



# Impact

MATTHEW 5:14-16

ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
WINTER 2023/24

Celebrating  
Twenty Years  
2004-2024

*"I sleep, but my heart watches over  
this house which I have built."*

- ST. THEODORE GUERIN





*Cheers to*

20

*years!*

2004-2024

## GUERIN CATHOLIC GALA

PRESENTING SPONSOR LEAH AND ERIC PAYNE

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9 PM DESSERT AND DANCING

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*honoring*

**THE 2024  
RECIPIENTS OF THE  
BISHOP WILLIAM L. HIGH  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*Alumni*

MIRANDA (WOOD) ARMIE '09

*Community*

AMY & TOM SMITH  
JEANNE & DAVID STORDY

*Faculty & Staff*

KAREN KENNEDY



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#### MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Theodore Guerin High School is a diocesan Catholic school serving diverse learners, forming the whole person through faith development, excellence in academics, and student life to live out the gospel message.

#### PROMISE STATEMENT

"Love the children first, then teach them." - St. Theodore Guerin

#### VISION STATEMENT

Lead with Humility. Serve with Love. Trust in Providence

## President's Message

As hard as it is to believe, Guerin Catholic is in its twentieth year of providing faith-based education!

I hope you enjoy reading about all that happened in the 2022-2023 school year as well as some highlights of the past twenty years! Much of this year's *Impact Magazine* is devoted to this historic anniversary and celebrating the mission-driven work done by so many.



This year's magazine offers readers a special feature, **20 for 20**. Included are inspiring stories from alumni, faculty and staff, and Guerin Catholic families. Also, I recently had the opportunity to sit down with **Bishop Emeritus William Higi**, the founding bishop of Guerin Catholic, asking him to share memories of the early days and what prompted him to say, "Yes!" to building this school.

The official 20th anniversary date in August 16, 2024, but we will kick off the celebration this February at the **Guerin Catholic Gala: Cheers to 20 Years!** Beginning with that event and continuing through the 2024-2025 school year, we will host a number of celebratory events with special focus on the people and experiences that have made the Guerin Catholic community so special.

I hope you will consider attending the **Guerin Catholic Gala: Cheers to 20 Years!** event on February 9, 2024 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel. It will be a time of nostalgia and fellowship as we gather in support of our shared mission.

The "main event" of the evening will be honoring the recipients of this year's **Bishop William H. Higi Leadership Awards**—people from the community that have helped advance our mission in a very special way. (See information on opposite page)

If you have ever been a part of the Guerin Catholic community, you REMAIN a part of it forever. May you continue to **Lead with Humility, Serve with Love, and Trust in Providence**.

St. Theodore Guerin, Pray for us!

Deacon Rick Wagner  
President

#### COVER PHOTO

A newly installed bronze statue of our patroness, St. Mother Theodore Guerin, adorns the Dr. John Bates courtyard. **Read more on page 4.**



## Simply Blessed

### ST. THEODORE GUERIN STATUE DEDICATION

On March 22, 2023, a dedication and blessing ceremony of a beautiful bronze statue of our patroness, St. Mother Theodore Guerin, was held in the Dr. John Bates courtyard. The statue is one of only four such statues in the entire world.

Bishop Timothy Doherty was present to offer the blessing. Also present were Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi, statue artist Teresa Clark, and a number of benefactors, and of course, our entire student body and school staff. ■



### FINE ARTS & WELLNESS CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



On September 6, 2023, Guerin Catholic's Founding Bishop, Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi, dignitaries, special guests, and the GC student body gathered for a Groundbreaking ceremony of the Fine Arts and Wellness Center. The facility, which will include a 500 seat auditorium, a 2-court fieldhouse, redesigned locker rooms and more, is being constructed on the east side of the school. To learn more, visit [GuerinCatholic.org/unitebuildsoar](https://GuerinCatholic.org/unitebuildsoar). ■







GRADUATION

# CLASS OF 2023

*St. Theodore Guerin High School*

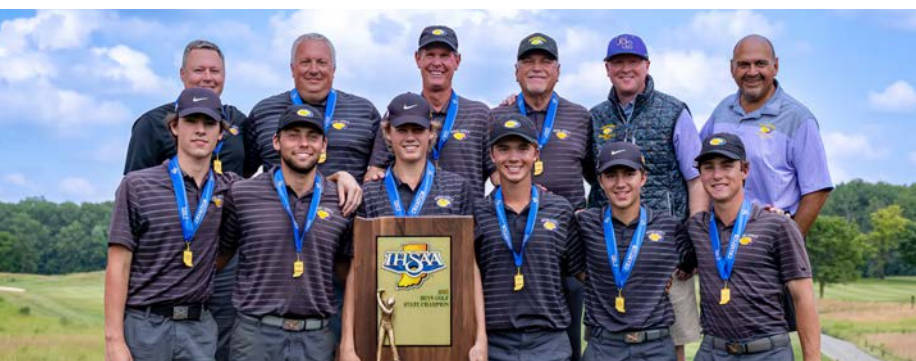
With a new backdrop of Carmel's Palladium Performing Arts Center, Guerin Catholic High School celebrated its Class of 2023 at its 17th Commencement exercises on June 1, 2023. The 169-members of the class earned over \$31 million in college scholarship awards, and had 26 student athletes commit to play at the collegiate level. Speakers at the ceremony included student **Anna Hoshaw '23** and faculty member **Mr. Hugh Ross**. ■





## 1...2...3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2023!

Gallagher, Modelski and Constantino capture IHSAA Mental Attitude Awards



*Guerin Catholic athletics had a lot to celebrate in 2023 with the boys' basketball team as state runners-up in the 3A State Championship game (photo 1), while boys' golf (photo 2), girls' lacrosse (photo 3), and girls' soccer (photo 4) all took home their respective class state championships. This year's titles brings the school's total state championships to ten (boys' basketball – 2012, 2015; boys' soccer – 2013, 2014; boys' lacrosse – 2021; girls' lacrosse – 2022, 2023; boys' golf – 2022, 2023; girls' soccer – 2023).*

Year after year, we are incredibly proud of our teams and programs as they compete at a high level on and off the field, commit to each other as teammates, and encourage one another to be the best versions of themselves. The results of this past year continue to raise the bar of expectations.

The 22-23 winter sports season was highlighted by the boys' basketball postseason run through Class 3A state tournament. **Head Coach Bobby Allen** and the Golden Eagles lost an overtime heartbreaker to top ranked NorthWood HS in the Class 3A State Finals. The Golden Eagles returned to the sport's biggest stage after winning state titles in 2012 and 2015.

Additionally last winter, Guerin Catholic was represented by swimmer **Quinn Sweeney '23** and wrestler **Peter Nguyen '24**, both of which were making return trips to their sport's state finals.

As the spring rolled around, our girls' lacrosse and boys' golf programs continued their unprecedented success by claiming back to back state championships. The girls' lacrosse team, led by **Head Coach Joe Bellflower**, took down top ranked Carmel HS and hoisted the INGLA State Championship trophy for the second year in a row. The two year run for the program includes 2 State Championships, 2 Conference Championships and a combined 36-2 record.

The boys' golf team, led by the longest tenured coach in school history **Mark Mathews**, once again claimed the top spot at the IHSAA State Finals led by **Leo Wessel '24** who secured the IHSAA Individual State Title—the first time in school history! Additionally, individual runner-up **Jacob Modleski '23** took home the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award joining runner **Bridget Gallagher '23** who received the prestigious award in the fall during cross country season.

The fall season continued the winning vibes as girls' soccer, led by **Head Coach Sean Yau**, made a dazzling run through the Class 2A State Tournament and won the program's first state championship with a 1-0 win over Leo HS. **Katherine Constantino '24** was named the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award winner. Three Golden Eagles received this award within the past year making school history. ■





# 20 YEARS

2004



2024

## STORIES OF GUERIN CATHOLIC TRADITIONS & LEGACIES OF THE LAST 20 YEARS

In 2024, Guerin Catholic celebrates its 20th anniversary, having opened her doors for the first day of school on August 16, 2004. With a growing base of over 2,400 alumni who have stories to share, we celebrate this 20th anniversary milestone by sharing 20 stories of inspiration that we're calling

# 20 for 20

**DO YOU HAVE AN INSPIRING GC STORY?** Submit your own story at [GuerinCatholic.org/stories20](https://GuerinCatholic.org/stories20)





## A CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP EMERITUS WILLIAM L. HIGI

This past fall, Guerin Catholic President Deacon Rick Wagner, drove to Lafayette to spend some time with Guerin Catholic founding Bishop, Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi. Deacon Rick interviewed Bishop Higi in an effort to collect, for the purpose of documenting, some of Bishop Higi's thoughts regarding his decision to move forward with building the first Catholic high school in Indiana in over 30 years.

