

THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance to students at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School



St. Michael class of '73 shares favorite memories. See page 10.

Class of '73 Celebrates 50-Year Reunion

Years before their 8th grade graduation, members of St. Michael class of '73 made their First Communion together. Go to page 6 for St. Matthew's 8th grade class photo from '73, page 9 for St. John Vianney class of '73 photo, and page 8 for St. Michael.

COS Alums Follow Different Paths — Overcome Obstacles to Pursue Goals

When COS classmates Lisette Horne & Autam Mendez graduated from high school in 2018, they each had a clear but ambitious goal. Lisette knew she wanted to go to graduate school, while Autam wanted to play Division 1 basketball. They shared their stories with us.

LISETTE HORNE '14

Lisette was the first in her family to attend college when she accepted a full scholarship for undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota. In 2022, the University awarded her a fellowship to pursue a PhD in social psychology.

Q: Tell me about the field of social psychology and what you hope to do?

Lisette: Social psychologists are interested in learning about human behavior and how thoughts, choices, and actions are influenced by the larger society.

— Continued on page 4

AUTAM MENDEZ '14

In 2023, Autam received an athletic scholarship to play D1 basketball for the University of St. Thomas as a graduate student. We spoke during a two-game road trip on a day that began with a 4 am flight to Tulsa, OK. The Tommies won both games.

Autam has been racking up accomplishments since middle school when she first led St. Matthew's, then COS's basketball teams to city championships. At Cretin-Derham Hall High School (CDH) she earned a spot on

— Continued on page 5

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



JOIN US
for an address by
General Joseph Votel
USA, Ret. '72.
See page 12
for details.

Dear Alums & Friends & Families of COS,

There is a well-known hymn that reminds us, "We walk by faith and not by sight..."

Each year you make an act of faith; an act of faith in our school, an act of faith in our students, and an act of faith in what your generosity and commitment will achieve.

Among the items in this issue of *The Good News* you will read the story of two remarkable alums of COS — Autam and Lisette. The stories about Autam and Lisette give us a glimpse into the lives of two COS graduates and their accomplishments; but more than accomplishments, we get an inside look at their character, their commitment, and the sacrifices they have learned to make.

At one point Lisette says, "My faith set me up with strong morals and personal integrity. It influences the way I present myself, the way I treat others, and the way I expect to be treated."

In pursuit of her dream to play Division 1 sports, Autam says, "I didn't want to sell myself short. I wanted to prove that I had the work ethic and talent to play at the highest level."

Biographers tell us that the seeds of the greatness of the adult are often found in the life experience of the child. These two young women are witness to what the seed produces as it matures.

These stories are made possible because of you. Lisette and Autam witness the act of faith you make; an act of faith in your school, an act of faith in your students, and an act of faith in what your generosity and commitment will and do achieve.

What you do makes a difference, a profound difference in the student's life and the lives of those whom the student touches. The story of COS is truly part of your story.

With gratitude,

Father Steve Adrian, Canonical Administrator of COS



COS students witness their faith through service: (clockwise top left) hosting Coffee Sunday at St. Matthew's, organizing a food drive to benefit Neighborhood House's Food Shelf, making cards for service members overseas, and cleaning up the neighborhood.



Alums & Friends & Families Celebrate Mass with Students

After two years of virtual services, visitors flocked to Community of Saints for the annual Alums & Friends & Families Mass in December. Fr. Steve Adrian presided, the pews were full, and the choir was singing. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to gather in person. Following Mass, visitors and 8th grade students got to mingle and enjoy refreshments.



Visitors are welcome to join students at the weekly school Mass every Thursday at 9 AM.



RMD Contributions Simplify Giving

Suzanne and Ted Snyder joined St. Matthew's in the mid-1980's after buying a house on the West Side. They were newly married and wanted to make the neighborhood their home. "Ted knew Fr. Adrian and he loved the West Side," explained Suzanne, who grew up in Detroit, "As soon as I came here, I understood why." Ted passed away 13 years ago but Suzanne still lives in the house they shared and attends Mass at St. Matthew's.

Having retired from her work in affordable housing, Suzanne has begun using her 401(k) required minimum distribution (RMD) to make charitable contributions. This year she added A&F&F's Tuition Assistance Fund at Community of Saints (COS) to her list of RMD contributions.

