

“The Good News”

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FIRST EDITION

All School Reunion Planned for Catholic Schools Week—2010

Celebrate St. William Event Schedule

Friday, February 5th, 2010

- All School Reunion – 21 and older Alumni – 7-9 pm
 - Gathering in Activity Center – view pictures and reconnect with past classmates
 - Beer, wine and pop will be served
 - Tour the school and its new additions – new computer lab, etc – enjoy hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by the different classrooms

Saturday, February 6th, 2010

- All School Reunion – under 21 Alumni – 4:30 pm Youth Mass
 - Celebrate Mass with past classmates
 - Alumni lectors and choir
 - School Open House to follow Mass
 - Food and non-alcoholic refreshments will be served after Mass
- All Parish Reunion – Come home for the evening – 7-9 pm
 - Adults only
 - Gathering in Activity Center – parish picture albums
 - Beer, wine and pop will be served
 - Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share with your fellow parishioners

Sunday, February 7th, 2010

- School Open House for all prospective Religious Education and School families after each Mass – 9 am, 11:30 am and 6 pm
 - Gathering in Activity Center
 - Pancake breakfast after 9 am Mass by the Youth Group
 - Lunch served after 11:30 am Mass
 - Dinner served after 6 pm Mass
 - School Open House after each Mass
- Donations accepted at all events to benefit the “St. William Scholarship Fund”



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St. William School History.....Past to Present

Saint William Catholic School opened September of 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 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.
- June 7, 1953— First Eighth Grade Graduation —10 graduates.
- 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.
- May 13, 1959—Sisters moved into the new convent.
- 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.
- January 10, 1964 — New library opened.
- June 28, 1964— 25th Anniversary of the parish with the dedication of the statue of Saint William.
- 1963-64—O'Flaherty family donated property behind convent for athletic field.
- Fall, 1963—St. William Football team won the CYO Championship.
- April, 19, 1965—St. William School awarded National Honors for participation in National Catholic Book Week.
- 1967-1968—Football team won CYO Suburban League Championship.
- 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 the new Activity Center.

- 2008—Through a Foundation grant, new entrance to Education Center was constructed. "Parish Pride" campaign and renovations to Education Center.
- 2009—St. William Catholic School Alumni organization formed.

Looking forward, our School Committee and staff developed a list of "St. William Quantifiers" to assist in the marketing of our school. The quantifiers listed below, we feel, set our school apart from other Catholic schools.

Strong Catholic environment with liturgical experiences, daily instruction and value based programs infused with family values.

- Strong Catholic identity
- Faith development is student oriented

Highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to the ministry of Catholic education and who care for and nurture the children entrusted in their care.

Strong and highly advanced academic program with advanced mathematics classes beginning in fifth grade along with advanced language arts programs in upper grades. All students are asked to achieve at their highest level of ability.

A special education department that allows children with unique learning needs to be in a positive learning situation that develops their talents and includes them with other children of their age while also providing the necessary academic support for success.

A strong collaboration of parents and teachers who communicate frequently with one another to monitor student performance, to provide financial support of the school and programs, to integrate with the parish, and to work to further the mission of the school to form children who are strong in their faith, live it out in their lives, and are academically strong.

We Need You!!!

Send us pictures—classmates, yourself and of the school while you were here. We need class portraits from the years 1950 -1971!

St. William School Alumni Organization *now forming...*

The high schools all have alumni organizations where alumni and friends stay connected. So we wondered....Why can't the elementary schools? About a year ago, St William School started a journey to "reconnect" with past students and create an alumni organization.

After attending an alumni workshop held for elementary schools through the AOD, the School Committee at St. William set up an alumni email address and started forming a database of alumni. In January of 2009, the church and school held the "Celebrate St. William" weekend where all alumni, parish and school were invited back. A number of ac-

tivities were planned on each night of the weekend. The school was open for past, present and perspective families to visit. Another similar celebration is planned for January 2010 (details on



St. William School—Class of 1962 Reunion
August 2009

page one).

One member, Pat Flannery, St. William School, Class of 1962, was not able

to attend the Celebrate Event in January and set out to organize an outing for his class to be held this past August. Pat first contacted Linda Jackson, the current principal at St. William, and requested a tour of the school during their 1st ever alumni gathering. In August of 2009, the group of approximately nineteen alumni toured the school. A wonderful time was had by all and many stories and laughs were shared. Those who were able to attend are pictured on the Zepf Hall stage. Several more alumni have been added to our database.

