



ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



April 2025 • Vol. 44 • No. 1

James Thering '89, Alumni Director Earl Hartman '66, Assistant Director

Awards announced for SHA "power couples"

Megan & Andy Theisen named Alumni of the Year

Each year at Homecoming when we celebrate the Alumnus (or Alumni) of the Year, the collective SHA community seems to agree "there is no one more deserving of the honor". That is, until the next year, when the Alumni Association goes through the nominations and selects another winner.

Again, it's true. No one is more deserving than **Megan Spence '03 & Andy Theisen Jr '02**, who have been named Alumni of the Year, and will officially receive the award October 3, 2025, at SHA's annual Homecoming event.

The list of their involvement at Sacred Heart is long, and it ranges from Sacred Heart Academy to Sacred Heart Parish to the SHA Foundation. One might be hard-pressed to find something they have not volunteered for, helped create, or financially supported.

Megan and Andy's generosity comes naturally. Both say their commitment to Sacred Heart comes from being raised to be grateful for what you have, give back when you can, and take pride in what is most important to you. "Sacred Heart is important to us," Megan says. "When you believe in something as strongly as we do [in Catholic education], you want to be part of the success, part of the solutions, part of the progress, and the legacy."

(Continued on page 2)



The Theisens were notified of their Alumni of the Year award at a basketball game in March. They are pictured with their children, from left, Brookston (Grade 8), Megan (Grade 8), Andy, and Emerson (Grade 10).

Amy & Pat McDonald will lead Homecoming parade as 2025 Grand Marshals

Since 1976, Sacred Heart has been recognizing Grand Marshals. The people, couples, or groups honored with the Homecoming accolade are celebrated wholeheartedly for the positive impact they have on SHA. The 2025 Grand Marshals are no exception.



AMY & PAT MCDONALD

Amy & Pat McDonald '88 (Jerry '50, great grandfather Fred 1918) have been intricately involved in the Sacred Heart community since, well, before they were married. At that time, Amy (Baker) met Pat McDonald when she was attending Central Michigan University. He was a "townie", and, she says, thankfully a Catholic boy who was already involved in his church. For example, volunteering to play the role of Jesus in the Good Friday live Stations of the Cross led by Deacon Larry Fussman. (A side note for all you trivia fans: Mary Kay Yonker was the volunteer who portrayed Jesus' mother.) Pat & Amy were married at Sacred Heart Church on June 26, 1999, and their dedication to the church and school has increased in direct relationship to the growth of their family. "Like most parents, we want to be involved in our kids' activities, and at Sacred Heart, it takes the helping hands of many to make it all work," Amy says.

Daughters **Samantha '20** and **Kelsey '22** are Academy grads who, like their parents, continue to volunteer at SHA, and son Joe is a member of the Class of 2025 graduating in May. Pat says Sacred Heart has been important to his family for as long as he can remember. "My father, my siblings, my kids, we are all connected and always will be," he said. "Amy is also Catholic school graduate. It might not have been Sacred Heart, it was

(Continued on page 2)



Mark Your Calendar
SHA Homecoming
Friday, October 3, 2025
Parade | Game | Alumni & Friends Reception

More details in
the August
Alumni News



Homecoming happens Friday, October 3, 2025

Alumni of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

The Theisens certainly have legacy. Megan's parents are **Cindy & Andy Spence '74**. Andy's parents are **Julie Flannery '78 & Andy Theisen Sr '78**. On the Flannery side, Andy has great-grandfather **Tom Carey '23**, and great-great-grandmother **Nellie Garvin** who graduated in **1897**.



MEGAN & ANDY THEISEN JR.

On the Theisen side, Andy Jr has grandfather **Robert '50** and great-grandfather **Gerald '26**. Megan and Andy have two children currently enrolled at SHA, Emerson, grade 10, and Brookston, grade 8.

In addition to currently leading a \$1.5 million capital campaign for Sacred Heart Academy (see story, page 3), Andy & Megan are SHAgala dinner/auction volun-

teers, both have coached varsity sports (Andy continues as an assistant for boys basketball), and they have logged many hours as classroom volunteers.

