ISSUE 36 APRIL 2024

Rams 'n Ewes

St. Xavier Alumni Newsletter

Save the Date

St. Xavier Alumni Banquet

Saturday, May 25th, 2024
St. Xavier School Gym
4pm-9pm

#iGiveCatholic

Give back on Giving Tuesday , December 3rd 2024. To donate, go to iGiveCatholic.org and search for St. Xavier School

St. Xavier School Auction

April 20th, 2024
St. Xavier School Gym
5pm-9pm

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www.saintxrams.org

From the Principal's Desk

The 2023-24 school year at St. Xavier School is coming to a close. We have been blessed with another amazing year of providing students with a Catholic education where they can grow spiritually and academically. St. Xavier's has been educating students since 1871 and remains a place rich in tradition and heavily invested in faith, family, and future. With the help of our qualified, dedicated staff, we are able to provide a campus where PreK-12 children are educated for the world of tomorrow as they build a stronger relationship with God through their faith.

St. Xavier School is and has been a staple in the Fort Riley and Junction City area and is an important option for families. Unfortunately, the economy is making it more difficult for families to give their children the gift of a Catholic education. St. Xavier staff and families were recently made aware that we are facing a financial short fall this year of approximately $250,000 and were also informed of considerations to closing grades 6-12. Due to these challenges, we are analyzing ways to ensure that St. Xavier continues as a PreK-12 school for many years to come. It is only with alumni support, parishioners, parents, and the community that this can be accomplished.

We ask for your prayers as we work to continue a 153-year tradition of providing Catholic education to our community. We also welcome any donations to go towards both student scholarships and operational costs of the school. Alumni have made St. Xavier who we are today and with your assistance we will carry on through the light of Christ for generations to come.

School News

Meet the Class of 2024

Crissy Sexton-Snow has been a part of the St. X family for 10 years. She plans to attend Cloud County Community College in JC and then move on to KSU to pursue a law degree.

Becky Peterson is a St. Xavier pioneer and will be attending Benedictine College this fall to study business management.

Hana Moeller began at St. Xavier as a 6rd grader. She plans to take college courses through Barton County Community College at Fort Riley in general studies and work toward a degree in Forensic Science.

Tobias Guthrie has been a part of the St. Xavier family for 3 years. He plans to join the Army and work towards a degree in Veterinary Science.

Sierra Smith has attended St. Xavier School for 4 years. Upon graduation, she will continue courses at Cloud County Community College in Junction City in pursuit of a nursing degree.

Naythan Hall has attended St. Xavier for 10 years. After graduation he plans to go into the carpentry trade.

Noah Fields is a St. Xavier pioneer. Upon graduating, he plans to study a trade.

Heston Jahnke is also a pioneer of St. Xavier School. He will be attending KSU this fall to study Agronomy.

Active in Our Community

Junction City proudly displayed local high school banners along Washington Street this past summer to welcome alumni returning for reunions. As a long standing institution in the area, Junction City continues to partner with St. Xavier School to the benefit of the families in our community. While local business owners donate toward our annual auction, share their knowledge with our FBLA students, and support the school in many other ways, St. Xavier reciprocates by hosting drives that benefit the local food pantry, the pregnancy center, and blood bank. St. Xavier Marketing Director Kristel (Woydziak) Jahnke ('99) stated "We are fortunate to be a part of a community that values private faith-based education. It is important that we are actively involved in our community and pass that value on to our students."

Changes On the Horizon

In recent years, discussions have taken place within the parish to decide the fate of the original building of St. Xavier School. In the early 2000s, classes were all moved to the newer portions of the school leaving only choir, band, and aftercare rooms in use by St. X students. The remainder of the building has since been utilized by the parish for religious education classes, meetings, and parish gatherings. While once making plans to renovate the space into a parish hall, the parish councils are now considering tearing down the aging building.

Alumni News

Alumni Come Together

Former St. Xavier students gathered together on Saturday May 27th, 2023 for the annual St. Xavier Alumni Banquet in Bradley Gymnasium. Events included school tours, an alumni Mass, social hour, dinner, and drinks. School principal Shawn Augustine welcomed guests and encouraged alumni to share their memories of St. Xavier. Among the attendees were alumni from the classes of '58, '68, and '78,

Alumni Give Back

St. Francis Xavier School has been blessed to have many alumni active in our school over the recent years. It's great to have them involved, interacting with students, serving on committees, and supporting our fundraisers. Among the active alumni is Jaime (Wahle) Richling ('98). She is currently a member of the School Council, high school cheer coach, and also serves on the auction, alumni, recruitment, and development committees. When asked about her service Jaime said "The most important reason why I volunteer is that I believe in the parish's mission to support PreK – 12th grade Catholic education. I also want to give back to the school, just as others did when I attended. I want to help wherever I can!" Like Jaime, numerous alumni give of their time, talents, and treasure to ensure a positive educational experience for St. Xavier students in this generation and those to come.

Class of '74 to Celebrate 50th

Mary Field Legeret, with the help of Tom Boller, are planning the 50th reunion for the class of 1974. They are seeking a place for the class to meet on Friday, May 24th and get together as much as possible over the following alumni weekend. Please contact Mary Field Legeret at mplegeret@gmail.com or send info to 239 Chatuga Way, Loudon, TN 37774 or call 865-657-3528. If you are not able to attend, please send her an update to share with the class.