***"Building Guerin Catholic was the best decision I ever made as a bishop."***

***Q: What inspired you to give the go-ahead for building a new Catholic high school in your diocese?***

A: I attended Catholic schools myself and believe strongly in the value of a Catholic education. Despite the obvious hurdle of raising enough money to both build and sustain the school, I saw a real need. There were so many Catholics in the area looking for a "home." The supporters of the project were so convincing. I'll add that building Guerin Catholic was the best decision I ever made as a bishop, and all I had to do was say, "Yes!"

***Q: What impact do you believe Guerin Catholic has had on the diocesan and local community?***

A: It has made the community stronger. There is now an entire generation of young people that I am confident understand and will promote the faith.

***Q: What is your greatest hope for the school moving forward?***

A: I pray the school will continue to fulfill the mission—it is more important now than it has ever been given the state of our world.

***Q: What message would you like to pass on to the Guerin Catholic community as we celebrate the 20-year anniversary?***

A: First, THANK YOU to all the people that believed in the importance of offering a quality, authentic Catholic education—not just believed in it, but got involved and made things happen. If I don't leave anything else, I believe Guerin Catholic is my legacy. Blessings on the next twenty years and beyond!

Those are perfect words to end a reflection on our first twenty years! **Thank you, Bishop Higi!** ■



*Bishop William L. Higi talks with a local reporter at the school's groundbreaking in May 2002 (top); Bishop Higi at the dedication of the Marian Grotto on the Guerin Catholic campus in 2008 (middle), and with Chaplain Coady Owens at the groundbreaking of the new Fine Arts and Wellness Center in 2023 (bottom).*





## WATCHING A SCHOOL GROW FROM THE FRONT ROW

As part of this edition of *Impact Magazine*, celebrating our twenty years of serving young people at Guerin Catholic, I was asked to offer a reflection. I have a unique perspective on the school's history, as I was blessed to serve as principal in her early years (2007-2013) and return as president in recent years.

As principal, I had a front row seat for the school's greatest period of growth. Enrollment was 367 students my first year and had grown to over 730 by the time I left in 2013. Changes came quickly as we adapted to meet the needs of more and more students: we needed to hire more teachers each year, add more lockers, and expand outdoor athletic facilities. A second academic wing—part of the original masterplan and labeled as “when needed”—was needed. Temporary classrooms were brought in to handle the overflow of students and the *Wing and a Prayer* capital campaign was born. Construction on the second wing began in 2011.

Guerin Catholic has continued to prosper over time. When I was asked to return to Guerin Catholic as her interim president in February of 2021, I immediately said, “Yes!”

My response came from a place of indebtedness. I served as principal of the school at the same time I was in formation for the permanent diaconate.



I was ordained a deacon of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in June of 2012. The way I was being called to live my life as an ordained minister of the Church—to love and serve God by loving and serving others—was being demonstrated to me on a daily basis by the adults loving and serving our students. Working at Guerin Catholic was as much a part of my formation as the courses I took in preparation for ordination.

That was the reason I returned as interim president. What was the reason I decided to stay on in the role? While I was excited about the growth and changes that had occurred since I left, I was even more excited about what had remained the same. For its twenty years of existence, Guerin Catholic has stayed true to its mission. As it has done since it opened its doors in August of 2004, the school offers an authentic, faith-based education. It continues to challenge young people to use their God-given gifts in service to others and to reach their full potential—in the classrooms, on the athletic courts and fields, and out in the community.

All of this is accomplished while staying true to the spirit of Mother Guerin: *“love the children first, then teach them.”* ■

- DEACON RICK WAGNER

GC PRINCIPAL (2007-2013) AND  
PRESIDENT (2021-PRESENT)

### MAY 5, 2002

Official groundbreaking ceremony of the first new Catholic high school in Indiana in 30 years.

### AUGUST 16, 2004

First day of classes at Blessed Theodore Guerin High School with an enrollment of 103 students in 9th and 10th grades. Mr. Keith Marsh serves as its first principal.

### JANUARY 2005

The majority of the school attends the March for Life events in Washington, D.C.

### FALL 2006

Guerin Catholic becomes the first Catholic high school in greater Indianapolis to become a candidate to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.



#3

## FROM BLESSED TO SAINT



2006 canonization trip to Rome, Italy

It was so early. All these years later, I can remember that feeling of waking up to my travel alarm clock, head clouded with jet-lag and stomach full of butterflies. My roommate, a freshman named Maria, and I had set out our outfits the night before in preparation for this early morning. We were instructed to wear our white button-down uniform shirts, our Mass shirts that wrinkled so easily. As we struggled to remove the creases with our travel irons—nearly short circuiting the old Roman hostel in the process—we offered up our challenges, for today we were making history. The crest on our shirts read “Blessed Theodore Guerin Catholic High School” and yet today, on October 15, 2006, those uniforms would become joyously out of date.

A group of us—44 in all—were privileged to make the pilgrimage from Indiana to Rome to attend the most important moment for our school and our patron, Blessed Theodore Guerin’s canonization. Our group became a little family, while God worked in each of our hearts as we toured and prayed in the Church’s most central locations. Attending our patroness’ canonization was nothing short of surreal. The morning of the canonization, we were struck with awe at the sheer number of pilgrims, standing together to celebrate these soon-to-be saints and give glory to God.

At the time, I was interviewed in a little news piece and at the age of 16, I could feel the importance of this moment. I told the interviewer, “The story started, you know, in the 1800’s. And here it is, 2006, and it’s just really amazing...It’s history. We get to see this happening.”

Now, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our beloved school, we are still making history. I see so many of our young alumni making a difference in the world—building families, careers, and businesses—leading with humility, serving with love, and trusting in Providence. Although perhaps not as poignant as pilgrims standing together in St. Peter’s square, as alumni, we still stand together under the patronage of Mother Guerin in our daily lives and individual missions. While many years removed from high school, and in the throes of motherhood, I still draw inspiration and grace from my time at Guerin Catholic. In the small, unseen moments and in the big, momentous ones, we give glory to God and honor our patron, St. Theodore Guerin. ■

- MIRANDA (WOOD) ARMIE '09

**MIRANDA WILL BE HONORED WITH THE  
BISHOP WILLIAM L. HIGI LEADERSHIP AWARD  
AT THE 2024 GALA IN FEBRUARY 2024**

### OCTOBER 15, 2006

Mother Guerin is canonized a Saint in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI. The school name changes from Blessed Theodore Guerin to St. Theodore Guerin High School.

### MAY 2007

Twenty-three students graduate in the Class of 2007 at the first commencement exercises.

### SEPTEMBER 2008

The Marian outdoor grotto located east of the school is dedicated by founding Bishop William L. Higi.

### AUGUST 2009

Portable classrooms are used to accommodate a growing student body. More portable classrooms are added over the next year while fundraising continues for the new academic (800) wing.

### AUGUST 2010

First day of school enrollment surpasses 500 students for the first time.





2016 Guerin Catholic Fine Arts trip to New York City

#4

## “TEACH US THE WAYS OF JESUS!”

One of the most impactful experiences that I’ve had here at Guerin Catholic is when I helped chaperone the *GoldenVoice* trip to New York City in 2014. **Mr. Mark Duray** was our director and he not only elicited the best musically from his charges, but he instilled in them to be Ambassadors of Beauty to the world!

One of our first stops of our tour was at Grand Central Terminal. The choir had assembled on a set of stairs which served well as risers. A sunbeam shining down on several members was very befitting for the angelic voices that were about to be heard. As Mr. Duray motioned his choir to ready themselves, several bystanders were curious about what was about to happen. They were startled with the sudden exclamation of the start of our song: “Teach us the ways of Jesus!” The rest of the crowd in the terminal were immediately drawn to the refrain, but all too quickly, a guard ran over and cut them off yelling “No public displays!” At our later appearances in front of a neighborhood church in Hell’s Kitchen and at the World Trade Center Memorial, the choir was able to deliver their intended message of beauty to those fortunate enough to hear them perform. I was very proud to be a roadie for such an amazing group of young people shining light in a state far from our Nest. ■

- MR. PERRY PAGE (P<sup>2</sup>)  
GC MATH TEACHER SINCE 2004

#5

## NYC BEFORE COVID

I am so grateful for all of the friendships and memories that I was able to make during my time at Guerin Catholic through the Fine Arts Department. One of the most special experiences for me was my trip to New York City with the entire department.

