

The Miracle



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, as part of the parish faith family, builds a strong foundation by developing the unique, academic, physical, creative, social and spiritual gifts of its students, empowering them to live the mission of Jesus.

Standing on the Shoulders
OF GIANTS

Summer 2019



From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

We can thank Matthew Kelly for the theme of this issue of our *Miracle*. It was only a few weeks ago that he stood at the front of our church. Surrounded by almost 1,000 people, he looked no different than anyone else. Yet, somehow, within seconds, he created a safe and intimate gathering, where we were free to laugh, cry and envision. If one could reduce the entire evening into one sentence, Matthew's message would have been: To be the best version of ourselves, we need to set worthy goals and work towards them smartly. His suggestion was to not waste time creating strategies that already exist – rather, learn from those who have been successful and stretch beyond. He encouraged us to “stand on the shoulders of giants.”

Like Matthew Kelly, Fr. Gary knows how important it is to have a clear understanding of who we are and what we are to become. Our Pastor often reminds us of the two greatest “giants”: Jesus, the unseen teacher in every classroom, and our Mother Mary. Like St. Bernadette, what better “giants” to stem from!

This issue includes several articles from alumni and a few words from our graduating class. May we treasure the great wisdom, joy and inspiration gained by those who have travelled the path before us. Thank God for our OLL giants – here's to the future!

God bless,

Dr. Anne Penny





Eighth Grade Class Farewell

Parting Words from Our Lady of Lourdes School Class of 2019

Our years at Our Lady of Lourdes have come to an end. For some of us, this has been a journey of eleven years. And, while others of us have joined this group at some point along our way, we are a family. We have shared some incredible experiences, our faith has grown, and life lessons have been instilled.

We are grateful to our parents, grandparents, and other family members who have supported us not only here at Our Lady of Lourdes, but also with our aspirations. Their guidance and love have carried us many days, and we are assured of their continued nurturance as we move forward in the next step of our journey. We also want to say thank you to the many teachers and staff who have taught us, not only academically, but also spiritually and socially. We leave confident that we are prepared for the new challenges that face us. We also are appreciative of Father Gary, whose unwavering encouragement leaves us emboldened to live as faith-filled Catholics.

Our Lady of Lourdes has made a mark on our hearts that will forever remain. We choose not to say "good-bye," but rather "see you soon," because our departure is not a closed door, just a moving on.

God bless you,

The Class of 2019

Meet Our Alumni

In Thanksgiving

To the benefactors whose generosity makes learning possible at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

Saints & Sinners 2019 Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

HOOTERS and the DiGiannantonio Family

Silver Sponsors

Dr. Stephen Hanff / Florida Joint Care
The Dees Family

Bar Underwriter

St. Petersburg Distillery

Casino Underwriter

Hungry Howie's Pizza

Table Sponsors

Concannon Miller, CPAs - Angel Chiariello and Re/Max Advantage Realty - Laurie Neiman, Realtor
Countryside Glass
Father Gary Dowsey
The Fensterwald Family
Heartfire Wealth/Ameriprise
Frank M. Massotto, UBS
Nichols Insurance

Patron Sponsors

Busy Beaver Express
The Hartnett Family
Paul's Pool Care
The Weber Family

In-Kind Sponsors

A Chair Affair
Area Printing
Bay Kings Band
Breezin' Entertainment
Café Ponte
Dr. Jennifer Buck
Dunedin Blue Jays
Clearwater Central Catholic
Courtesy Valet
Fuel4 Events
Got You Covered Linens
Hit Promotional Products
Huntington Learning Centers
John Weatherby Photography



Governor Ron DeSantis (1985-1992)

Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey are the parents of two year old Madison and one year old Mason. After graduating from Yale University and Harvard Law School, Ron DeSantis served as an officer and attorney in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, US Navy (JAG). Prior to his election as governor, he served as a Representative in the U.S. Congress. Governor DeSantis is committed to expanding school choice with a new voucher program that would send low-income children to private schools. Our Lady of Lourdes School played an important role in his development in academics, sports, service and his Catholic faith.