In Memoriam

- **Tony Nardella** of Junction City passed away December 17, 2018. He was married to Carol (Courville) Nardella ('67).
- **Jay Billinger** ('54) of Topeka passed away in 2022.
- **Mary Ann (Reighley) Kuhle**, class of 1958 passed away May 24th, 2023 at the age of 83 in Pullman, Washington. Her husband Scott shared that through the years, Mary Ann talked fondly of her twelve years of education at St. Xavier's, and maintained contact with many of her classmates.
- **Alan Hopper** ('72) of Sugarland, Texas, passed away July 15th, 2023. He was 72 years of age.
- **Jess Hopper** ('70) of White City, Kansas passed away September 3rd, 2023.
- **Ruth Rago**, of Junction City, Kansas, passed away on September 4, 2023. Ruth was a member of St. Xavier Catholic Church and a generous supporter of St. Xavier School, often attending sporting events, music concerts, and fundraisers. She is the sister of Josephine Rago ('45).
- **Mary Margaret (Buckley) Kohlrus**, 90, passed away on September 23, 2023 in Olathe, KS. Mary attended St. Xavier's grade school and high school and was the recipient of the school's Sedes Sapientiae award for outstanding senior in 1951. Mary were married at St. Xavier's Catholic Church and enjoyed volunteering her time and talents at her home parish before moving to the KC area in 2008.
- **Pat Nicholson** ('63) of Junction City passed away September 26th, 2023 at the age of 78.
- **Anthony (Tony) Soper** passed away December 10th , 2023 at the age of 83. He was the husband of St. Xavier alum Leila (Caldwell) Soper ('61).
- **Jerold W. "Jerry" Frakes**, 83, of Topeka, Kansas formerly of Junction City, passed away January 11, 2024. Jerry graduated from St. Xavier High School with the class of 1958.
- **Chris Paxton**, son of Mary Kay (Hinitt) Paxton('56), passed away January 26, 2024 at the age of 62 in Eudora, KS. Chris graciously donated his auction services to the benefit of the St. Xavier Auction fundraiser for many years and will be greatly missed.
- **Clarence Hubert "Sonny" Ehm, Jr.**, 80, of Junction City, Kansas died on Saturday, February 24, 2024 in Rossville, Kansas. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Xavier Catholic Church followed by a burial service at St. Mary's Cemetery. He graduated from St. Xavier High School in 1961 and Sonny's commitment to faith was evident through his active involvement in St. Xavier Catholic Church.
- **John Anthony Grant** ('50), of Junction City, KS, passed away on February 24, 2024 at the age of 92. John was a father to Cindy ('75) and Mark ('76).
- **Dennis Ryan** ('57) passed away September 2023, followed by his brothers **Larry Ryan** ('56) in October of 2023 and **Jim Ryan** in March of 2024.

Have News to Share?

Send us your information to include in future newsletters.

Karen Eddy: keddy4@cox.net
Kristel Jahnke: jahnkek@saintxrams.org

Autum (Conley) Kopp '09 married this past year with her HS best friend and classmate, Allison Coy at her side. Her nuptials to Adam Kopp took place in April 22, 2023 in Eureka, Illinois.

Alumni Updates

The class of 1963 had its 60th reunion in September along with members of the Junction City High School class of 63. The reunion included a tour of the Opera House followed by dinner, music and conversation. A banquet was held the following evening at the Marriott Hotel entertained by Chuck Scott (JCHS) and his wife, Judy Larkin Scott (St. X). Classmates reminisced and made new memories. --Jayme Larkin Tomlin

The class of 1975 will be celebrating their 50th reunion in 2025. Please reach out to Jean Wolford at jwolford57.jw@gmail.com if you are interested in being a part of the reunion or can help with updating class contact information.

Rita Folwell ('74) moved back to Junction City June 1, 2015. She is now retired.

Paula Beavers ('68) moved back to Kansas last November and is glad to be back in the area.

Dennis Larkin ('65) with wife Jean is now retired and living outside Atchison. They are blessed to be able to share that their youngest child, Fr Colm Larkin was recently ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Kansas City this past May. Daughter Clare married and delivered Gemma Grace Ostmeyer in January. The second child in the family is Sr M Maris Stella FSGM with the Martyrs in Alton, IL. Their oldest, Liam is an architect, married, and the father of three. God is good.

ST. XAVIER ALUMNI BANQUET

MAY 25 , 2024
St. Xavier School Gymnasium
200 N. Washington Street, Junction City, KS 66441

Name _____ Class _____
Address _____
City_____ State _____ Zip_____
Phone _____Cell _____
Email _____

# of Attendees	Cost per Person	Enclosed
_____ Reservation (with meal)	$30	_____
_____ Reservation (no meal)	$10	_____

Payments can be made in advance or at the door. Please make checks payable to St. Xavier Alumni.

Schedule of Events

4:00pm
Campus Tours

5:15pm
Alumni Mass

6:15pm
Welcome

7:00pm
Dinner

RSVP

Karen Eddy
keddy4@cox.net
(785) 223-1644

Kristel Jahnke
jahnkek@saintxrams.org
785) 210-5556

Alumni Class Contacts:

1961- **Janet (Hinitt) Holcomb** (785)762-2670
jholcomb0143@gmail.com

1974- **Mary (Field) Legeret** 865-657-3528
mplegeret@gmail.com

1979- **Anita (Lichtenhan) Ascher** (785) 762-5558
anita.ascher031@gmail.com

1984- **Kim (Tracy) Coy** (785) 238-5851
kcoy@cox.net

Dinner Menu

Catered by: Vathauer Catering

Boneless Port Loin or Baked Chicken Breast
Homemade Dinner Roll
Loaded Mashed Potatoes
Buttered Corn
Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad
Peach Cobbler or Cherry Dessert
Iced Tea & Water

Not able to attend?

Support the St. Xavier Alumni Association by sending a donation.