"This is a mission I want to support," said Suzanne, who's contributed to tuition assistance for years. Using her RMD simplified the process and gave her some tax benefits. "It's not like I'm a wealthy person but I'm doing well enough, so I could give a little bit more this way."

Suzanne is impressed with the level of support COS receives from the community. "My husband and I both had the privilege of Catholic education," she said. "I love what COS does to support kids who might not be able to get a Catholic education."

For information on how you can set up an RMD charitable contribution, contact Doug Lieser, COS Director of Advancement, at 651-457-2510.

Suzanne and Ted Snyder moved to the West Side in 1987, shortly after they married. "My husband and I both had the privilege of Catholic education."



LISETTE HORNE '14, continued

It's a field of study that has lots of applications. I'm keeping my options open, but I'm thinking about going into industry, whether at a nonprofit or in the private sector.

Q: What attracted you to this field?

Lisette: In high school I thought about majoring in psychology and by the end of my freshman year, I knew I wanted to get my PhD. As an undergrad, I participated in programs that helped first-generation and other underrepresented students develop the skills and experience to successfully apply to and thrive in graduate school.

Q: As the first in your family to attend college, how was the transition from high school to college?

Lisette: Overall, it went pretty smoothly. I took a lot of advanced classes in high school which helped prepare me academically. And because of the scholarship, I was privileged not to have to work my freshman year. The biggest surprise was how hard it was to meet other first-generation college students like me. I thought there would be more of us. I had some really great freshman year friends who weren't first-gen, and they answered questions I had about how college really works. Eventually I found other first-gen students I could relate to, but it took time.

Q: What's different for a student who's the first in her family to attend college, compared to someone who's not?

Lisette: I think the overall navigation of everything is harder. As a first-gen student, you don't have a parent or other family member to give you even a small sense of what to expect. What you might call the hidden



Lisette Horne graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2022. "My faith set me up with strong morals and personal integrity. It influences the way I present myself, the way I treat others, and the way I expect to be treated."

expectations and rules of college. You're figuring it all out on your own. If your family is lower income, you're also on your own financially. For me that meant learning how to complete the FAFSA (Federal Student Aid Application) and managing all my personal finances on my own. I was full scholarship, so I didn't have to deal with student loans and work study, but others do. First-generation students have to navigate the whole complicated college financial system which makes everything a little more difficult.

Q: What does your family think about you going to graduate school?

Lisette: There's a lot of excitement and pride, along with a little confusion. They have some questions as to exactly what I'm doing, but overall, they're very proud that when I'm done, I'll be Dr. Lisette Horne. For my younger siblings, it makes college feel more accessible. My brother Alejandro is 14 and we've already talked about how he wants to go to the U because I went there.

Q: What advice do you have for first-gen students at COS who hope to pursue a college education?

Lisette: It won't be easy, but it's possible. There are a lot more people and resources available to help than you would expect, but you have to seek them out. Upward Bound and Catch a Break are both programs that help first-gen students and students with significant financial challenges. When you're doing everything on your own, you need all the help you can get.

Lisette (center) celebrates graduation with younger siblings: (L-R) Aiyanna, David, and Alejandro, who's holding cousin, Avaleena. Lisette holds urns with ashes from her deceased loved ones: grandfather David, and younger brother Trivante.



AUTAM MENDEZ '14, continued

the Varsity basketball team as a freshman and became one of a handful of CDH players to score over 1,000 points in high school. She also lettered in volleyball and softball and received an Athena Award for outstanding academic and athletic achievements.

“I Didn’t Want to Sell Myself Short”

Only 1.2% of all female high school players go on to play D1 basketball, and despite the accolades, Autam didn’t get the college offers she’d hoped for. Instead, Autam accepted a scholarship at Northern Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) which has a reputation for sending players on to D1 programs. “I didn’t want to sell myself short,” Autam explained. “I wanted to prove that I have the work ethic and the talent to play at the highest level.”

There were some bumps in the road. After years of ankle injuries, Autam’s first season at NIACC ended with her having to get reconstructive surgeries on both ankles. But as soon as she could, she threw herself into rehab and training to be ready for the start of basketball. After missing the



In 2014, Autam led the COS girls basketball team to the school’s first city championship.

first few games, she led her team to a regular season title, placing the school at the top of the national rankings and was named Iowa Community College’s Female Athlete of the Year.