Ron Willms (1970-1979)

After high school and college, Ron served as a firefighter / paramedic for the Clearwater Fire Department for 25 years. Ron is semi-retired, working part time at Bayfront Hospital E.R. as a paramedic and Daytona Speedway as a firefighter. He also coaches for the cross country and track teams at Clearwater Central Catholic. A current member of the Life Teen Band at Our Lady of Lourdes, Ron feels blessed to have had his faith and education grounded at Our Lady of Lourdes.



Angel Neiman Chiariello (1989-1990)

Angel works as a CPA/Partner with Concannon Miller & Company. She and her husband George are parents to Ian and Tanner (Grades 6 and 3 at Our Lady of Lourdes School). "What do I love about Our Lady of Lourdes? Everything, but specifically, I love that it is both a close-knit school, and parish family, with a heart for service and community. I also love that so many previous graduates choose to pass the gift of a Catholic education at Our Lady of Lourdes down to their children!"



Lisa Schmalz Suarez (1983-1992)

Lisa and husband Dennis are parents to Lily and Luke, who attend Our Lady of Lourdes School. She is currently Choral Director and Director of Aftercare at the school. "What I have come to treasure about my experience at Our Lady of Lourdes is the foundation of faith, family and lifelong friends that have blessed my life. Katie (Estock) Sellers and I met in kindergarten here, and now our children are growing up together. Updates have been made to the buildings and classrooms, but I still have the same familiar feeling when I enter the doors every day."

The Miracle

Brad Kolhoff (1990-1999)

After graduating from Our Lady of Lourdes School, Brad attended Palm Harbor University High School, and then graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University. He currently lives in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin with his wife and works as an environmental biologist with Adaptive Restoration.



Sara Kolhoff Jemo (1993-2002)

Sara attended the IB Program of Palm Harbor University High School and then received an undergraduate degree in International Studies from Ohio State University. She received her Master's Degree in Administration from the University of West Florida, and went on to pursue her Educational Specialist Degree while living in Cambridge, England. Sara is currently a Spanish teacher in the IB Program in Colorado Springs, where she resides with her husband.



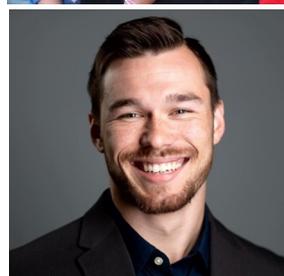
Tim Swinehart (1997-2006)

Tim is a Merchant Marine in the Gulf of Mexico and a school teacher in Palm Harbor. Tim enjoyed great teachers at Our Lady of Lourdes and the lifelong friendships he made. He is engaged to be married to fellow alumnus, **Georgette Dumpert (1998-2004)**, whom he met in the first grade at Our Lady of Lourdes School!



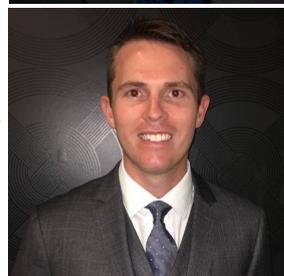
Michael Dumala (1997-2006)

Michael currently works as a Clinical Trials Coordinator in the Bone Marrow Transplant Clinic at Moffitt Cancer Center. Michael pays "much credit for the man I am today to my early development at Our Lady of Lourdes School. As my mother would always say, 'we wanted to give you the best upbringing so that you could have a strong foundation for the rest of your life.'"



William Sefcik (2001-2006)

A Real Estate Attorney in Charlotte, NC, William is currently serving in the Army National Guard in Afghanistan. What he loved most about Our Lady of Lourdes School were the teachers, especially Ms. Schaibly and Miss Jeannie. "The school instilled a love of learning in me, and I met my lifelong best friends there."



Dr. Roberta Sefcik (2003-2004)

Roberta is a Neurosurgery Resident in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She still remembers Mrs. Neumeier as being one the best! "The English lessons from Mrs. Neumeier will stay with me forever."



Andy Delgado (2004-2006)

Newly married to Rachel, Andy is currently on staff at Our Lady of Lourdes School as 5th grade teacher. When Andy enrolled in the middle of 6th grade, he was struggling with learning challenges (undiagnosed ADHD and dyslexia). The school brought this to his parents' attention, guiding them to get the help he needed, while offering accommodations, love, and support. Andy went on to receive his Bachelor degree in Special Education and Masters in Educational Leadership.