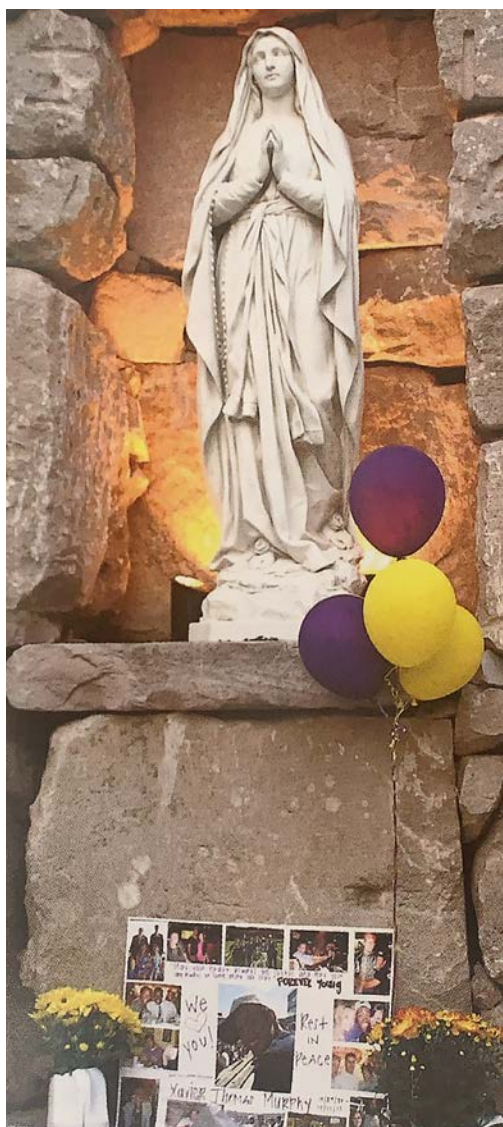
I was incredibly blessed and had the opportunity to go on this trip two times during my time at Guerin Catholic, but the second trip was one that I will never forget. We saw the Statue of Liberty, a Broadway show (*Dear Evan Hansen*), went to museums and fun dinners together, but the most memorable thing that I took away from that trip was the friendships that I made. The trip took place in March of 2020, right before the pandemic caused the world to shut down, resulting in the rest of the school year taking place online. We didn’t know it, but that trip would be the last time we would all be together for the rest of the school year. Once lockdown started, even though we were at home, I can recall countless nights where our new group of friends from the New York trip would be on FaceTime for hours on end, talking about the exciting trip we had just taken and recalling all of the funny stories that took place. We also made so many new memories on our nightly calls. We looked forward to talking to each other every day. We may never have had the opportunity to become as close as we were if it was not for the Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Department and the opportunities that it provided us. ■



- MAGGIE ADOLAY '21



## WHAT HEAVEN FEELS LIKE



Photos from the Guerin Catholic 2012 yearbook, the Aquila, show the grotto with flowers and messages to Xavier Murphy '07 (top); Sammy Pancol '12 and Whitney Gryna '12 (left) and Therese Miller '15 (right) making paper cranes for Xavier and the Murphy family.

As a freshman at Guerin Catholic in the fall of 2011, I remember the teachers inviting us into the building on the first day of school with clapping. This welcome was the beginning of the community I was to experience throughout my four years. When the first All-School Mass began, we walked into the gym as freshmen and were welcomed by more clapping. My excitement was now reflected by those around me. This made me part of them; we were being connected together. We experience a feeling at Guerin Catholic that is impossible to explain to anyone who has not encountered the school themselves. Everyone calls it community, but there is a specific vibration that St. Theodore Guerin gifts her students. It was at this specific moment at Mass that I knew everyone in the room was now my family. I remember having the sense that this new community would teach me how to be an integral part of Guerin Catholic, and I knew I would do this for everyone that would follow me.

Each teacher I met wanted to genuinely get to know me and inspire me to know my faith. **Mrs. Marcia Murphy** was among the first people I got to know and invited me to be myself. Her peace, kindness, and love are a true inspiration of who we all want to become. I feel as though she is the true mother of Guerin Catholic. She led us through hard times and was always there for us when we needed it. When I first heard about her son, **Xavier Murphy '07**, being sick, he was not someone I knew personally, but was a brother in Christ. I knew he was part of the first graduating class; he was part of this community, this family, and we prayed for him. We listened to his name over the speakers and in prayer circles every morning and every afternoon. We heard his name repeated by teachers—their stories about him in the classroom. Coaches spoke about his character on the field. My father would often say, “Xavier was cool without trying.”

At this point in my life, I had not experienced much death, except for a few great-grandparents. Listening to the anecdotes of Xavier's trust in the Will of God changed my perspective. It was as though he was going on an adventure with a friend.

As his diagnosis became more complicated, I saw a man without fear—a true warrior in Christ. I was getting to know Xavier as a friend. His character and strength were integrated into the community like he was a friend we saw every day in the hallway. His warrior strength was spreading into the community. He was building an army for spiritual warfare.



***“There is something different with the community of Guerin Catholic.  
I believe it is what Heaven feels like. I continue to feel it when  
GoldenVoice sings. I imagine this is what Heaven sounds like.”***

One day that fall at school, we were told to go to the gym during Kairos—all 600 students. Normally, every time the school came all together in the gym, it was for Mass. But that day, we were told the story of how 1,000 paper cranes can heal those who are sick so we would make them, praying into each crane as they were sculpted. We spent Kairos that day to make at least 1,000 paper cranes. In folding those paper cranes, there was healing because I discovered the true meaning of the cranes was hope. Reflecting in prayer allowed us to trust in God’s Will, just as Xavier did.

With each passing day, the prayers for Xavier continued. Masses were said and hope grew. My spirituality had never been stronger. I was learning to pray and seeing how it impacted my friends and those around me, including my family. We started going to church more often and we spoke about how God worked in our lives. Trusting in God’s Will became a practice, a reflective meditation.

One cloudy, cold morning, the prayer for Xavier in the announcements was more potent than usual. We were told to go to Kairos after first period. Walking into Kairos felt different. The teachers did not have a mask of cheerfulness. The announcement came that Xavier had passed. The silence that filled that air was as welcoming as a hug. We prayed together like it was muscle memory. In prayer, there were so many questions to ask God. Being in Kairos allowed us to seek out answers from each other. Our faith was challenged, and the Holy Spirit used this opportunity to teach. Six hundred people practiced their faith together at that moment. *“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them”* Matthew 18:19-20.

The bell rang for the second period and the silence of the hallways was palpable. In the quiet, we were one, walking together. There weren’t sounds of footsteps, but the thrum of the Holy Spirit in my heart—Silence. At that moment,

we were simultaneously in reflective meditation. Together, we were trusting in God’s Will—Silence.

As I reflect on the silence that was experienced, it is something I will never forget. It rings in my mind like church bells. God calls us to be silent in the moments we need to hear Him the most as if presenting a gift. The Holy Spirit becomes a living being, just as the Eucharist.

We were told a rosary would be said for Xavier outside at the Grotto after school at 5:00 p.m. and to invite our families. The entire path between the trees was filled almost all the way back to the school. We were present. Together, our community prayed for Xavier, who taught us how to be spiritual warriors and that God’s Will was more extensive than our own. As we started, I got a tap on my shoulder from my mom. She pointed into the sky. I saw others begin to point, and many people were looking up. During our prayers, two planes crossed paths in the sky, making an “X” over us. Xavier was there. He gave us a sign. In that moment of silence, God gave our community a profound gift. This was a community that was different than any other.

There is something different with the community of Guerin Catholic. I believe it is what Heaven feels like. I continue to feel it when *GoldenVoice* sings. I imagine this is what Heaven sounds like. Bringing meaning into a group of people allows God to affect individuals in that group. Xavier taught me how to be a person of character. Through his example, I have been able to use my experience to show others God’s will. I have used it through Covid, working in ICU’s, in my work on med surg floors, and especially the oncology floor.

