Adela Ramirez '25 performs in the 2025 Spring Dance Show

PHOTO CREDIT: Patrick Haley Camera

IN THIS ISSUE

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(Clockwise from top left)

(1) Guests mingle at Pius XI's Annual Auction Celebration hosted at the Italian Community Center on April 10, 2025. **(2)** 2025 Auction Co-Chairs Danielle Bly and **Joan Shafer '71** provide comments at the opening of the event program. **(3)** Guests bidding on surprise live auction items. **(4)** Students from Pius XI's Chamber Choir perform "Run to You" by Pentatonix. **(5)** Archbishop Emeritus Jerome E. ListECKI accepts the 2025 XI Impact Award. **PHOTO CREDIT:** **Drew Peters '23** - Peters.JPG

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(Left-to-right)

(1) Salutatorian **Conor Riley '25**, **Sanai Dzick '25**, **Kate Lange '25**, Theology Instructor **Mr. Charlie Farrar**, **Owen Hickethier '25**, **Jared Lindbloom '25**, **Vivian Alvarez '25**, and **Addie Pape '25** pose for a photo before the graduation ceremony begins. **(2)** **Jackie Mueller '25** smiles as she stands for applause during the ceremony; **(3)** **Vivian Alvarez '25**, **Jeffrey Goodman III '25**, and **Owen Hickethier '25** stand for applause and look on at fellow graduates during the ceremony. **(4)** **Christian Wood '25** beams among his peers during the graduation ceremony. **PHOTO CREDIT:** *Empire Photography*

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Percy Crockwell '25 and **Itzel Sanchez '25** signify their status as high school graduates by moving their cap tassels from left to right.

PHOTO CREDIT: *Empire Photography*

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(Top-to-bottom)

(1) TAC 202: **Jeffrey Goodman III '25**, **Jeremiah Harris '25**, **Angel Duvnjak '25**, **Sanai Dzick '25**, and **Vivian Alvarez '25**, pose for a group photo with TAC Teacher **Kevin Kehoss '91** before the graduation ceremony begins. **(2)** 2024-25 instructional faculty and leadership. **(3)** TAC 422: **Diego Ramirez-Palencia '25**, **Everardo Corona '25**, **Anthony Lopez '25**, and **Karina Contreras-Tadych '25**, pose with TAC Teacher **Mr. Steven Alstadt** before graduation. **(4)** **Christen Woodfaulk '25** stands with her diploma at the end of graduation. **PHOTO CREDIT:** *Empire Photography*

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Left: English Department Division Head and TAC Teacher **Jesse Stewart '07** poses with student **Sarah Slaske '25**. *Right:* 2024-25 English Department Staff dress up as composition notebooks for Halloween 2024. (L-R: Ms. Becky Foster, Ms. Meg Hayes, Mr. Steven Alstadt, **Mr. Jesse Stewart '07**, Ms. Aubrey Scherrer, Ms. Jessica Fugere, and Ms. Sue Kahler.) *Submitted photos*

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(Left-to-right)

(Top) **(1)** The 2015 Girls Basketball Team poses at the podium with Head Coach **Scott Herrick '75**. **(2)** **Greg Krauska '78** speaks during the event. **(Middle)** The 1989 Girls Volleyball Team poses with former Head Coach Dave Scher. **(Bottom)** **(1)** Dan and **Mike Hansen '64** accept the award on behalf of inductee **John Hansen '70**. **(2)** Inductee **Kevin Kehoss '91** stands with Pius XI Athletic Director **John Pfaffl '84**. **(3)** **John Pfaffl '84** stands with inductee **Ron Hayek '64**. **PHOTO CREDIT:** **Mark Frohna '91** - *Mark Frohna Photography*

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Pius XI JV Male and JV Combined Teams both place second nationally at the 2025 Powerlifting America High School Nationals competition. Members of both teams pose with coaches Vito Marchese and **Jesse Stewart '07**.

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Girls Track and Field Relay Team members **Alanna Loyd '27**, **Ameena Harris '25**, and **Tyjah Horton '28**, and **Caylen Todd '25**, with coach Cindy Chrisbaum after placing 3rd at State with a school record-breaking time of 49.36. **Mya Gencuski '26** after placing 3rd at State with an 11'9" vault. *Submitted photos*

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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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July 29, 2025

Ironwood Golf Course | Sussex, WI
11:00 AM Shotgun Start

WWW.PIUSXI.ORG/GOLFOUTING

upcoming events

POPESFEST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

2026 ANNUAL AUCTION CELEBRATION

MAY 7, 2026