

Notre Dame High School  
St. Mary's Grade School  
127 East Pike St.  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

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# Notre Dame & St. Mary's



Education in Faith, Knowledge, & Service

March 2020

## Students Join With Community to Pray the Rosary



At noon on the 13th of every month, a class from Notre Dame joins with local

community members to pray the Rosary. A different class attends each month so all students have the chance to participate. Religion teacher Patty DuPont explained that it is held on the 13th because it commemorates Mary appearing to the children at Fatima. She continued, "It's a wonderful way for students to interact with members of the community with a shared ideal. Our students have been warmly received." Religion teacher Melissa McAra said, "It's been a good experience for the students. The Rosary is a powerful prayer."



Pictured are the senior students at the Knights of Columbus Building.

Watch school events live & on demand. Go to [notredamewv.org](http://notredamewv.org) and click on the ION Logo



## Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund Campaign

The 2019-2020 Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund Campaign is on track to reach the goal of \$185,000.

At this time, gifts of just under \$120,000 have been received. Your donations are sincerely appreciated.

Please consider making a gift to the campaign by using the enclosed envelope or donating online at [notredamewv.org](http://notredamewv.org)



Your invitation to the Irish Legends Gala is enclosed within this newsletter. Saturday, March 28. Please save the date.



Notre Dame High School  
St. Mary's Grade School  
Advancement Office  
127 East Pike Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
304-623-1026  
[www.notredamewv.org](http://www.notredamewv.org)  
[www.stmaryswv.org](http://www.stmaryswv.org)



## Why I Chose Catholic Schools



By Gianna Martino - When I was only four years old, I began school at Saint Mary's where my happiest childhood memories were made. I've learned and grown through the countless opportunities

they provided such as the many different service projects, student council, and numerous faith-filled activities. Some of my favorite experiences were being a part of the school plays, International days, Catholic Schools' Week and of course... my absolute favorite, recess!

It seemed like a natural transition to Notre Dame. Although I was very nervous, I immediately realized Notre Dame was a very welcoming environment and the teachers and faculty were very kind and helpful. My experience here at Notre Dame has helped me continue to grow academically and spiritually. My teachers are very supportive, they push me to be a hard-working student, help me prepare for college, and encourage me to reach my goals. Not only have I learned about the Catholic Church, but I've also grown as a person through my faith.

I love attending Notre Dame because of all the fun activities and opportunities that are provided. Homecoming is by far my

favorite activity because it's a fun-filled week full of decorating, skits, games, the parade, and the dance. A couple of opportunities that I'm especially grateful to be a part of is our Key Club and National Honor Society because of all the service activities we do for our school and community. As for sports, personally, I love playing and being a part of our tennis team. For a small school, I think we have a lot of talented athletes and team spirit. I love attending sporting events and cheering on all my friends...and cousins.

Speaking of friends, I've made so many friends at both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame. In my opinion, the best part about our small school is that we are like one big family, we truly care and want the best for each other.

I'm so happy my parents decided to send me to Saint Mary's and Notre Dame. I feel so blessed to be part of a Catholic School Family.

## Sophia Martino Crowned Miss WV Teen USA

Sophia Martino had dreamt of participating in the Miss WV Teen USA pageant. Recently, her dreams came true as, not only did she compete, she won the pageant and was crowned Miss WV Teen USA.

After months of preparation, Martino spent two days competing at the Clay Theatre in Morgantown. Following success in the preliminary round, Sophia competed in active wear, evening gown, and an on-stage question where she spoke about worldwide female equality.

Twenty-one contestants took part in the competition including fellow Notre Dame student Gracie Marsh who finished in the Top Eleven. Martino said, "Having Gracie there was so comforting because we are

close and we helped encourage each other. She was the first person to congratulate me."

Martino will now go on to compete in the Miss Teen USA Pageant sometime in April or May.

Reflecting on winning, she said, "I'm on cloud nine. Ever since I was a little girl, this is the pageant I've wanted to compete in. To take home the sash and crown is such an honor."

Running on the platform of helping the hungry, you can follow Martino's reign as Miss WV Teen USA on Instagram at misswvteenusa and facebook at Miss West Virginia Teen USA.



## Volleyball Team Wins Sportsmanship Award

The Varsity Volleyball Team was presented with the Central West Virginia Volleyball Officials Board Sportsmanship Award. They were honored at a recent girls basketball game.