“I Got a Taste of the D1 Experience”

Autam achieved her D1 dream with a scholarship to play at San Jose State University (SJSU), but after just four games, the season was cancelled because of COVID. “I got a taste of the D1 experience — some of the traveling and the workouts,” said Autam. But being so far from family was hard. “During COVID, I only went home twice for the whole year.”

After her second year at SJSU, Autam graduated with a degree in Communications. She had one more year of eligibility because of the pandemic, but she wasn’t interested in any of the schools that were calling, until she heard from the University of St. Thomas where she played this year. She ticks off a list of what she loves about the program. “I get to play at home, we have a great coach, and everyone on the team looks out for one another.”

Gratitude for Support

Reflecting on her journey, Autam says that staying mentally strong has been the biggest challenge, especially after the surgeries when it



Autam Mendez graduated from San Jose State University in 2022. “I wanted to prove that I had the work ethic and talent to compete at the highest level.”

would have been easy to second guess herself. The payoff has been the intense competition and the many people — teammates, faculty, and especially the coaches, who have supported her along the way. “All my coaches helped me develop determination and grit when I was coming up,” Autam said. “They helped make me who I am.”

When she was younger, Autam competed in four sports, but eventually dropped one when she realized she couldn’t meet her own standard of trying to be the best she could be in all of them. “I did what I had to do,” she said.

That commitment to excellence is reflected in Autam’s advice to COS students who choose to pursue an ambitious goal. “Be willing to work hard, trust the process, and always be yourself,” she said. “And it’s okay if your journey ends up being different from anyone else’s.”



Autam led NIACC’s team to a regular season title, and was named Iowa Community College Athlete of the Year. Pictured here (L-R) with her sister Cierra, father Marty Sr., brother Marty Jr., and mother Tammy.

St. Matthew's Class of 1973



J. DWUZNIK



S. FRIAS



K. HUGHES



E. FOLSOM



J. SCHAEFER



N. STEICHEN



M. KRULL



N. SPEVAK



L. OHM



T. MOSER



J. NORTON



M. SCHUELLER



T. ROCHON



B. WESSEL

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL
St. Paul, Minnesota
Class of 1973



J. LARS



C. GANGL



T. SANTOS



M. BUDZISZEWSKI



J. AMON



MRS. BAETZ



REV. GENE PACHOLL
PASTOR



SISTER ANN SCHOCH
PRINCIPAL



MISS GEORG



J. ABBOTT



L. MOSER



J. MONSOUR



C. KAESS



J. SURA



T. MAHER



R. CLANCY



R. SMITH



J. GOUETTE



R. STRAUS



M. DUNCANSON



D. DOKKA



P. MARTIN



M. CUNNINGHAM



T. TOSNEY



M. BOLDT



J. RINGOLD



B. JENNIGES



K. DOSTERT



J. HAAS



M. DEL VE



L. TACKABERRY



N. NEHRING



J. SCHEID



J. MIKE



T. TOPRITZHOFFER



D. STEFANIAK



M.J. SANTORI



M. KUBISZEWSKI



L. YANE



E. PALACIO



D. FERBER



S. LONNING



P. PAGE



M. MC NAUGHTON



L. VAIL



S. MARX



A. LANGLOIS



R. STR



Top Row | Jane Dwuznik Mancini, Steve Frias, Kathy Hughes Schlitz, Emil Folsom, Joanne Schaefer, Nick Steichen, Melissa Krull, Neil Spevak, Linda Greene Ohmann, Kevin Creamer, Diane Plantenberg, Patrick Cybyske, Patty Lannon

2nd Row | Thomas Moser, Julie Norton Skradski, Michele Schueller Stapf, Tim Rochon (deceased), Barb Wessel, John Larson, Pam Hawemann, Chris Sanft, Ann Quinlan Smith, Ron Krueger

3rd Row | Corrine Gangl Schuster, Tony Santos, Mary Budziszewski Meyer, Joe Amon, Philip Vail, Patty Stanger Jacobson, Hugh Cullen, Laurie Littfin Jents

4th Row | John Abbott, Linda Moser Buse, Joe Monsour, Chris Kaess, Donna Fischbach, John Yanez (deceased), Kathy Bade Yanez, Shawn Rowan

5th Row | Jean Sura, Tim Maher, Rita Clancy Alston, Richard Smith, Julie Gouette Schlesky, Randy Straus (deceased), Mark Duncanson, Debbie Dokka, Dan Vasterling, Joan Kegler Kleman, Jeff Blaschka, Pam Mosberger Kaasa