I want to thank Mrs. Murphy for her warrior heart. The Holy Spirit continues to work through her. In sharing this story, I wanted to share how Xavier still lives today. His life is eternal on this Earth. His impact on my life alone has helped me through my most challenging times. Those around me get to hear his story and be impacted by it today. ■

- ELLEN CECH '15





## BUILDING FROM SCRATCH

In 2004, I was blessed to be Principal **Keith Marsh** and Athletic Director **Eric Anderson's** choice as boys' basketball coach. Eric not only started the athletic program with a very modest budget (our athletes fundraised annually for a while, too) and a bleacher-less gymnasium, but Eric had no athletic administration experience. He played both in the NBA and overseas after his standout career at Indiana University. I often helped him with questions and experiences with my years at other schools, but I was teaching in the Carmel Clay Schools and could only give advice. Eric and his assistant **Debbie Stanisz** made it all happen, and I'm so proud of the department's success.

We had 17 boys on the team and played a freshman schedule when we started the 2004-05 school year. The next season many of those boys moved up to the JV team and seventeen more boys made up our freshman squad.

All Golden Eagles athletic teams had first varsity teams in 2006-07, and our school became eligible for the IHSAA Tournament. Basketball-wise, our enrollment was classified 2A for our first five varsity seasons. That first season the IHSAA assigned us to the Triton Central Sectional. Despite having no seniors yet, our team advanced to the championship game where we lost a nail biter to Park Tudor 50-48.

Obviously, all GC sports merited the use of our only gym, and now both the girls' and boys' programs had three teams (varsity, JV, and freshmen). Gym scheduling really became taxing. As a result, our

team often practiced off campus. Sometimes we used my friend's gym in Noblesville or on a court in a warehouse in the Westfield Industrial Park (both had only two goals). Comically, there were a few occasions we had to use my pal's horse barn that only had a half court! At the drop of a hat we'd lose our gym practice time sometimes to school and outside events that requested the gym for an event or program right after the school day ended. But, we made it work!

An additional challenge in starting our basketball program "from scratch" was finding opponents that would play us. Schools were not very receptive to playing a new parochial school. No one was beating the door down to play us. Therefore, to build a competitive schedule, I took the boys all over the state to play in games and holiday tournaments. We won the eight-team Franklin County Holiday Tournament in 2007, our program's first time to cut down nets. The foundations of our program were well established by that first senior class of 2008, and the program was gaining respect. Defensively we committed to the statement "*Contain, Protect, and Contest*" and offensively we used the acronym *FBI—Fast Break with Intelligence*. And as our program's first four-year varsity letter winner **Riley Rapp '12** likes to remind me, I often said to the guys, "*Deception is good in basketball; bad in life.*"

We compiled a 10-5 record in 2A state tournament games with a regional finalist team and a sectional title. Our school's enrollment for the 2011-2012



### MARCH 2012

Boys' basketball team captures the school's first state championship.

### FALL 2012

Gizmo the Golden Eagle mascot is born thanks to a class gift from the Class of 2012, and starts appearing in the student section at athletic and school events.

### NOVEMBER 2013

Boys' soccer team wins the 1A state championship.

### AUGUST 11, 2014

The new academic wing (800 wing) is completed as the school welcomes an enrollment of 725 students for its 10th year.

### NOVEMBER 2014

Boys' soccer team captures second straight 1A state championship.





school year had increased just enough though that we were moved up to the 3A tournament. That season we won 24 games and captured our school's first IHSAA state championship in any sport with a 64-48 victory at Conseco (now Gainbridge) Fieldhouse over Norwell High School. Three years later a new group of Golden Eagles won 22 games and another state title with a thrilling 62-56 win over Griffith High School.

After that 2015 season, GC was the first boys' basketball team ever that was moved up to 4A competition by the IHSAA's 'Success Factor.' We graduated eight seniors off that second state championship squad, including IHSAA Trester Award winner **Matt Labus '15** and our first and only Indiana All-Star in **Matt Holba '15**. The next two seasons our teams won 30 games and embraced the opportunity to play in the 4A tournament. However, we were a bit outmanned at that level come tourney time, and I feel bad those teams didn't have the chance to play in the classification our school's enrollment reflected.

My passion for coaching was tied into teaching students. I retired from education in 2016 and started a new profession. I learned quickly that it was time for me to leave the sidelines when I was not in the classroom all day. I thoroughly loved my years starting and building a basketball program at GC, and again, feel very blessed to be a part of the school's history. ■

- COACH PETE SMITH

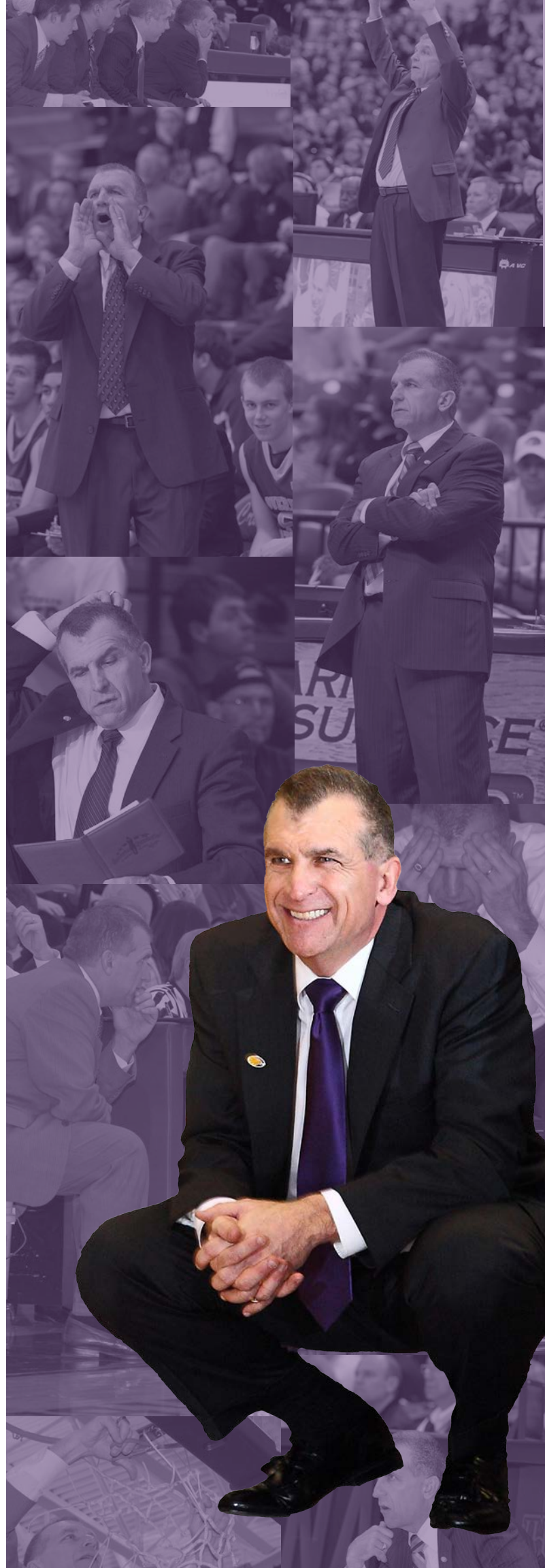
GC BOYS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH (2004-2018)

#### MARCH 2015

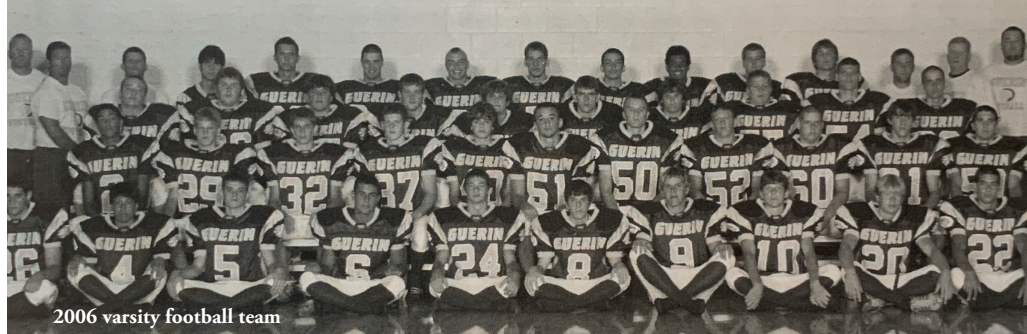
Boys' basketball team captures its second state championship under Coach Pete Smith.

#### CONGRATULATIONS COACH SMITH!

Pete Smith will be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in March 2024.