Coach Amy Lanham said, "I could not be more proud of these girls. Our Principal, Mrs. Julie Frosch, has been trying to instill love for one another and to be good persons. This award encompasses that, and for the referees to see that, it shows these girls are doing what they are sup-

posed to do and is the reason I send my girls to Notre Dame. More importantly, this team is living out their Christian values and to be their coach is very humbling. This has to be one of the best awards ever."

Pictured from the left are Principal Julie Frosch, Inez Behrens, Sydney Stump, Louisa Pammer, Carmela Lilly, Zyla Lanham, Ali Witt, Coach Amy Lanham, Bailee Yokum, Abigail Lanham, Erin Frosch, and Liz Renzelli.



## Shamrock Shoppe Back in Business

**By Sophia Fazzini** - The once popular Shamrock Spirit Shoppe is back and in business at Notre Dame High School. In September of 2019, Mrs. Riggs' personal finance class began searching for ways in which they could utilize the finance skills they had learned in class. In co-operation with Lisa Lang, owner About You Monograms, the students began the creation process of Notre Dame apparel that is not affiliated with any particular sport. The students received the opportunity to practice budgeting, management experiences, critical thinking, time management, and analytical skills. The Shamrock Shoppe is

designed and run by the students and the proceeds are geared toward the senior banquet which is being held in May. To view all apparel and its pricing, you can visit our instagram and facebook account: @ndshamrockshoppe. To order any apparel, contact Mrs. Riggs by email, mriggs@notredamewv.org, and provide your name, phone number, and preferred size. Nonclothing apparel can be received in the Shamrock Shoppe located by the main office on the second floor, while most clothing apparel will be special ordered and received within two weeks to be picked up at Notre Dame High School.



Thank you for your continued support and as always, God Bless and Go Irish!

## The Performing Arts Conservatory



**Above: The High School Thespian Troupe.**  
**Below: The Middle School Thespian Troupe.**



**By Claire Cochran** - The Performing Arts Conservatory, more commonly referred to as the PAC, has taken Notre Dame by storm. Students with a passion for the performing arts enjoy sharing their talents with members of the community, fellow students, and faculty.

Recently, the Middle School and High School Thespian Troupes participated in the WV Thespian Area IV Festival at Robert C. Byrd High School

The High School One-Act finished first and is advancing to the State Festival. The Middle School One-Act received a Wild Card Nomination to the State Festival.

The show choir season is scheduled to begin in February and "The Shamrocks" plan to compete in the State Show Choir Championship held in Morgantown.

The PAC students hope to share their talents and spark a love of the arts within the community and hope to bring the luck of

the Irish with them through their many competitions and pursuits.



**Singing at Lessons & Carols**



**A Scene from the musical "Once on this Island" performed in the Fall**

## Alumni Spotlight: Where Are They Now?

### Whitney Price '05



Whitney Martino Price is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame High School. She, her husband Eddie, and their 18 month old son Connor, currently live in Parkersburg. She is a finance director for Matheny Auto Group. Her twin brothers, Kobe and Clay Martino are juniors at Notre Dame and her sister Taylor graduated in 2019. Her father, Bob Martino is the head coach for the girls basketball team.

### Gina Oliverio '96



Gina R. Oliverio is a 1996 graduate of Notre Dame High School. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Fairmont State in 2000 and her Master's degree in Education, specializing in Math in 2018, from Marshall University. She is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. Gina currently teaches Fourth Grade Math at Simpson Elementary School in Bridgeport. She also serves as PDS coordinator and Faculty Senate President for her school. Gina is a lover of traveling, the beach, flip flops, West Virginia University basketball/football, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pens and spending time with friends and family.

### John Martino '07



John Martino is a 2007 graduate of Notre Dame High School, where he graduated as Valedictorian and Student Body President. He was active in athletics for the Irish, earning All State honors in football and baseball. Following graduation, John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Physiology and Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, both at WVU. He comes from a family of Notre Dame alumni including his mother, Mary Beth ('77), brothers David ('04) and Samuel ('15), and sister Maria ('13). John currently practices dentistry in Louisville, KY. He enjoys watching the Mountaineers, traveling with his girlfriend Alyse, and volunteering in the community and abroad on dental mission trips.

### Follow Us On Social Media



## ND Students Attend the National Catholic Youth Conference

A group from Immaculate Conception Church, made up primarily of Notre Dame students, travelled to Indianapolis in late November to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. The event was attended by 20,000 young Catholics from around the country.