Although more of a behind-the-scenes person, Megan spent many years involved in Home and School activities and was one of the creative minds behind the popular online school store which offers a selection of wearables for all seasons and sports. She also helped lead teacher appreciation week efforts, staff luncheons, assemblies, the uniform sale, and much more. She continues to dedicate her time, energy, and creativity to promote and serve the Academy in any way that she can .

Andy is one of a handful of people who know the school and church facilities from the ground up, and the inside out. He has contributed countless hours and many personal resources in strategic planning and project management for Sacred Heart buildings and grounds. He is a trustee of the SHA Foundation and a member of the Sacred Heart Development Committee.

For all these efforts—and more!—the SHA Alumni Association selected Megan & Andy Theisen as Alumni of the Year for 2025.

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e-mail distribution?**

Grand Marshals

(Continued from page 1)

Flint Powers in 1989, but she knows what it's like to jump right in and do what a parochial school needs done."

"Jumping in" is probably an understatement. "Fully immersed" is a better description for both Amy and Pat.

Amy has been intricately involved in SHAgala set-up, the parish hospitality committee, and the SHA Athletic Association. As part of the Athletic Association, Amy served as both Secretary and President, along with organizing the group's annual lottery fundraiser, which expanded to a Summer Series three years ago. She is always willing to assist with a fundraiser for a Sacred Heart family, or help with special projects for the Development Office.

Pat has been an usher at Mass, sells all variety of Catholic raffle tickets, and always lends a hand for set-up and clean up of school, athletic, or parish events. He enjoys his time on the football field "chain gang" and is also a Trustee of the SHA Foundation.

Both have dedicated countless Friday nights to the infamous Lenten Fish Fries, and even more time to athletic gate and concession work. Amy says volunteer work is their social outlet. "We have made the best friends and the greatest relationships with people of all ages volunteering for SHA," she said. "It is rewarding for us, and it's not going to stop."

Alumni Association Director James Thering '89, says Amy and Pat are "a classic Sacred Heart mom and dad. At SHA, opportunities are created for our students and student athletes because parents are actively involved. Thank God for parents like Amy and Pat," he said. "Honoring them is a pleasure."



The McDonald family is pictured at Homecoming 2024. From left: Amy, Kelsey '22, Joe, Samantha '20, and Pat '88.

Campaign nearing \$1.5 million goal

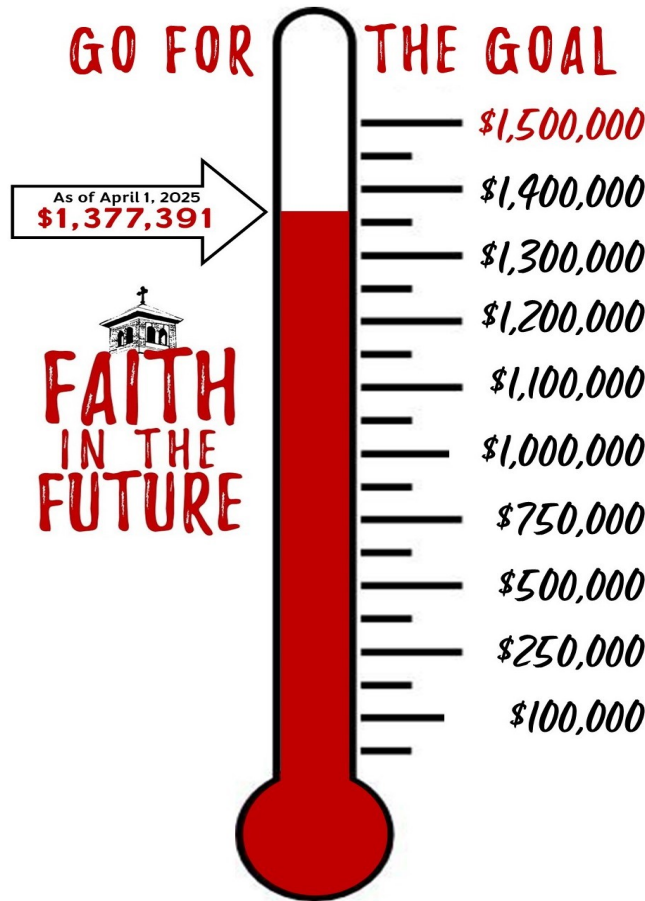
Less than one year ago, the **Faith in the Future** capital campaign was initiated to benefit Sacred Heart Academy. The all-around results have been impressive. As of April 1, 2025, Campaign Chairpersons **Megan (Spence '03) & Andy Theisen Jr '02** confirmed pledges and gifts totaling \$1,377,391.