6th Row | Patrick Martin, Margaret Cunningham VanNote, Tom Tosney (deceased), Mary Boldt, Jerry Ringold, Brenda Jenniges Byron, Kevin Dostert, Janet Haas Mooney, Mark DelVecchio, Jane Bukowski Tamez, Joe Karas (deceased), Patty Seekon, Robert Joseph

7th Row | Laurie Tackaberry, Neal Nehring, Jean Scheid Och, Joe Mike, Terry Topritzhofer Fennesy, Dave Stefaniak, Mary Jo Santori, Mike Kubiszewski, Lisa Yanez, Wayne Buse, Kathy Smith, Mario Casalenda, Mary Heininger

Bottom Row | Ed Palacio, Denise Ferber Bohrer, Steve Lonning, Patty Page Hawn, Mark McNaughton, Lorraine Vail, Steve Marx, Aimee Langlois Holt, Robert Straus, Kathy Gentle, Steve Follmer (deceased), Teresa Odegaard, Jim Gilliland

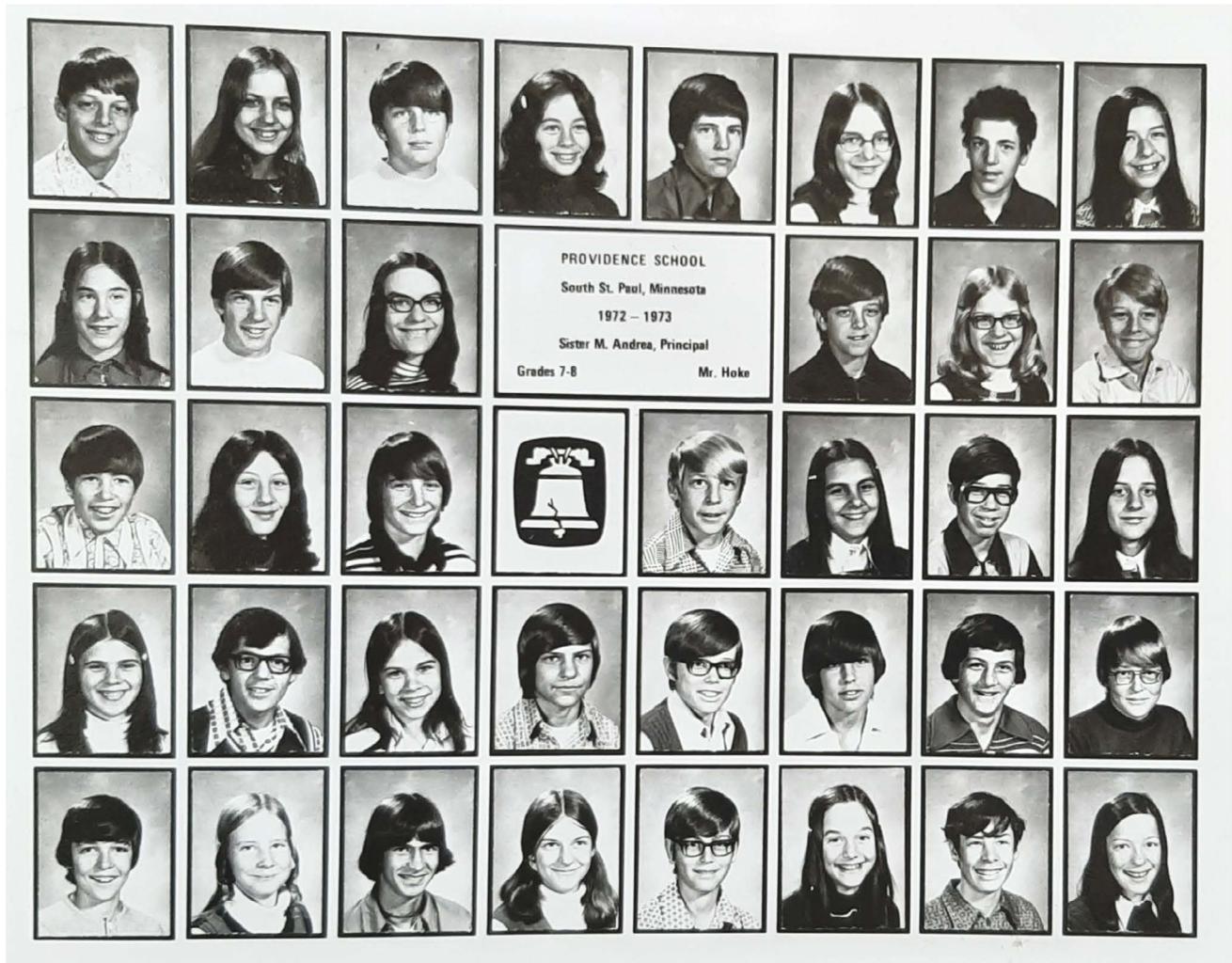
A 50th Reunion for St. Matthew's Class of '73 is being planned for October 2023.