St. William CYO Sports...ALIVE AND WELL!

The Dads' Club is a Parish Organization whose purpose is to provide and promote expansion in Spiritual, Academic, Athletic and Recreational activities within the confines of the Catholic Community of St. William. The Dads' Club organization does an outstanding job with our youth. Here is a recap of fall athletics for the parish.

Our girl's volleyball – JV B (5th grade) finished 7-1 and were Division Champs!! This team competed in the Mercy End of Year JV tournament.

The JV A (6th grade) finished 5-3. They brought home more trophies...the second one this year!!! They won the Mercy JV tournament. The Varsity B (7th grade) finished 4 - 6. They were invited to participate in

the Varsity playoffs and did awesome. They beat Our Lady of Mount Carmel #2 team but fell to St. Edith's #1 team.

Lastly, the Varsity A (8th grade) finished 7-1 and were also Division Champs!! Our champs beat St. Raphael hands down in the first game of the playoffs on Saturday, but lost the second. They were taken down by Our Lady of Good Council by 2 points in the playoff round.

Our CYO program could not exist if not for the awesome group of parents that organize and coach our kids.

It was a great season and all are looking forward to next year.

Our football program also had great success this fall. On Saturday, October 17th our JV team defeated St. Regis 21-6 finishing the season at 4-3 after starting 0-2. Our JV team was composed of 5th and 6th grade players, and we saw lots of improvement and look forward to seeing them more in the future.

The Varsity team finished 7-1 and defeated St. Anne in the CYO semi-final 24 - 0 and played St. Regis in the CYO City Championship at Ford Field on Saturday October 24th. The game was very close but in the end, the Crusaders were not able to get the win.

Our CYO program could not exist if not for the awesome group of parents that organize and coach our kids. We are very thankful for all of them.

St. William Catholic School Alumni Organization

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ST. WILLIAM SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR FAITH, PROCLAIM IT IN LIFE, AND ARE ACADEMICALLY STRONG.

Alumni Spotlight Pat Flannery, Class of 1962

This section of our newsletter will "Spotlight" one of our school alumnus. For our first newsletter, we asked Pat Flannery, Class of 1962 to write a few notes regarding his time at St. William School and his life now. Pat organized the first ever class reunion this past August (see page 1).

Here is what Pat had to say.....

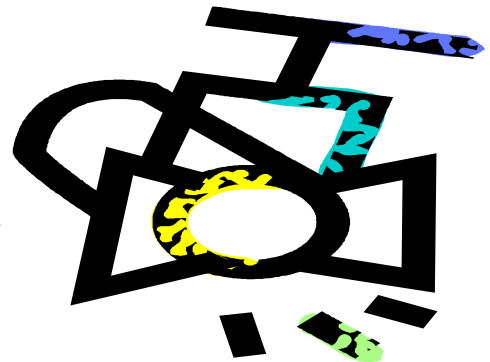
Beginning in the mid 1950's I spent eight very formative years at St. William School. It was a good fit for me. By the time I was ready to enter high school, I was excelling in Language Arts and History; sadly, I was only average in Science and Math.

There are a lot of ways I can describe that experience for me. It was education in a predictable and secure environment. And

without sounding too preachy here, I can add that it also encouraged in me a moral code that stressed discipline, personal responsibility and charity toward others.

The theme of service to others that SWS cultured, was something that I certainly took for granted as a youngster but which, perhaps unconsciously, I adopted in small ways in my later years. My working career was spent with the State of Michigan in the field of human services: first as a caseworker for troubled families and children; later as an investigator in assisting single parent families in the area of child support.

Now that I'm older I can reflect on the abundance of good examples that surrounded me and my classmates in the SWS environment. I believe it was good example that taught me most about Christian living.



It has been nearly fifty years since I graduated from SWS. Over this time while I may have had serious questions about certain church doctrine/dogma, my personal conviction that serving humankind through charity and good acts, has never wavered.

I believe that we all have a duty to ensure that our fellow human beings live with dignity, in an environment that promotes opportunities for full and satisfying lives. This is the highest calling there is. I like to think that my eight years at St. William School helped set my personal philosophy in this direction.