"The Sacred Heart community has been generous and we are grateful," Andy said. "Not only can we see the campaign goal in sight, but as projects on the list are getting completed, donors can share in the pride of what we have accomplished."

The **Faith in the Future** campaign is primarily about improving physical facilities. Andy says having the opportunity to replace and update windows and bleachers, for example, along with equipment that is digital in nature, is a huge advantage for the school. "Each and every project on the list—including the money which will be invested in the SHA Foundation endowment for teachers' salaries—is important for the future success of the school," he said.

Since mid-June 2024, a number of projects funded by the campaign have been initiated, and several have been completed. Sacred Heart Development Director Lindsay Ley says it has been a rewarding and motivational time. "Students, parents, and teachers have been impressed with the improvements to the school restrooms, and appreciative of the completion of our safety initiatives," she said. "Alumni who took tours during Homecoming 2024 were happy to see the upgrades, especially the restrooms and the renovated lobby area of the secondary building, which is truly astonishing."

Lindsay says the entire Sacred Heart community has



watched the prayer grotto take shape on the church campus over the past few months. The grotto will soon be complete and a dedication of the space is planned in conjunction with the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June. Lindsay says the prayer grotto is external evidence of the positive impact of the **Faith in the Future** campaign, but is quick to remind alumni, parishioners, and friends that additional contributions are still needed.

"We not only need to achieve the \$1.5 million original goal to ensure every project is completed, but it would be ideal if we could over-subscribe the goal!" Lindsay said.

In fact, Andy Theisen recently reported if the campaign goes over its goal, planners have identified a couple of exciting

projects which could be addressed, including a Turf Room for SHA athletes. He was quick to add that he, Megan, and the other volunteers will continue to work step-by-step to ensure optimal success for Sacred Heart Academy.

Lindsay welcomes the opportunity to answer questions or have a conversation with those who want to help with the campaign. There are giving options beyond cash gifts, and certainly, an opportunity for anyone who wants to help SHA by making a personal or corporate gift. She encourages alumni to watch the Sacred Heart Academy Facebook page for updates and announcements, including information about the dedication of the prayer grotto.

For additional information about any aspect of the **Faith in the Future** capital campaign for Sacred Heart Academy, contact Lindsay:

Email: LLey@sha.net | Phone: (989) 772-1385



ACADEMY NEWS

Lisa Roach, Admissions Director



SHA develops student leaders

Kiwanis student service organizations

At Sacred Heart Academy, we provide our students with many opportunities to develop the love of volunteerism. After all, we are raising Christians to make their way into heaven, and service to others is a natural feature of this call. Thankfully, our community has organizations in place to help with our mission. In particular, the Kiwanis International Organization offers several service leadership programs, designed to allow individuals of all ages to learn leadership skills while serving the community through various opportunities. As a point of pride, Sacred Heart Academy is the only school in the state of Michigan that has all three school-age organizations on one campus. The K-Kids Club, (for 5th & 6th graders) Builders Club, (for 7th & 8th graders) and Key Club (for 9th -12th graders) all facilitate the development of the heart to serve in our students. While each group has an advisor, students hold full responsibility for all aspects of their

roles and responsibilities in each of their respective clubs.



2024-25 Key Club Officers, left to right: Secretary Isabel Rookard (grandmother Kathy Murphy '71 Parks), Historian Marin Haskin, President Savannah Jones, Treasurer Elise Latham, and Vice President Madigan Anderson (grandmother Cathie McCann '74 Cluley, great grandfather Tom McCann '53, great, great grandparents Eleanor Marthey 1913 & Aloysius McCann 1911).