Date, location, and other details to come.

For more information, contact:
Pam Mossburger at
pamscreativesalsa@yahoo.com
or call 651-494-8550.



St. John Vianney **Class of 1973**



Top Row | Jim Jordan, Jennie Czeck, **Jim Elmore**, Nancy Wacker, Joe Ecker, **Lori Smolik**, Kevin Haseltine, Theresa McDonough

2nd Row | Chris Loder, **Patrick Dubois**, **Sandy Snow**, Richard Mikacevich, Marilee Votel-Kvaal, **Michael Bauer**

3rd Row | Steven Tinucci, Mary Beth Curry, Peter Mohrbacher, Gary Rademacher, Joan Motzko, Steve Ehret, Laura Zerba

4th Row | Kathy Mulcahy, **Mike Haseltine**, Liz White, **Paul Behrend**, Pat Lannon, **Tim Ryan**, Tom Engelmier, Jim Murr

Bottom Row | Phil Fahey, Pam Campbell, **Bob Ecker**, Mary Ann Musial, **Tom Wacker**, Ann Miller, Dave Galatowitsch, **Mary Fahey**

NOTE: 1973 had a combined classroom for 7th and 8th grade. 8th grade students are in bold.

St. Michael Class of 1973



Top Row | Tom Kunik, Greg Smith, Tim Quigley, Bruce Maher, Donald Casanova, Mike Bann, Tim Deziel, Eugene Moryn, Brian Maher, Tom Price, Tony Kennedy, Tom Mansur (deceased), Mike Elliott

2nd Row | Kathy Seery, Theresa Zaspel Weiland, Bernadette Walter, Debra Burgy Hendrickson, Penny Riebe Kettler, Jan Blechinger Smith, Judy Schultz, Mary Bann Bade, Frances Riehm, Sandy Siedel, Barbara Ricci, Susan Marthaler Weyandt, Helen Snyder Zilka

3rd Row | Paul Bloch, John Wadell, Greg Holmen, Tim Gutzmann (deceased), Joe Osendorf, Phil Gauthier, Chuck (Bluhm) Dosh, Bob Madigan, Tim Kelly, Alan Finlayson, Elwin Enfield, Fred Schendel, Joe LaManna, Ollie Moryn

Bottom Row | Michele McEllistrem Brin, Vicki Casanova, Gail Elliott Einhorn, Laura Fahrenkrug Beilke, Robin Stewart Wilke, Ann-Marie George Germain, Mary Beth Kivel Piersig, Sheila Deziel Steiner, Donna Schuh Amsden

UPCOMING ST. MICHAEL CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1970 Reunion is planned for Fall 2023

Diane Perkovich Hanzal is helping to organize a reunion for Fall of 2023. Date, location, and other details to come.

For more information, contact:
Diane at dianemyra@hotmail.com
or call 651-270-1346.

Class of 1973 Celebrates 50th Reunion — Saturday, October 21, 2023

Location and other details to come.

For more information, contact:
StMikesReunion73@gmail.com



Memories

FROM ST. MICHAEL'S CLASS OF 1973

This reunion will be the first one ever for St. Michael class of '73 and excitement is growing. Former classmates have been digging up old photos and swapping stories. Here are a few memories from members of the organizing committee, which include: Mike Bann, Deb Burgy Hendrickson, Sheila Deziel Steiner, Chuck (Bluhm) Dosh, Michele McEllistrem Brin, Tim Quigley, Kathy Seery, and John Wadell.

WHEN FR. JOHN O'NEILL DIED

Fr. John was affiliated with the parish for about 50 years, so it was a big deal when he died.