2006 varsity football team

## HAIL MARY PASS FOR THE FIRST GOLDEN EAGLE VARSITY VICTORY

#8

Our first ever Guerin Catholic football team had a wide variety of athletes—on one end of the spectrum we had gridiron stars like **Danny lafrato '08**, and on the other end guys like me

who had only played football one year before high school (and some had never played football at all). Our rivalry with Brebeuf (Jesuit) started early; they were our first ever football opponent in 2004. We didn't have a home field so we played our "home" game at one of our partner grade schools, St. Maria Goretti. Against all odds, we beat the Braves in a nail biter on a 2-pt conversion to seal the school's first athletic victory. Fast forward 2 years later, when we were finally officially a varsity program in 2006. We faced Brebeuf again in our second game of the regular season. It was a home game for us, but we still didn't have a home field, so we had to play our HOME game AT Brebeuf. It was a high-scoring, back-and-forth game that came down to the wire yet again. We were down 4 points and needed a score late in the 4th quarter. As time was winding down then-senior quarterback **Nic Augustinovicz '07** saw an opening, let it fly, and **Xavier Murphy '07** somehow came up with the catch in the back of the end zone for the go-ahead score! We beat the Braves 42-39 for our first VARSITY win as a football program, and the entire Guerin faithful stormed the field in celebration (we celebrated so hard that **Coach Mark Weller** even tore his Achilles in the madness). It was a Golden Eagle memory I'll never forget! ■

- SAM TITUS '08

#9

The growth from where Guerin Catholic athletics began, to where it is now, is immense as exemplified by the multiple sectional, regional, and state championships over the last 20 years.

Before that success, there is an important date in Guerin Catholic athletics' history: August 25th, 2006—the first varsity victory in school history.

That extraordinary night was the first scheduled home game for GC football against Brebeuf Jesuit. Due to the construction of our athletic fields, a "home" game for Guerin Catholic was played at Brebeuf. Our opponent came into the game quite confident.

The game was exciting with multiple long touchdowns for both sides, including a long touchdown on a kickoff return early in the game (this play still brings a smile to **Mr. Mike Panasuk's** face). As the game came down to the final minutes, we encountered a 4th down play needing to get a first down to extend the drive. The student section led a group Hail Mary prayer that I remember hearing as we lined up for the pivotal play.

Thankfully, those prayers were answered as that play resulted in a touchdown catch for **Xavier Murphy '07**, leading the Golden Eagles to victory.

I'm proud to be a part of the group that started the athletic program back in 2006. Seeing what it has become gives me immense pride to call myself a Golden Eagle! ■

- JAMIE REARDON '08

### AUGUST 2016

Science teacher Hugh Ross is awarded the Presidential Science Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for the state of Indiana.

### FALL 2016

GC becomes a founding member of the Circle City Conference; Athletic facilities expand with addition of a tailgate zone, soccer/lacrosse turf field and additional tennis courts.

### FEBRUARY 2017

Inaugural Bishop William L. Higi Leadership Award presentation to Bishop Emeritus Higi.

### OCTOBER 3, 2017

Chaplain Fr. Thomas Haan introduces a new tradition of the Eucharistic Procession after the Feast Day All-School Mass of our Patroness St. Theodore Guerin.

### FALL 2017

An Alumni Council is created to serve and engage the 1,200 alumni from the school's first ten graduating classes (2007-2017).



#10

## BEYOND THE X'S AND O'S

My GC basketball coach was more than just a mentor on the court; he was a source of inspiration that transcended the boundaries of the game.

One of **Coach Jeff Buckner's** most remarkable qualities was his unwavering belief in our potential and he would rally us with a firm conviction that we were capable of achieving greatness. This belief became a powerful force, propelling us to strive for excellence on and off the basketball court.

Coach Buckner also taught us valuable life lessons. He emphasized the importance of discipline, teamwork, and resilience. When faced with adversity, he would remind us that setbacks were temporary, and that true character was revealed in how we responded to challenges.

Coach Buckner invested time in understanding each player's strengths, weaknesses, and personal aspirations. His mentorship went beyond the basketball arena, as he became a trusted confidant and advisor. His genuine interest in our lives fostered a sense of camaraderie and trust within the team.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of Coach Buckner's leadership was his ability to turn defeats into opportunities for growth. Losses were not viewed as failures but as chances to learn, adapt, and come back stronger. This perspective shaped our resilience and taught us that setbacks were stepping stones toward success.

In the years since high school, Coach Buckner's influence has endured. His lessons in perseverance, self-belief, and the pursuit of excellence continue to guide me in various aspects of my life. His impact reaches far beyond the basketball court, serving as a beacon of inspiration that has shaped my character and outlook on challenges. ■

- EMILY STANISZ '10



Coach Buckner with Emily Stanisz '10



The 2014-15 Boys basketball team, including Stuart Schultz '14

#11

## "STUUUUUU"

One of my fondest memories is of Friday, December 20, 2013. **Stuart Schultz '14**, a 6'7" senior scored his one and only point of his varsity career. (A bit of a back story... his freshman year at Guerin Catholic, Stuart was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and missed the 2010-11 school year due to the cancer. Stuart would endure three+ years of chemotherapy treatments. He became a manager for the program while in remission because he broke his foot in the first 5 minutes of the junior varsity opener of the 2011-12 season. That season was the school's first Class 3A state championship team.)

As I recall, the gym was packed. Prior to the game, the Golden Eagles had retired the #23 jersey of **Xavier Murphy '07** who died of leukemia in October of 2011. **Coach Pete Smith** subbed in Stuart toward the end of the 4th quarter. The team passed Stu the ball to get him to shoot, which he did but missed. The guys were looking for Stuart to score, but he waved them off. He just didn't think it would happen. But God had other plans. With **Matt Labus '15** pointing Stuart to the block and passing him the ball, Stuart got fouled. He was headed to the free throw line and the fans were cheering him on as they yelled the "Stuuuuuu" chant. The intensity was electrifying. Stu got his chance with everyone watching to make his first point of his varsity basketball career. He prepped for the shot and hit it and the crowd went crazy! There was not a dry eye in the gym. It was such a special moment seeing his high school career come full circle. He was so happy after carrying such an amazingly heavy cross of the last four years. After the game, Stuart was interviewed by the IndyStar and shared that the retirement of Murphy's jersey number prior to the game "was really the main reason I was so emotional. Just me scoring was kind of like I was in my way doing something good for their family. I had the same thing he had and I can score for them." Another Golden Eagle whose thoughts were focused on serving others. ■

- MRS. BETH WAGONER  
GC ART TEACHER SINCE 2004



## #12 A SPIRITUAL FATHER

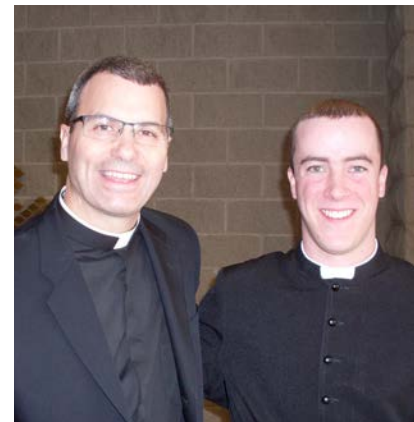
I was blessed to be able to attend Guerin Catholic High School in its earliest years. I am a member of the 5th graduating class—Class of 2011. There were so many blessings during my time at Guerin Catholic: the excellent academics, the dedicated faculty and staff, the friendships that were formed, and the tight-knit community. For this reflection, I want to focus in particular on the school's strong Catholic identity. During my time at Guerin Catholic, **Fr. Dale Ehrman** started his assignment with the school when it opened in 2004, serving in a variety of leadership capacities until 2011. Fr. Dale offered Mass every day of the school year, Monday through Friday. He offered Confessions frequently throughout the week, provided regular opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, offered spiritual direction for students, led prayer at athletic and fine arts events, assisted in the administration of the school, and taught theology classes for a portion of his time at Guerin Catholic. He was the spiritual father of the entire Guerin Catholic community—students, faculty, staff, and parents. Fr. Dale was, in fact, my spiritual director during my senior year of high school, before I entered the seminary after graduation.