Our students are driven, and they are making a positive impact on our community in monumental ways.

Earlier this school year, our K-Kids raised over \$400 for the local homeless shelter in a hot cocoa sale. This spring, our Builders Club is planning another service project to help our community, and our Key Club students, comprised of 45 active members, are living out the Corporal Works of Mercy by hosting coat drives and packing food bags at Thanksgiving.

Sacred Heart Academy is known for developing leaders that continue to have an irrefutable impact far exceeding their school club responsibilities. For years, SHA has supplied Key Club district officers, and that trend is not expected to change anytime soon! Recent Lieutenant Governors and Governors emerging from SHA include Emma Reid, (SHA '21) Rose Kothra, (SHA '23) and Jenna Morrison (SHA '25). What's more is SHA leaders also serve at the district level. This year alone three of the District Board positions are filled with Sacred Heart Academy students who are seniors. Jenna Morrison is the Governor, Addy Shull is the Lieutenant Governor, and Cecilia Lossio is a Co-Chair of Events. As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." May God continue to bless us with opportunities to develop the heart to serve in all of our students.

Shakespeare performance

Each year, Mrs. Wendy Lemke works with our sixth graders to create stellar productions of a Shakespeare play, which are performed for students, parents, and special visitors. In her final year before retirement, Mrs. Lemke chose *Julius Caesar* as this year's language arts lesson. This lesson goes much deeper than simply reading a historical play. Students are responsible for every aspect of the production from lead roles to queues that come from behind the scenes. At Sacred Heart Academy, we continue to strive to provide something for everyone, and this lesson was no exception. Bravo to our students, who executed their parts exceptionally well, and kudos to Mrs. Lemke for adding her special touch to every detail of all she does. She, and all our teachers at SHA, are truly living out the vocation to which God has called them. We are so blessed!



Sixth graders performing this year's Shakespearean play, Julius Caesar, on February 24, 2025.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, Principal

2025 accomplishments are many

Every senior class is special, with its own unique personalities, talents, and interests. Every student who graduates from Sacred Heart Academy has a plan, and this senior class is no exception. The Class of 2025 has students who will be joining the work force, attending trade schools, and attending two- or four-year colleges and universities.

Five students (out of a class of 34) applied to the University of Michigan and all of them were accepted:

Nicole Goenner (Theresa Audretsch '89, James Goenner '87), Cecelia Lossio, Jenna Morrison, Ishwarya Shankar, and Addy Shull. Of the five, one was also accepted at the University of Notre Dame (Jenna Morrison) and two were accepted at Purdue University (Nicole Goenner and Addy Shull).

This is a record year for the number of students who will be participating in athletics at the collegiate level. We have football players, basketball players, softball players, and one soccer player:

Jason Boge will play football at Alma College.

Ellery Garver will play softball at Wayne State University.

Luke Hacker will play football at Trine University.

Joe McDonald (Pat '88, grandfather Jerry '50, great, great-grandfather Fred 1918) will play baseball at Hope College.

Taryn McGuirk will play soccer at Hope College.

Grady Pieratt (Sarah Groves '95 & Scott Pieratt '96, grandmother Kay Scully '70 Pieratt, great, great, great-grandmother Anna O'Hara 1919) will play baseball at Alma College.

Kallie Smith will play softball at Alma College.

Jackson Verleger will play football at Trine University.

Ryan Wiggins will play baseball at the University of Olivet.



At a group signing day in March, several of the Senior athletes announced their college intentions. Front, from left, Kallie Smith and Ellery Garver. Back, from left: Joe McDonald, Luke Hacker, Jason Boge, Ryan Wiggins, Grady Pieratt, and Jackson Verleger.

In addition to being athletically talented, these nine student athletes have an average GPA of 3.92!

Students who graduate from Sacred Heart Academy are always well-prepared for the future, and the Class of 2025 is a classic example. They have been provided with many leadership opportunities, completed well over the required 100 community service hours, and excelled both in and out of the classroom. They have participated in retreats, Adoration, weekly Mass, and school-wide rosaries. Our students have been taught morals and values, and how to integrate them into all areas of

their lives. Many students from the class of 2025 also hold a part-time job.