The group is pictured in Lucas Oil Stadium, the home of the Indianapolis Colts, which is where many of the presentations including Mass, Adoration, speakers, prayer, and musical performances were

### Ben Long Finishes in the Top 3 of NCYC Talent Show

held. John Kolodziej and Renee Shaffer both agreed that it was a surreal experience to be in a stadium with 20,000 other young Catholics while in the presence of God.

Ben Long, a junior at Notre Dame, finished in the top three of the NCYC talent show. Five hundred people initially entered the competition with the top 10 competing in front of a huge crowd at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

Long, who sang "Tennessee Whiskey," a country song by Chris Stapleton, in the final said, "It was a spontaneous decision to enter the contest and it was an eye opening experience. To know that so many people were watching and caring



about what I was doing was one of the best feelings."

The students who attended would like to thank everyone who contributed financially to the trip. They all agreed that it was a tremendous experience and are very appreciative of the opportunity to attend.

## Lehasky Named Varsity Baseball Coach

Trent Lehasky has been appointed as the new Varsity Baseball Coach at Notre Dame High School. Trent graduated from John Marshall High school in Glen Dale, WV. He was 1st Team Captain, All State OVAC, 1st Team All State and Special Mention All American in both baseball and football.

Trent received dozens of NCAA scholarship offers and ultimately chose to attend West Virginia University where he was a member of the baseball team from 2002 to 2004. Trent was also a member of the WVU football team during his tenure at the university.

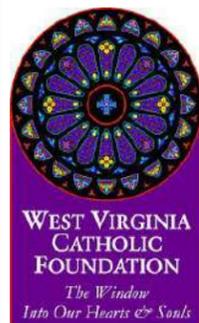
Trent has led and designed performance camps for high school and college baseball teams and was part of a selection committee for a collegiate all-star team. Trent has extensive coaching/mentoring experience ranging from youth to collegiate level sports.

Trent is the Director of Rehab. for Genesis Rehabilitation and resides in Bridgeport. He attends Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church with his wife and 3 children.

The baseball team opens up their season on March 30 against Robert C. Byrd.



## Monsignor John J. O'Brien Planned Giving Society



Membership to the Monsignor John J. O'Brien Planned Giving Society goes to those who have made Notre Dame & St. Mary's a beneficiary in their estate plans. Annual giving campaigns are improving, and they are helping the schools make improvements and meet their budgetary needs. Planned gifts will secure the financial future of Notre Dame & St.

Mary's. Planned gifts can be placed in the Harrison County Catholic Schools Endowment fund and benefit the schools year after year. Monsignor O'Brien was instrumental in the planning and building of Notre Dame High School. To discuss leaving your legacy with a planned gift contact Ian McAra at 304-623-1026 or [imcara@notredamewv.org](mailto:imcara@notredamewv.org).



## Maryrose J. Burns '11 to Receive 2020 Distinguished Young Alumna Award

Maryrose J. Burns is a proud alumna of both Notre Dame Catholic High School and St. Mary's Catholic Grade School. She continued her education by earning a bachelors degree in finance from Piedmont College, where she was a four year collegiate athlete on the softball team.

She began her career in finance with the asset management firm, VanEck, working on the sales desk in Tampa, Florida for five years. Today, Maryrose remains with VanEck as the Regional Vice President overseeing the Southeast Financial Advisor Division, and recently she has relocated to Washington D.C.

During her tenure in Tampa, Maryrose actively served as a parishioner at Christ the King Catholic Church. She was a leading member of the Council of Catholic Women, and involved in several other philanthropic organizations. With her best friend, Michelle Gilbey, they founded Sip & Spirit in 2017. In her spare time, she was a regular member of the Wednesday

night Irish 31 Run Club, during which she completed over 150 runs with her friends.

Maryrose is a Notre Dame legacy. Her mother, the late Deborah LaRosa Burns, a 1974 graduate was inducted as an Irish Legend in 2012. Her father, Pat Burns, continues to be her biggest cheerleader, and he resides in Fairmont with her stepmother, Anastasia. Maryrose has two best friends that happen to be her two big brothers: David lives in Fort Myers, Florida; and J.P., his wife Ashley, and his son Patrick reside in Grafton. Her grandmother, Joan Burns & godfather, Dan Burns along with many family members are celebrating in this achievement with Maryrose. She would like to make special mention to



the Romano & Morrison Families who have always loved her like their own.

Maryrose will be presented with the distinguished young alumna award at the Irish Legends Gala on March 28 at Via Veneto.