In June of 2023, I was appointed the full-time Chaplain of Central Catholic High School in Lafayette, Indiana. Central Catholic has not had a chaplain since 1992. With the assistance of the school's administrators, I had some freedom to set up the structure for my chaplain role. This past summer, when I was thinking about what I wanted my role to look like as chaplain of Central Catholic, I often thought about how Fr. Dale fulfilled his roles at Guerin Catholic. Currently at Central Catholic, I offer many of the same things that Fr. Dale offered at Guerin Catholic. I am blessed to have Fr. Dale as a role model for my own priesthood and high school ministry. Fr. Dale's role as spiritual father of Guerin Catholic helped the Catholic identity to permeate every aspect of the school. I hope and pray to be the best spiritual father that I can be for the Central Catholic community, just as Fr. Dale Ehrman was for us at Guerin Catholic. ■

- FR. WILLIAM SUMMERLIN '11



Fr. William Summerlin '11 as a student with Fr. Dale Ehrman at his graduation from Guerin Catholic (L) and in his first year of seminary (R).



## #13 FROM SOPHOMORE THEOLOGY TO THE CULTURE PROJECT

**Alexandria (Ross) Miller '15** recently participated in **The Prayer Project**, a series of Guerin Catholic Alumni Podcasts produced by the school's Catholic Life Committee. Alex, who graduated from Ball State University in 2019 after studying interpersonal communication and counseling, currently serves The Culture Project International as Formation and Training Programs Manager after several years with the organization as a missionary. In her podcast, Alex reflects on a pivotal moment in her faith formation at Guerin Catholic—

*"I was in my sophomore year in theology class and we were going through **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis and when we were going through the proofs of God's existence, everyone in the class was going like 'oh this is kind of cool' but something was happening in my heart and I was like, hold on... if this is true, that God is real, like I knew He was real, but hearing and using reason to see the proofs of why that makes sense on the intellectual level, and the fact that He could also reveal Himself there, blew my mind. That he could reveal himself in the nitty-gritty of philosophy and intellect... and I went to the library after school that day and borrowed about 10 books...about purgatory and angels and miracles and the Eucharist and Mary and I just devoured them on my bed and that was a huge turning point for me because I realized that if I believe who God says He is, I have to believe He's truth and everything He says is true, including everything He says about me." ■*

To listen to more about Alex's prayer journey and her work with The Culture Project, and other GC alumni "Prayer Project" podcasts, visit [GuerinCatholic.org/podcasts](https://GuerinCatholic.org/podcasts).





# #14

## MARCHING FOR LIFE

During the school's 2nd year, half of the student body attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. We took three coach buses I believe that drove through the night on the way there. On the night before the march, we went to the Basilica for the Vigil Mass. Considering this was a national event, we arrived 2-3 hours early to get a space, and the pews were already filled. So we simply took spots on the floor throughout the space, along with hundreds of other folks from throughout the country. It was simply an immense mass of humanity. After sitting there for a bit as folks continued to enter, **Miguel Salazar '09**, a freshman, stood up and led anyone within ear's reach in the Rosary. It was one of the most moving Rosaries I had ever been a part of as a crowd of complete strangers sitting less-than-comfortably on top of one another was unified by this teenage boy. Watching Miguel's smiling face and outstretched arms as he lead the group was one of the more visible examples I have witnessed of someone who was on fire with the Holy Spirit. Miguel was in that moment, and throughout his time at our school, an example of "placing our light upon a lamp stand". ■

- MR. JASON WAGONER  
GC SPANISH TEACHER SINCE 2004



March for Life Large groups of students, faculty and staff would annually attend the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., including in 2008 (top) and 2010 (bottom).

# #15

## TRUSTING IN PROVIDENCE

From the moment **Mrs. Shelley Horn** walked into the front office almost 18 years ago to drop off her resume for an English teacher position, she knew Guerin Catholic was a special place. When Mrs. Horn started her teaching career with us, she was a self-described, "baby Catholic" having joined the Catholic church a few months earlier.

"St. Mother Theodore Guerin's presence has truly infiltrated my life as a member of this community. God and Mother Theodore had many lessons in store for me to learn. I learned very early here that trusting in Providence was ALWAYS in my best interest."

"As my first year came to a close, I learned the importance of praying at the beginning of each of my classes, teaching in a smaller community, and most of all, sharing my faith with my students and peers."



Mrs. Horn became a mother during her second year as a Guerin Catholic teacher and her new role allowed her to see our mission with new eyes. Her children, **Ava '26** and **Aidan '27**, are now students at Guerin Catholic.

"My perspective on this beautiful community changed. Watching my students through the eyes of a parent gave me the compassion to intertwine my faith even more with my students. Praying for each students' intentions at the beginning of my classes has transformed my life and those of my students in ways I could not even imagine. Transitioning from teacher to parent mindset has been a blessing."

"As I reflect on the 17 years God has blessed me as a member of this truly special community, I always experienced Mother Guerin's presence in EVERY SINGLE MOMENT. Trusting in Providence, whether it was as a teacher to be the teacher God called me to be each day or the mother I was called to be for my own two children, has provided the many special memories I have as a Guerin Catholic Golden Eagle! I am so grateful for the opportunity to see Mother Guerin's work in action each year I am blessed to be part of this community." ■



#16

## NINETY IN NEWSIES

To date *Newsies The Musical* has been one of the most popular musicals put on by the Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Department. **Mr. Ryan Davis**, the current athletic director still talks about **Billy Freudenthal '19** playing football, hockey, and track and then taking on the lead role of Jack Kelly in our 2019 production. There were so many great moments from that show — **Maggie Adolay '21** and **Katie LaReau '21** leading a group of non-dancers in a tap routine; **Jack Loub '19** and **Anthony Vaiana '20** as Crutchie; or **Keaton Lewis '20** flipping across the stage!

Before the character Jack Kelly sings “Seize the Day,” as he’s rallying the Newsies to strike, he cries out, “*Ain’t no crime to bein’ poor.*” As I listened to this night after night, this message resonated with me. Our culture places so much emphasis on money and success, we can start to believe that those who don’t have money have no value. Is it any surprise that if we don’t see dignity in the vulnerable we do see, how could we value those we can’t see? I’m pretty sure this was not the message that Disney intended, but it is hard to ignore ‘the truth’!



*Newsies* is known for its incredible dancing and intricate sets. We had enthusiastic students who wanted to create a great show regardless of how well they could dance or what our small stage set could be. As the rehearsals progressed, I felt our students begin to embrace the powerful elements of this story—the vulnerable being taken advantage of! The best part of doing a show at Guern Catholic is the opportunity to reflect on the goodness of each story.

*Newsies* had NINETY students tell that story! After a long rehearsal, I often thought on my drive home, “*Why would anyone cast a show with ninety students? Did I lose my mind?!?*” As we moved through tech week, the answers to my questions became clear. I can’t think of anything more rewarding than seeing a student who has never been on stage acquire new skills, become a part of a new community, and grow in confidence. It truly is a beautiful process to observe. So why wouldn’t I want to multiply that feeling by the largest number possible? Hard-working students x 90 = many blessings!

And this is what Guerin Catholic theatre has always been about—students have the chance to discover something about themselves while touching the audience with a beautiful story! ■

- **MRS. MARCIA MURPHY**  
GC THEATRE DIRECTOR SINCE 2004

**MARCH 2019**

GC’s Spring Musical “*Newsies*” features a record number of 90 students in its cast and crew.

**OCTOBER 2019**

Cardinal Newman Society recognizes Guerin Catholic for the sixth time as a top Catholic High School for its strong Catholic identity (2007, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2014, 2019-2024).



## TAKING FAITH AND FOOTBALL FROM GC TO BC



For the Ferrucci brothers, John 15:16 serves as a reminder of the foundational role Guerin Catholic continues to play in their lives as young adults—*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”* After graduating from Guerin Catholic, all three boys headed to Boston College (BC), taking their faith and love of football, with them.

**Vincent '16** graduated from BC in 2020, and lives and works in Boston for Ernst and Young as a Commercial Assurance (Audit) Senior. Vinny served as an equipment manager for the football team while at BC.

“One of the many things I loved about Guerin Catholic was playing for **Coach Tom Dille** and **Coach Andy Kremer** on the football team. The team encapsulated everything that was special about Guerin Catholic. From the community of the team that was built through workouts, practices, and the many Sunday O-Line dinners, to the support at games, to the faith that was nurtured through pregame Chapel and Gameday Mass, the team helped me to learn how to lead with humility and serve with love. My favorite memories came on Saturday mornings after wins when we’d eat donuts and watch the previous night’s film. To this day, I’m still close with all of my teammates and I know I could count on them if I needed anything even though it’s been almost a decade since we played together.”