Our valedictorian this year is Ishwarya Shankar. Ishwarya has been a student at Sacred Heart Academy since kindergarten. She has been involved in numerous clubs and extracurricular activities, and is a member of the SHA golf team. Ishwarya will attend the University of Michigan this fall, on a very prestigious scholarship that no Sacred Heart Academy student has ever received. Ishwarya received the Shipman Scholarship. From their website, "The Shipman Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship for incoming U-M students that show high academic achievement, leadership abilities, and exceptional talent in the arts and sciences. Each year, 32 incoming U-M students are invited to come to campus for consideration for the scholarship. The College of LSA (Literature, Sciences, and the Arts) nominates approximately 16 students each year based on their admissions application. Students who receive the full Shipman Scholarship and are Michigan residents are awarded \$20,000/year for four years or completion of their undergraduate degree program, whichever comes first. They are considered to be members of the Shipman Society." We are so proud of Ishwarya!

The class of 2025 has experienced the SHA DIFFERENCE and it shows. They have very bright futures ahead of them!

Class Notes

1956—John “Jack” Sowle passed away peacefully on New Year’s Day, January 1, 2025, surrounded by his children. At Sacred Heart Academy, Jack met the love of his life, **Judy Slattery ’56**. The two were married and spent over 60 joyous years together. Jack served two years in the U S Army Reserves before his honorable discharge in 1958. He attended Central Michigan University, graduated with a bachelor’s degree, then entered the workforce holding an array of sales and marketing jobs, at one point co-owning The Cabin Tavern for a few years. Jack & Judy moved to Florida where he started a successful landscaping business which he operated with his sons before moving back to Michigan in 2006. Jack is a member of the SHA Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in basketball. He earned honors in football and baseball as well. Jack attended SHA with his siblings **Thomas ’51, David ’54, Suzanne Fischer ’57, Mary Jane Fabiano ’59, Jennifer Sowle ’65, and Colleen Wolfe ’71**.

1957—On January 9, 2025, **Jean M. (Beutler) Schiemann** passed away peacefully in Clare, Michigan. She worked for the State of Michigan, retiring after 37-plus years of service. Throughout her life, Jean enjoyed dancing, fishing, and motorcycle riding. She attended SHA with her three sisters: **Marion Howe ’44, Elizabeth “Betty” Lee ’47, and Elayne Watson ’53**.

1962—**Daniel Codden** passed away at his home in Guilderland, New York, after suffering a heart attack June 25, 2024. After graduation from SHA, Daniel served in the Infantry Division of the U S Army during the Vietnam War, earning a Bronze Star medal for his service. He was instrumental in the start of the New York State Lottery and worked diligently for the lottery office for 27 years, retiring in 2003. In retirement, he dedicated his time to being a full-time grandfather. Daniel always loved football, and being an avid Wolverine fan, he never missed a University of Michigan football game. Daniel’s father, **Avery**, graduated from SHA in 1934, as did his siblings, **Patricia Codden ’58 and Michael Codden ’59**.

1967—On March 22, 2025, **Richard Ramsey** passed away at his residence in Mt. Pleasant. Richard served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971, when he received an honorable discharge. He worked as a caregiver to the elderly.

1970—Following a brave cancer battle, **Margaret “Marg” Cotter Crawford** entered eternal life with God on January 7, 2025. Always leading with her faith, Marg considered herself blessed beyond belief because of her parents **Dave Cotter ’32 and Virginia McConnell Cotter ’34**; her siblings, **Fr. John Cotter ’65, Jim Cotter ’67, Tim Cotter ’68, Fr. Ray Cotter ’69, Pete Cotter ’75, Therese Cotter ’76, and Karen Lamb ’80**; and the extended

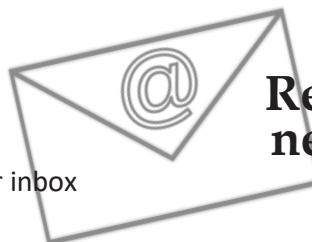
McConnell and Cotter families. Marg used her CMU degree in special education and speech therapy, along with a master’s degree in speech pathology, over the span of 30-plus years in public and charter school education, then tacked on another 10-plus years as a reading teacher at St. Michael’s and Emanuel Lutheran schools. Marg was a prayer warrior, active in several Lansing-area prayer and Pro-Life efforts. She and her beloved husband Mike volunteered countless hours in outreach efforts for their church and were always helping others, including fellow parishioners like **Frank Courter ’35**.