In-Kind Sponsors (continued)

Katay Consulting
Luekens Liquors
New York Yankees
Over the Top Linens
QTego
Raise the Bar Design
Tastes of Tampa Bay
uDream Events

Saints & Sinners 2019 Auction Donors

Art from the Heart
John Aunchman
Dr. Jennifer Buck, MD, PA, FACS /
Palm Harbor Plastic Surgery
The Budnar and Gaetz Families
Kim Bulinsky
Bush Gardens
Charley's Steakhouse
Clearwater Central Catholic H.S.
Clearwater Inshore Fishing
Dance Forever
The Donoghue Family /
ParrotDise Express Boat Tours
Dunedin/Toronto Blue Jays
First Watch
Danielle Galloway
Happy Hangar Café
Huntington Learning Centers
of Palm Harbor
Jennifer Kapper
Leos Construction
Living Young Center
Mr. and Mrs. David Magadan
Cindy Mikkelsen
Mulberry Kids
Nannies Who Care
New York Yankees
Orange Theory Fitness Clearwater
Pauls Pool Care LLC
Pedego
Presents of Mine
Rays Baseball Foundation
Risse Brothers School Uniforms
Roxie K Boutique
Salon West
Jill Schmitz
Shadow Caster LED Lighting
STEPS School of Dance
Tampa Bay Skating Academy
Countryside
Tampa North Flight Center
The Florida Cracker Trading Co.
The Spice & Tea Exchange



Ralph and Denice Higinbotham, current parishioners, feel blessed to have had their children attend Our Lady of Lourdes School. It was because of the generosity of scholarships that all five of their children received a Catholic education. They declared it was worth every sacrifice they made for their children to become alumni of this wonderful school, knowing the school played a large part in the formation of their faith and their success as adults.

Mandy (Higinbotham) Brown (1992-1995 and 1999-2002)

Mandy graduated from Clearwater Central Catholic High School in 2006. In 2009, Mandy married her high school sweetheart, Nick, and they began moving around the country for his military career. Today, they stay busy entertaining their four children and exploring the great outdoors. After 10 years outside the sunshine state, they are excited to be moving back to Florida this summer.

Sarah (Higinbotham) Davis (1999-2004)

Sarah graduated from Clearwater Central Catholic in 2008, and went on to study Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. In 2016, Sarah married her college sweetheart, Chris, and they welcomed their first daughter, Molly, this past July. She is the Director of Youth Ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes. They live in Dunedin with their dog, Bosco.

Daniel Higinbotham (1999-2007)

Daniel graduated from Clearwater Central Catholic in 2011. He graduated from Ave Maria University in 2015, where he majored in Biology and Chemistry, and was a member of the Varsity Football Team. He is working at USF Health in Tampa as a member of the Diabetes Clinic research team as their technology specialist and data analyst. He married his high school sweetheart, Rebecca, in 2018. They currently live together in Westchase and just celebrated their first wedding anniversary.

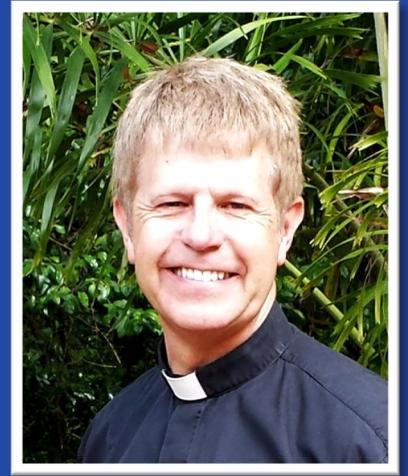
David Higinbotham (1999-2009)

David graduated from Clearwater Central Catholic in 2013. He has a big heart for service and has given his time each summer volunteering at our sister Parish and School in Acul des Pins, Haiti. He spent the past summer living and working on the island of Maui, Hawaii, and he currently lives in Dunedin and works as Supervisor/Project Manager for Gabro Event Services.

Taylor Higinbotham (2003-2012)

Taylor graduated from Clearwater Central Catholic in 2016, and has started working on a degree from SPC. She currently works for Our Lady of Lourdes School in the After Care program. Taylor's faith and her relationship with Jesus are incredibly dear to her heart. She spends time volunteering to help the youth of our parish deepen their faith as a Core Team member for our Life Teen and Edge youth ministry programs. She does the same for the children she is responsible for in After Care. Taylor has demonstrated a passion for serving others, participating in mission trips to Haiti every summer. This summer she will be staying for an extended time in Haiti working in relational ministry.