**Dominic '20**, will graduate from BC in May of 2024 with a communications degree, with a minor in journalism. During his time in Boston, Dominic, like his brother Vinny, also served as an equipment manager for the BC football team. “Guerin Catholic has many great attributes for students: loving teachers, numerous opportunities for extracurricular involvements, outstanding school spirit. But the best thing about Guerin Catholic is the impact that it has had on my life after graduating. My Guerin Catholic education has served as the foundation for my spiritual life. As a senior in college, there is much uncertainty in my life. Yet, I find myself repeating Guerin Catholic’s *“Trust in Providence”* as a form of reassurance that God does indeed have a plan. Guerin Catholic taught me that complete surrender in God’s will guarantees a fruitful life. My time at Guerin Catholic planted the seeds for this fruit to grow and I am forever indebted to the community that I have learned so much from.”

Dom and Vinny welcomed the third Ferrucci brother to the BC campus this past fall when **Anthony '23** joined them. Anthony kept the Ferrucci football tradition alive as a walk-on player on the BC football team. Anthony is a student in the Business School, studying business analytics. For Anthony, it’s the Guerin Catholic grotto that holds a special place. “The grotto was, as it has been for many alumni, an integral part of my GC experience. For me, the grotto is a special place because it is where I heard Coach Dille’s pregame prayer before every home football game. For my classmates, it was a retreat, and for my teachers, it was an extended classroom. The grotto is a little different to each person, but it is a special place for us all.” ■



## "I'LL SEE YOU ALL IN THE EUCHARIST"

#18

A day I will never forget is March 13, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we made the decision the day before to suspend in-person learning and all activities on campus. At the time, we did not know how long this would last, but it turned out to be the final in-person day of the 2019-2020 school year. It was extremely taxing on our staff to re-invent high school with limited information and little time to prepare, but I remain proud of the education our students received during this difficult time. Here is the announcement I made to the students prior to dismissal on that day.

*"I want to take this opportunity to make a final announcement to all of you before we begin extended e-learning and our campus closes. Here are a few points I want to emphasize.*

*Please be diligent in your work. As someone who has taken online classes myself, the most difficult part is having the self-discipline to focus only on work and avoid distractions. I know there are more distractions at home than at school. Create a daily schedule for yourself and make a space to work with minimal distractions.*

*Self-distancing is important— It is human to want to be around your friends. I get it. But please, these next few weeks are not the time to be over at each other's houses or meeting at Panera. Please be safe and be smart.*

*Finally, I mentioned staying vigilant in your schoolwork, I challenge you to do the same with your prayer life. Although we may not be together in person, we must remain together in prayer. You are used to praying before class. I urge you to pray before you do your schoolwork. Please know I'll be praying for all of you.*

*Finally, there is a Catholic saying that instead of "good-bye" some will say, "I'll see you in the Eucharist." The Eucharist has and always will be what binds our school together. That does not stop with e-learning. While our Sunday obligation has been temporarily lifted, when we have the chance to see Christ truly present, let's remember one another.*

*So, until we come back together Golden Eagles, I'll see you all in the Eucharist."* ■

- MR. JAMES MCNEANY  
GC PRINCIPAL SINCE 2013



### MARCH 2020

Guerin Catholic closes to in-person learning during the global Covid-19 pandemic. Students pivot to e-learning for the remainder of the school year.

### JULY 2020

The Class of 2020 graduates in an outdoor ceremony on the soccer/lacrosse field after multiple delays due to the pandemic.

### AUGUST 2020

Students return to campus on an alternate purple/gold schedule through the end of the second trimester of the 2020-21 school year.

### JUNE 2021

The Class of 2021 is the first class to graduate under a Latin Honor System instead of a valedictorian/salutatorian model; the boys' lacrosse team captures the 1A IHSLA state championship.

### JUNE 2022

The girls' lacrosse team captures the first girls sport state championship in school history. The boys' golf team also captures its first state championship.



# "LOVE THE CHILDREN FIRST, THEN TEACH THEM"

#19

I had a unique perspective during Covid learning as a Guerin Catholic mom, but also a staff member of the school.

During Covid learning, parents were able to have a "window into the classroom." I saw active learning taking place via their computers each and every school day—all day long. I heard teachers leading prayer and coaching their students through their frustrations with online learning and making great effort to *"love the children first, then teach them."*

I also saw the other side as I sat in staff meetings and listened as teachers shared hints and tips with each other on how to ensure that ALL students were engaged and learning. Great efforts were being made by these talented educators to ensure that NO student fell through the cracks during online learning. I also heard first-hand the struggle and heartbreak of teachers who were managing both their GC classroom and their own children's online learning at home. Our GC teachers burned the candles at both ends to ensure their own children and their GC students received the best education possible through this unfortunate time in history. GC teachers remained positive and upbeat on their screens and delivered valuable lesson plans, and they shielded their students from the incredible stress and heartache that was taking place behind the scenes. I have always respected teachers as a profession, but during Covid I recognized that those who teach at Guerin Catholic view their profession as a ministry, not just a job. How blessed we are to have them leading our children. ■

- MRS. COLLEEN WARD

GC DIRECTOR OF MARKETING SINCE 2008

#20

After I graduated from Guerin Catholic, I went to study chemistry without

a definite goal in mind. While in college, I went back to Guerin Catholic every summer to be a part of Camp Purple, as a volunteer and eventually as the on-site director. I loved the school while I was a student and even more after graduating. Every minute I spent at GC made me feel loved and valued. After much reflection, I realized that the best thing I could do with my life was become a teacher to pay it forward.



Before I started my teaching program, I wondered what type of teacher I would be—*"Would I be the funny teacher? The forgetful one? The strict one?"* Now I am in the classroom teaching 10th grade Chemistry and 12th grade Biology at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in the Twin Cities (MN), and though I don't know what type of teacher I am, I do know what teacher I want to be. I wake up every morning and pray to care for the students as individuals like **Mr. Adrian DeBoy** and **Mrs. Krista Stubbs**, and to explain difficult concepts with patience like **Mr. Hugh Ross** does. I hope to be as enthusiastic as **Ms. Lauren LaCoy**, as kind as **Mrs. Jenny Greene**, and as thoughtful as **Mrs. Tricia Gandhi**. I pray for the wisdom to say the right thing like **Mrs. Marcia Murphy**, and for the courage to inspire students to do hard things like **Dr. Jeanine Conklin**. I want to bring students closer to God like **Fr. Thomas Haan** and **Mr. Zach Haselhorst** do. I know I am not a perfect teacher, but I had the most amazing role models who continue to inspire because they truly follow Mother Guerin's ideal to *"love the children first, then teach them."* ■

- SOFIA DONADO '20

## MARCH 2023

A beautiful bronze statue of our patroness, St. Mother Theodore Guerin, is dedicated in Dr. John Bates courtyard.

## JUNE 2023

Both the girls' lacrosse team and the boys' golf team capture back-to-back state championships. Leo Wessel '24 also captures the school's first individual state championship in boys golf.

## AUGUST 2023

First day of school enrollment surpasses 800 students for the first time

## SEPTEMBER 2023

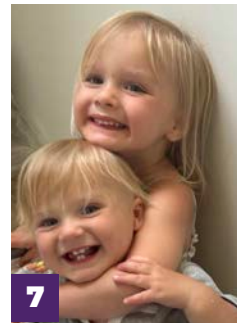
Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fine Arts and Wellness Center, the final installment of the campus master plan.

## OCTOBER 2023

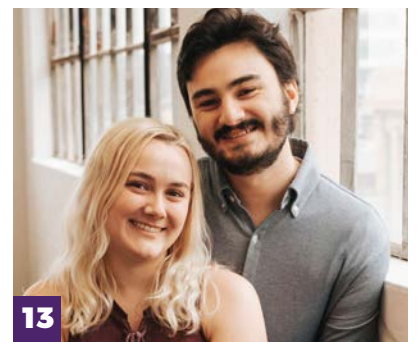
Girls' soccer team wins its first state championship in program history.



# Alumni News



## GC ALUMNI PHOTO SHARE





## [2008]

**David Griswold** and his wife Amanda welcomed their 6th child in September, 2021. Benjamin joins siblings, Joseph (9), George (8), Peter (6), Veronica (4), Edward (3). David has been working in law enforcement in Central Ohio for the last 6 years.

## [2009]

**1 Miranda (Wood) Armie** and her husband **Sean '08** welcomed their fifth child, Julian, in May 2023. He joins big sisters Eleanor (10), Alice (8), Zelda (5), and big brother Judah (2). Also in May, Miranda completed her Masters of Business Administration from Butler University while Sean finished his first year teaching at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School.