1972—**Bill Beltinck** passed away unexpectedly March 23, 2025, at McLaren Bay Region Hospital. After graduation from SHA, Bill moved to Ann Arbor where he worked as a loan officer for the University of Michigan before returning to Mt. Pleasant to work for Giantway. Bill’s enthusiasm for sports—especially the Michigan Wolverines and the Detroit Tigers—was well-known among his family, including his siblings: **Julie Ulander ’63, Richard “Dick” Beltinck ’65, Martha Clare ’69, Rosemary Whitlock ’74, Elizabeth Beltinck ’75, Teresa Powell ’77, Katherine Wiora, and Patricia Beltinck ’83**.

2000—REUNION NEWS! The Class of 2000 is planning their 25th class reunion in conjunction with the weekend of Sacred Heart Academy’s 2025 Homecoming, October 3 & 4. Additional details forthcoming. Please email **Brian Partie** at hello@brianpartie.com to be included in all planning correspondence.

Why

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Class Notes

Congratulations to **Jim Wood**, chef and co-owner of Applewood Kitchen & Bar, located at Frugthaven Farms Orchard in Greenville. The restaurant opened recently and is a sister location to Wood Shop Social in Mt. Pleasant. Both restaurants feature new American cuisine. The interior design at Applewood Kitchen & Bar includes re-purposed pews from a church, and tables made from old doors. The restaurant itself was designed around the kitchen, where the culinary magic happens. "I'm really proud of this place," Jim said, indicating there is much more to come at Applewood. Jim's mother, **Margaret (Simons '72) Wood**, is also proud of the new restaurant, and of her chef and entrepreneurial son.

2005—**Troy Zitzelsberger** and his wife Dong Hee Kim celebrated the arrival of a son named Ariez Mark Zitzelsberger, on January 29, 2025, at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. Baby Ariez was also welcomed by his three-year-old big sister, Aria. Troy is the master brewer at Third Nature Brewing Company in Rockford, which he co-owns with his siblings **Chad '02** and **Lisa Roebke '99**.



2010—**Taylor Stahl** and his wife Emily welcomed their fourth child, a boy named Benedict, on December 5, 2024. Benedict is adored by his older siblings Jude, Cecilia, and Vincent. The family resides in Cadillac, where Taylor is a sales representative for the Dodge Chemical Company. Proud grandmother is **Kathy (Sheahan '74) Stahl**. Great-grandparents **Dorothy (Voisin) & Jerry Sheahan** graduated from the Academy in 1947.

2011—On December 26, 2024, **John McDonald** and Claire Hembrough welcomed a baby girl, Harper Nanette McDonald, who was born in Saginaw. The family resides in Merrill. John works at Elavon Payment Solutions.



2012—**Maria and Drew Reetz** celebrated the birth of their first child, Antonio, who arrived March 12, 2025, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Antonio's dad works for TE Connectivity.

Lotteries help fill financial gaps

Rising costs led the SHA Athletic Association to expand the popular lottery to include the traditional 20-week version and a summer series, too. These ticket sales have helped SHA continue to avoid pay-to-play fees for student athletes.

There are many reasons the lottery fundraisers are popular, says Development Director Lindsay Ley. "The \$25 ticket price is affordable and the opportunity to support student athletes and have a chance to win is fun," she said. "Plus, more and more people are purchasing the tickets as gifts for others, which is very thoughtful."

To purchase 2025 Summer Slam Series tickets, scan the QR code below or call the Sacred Heart Development Office at (989) 772-1385.

