

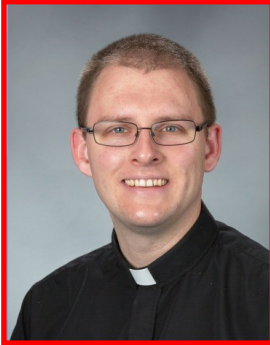


# Epistles from Saint Paul's



STRIVING TO BE PASSIONATELY CATHOLIC AND ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT

Fall 2022



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends of St. Paul's Catholic School,

It's hard to believe, but it's been a couple years since we sent out our last newsletter with updates on our school community. That time has largely been defined by the Covid pandemic. The challenges of these years have taught us many lessons.

First, we've learned that we all need each other, to belong to a community. St. Paul's has always been a wonderful place for that, but in these past couple years we've sadly had to cancel annual dinners, open houses, and many other in-person events. Now, we are finally getting back to welcoming you all to events in our school community.

Our students have had to deal with disruptions in their lives, with milestones deferred or not shared with loved ones. Yet this challenging time has inspired them to find creative ways to reach out to others in our community, such as performing acts of kindness as part of the Raise Craze program. One of the enduring images I will carry in my mind from this time is of our students visiting a local Catholic nursing home and literally reaching out to the residents inside through the windows. These students really have found ways to live out our school's mission to practice "Christian virtues [and] to make a positive difference in our world."



We've also learned that we cannot take anything for granted. St. Paul's School exists because of the hard work and dedication of our teachers, staff, and families, along with the generous support of people like you. Our faculty and staff is smaller than it was before the pandemic. Everyone has had to step up, working to cover additional responsibilities, ranging from cleaning bathrooms to covering the front office. Even the students have pitched in with vacuuming and taking out the trash (so they are now well-trained to clean their rooms at home!).

St. Paul's has a long history, and we've had challenging times before, when money was tight and enrollment dropped. Yet our community has always pitched in and worked to rebuild, time and again. We're a small school, but I know that we can continue to build upon the hard work and sacrifices of those who came before us. We are grateful for all the prayers and support you offer to build up our St. Paul's School community!

God bless, Fr. Curtis

## Principal's Corner

We are happy to share with you this 2022 fall newsletter. We took a small hiatus since Spring of 2020 when Covid hit because with everything happening in the world, it was affecting our staff, our students and our school community as well. I sought out many opportunities for financial relief that were available to us to help carry us through the past two years, thus offering some relief to asking our sponsors for continued support. As that funding is coming to an end, I come to you with wonderful news that great things are happening at Saint Paul's Catholic School with your continued financial support to provide for our longevity. We just paid our fourth payment of an asbestos abatement, and with that, not only can I say that the school is asbestos free but we are also debt-free! The only overhead that our school holds onto is operational costs, yet every year we manage that with grants, tuition and donor support like you.

Since our last publication in Fall of 2019, Covid took a toll on our staff and student enrollment. With new safety procedures in place and remote access, enrollment dropped to a near all time low. Area local public schools are also seeing the same impact, with consolidation and budget cuts. Since 2020 we're slowly increasing our numbers, we've reshuffled our programming and consolidated classes to be financially and fiscally responsible. We strive to provide a wonderful education to our students. With a six to one student to teacher ratio, our classes are small enough to safely manage being in a classroom and get plenty of attention from their teachers. Our preschool is full and we are looking to expand that program. Last year we graduated our 125th graduating class. Our alumni continue to succeed in high school (7 of the last 10 Lake Region Union HS Valedictorians were St Paul's graduates), college, trades, military or owning their own businesses.

Thank you for believing in private Catholic education, we pray that many blessings come to you and your family this year and always.

Peace be with you, Mrs. Joanne Beloin





We are accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This

vigorous process recognizes all the hard work the teachers, Board and parents do for the sake of our students. The Vermont Agency of Education also recognizes and approves us as an independent school.

Our students and staff named our local plow truck, Flurry the Snow Cow!



We serve lunch free of charge to all students this year. When the "Vermont Everyone Eats" law was renewed, they eliminated private schools, cutting us out of another opportunity. Our school volunteer, Irene "Mimi" LeBlanc, was determined that we will continue to serve all students free of charge, supported by donations. We've been able to offer this because many families have shared their garden harvests. We received a grant from the Department of Agriculture for some locally-grown community shares and we are seeking donations. It costs about \$125 a day to feed the school.



Fall field trips included the Orleans County Fair, apple picking and participating in two local Veterans Day ceremonies.





When we build on a firm foundation of Christ, we can withstand whatever comes our way. A foundation based on God produces steadfast faith and life. **Matthew 7:24-29**



**How can you help? Where are our greatest needs?**

- Scholarship fund \$40,000
- Lunch fund \$15,000
- Maintenance fund \$10,000
- Sponsor a student tuition, books and fees \$5000
- Sponsor books \$200



Our Prekindergarten program is full this year. We can take students who are 3 or 4 years old. This year we were recertified by the State as a 4 STARS program.



**Congratulations Class of 2022- the 125th graduating class of Saint Paul's Catholic School!**

Saint Paul's Catholic School instills Christian values in its students and a desire to make a positive difference in the world. We are committed to developing in each student, an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ, a sense of self-worth, a spirit of discovery and inquiry, and an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

My Fall Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500

My pledge to sponsor a student for  25%, \$1250  50%, \$2500/yr.  100%, \$5000/yr.

I am an alumnus(a) of St. Paul's Catholic School, year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I have a new address. Please keep me on your mailing list.

I received this newsletter through another person. Please add my address to your mailing list.

Please pray for my intention at your Patronal Feast Mass:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in information about families in need of sponsorship for needs based scholarships.

(Use reverse side to fill in full address)



Above: July 4<sup>th</sup> parade themed: Kingdom Treasures. We titled our float "Children are the gems of the Kingdom". We won first place. God bless America!



Below: Students gathered on October 26th for CRMO awareness by wearing purple and white in solidarity with a student battling this silent disorder.



Your Participation in our Mission

Your donation allows us to advance our mission. We are committed to funding our programs to keep the school affordable and available to all. St. Paul's Catholic School is a tax exempt 503(c) entity, as part of Most Holy Trinity Parish Charitable Trust in Barton, VT. All donations are tax deductible. An acknowledgement will be returned for tax purposes. More importantly, our donors share in the merits of our good work, knowing that everyone benefits when our students and families cultivate the faithful and loving dispositions that Catholic Schools were created to instill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Email: [stpaulscatholicsschooloffice@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulscatholicsschooloffice@gmail.com)

Or visit us online:

[www.saintpaulscatholicsschool.org](http://www.saintpaulscatholicsschool.org)

Like us on Facebook

Make checks payable to *St. Paul's Catholic School*

Mail to: St. Paul's School Donations, 85 St. Paul Lane, Barton, VT 05822

**Please consider putting the St. Paul's School Foundation in your will and estate.**

You may also contact us via email or phone: [stpaulscatholicsschooloffice@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulscatholicsschooloffice@gmail.com) (802) 525-6578