## What It's Like Having a Parent as a Teacher

**By Fiona Smith** - Ever since my third grade year at St. Mary's Grade School, I have had the pleasure of having my mother, Christy Smith, as a teacher, and once, as a coach. Starting as the librarian at St. Mary's my third grade year, she switched over to teaching history at Notre Dame during my eighth grade year, and also taught the second semester of my fifth grade class.

People always ask me if it's weird having my mother as one of my teachers, but I am actually proud that she is. She is always helping students with scholarships or talking them through difficult decisions or situations, and also always making students smile in her classes.

My mother also always helps out when needed, without question. When we had difficulty finding a track coach my eighth grade year, she stepped up and took the

Head Coach position so my teammates and I could have our season. When our fifth grade teacher had to leave partway through the year, she stepped up and taught us for our second semester. And when she got the call from Dr. Carroll Morrison asking my mom to teach history classes (AP as well as regular courses) at Notre Dame High School, my mom stepped up.

I have always been taught by my mother that, when presented with a new challenge, I should give it 110% and have fun with it, and that is exactly what she does every day. My mother is a retired lawyer, but I have enjoyed watching her fall in



love with this new career every day. I am honored to say that my mother is Mrs. Smith, the "mean librarian" as she jokingly calls herself from time to time, and I am glad that our students here at Notre Dame get the chance to be taught by such a wonderful and talented woman. Love you Mom!!

# The Notre Dame & St. Mary's Irish Legends Gala

## Notre Dame & St. Mary's Irish Legends Gala

**Saturday, March 28**  
**Social 6pm**  
**Dinner 7pm**

**Sponsorship/Reservation info at:**

**www.notredamewv.org**

The annual Irish Legends Gala is Notre Dame & St. Mary's version of a "Hall of Fame."

The event started in 2004 and honorees have been chosen every year since based on outstanding achievement and/or significant contribution to the schools and/or community.

The event, which will be held on March 28 at Via Veneto, is one of the highlights of the school year.

In 2008, we introduced our first honorary recipient, an honoree who was not a

graduate of Notre Dame or St. Mary's, and in 2012 we introduced the distinguished young alumnus award which is presented at the event.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Irish Legends Gala. Please consider making a reservation to or sponsoring the event by using the enclosed invitation or going to notredamewv.org and making reservations and payments online.

## Congratulations to this year's honorees!!

### Sam Granett '64



Sam Granett, who grew up in the North-View section of Clarksburg, is a 1964 graduate of Notre Dame. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Austin,

Texas. He is the son of the late William (BG) and Angeline Granett. His sister, Sondra Colombo taught at Notre Dame High School and was honored as an Irish

Legend in 2018. His oldest sister, the late Kathryn (BeBe) Gonsorcik, was a registered nurse in the Clarksburg area. The Granetts are most proud of their two daughters, Ellen and Spencer. Ellen, a graduate of the University of Texas in business, is a mother of two and involved in a successful software start-up with her husband, Andy. Spencer received her undergraduate degree from Cornell and a PhD in Biochemistry from UC Berkeley. She is a mother of two and a professor, along with her husband, at Western Washington University. After serving in the military, Sam entered the business world.

With over 30 years of experience, he has worked at all levels of management. After working in the large corporation world, Sam formed his own companies, North-View Asset Management, a Registered Investment Advisory firm that he sold in November 2019, and NorthView Advisors, an Investment Banking company. Sam's major assignments in the military were serving in Berlin, Germany and Southeast Asia. In Vietnam, Sam was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star for Valor. He holds degrees from the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Harvard Business School.

### Rick Loser (Honorary)



Rick Loser has been associated with Catholic Education in Clarksburg for almost 40 years. Rick was born in Montgomery, West Virginia on April 24, 1956. He is the son of the late James C. Loser and Mary Katherine "Katie" Nale Byrd. He is the second of four children.

After his family moved back to the Clarksburg area, Rick attended public schools in Harrison County and was a member of the first graduating class of Liberty High School in 1974. He graduated from West Liberty State College (now West Liberty University) in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education with a specialization in general science. He attended graduate school at Florida State University where he studied educational administration. Rick began his teaching career as a substitute in Harrison County schools. He be-

gan teaching at St. Mary's in 1981, working as the middle school science teacher. He then became the fourth grade teacher where he stayed for over twenty year. He then specialized in teaching K-6 science. Rick has worked as Notre Dame golf coach, boys and girls varsity tennis coach, middle school girls basketball coach, and girls varsity basketball assistant coach. He now serves as assistant principal and finance director at St. Mary's. Rick's pastimes include playing golf, watching sports, and watching movies.