2025 Summer SLAM Series Athletic Lottery

- Two \$500 prizes each week
- 10-week series, June 2 to August 5
- Winning ticket number(s) match the afternoon three-digit Michigan Daily Lottery drawings on Mondays and Tuesdays
- MI Raffle License # X13101



Correction to note:

In the December 2024 issue of the SHA Alumni News, the caption for the photo identifying the 40th reunion of the Class of 1984 misidentified class member **Rebecca (Reed) Mason**. The editors of the Alumni News sincerely apologize to Rebecca, the SHA Class of 1984, and to Rebecca's sister **Deb Trierweiler '82** whose name we mistakenly listed instead!



Send us news! Updates can be emailed to **alumni@sha.net**



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Alumni News For:



Fr. Andy & Fr. Matt

New priests bring energy to Sacred Heart

Rev. Andrew D. Booms and Rev. Matthew Gembrowski were assigned to Sacred Heart Parish of Mt. Pleasant and St. Mary University Parish July 1, 2024. Fr. Andy serves as Pastor, and Fr. Matt is the Parochial Vicar.

Sacred Heart parishioners, along with SHA students and staff, are enjoying the luxury of having two priests in residence, especially two with unlimited energy and fresh ideas. From their point of view, Fr. Andy and Fr. Matt say serving the two churches and the Pre-K through 12th grade school definitely keeps them busy.

Following is a Q & A which gives you insight to their roles almost one year into their Sacred Heart assignment.

Q: What have you found most surprising about the Sacred Heart faith community?

Fr. Andy: There is a very positive and can-do attitude here. It seems while many parishes are planning for shrinkage, we are experiencing a renaissance and renewal. This has been the most refreshing and humbling part of being the pastor. Clearly, it's not something I did, but harvesting seeds which were planted and are now bearing fruit. It makes ministry here fun and also presents challenges to plan for growth and see the signs that Christ is affirming the faith here in Mount Pleasant.

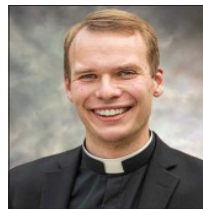
Fr. Matt: I've been most surprised by the incredible generosity that our parishioners demonstrate. Whether it's the army of volunteers and ministers, the many donors, or the faithful participating in the parish's events — I've rarely seen a community rally to support their parish with such enthusiasm. The Parish Mission in the fall was so encouraging to be a part of!

Q: What do you enjoy most about Sacred Heart Academy?

Fr. Andy: I love the energy and vitality the Academy brings to the parish. Not only the many events and youthful enthusiasm, but also the clear sense of mission and opportunity to share



REV. ANDREW D.
BOOMS



REV. MATTHEW
GEMBROWSKI

the Gospel and the good news of Jesus. Collaborating with parents to educate their children through high school gives us many opportunities to plant seeds and watch them grow.

Fr. Matt: Teaching! It's truly a joy to spend every Friday with the high schoolers at SHA, teaching 9th and 11th grade Theology. During study hour, I meet with students who would like to chat or discuss spiritual life.

It's such a privilege to participate in the mission of the Academy, forming our students to be holy and successful members of the Church.

Q: It's a real challenge to have so many responsibilities with all the events happening at the Academy and both churches each week. What do you find most challenging and how do you deal with the stress?

Fr. Andy: I knew I wouldn't have to worry about keeping busy here. There is almost always something happening for the parish or Academy. I have to remember I don't have to be at every event and rely heavily upon the great team I inherited. I have to live by my own catch phrase and remember when walking with Jesus I am not alone. Our parish office and Academy have some amazing, talented, and dedicated folks who are very capable. So I rely on them to do their jobs well, and I rely on them to let me know the best use of my time to support them and our faith community.

Fr. Matt: Most challenging to me is the split of responsibilities between Saint Mary and Sacred Heart. As I spend the majority of my time at the university parish, it's been difficult for me to get to know the SH community on a deeper level outside of the Academy. Personally, I like to relax with family and friends on my day off back home in Saginaw. Music also offers me a method of relaxation, and I enjoy playing in my community band and practicing piano and drumkit.