**Colleen (Regan) Hayden** and her husband Austin live in St. Louis, MO. Colleen just finished her 10th year teaching English.

**2 Kara (Moore) Wilson** and her husband Derick welcomed their second child, Ruby Blake Wilson, in April. Ruby joins big brother Van (2).

## [2010]

**3 Erin (Meister) Frieden** is a financial advisor. She and her husband Edwin were married in 2016 and have two daughters, ages two and four.

**4 Katie (Regan) Gardner** and her husband **Sam '08** welcomed their third child, William Joseph, in May 2023. William joins big sisters Kendall (4) and Quinn (2).

**5 Katie (Stark) Moran** and her husband Joe welcomed daughter, Cora Evangeline, in November 2022. Cora joins big brother Xavier (4).

## [2012]

**Joe Viater** and his wife Mollie both received master's degrees in business administration from Stanford University while living in California. They currently live in Westfield.

## [2013]

**6 Lauren (Van Atter) Pohl** and her husband Kevin welcomed baby girl Lucy in February 2023. Lucy joins big brother Kaden (4).

**7 Hanna (Gelov) Wroblewski** and her husband Michael welcomed son, Rocco, in May 2022. Rocco joins big sister Annabella (3).

**Marcos and Maggie (Godleski) Zatkulak** have been adventuring since graduating from Guerin Catholic. After graduating from Purdue University in 2017, they moved to Boston where they worked in consulting and enjoyed exploring the Northeast. They were married in 2020. In 2021, they moved to Ann Arbor, MI where they received their master's degrees in business administration from the University of Michigan. They graduated in 2023 and look forward to moving back to Indiana after being away the last 10 years.

## [2014]

**Tom Bright** and his wife Ellen welcomed their second child, Luke, this year. Tom began work as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Indiana in the real estate litigation section.

**8 Luz Peredo-Muniz** volunteered full time in 2019 in Southern California as a health advocate for undocumented immigrants and victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. In 2022 Luz received a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Indiana University. Because of her service work, Luz has received various awards including the Zach H. Gregory Emerging Leadership Award, the William Plater Civic Engagement Award, and the IUPUI Premier 10.

**9 Charles Sloan** and Evalyn Sweet were engaged in Sedona, AZ in March.

**10 Katheryne (Nelson) Strong** and her husband John welcomed their third boy, George, in February 2023. He joins big brothers Dominic (3) and Joseph (2).

**11 Carly Osinski** married Evan Wyse in June 2023.

## [2015]

**12 Kevin '14 and Kelleen (Haddad) Coltrain** welcomed their first son, James, this summer. James joins sisters Kelsea (2) and Kaelyn (1).

**13 Therese Miller** and **Tristan Zavaleta** were married in July 2023.

**14 Noah Wilson** recently completed his third year of teaching at Greencastle High School. He currently teaches AP US History, AP Government, US History, Economics, and Indiana Studies. This year, much to his surprise, Noah was honored to be chosen by the senior class to speak at graduation.

## In Memoriam

### MALLORIE NICOLE HOOK '10

After a two-year battle with acute myeloid leukemia, Mallorie Hook passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 15 at the age of 32. A budding artist during her time at Guerin Catholic, Mallorie expressed her artistic passion through her career as a talented cosmetologist and make-up artist. Mallorie freely gave her skills and time to help elderly and terminal patients. She was adored and appreciated in her craft by clients and friends and will be dearly missed by all.

### MATTHEW MERLINA '15

Matthew Merlina, GC Class of 2015, passed away on November 27, 2023 at the age of 26. During his time at Guerin Catholic Matt excelled as an athlete and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He earned his undergraduate degree from Butler University. Matt's smile and vigor for life will be greatly missed.



# Alumni News



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## [2016]

**15 Sadie Burrows** married Brendan Marz in May 2022 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. They welcomed their first child, Theodore (pictured), in April 2023.

**16 Hailey Hammons** is a dolphin trainer for Seaworld's Discovery Cove in Orlando, FL.

**17 Rachel (Folstrom) Seider** and her husband Danny welcomed baby girl Brooke in September 2023.

## [2017]



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**18 Alan Burton** married Rita Young in May 2023 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Valparaiso, IN.

**19 Drew Cobb** entered his third year as a missionary with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at Grand Valley State University. He is serving as the new team director of a team of four missionaries.

**Sarah Downing** married **Nicholas Moss** in October 2023.

**20 Becca Fillip** and **Caleb Quick** were married in September 2022 at St. Maria Goretti.

**Logan Gauker** married Lauren Huemmer in August 2023 at the St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center. Father David Huemmer, Lauren's uncle, officiated.

**Kyra Schultz** graduated from Purdue University in 2022 with her second degree. She works as an oncology infusion nurse.

## [2019]

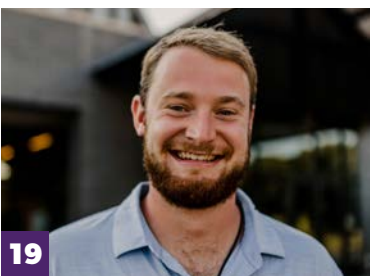
**21 Joseph Schmid** has published many articles in philosophy journals and books. He recently started working on his Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton University.

**22** Since graduating from Marian University, **Madeline Worchester** has been training for pro NFL/NBA cheer and dance and was a finalist for the Colts Cheer 2023 audition season. She plans to try out for the Indiana Pacemates.

## [2020]

**Shannon Buntin** was named to Elon University's President's List for academic achievement.

*Class Notes reflects news received through August 2023. Guerin Catholic High School staff have the final determination on the publication of submissions.*



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### ALUMNI AWARD

**Shannon (Murray) Strong '07** received the Bishop William L. Higi Leadership Award for alumni at the 2023 Guerin Catholic Gala, along with Guerin Catholic past president **Deacon Paul Lunsford** (community award), and **Debbie Stanisz** (faculty/staff award, not pictured).

In addition to supporting Guerin Catholic through her attendance at fundraisers and events and promoting the school via social media platforms and word-of-mouth marketing, Shannon has made a profound impact on the Golden Eagle Community through her five years serving as an Assistant Coach for the Girls Basketball Program. Strong joins past alumni award recipients **Sam Gardner '08**, **Joe Garcia '07**, and **Adriana (Pratt) Mansour '08**.



### CALLED TO SERVE

Congratulations to **Sister Clare Dominic Pottratz '14** who professed her final vows as a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia in Nashville, TN in July 2023. Sister Clare Dominic is teaching middle school literature at St. Croix Catholic School in Stillwater, MN.



### CLASS OF 2013 REUNION

The Class of 2013 celebrated their 10-year reunion in *The Nest* at a Homecoming game tailgate on October 6, and at a gathering at 3Up Rooftop in Carmel, IN on October 7, 2023.



### FROM THE NEST TO THE CITRUS BOWL

**Nick Demas '20** (left) and **Christian Gelov '20**, found each other after their teams battled on the gridiron in January 2023 at the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl in Orlando. Demas' LSU Tigers got the best of Gelov's Boilermakers and came away with the 63-7 victory.



### A WEDDING REUNION

**Therese Miller '15** and **Tristan Zavaleta '15** were married July 8, 2023. In attendance were (L to R) **Greg Goodin '12**, **Manuel Peredo '12**, **Dylan Zavaleta '12**, **Maddie VanMeter '15**, **Elaine Miller '13**, **Therese and Tristan**, **Blake Miller '17**, and **Audrey Larkin '13**.



### CALLING 2 CAREERS

**Emma Balcer '16** returned to The Nest as one of many speakers during KAIROS for the Calling 2 Careers series sponsored by the GC Counseling Office. Balcer spoke about her career as a Physician's Assistant in Orthopedic Surgery at Riley Hospital for Children. Alumni, parents and community members spoke to students about a variety of careers in the week-long series.



### GOLDEN EAGLES RIDE IN IU'S LITTLE 500

Four bikers in the 2023 Indiana University Little 500 were Guerin Catholic alumnae—**Kyra Ferry '20**, **Bailey Capella '22**, **Alyssa Ferry '22**, and **Claire Sawyer '21**. **Ella Curtis '20** (with Ferry at right), was on the Indiana University Student Foundation steering committee that helped plan and execute the annual IU tradition.





Guerin Catholic High School  
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Noblesville, IN 46062



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