Before his wake, Sr. Denis, our religion teacher, said to us, "We're going to process past the casket where Father John is, and I think it would be so nice if you were to touch his hand reverently." Nobody touched his hand. Then we were concerned afterwards that Sr. Denis would yell at us because nobody touched his hand. Years later I saw Sr. Denis at Carondelet, and asked if she remembered telling us to touch Father John's hand when he was in the casket. She said, "What would be wrong with that?" and I answered, "We were seven years old!"

“ I thought it was Fr. John and then the Pope. I didn't think there was anybody in between.”

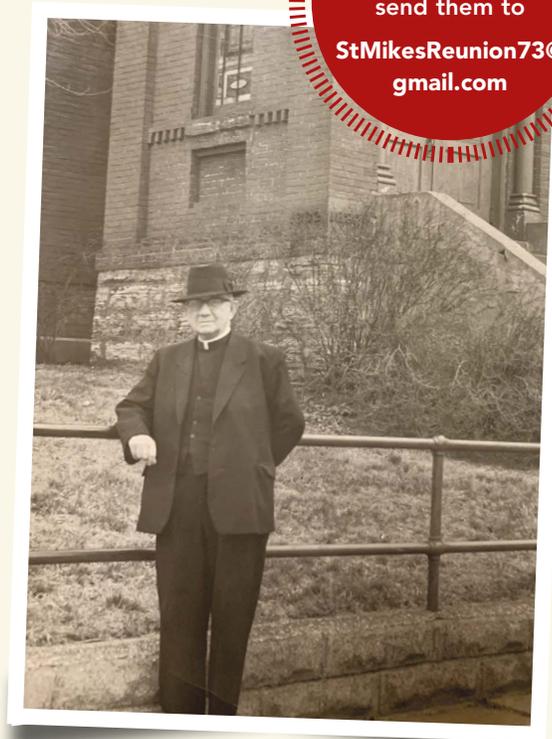
CHANGING FASHIONS

We thought our second grade teacher, Sr. Margaret Ellen, was young and hip and she was the first nun to wear the modified habit. With the old habit, you could just see their face and hands, so we were all kind of amazed to see Sr. Margaret Ellen's hair, and arms and legs. Nobody recognized her at first. We thought we had a sub that day — a nun in training. Eventually just about all the nuns switched habits, except the elderly ones. When we were in 7th grade, our teacher, Judy Williams, wore a pantsuit. That was a big thing. I'm sure she had to get permission first. It was a very nice outfit, but it was pants.



“ We thought she was young and hip.” Sr. Margaret Ellen before she switched to the modified habit adopted by the Sisters of St. Joseph after Vatican II.

If you have photos to share — scan and send them to StMikesReunion73@gmail.com



THE TUNNEL

The tunnel was in the basement of the school, and it was a source of great mystery to us when we were kids. It was a fallout shelter and had one of those old yellow and black fallout shelter signs at the entrance. In the tunnel there were big gallon cans of mixed vegetables and peaches. If there was a nuclear war, the plan was for all the kids to go into the tunnel, and we were supposed to eat out of those cans.



ANOTHER BIG CHANGE was when our music teacher, Joyce Baynes, played the guitar at Mass. There were only two “guitar mass” groups at St. Michael. The first group was started in 1967 by Ceal Bluhm and Mary Jo Fibuch and the Mass was held in the gym because it was just too modern for the church.

This group (*pictured*) began in 1973 and played guitar Masses at St. Michael through the '70s. By the time it started, it was considered less cutting edge and we were allowed to be in the church.

Front row, L-R: **Dave Tourville (on the bass), Ann Volk Osendorf (guitar), Margie Volk, Pat Volk, Deb Burgy Hendrickson (guitar), Pam Burgy Stickler.** Three singers in back row are unidentified.

8TH GRADE PLAY — “DON’T SHOOT ’TIL YOU SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES”

In the play I had to answer a phone after it rang, and back then there were no cell phones or anything. The phone was actually attached by a cord somewhere on the stage and somebody in the principal’s office would have to call the phone on cue so it would ring, and I’d pick it up. It didn’t work out very well. I was waiting for the phone to ring, but it didn’t ring, so to keep things going I just pretended it rang and I started to talk. That’s when the phone actually ended up ringing.



PETITION TO SING JOHN DENVER SONG IN CHURCH

For our 8th grade graduation, we wanted to sing “Friends, I Will Remember You,” but everyone had to sign a petition first, and then Fr. Dudley said we had to explain why it should be sung in church. He allowed it — I think he always intended to — but he did make us change some of the words. There’s a line about how time gives us children, makes us wine, and he didn’t want us singing about wine.



