



St. William Catholic School

1950 -present



Class of 1962

Reunion

Saturday, August 8, 2009

"Special Insert"

St. William School History

Saint William Catholic School opened September, 1950 with grades one through six. Sister Patrice was appointed Principal. At that time the convent was composed of the present rooms 106, 108 and the maintenance room. Reverend Graven was pastor in 1950. Sister Patrice completed her six years in 1957.

Sister Marie Cecilia was appointed principal from 1957 to 1962. Sister John Thomas was principal from 1962 to 1968. Sister Leo Mary was appointed from 1968 to 1971. The school was closed in 1971 due to financial crises.

Important Events 1950—1971

- September 25, 1949 — Father Graven broke ground for the construction of a school at its existing site .
- October 1, 1950—Dedication of the school. Cardinal Mooney officiated with Monsignor Deady, Father Ryan along with 65 priests. Sisters Benedicta Marie and Corrine represented Mother Gerald.
- October 11, 1950—Father Joseph Breitenbeck blessed the Sisters' Chapel and altar.
- April 2, 1951—Three classrooms were added to the school.
- Dorothy Harris, first postulant from St. William, received the habit, with the new name Sr. Jean Raphael.
- June 7, 1953— First Eighth Grade Graduation —10 graduates.
- September 17, 1954 — Sister Ann Lawrence died.
- October 24, 1955— The new Church was completed,
- October 15, 1956—The public school buses began to transport St. William students.
- October 14, 1957— Fr. Foley transferred to St. Catherine's in Detroit.
- October 15, 1957—Fr. Raymond Jones assigned as Pastor to St. William.
- November 10, 1957—New headgear and veil worn by the Sisters.
- January 3, 1958—Mrs. Golden replaced by Mrs. Foody.
- March 7, 1958—Plans begun for new convent.
- March 24, 1958—Mr. John Pennock replaces Mrs. Weber.



St. William School History continues.....

- May 13, 1959—Sisters moved into the new convent.
- May 30, 1959—Sr. Philip Marie celebrated her Jubilee.
- October 6, 1960—Sr. Wilbert had a heart attack.
- January, 1961 Priests moved into new rectory.
- March 7, 1961—Four seventh graders received trophy for excellent debating.
- May 11 -13, 1961—First program by the St. William Theater Group, "The Roaring Twenties".
- June 4, 1961—Fr. Jones celebrated his Jubilee.
- June 26, 1961—Sue Brinker entered the convent.
- January 10, 1964 — New library opened.
- June 28, 1964— 25th Anniversary of the parish with the dedication of the statue of Saint William.
- September, 1964—George Fuhst entered Sacred Heart seminary.
- January, 1964—Fr. Jones presented an organ to the Sisters.
- 1963-64—O'Flaherty family donated property behind convent for Athletic field.
- Fall, 1963—St. William Football team won the CYO Championship.
- September, 1965—Lawrence Sprenger and Stephen Whitney enter Sacred heart Seminary.
- April, 19, 1965—St. William School awarded National Honors for participation in National Catholic Book Week.
- September, 1966—Lay School Board established.
- September, 1966—Michael Mia enters Sacred heart Seminary.
- February, 1966—National Catholic Book Week award plaque for participation.
- 1966—Vatican II Convention attended by Srs. John Thomas and Joslen.
- 1965—1964
 - Cheerleading award won by grade 8 girls.
 - James Moyski enters Orchard Lake Seminary
 - Patrick Mika enters Sacred Heart Seminary.
 - "Project Commitment", attended by Srs. Edward Ellen and Joslen.
 - Outstanding Patrol Boy award given to Thomas Barry in Washington, D.C..
- April 9, 1968—Eighth Grade Easter Pageant.
- 1967-1968—Football Team won CYO Suburban League Championship.
- March 17, 1968—Language, Science, Math Festival.
- March 18, 1969—Eighth Grade retreat—DeWitt Retreat House.



St. William School History to present.

- May 4, 1969—Art Fair.
- 1968—1969—Terrance Milhollan and Joseph Corella enter Sacred Heart Seminary.
- 1970 –1971—Due to financial difficulties the School Board and Archdiocese decided to close the seventh and eighth grades for these years.
- June 4, 1971—Fr. Jones retired and students presented program and gifts.
- Fall, 1982—Father Broderick reopened school.
- 1994—School achieved MNSSA accreditation. Ground broke for new Activity Center.
- 2008—Through a Foundation grant, new entrance to Education Center was constructed. “Parish Pride” campaign and renovations to EC.

School Staff - Lay Teachers 1950—1971

During the school's history, the Adrian Dominican Sisters as well as other Sisters served the parish and students of St. William and are listed on page 8 of the parish history section of this booklet. The teachers listed below are in order of their service to the school.

- Miss Jean Harlan
- Frances Fitzpatrick (Postulant)
- Miss Paula LaPrad
- Mrs. Mary Courtney
- Mrs. Golden
- Mrs. Weber
- Mrs. Foody
- Miss Gail Meyer
- Mrs. Roger Hubbell
- Miss Elizabeth Merschak
- Mrs. Glynn
- Mrs. Joan Boyle
- Miss Carol Houck
- Mr. Adolph Koenig
- Mrs. Bernice Gileczek
- Mrs. Joan Hawkins
- Mrs. Elizabeth Bernotski
- Mr. Gary Bryce
- Mr. Richard Roy
- Miss Ann Fontaine
- Mrs. Lotts
- Mrs. Martha Peters
- Miss Joanne Lawrence
- Mr. Robert Gurzick
- Mr. Frank Polopoli
- Mr. Robert Clark
- Miss Sandra Tietze
- Miss Shirley Steinli
- Mr. Arthur Mier
- Mrs. Hammerschmidt
- Mr. Carl Sheffield
- Mr. Robert DeSormier
- Mr. Raymond O'Malley
- Mr. William Johnson
- Mrs. Brenda Seabright
- Mrs. Jay Brenneman
- Miss Mary Michaels
- Mrs. Robert Arnold
- Mr. John Stutterheim
- Mrs. Nancy Tiffany
- Mrs. Martha Owens
- Mrs. Nancy Broughman
- Mrs. Jeanette Chamberlin
- Mr. Jerome Fields
- Mrs. Rosemary Krizan
- Mr. Conrad Gusfa
- Mrs. Margaret Stevenson
- Miss Florence McCann
- Miss Arleen Garwood
- Mrs. Joann Dalton
- Miss Anita Madajczyk