From the Desk of the Pastor



Dear Heroes of Faith,

The title of this edition of 'The Miracle' (as you have obviously discovered by now) is 'Standing on the Shoulders of Giants.' To me this means standing on the shoulders of those who have either gone before us, or are still very much with us, who we recognize as GIANTS of Faith, Love, Compassion, Service, Commitment...to name a few of the gifts that had shone (or shine) through them! We could also call them 'Heroes.' In the book 'Why I Love Being Catholic,' Matthew Kelly writes about heroes. Those ordinary people who seek to live their lives with integrity and faith, and are serious about improving themselves, their families, church and society: "They are lovers of a God who sometimes feels close, at other times seems to be far off and indifferent, and often seems elusive." Those we consider to be GIANTS, HEROES, are aware of their limitations, know that life can be very challenging, hold a common set of values (the values laid out in the Gospel). When I talk to the children at school they are quick to tell me that the people they consider to be 'Giants' and 'Heroes' are their Moms, Dads, Grandparents, the ones who cherish them each day and love them unconditionally. Occasionally they throw in a particular sports 'hero' and even a Saint or two. We have a lot of St. Francis of Assisi fans in our school!

As a priest I have been privileged to encounter many 'giants' whose shoulders (metaphorically) I have tried to stand on! I was so blessed and privileged to meet two 'giants,' now declared 'Saints of God': St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Pope St. John Paul II. St. Mother Teresa opened my eyes and heart to the poorest of the poor on our own doorstep and beyond (one of the reasons I was so keen to have a twin parish and school in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere). Pope St. John Paul II inspires me to open as many doors as possible for others to encounter the presence of Christ. In his first homily as Pope in 1978, he encouraged us not to be afraid, and to open wide the doors for Christ who alone has the message of eternal life. Of course, I also consider my own mother, Bridget, to be a 'giant' as she taught me the art of selfless love and service.

I hope and pray we are teaching and encouraging our children and young people to stand on the shoulders of 'Giants' and 'Heroes' who will always inspire them to live life with integrity and purpose.....the greatest 'Giant' and 'Hero' is of course Jesus Christ; if we all stand on his shoulders we can renew the face of the earth!

Prayers and blessings,

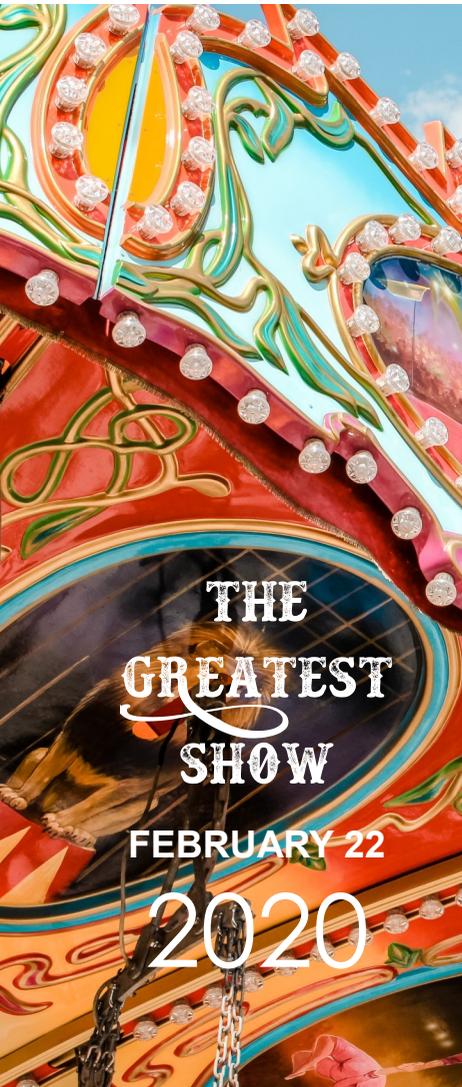
Father Gary (Dowsey) Pastor





OUR LADY OF
LOURDES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

730 San Salvador Drive
Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 733-3776
www.myoll.com



Saints & Sinners Gala 2019

Aurora