LAST MASS AT ST. MICHAEL

It was supposed to be the 150th anniversary Mass and then it changed to being the last Mass at St. Michael. Ten of us from our class ended up going. We hadn’t coordinated with each other — we just showed up and connected. We took a photo with Archbishop Bernard Hebda. It was great to see each other. We agreed, let’s make sure we get a 50th reunion together.

Top row, L-R: **John Wadell, Tim Deziel, Tim Quigley, Mike Bann**
Middle row, L-R: **Francie Riehm, Deb Burgy Hendrickson, Kathy Seery, Mary Bann Bade**

Front row, L-R: **Judy Williams Rouse (our 7th grade teacher), Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Sheila Deziel Steiner**

**COMMUNITY OF SAINTS
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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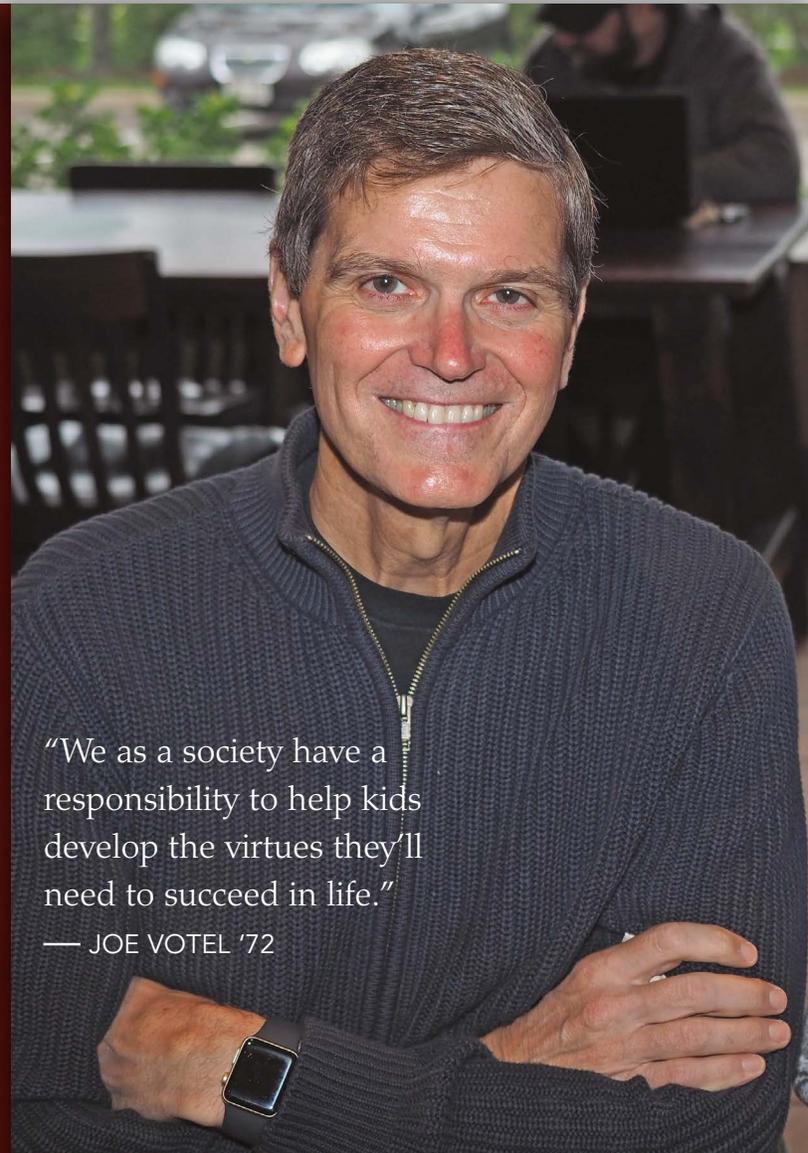
General Joseph Votel USA, Ret., Will Address COS Middle School Students and Donors

PLEASE JOIN US

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21
10 A.M.**

Community of Saints School
335 Hurley St. East, West St. Paul

Joe Votel '72 is a St. Matthew's alum and retired four-star general in the United States Army who served as commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM) from March 2016 to March 2019.



"We as a society have a responsibility to help kids develop the virtues they'll need to succeed in life."

— JOE VOTEL '72