### Billy Pulice '71

Billy Pulice graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1971 and is the son of the late Bill and "Kitty" Pulice. He is the First Vice-President and a Financial Advisor for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. Billy has served as a Financial Advisor for 24 years. Prior to Merrill, he was a First Vice President – Investment Officer at Wells Fargo Advisors and was the Director of Marketing and Membership for the Pete Dye Golf Club in Bridgeport, West Virginia. He also owned and held management positions in the new car and truck industry for 20 years. Billy is a 1976 graduate of West Virginia University, where he served as Head Student Athletic

Trainer for the Mountaineers. Billy served on the board and volunteered at Medbrook Children's Charity for 15 years, helping to raise \$800,000 for underserved children from Harrison County. He also served as chairman and Co-Chair of the Harrison County American Heart Association Heartwalk for 10 years, raising \$60,000 in his last year. He is a past board member of the Harrison County United Way and was the Charter President of the Shinnston Kiwanis. Billy continues to Co-Chair events benefiting the Student Athletes at West Virginia University. He serves on the Leadership Council of the West Virginia University Cancer Institute. Billy

also teaches "The Importance of Saving & Investing" at Notre Dame High School as a volunteer teacher twice a month in the school's personal finance class. Billy and his wife Cindy enjoy spending time with their daughters Jaryn & Chiara, and his two grandchildren Shipley & Poppy Ro.

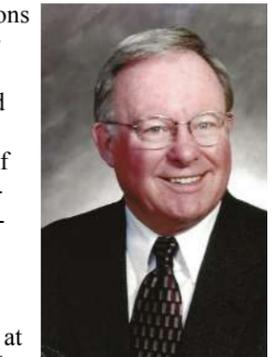


### Joe Neely (Honorary)

Joe Neely enjoyed nine years as a coach and teacher at Notre Dame High School, an experience where the challenge of developing the student by emphasizing character, integrity, and academic growth became a rewarding one. He taught physical education and social studies and coached basketball, football, and track. His 1968 basketball team won twenty games, the 1970 football team qualified for the state playoffs, and track teams received regional honors. Joe graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Salem College, a master's degree from West Virginia University, and advanced studies at University of Virginia's Darden School of Busi-

ness and Michigan State University. After leaving Notre Dame, Joe coached basketball and was the Athletic Director at Alderson-Broaddus College. A decision to change careers resulted in being a State Farm Insurance Agent. He soon became a part of the company's leadership team in the Baltimore/Washington DC markets. He was later appointed as an Executive Assistant to the president's office at State Farm and then soon after as a Vice President. Retiring in 2002, he has devoted his time to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and various boards and foundations. Joe and his wife, Pat, just celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, have four

daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandchildren. "God has blessed me with a great family and lots of unforgettable experiences and accomplishments. One of the cherished memories were those years at Notre Dame High School. I'm honored and humbled to have been a part of this school's history."



### Elizabeth Kniska Keyes '86

Elizabeth Kniska Keyes is Chief Operating Officer at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and Executive Director of the APhA Foundation. She is responsible for the overall operations of the organization and oversees the philanthropic arm of APhA. In February 2018, Elizabeth marked her 25th year of employment with APhA. She has had numerous positions including Director of Education, Senior Director of Strategic Alliances and Business Development, and Vice President of Business Operations. Prior to joining APhA and for the first half of her tenure there, Liz also worked as a pharmacist for Peoples Drug Stores and CVS Pharmacy in the DC area. These practice experiences, in addition to growing up work-

ing at her Uncle Carl Furbee's store, Furbee's Pharmacy, in Bridgeport, shaped her passion for pharmacy practice and patient care advocacy. Liz has had many notable accomplishments. She led the development of the Pharmacy-Based Immunization Training certificate program that to date graduated over 400,000 national and international immunizing pharmacists. She's also been recognized as one of the top 100 graduates of the WVU School of Pharmacy and was inducted into the school's Centennial Hall of Fame. She received the Wheeling University Alumni Hall of Honor Award for her outstanding career achievements. Elizabeth earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from WVU and a BS degree in biology with a minor

in technical writing from Wheeling Jesuit University. She's a graduate of the Executive Management Program for Leadership at the Wharton School of Business. In addition to the strong education foundation provided by Notre Dame High School, Liz highly values her liberal arts education at WJU. Finally, her most important position is that of mother to 13-year old Claire, wife to very patient Kevin, and daughter of Marion Kniska. Liz and her family reside in Chevy Chase, MD...and West Virginia in spirit!

