



Venango Region Catholic School

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Prayer for Venango Region Catholic School

Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose,
and Mother of the true God, I love you.

O Mary, conceived without sin, obtain for us
from thy most holy Son the grace of
keeping our faith and sweet hope in the
midst of life's struggles.

In great confidence, O Virgin, who crushed
the serpent's head, hear my special intention
for Venango Region Catholic School.

Queen of Martyrs, invoke the Holy Spirit of
Wisdom to make VRCS a place where
we love to learn and where we learn to love,
A place where every one is respected
and all are deeply valued.

Help me, as a living branch of the Vine that is
Jesus Christ, to make our school a place of
great discovery, adventure and creativity.

We ask all this through the merits of
Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in union
with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Dear VRCS Stakeholders,

It is early in December and we still
are working to build enrollment
and accept donations to meet the
diocesan goals. We have recently
suffered a setback in high school
enrollment (with recent transfers)
but are making slow but steady
progress in terms of revenue
development. The downside is
that at the rate we are receiving
donations, we will not meet the
ambitious revenue goals set by
the Diocese of Erie by the
December 31 deadline. I plan to
send out a letter with updated
status information. Please watch
your email inbox, and keep VRCS
in your prayers.

Have a blessed and peaceful
Christmas season,

Ray



**Sr. Tina Geiger RSM, Dr. Ray
Feroz, and Sr. Marian Wehler
OSB** are spotted in their festive
attire at Breakfast with Santa.

HIGHLIGHTS

A DOZEN REASONS
TO CHOOSE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TEACHER FEATURE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT +
TRIBUTE TO DR. RUBY

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF MEMBERS

Ray Feroz, Ph.D. (VC '68)
VRCS INTERIM PRESIDENT +
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Katherine Chandley
PRINCIPAL

Beth Metz (VC 2000)
BUSINESS MANAGER

Misti Kresinski
SS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Juliette Zimmerman
VC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Shannon Kluck (VC '99)
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jim May
MAINTENANCE & CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Leslie Pacior
SS CUSTODIAL SERVICES

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DISTINGUISHED ALUM

NAME: Thomas McNellie (VC '68)

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Baldwin Wallace, Bachelor of Arts

Gannon University, Masters Credits

of Years Teaching: 40 Years

FAVORITE VC CLASS / TEACHER?

Quest History with **Dr. James Ruby**.

He was a great teacher, because he taught you how to think critically long before it became popular in education. Dr. Ruby was a teacher who was ahead of his time as far as innovation within education at VC. He is the reason I became a teacher.

HOW DID YOUR EDUCATION AT VCHS INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE AND CAREER?

That is an easy one. My career choice was to be a teacher, and my dream job was to teach at VC. That dream became a reality in 1996 as I moved with Mary Ellen and our four children from Florida to Oil City. **Beth, Katie, Sarah and Mike** all graduated from VCHS. My life has been one of service. Never made a lot of money, but I wouldn't trade my time at VC for anything.

SHARE A FUNNY VC MEMORY:

As a student, getting paddled by Dr. Ruby for doing something stupid that I cannot remember.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MEMORY FROM TEACHING OR COACHING?

As a teacher, working during the summer with the work study group who put a time capsule behind one of the bulletin boards by the front office. I am sure that it is still there. My best memory was having the girls win the District IX Basketball Championship at Clarion University. Of course, surviving teaching high school for most of my career. I was truly blessed to see so many students grow into amazing people.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: The last 23 years of my teaching career were spent at VCHS. I taught Social Studies, which included U.S. History, World History, Psychology, Government, and Criminal Justice. I also served as the Athletic Director and Girls Basketball coach.

BLESSINGS FROM YOUR TIME TEACHING AT VCHS:

Venango Catholic was where Jesus wanted me to be for a lot of reasons. One of those was so Mary Ellen and I could foster our daughter **Mary**. She is happily married and has one son, **Bowen**. Another blessing was going on several senior retreats and telling our God journey to a lot of now graduates. To all of you who heard it, you will have to admit, it was quite a ride through McNellie history. Let's not forget, becoming best buds with **Cindy Scopetti Eckert**!

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR RECREATION?

I work out at the gym, visit Huntington Beach State Park, and do a lot of walking around Brookgreen Gardens. We have lots of fun with our grandchildren here in Murrells Inlet. **Madison** (6), **Mia** (3), and **Danny** (1) keep us very busy. I also look forward to visits from **Avery** (16), when her parents visit.

ANY ADVICE FOR OUR CURRENT VRCS STUDENTS?

Stay involved in the world around you. Stay a voice for the voiceless. Stay a positive person. Stay close to your family. Most importantly, stay close to God.

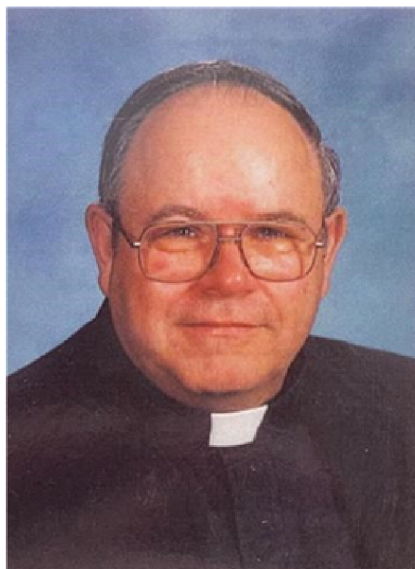
Editor's Comment: We are delighted to honor **Tom McNellie** from the Class of '68 as our distinguished alumnus this month. Tom was instrumental in leading the effort to preserve VCHS when it could have been closed in 2015. He recently retired as a faculty member and now resides in South Carolina with his "lovely wife of 48 years, **Mary Ellen Stubler McNellie***." ■■■



* Mary Ellen retired in 2016 after 20 years of teaching. She volunteered playing the piano at weekly VC liturgies until her husband's retirement in 2019.

VC REMEMBRANCE

*Venango Region Catholic School has been keeping in prayer the following members of our school family who have passed away since January 1, 2022. Please note, these names have been gathered through various sources, including reports from alumni and family members, returned mail, obituaries, and notes included with gifts. If there has been an unintentional error in this memorial list, please notify VRCS. Alumni death records may be shared with the school by emailing vrscoutreach@venangocatholic.org. Efforts will be made to verify records before we update our alumni database. **May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.***



IN MEMORY OF MSGR. JOSEPH BOBAL

The **Reverend Monsignor Joseph Bobal** recently passed away at age 88, at Christ the King Manor.

Msgr. Bobal was ordained by Bishop McManaman at St. Peter Cathedral in 1963, and his first assignment was as a member of the VCHS faculty, teaching Physics and Earth & Space Science. Concurrently, he served as weekend assistant at the Assumption Parish in Oil City and St. Venantius Parish in Rouseville.

Fr. Bobal taught under **Father (later Msgr.) Lawrence J. Antoun**, founding Headmaster, until 1976, when he assumed a pastoral assignment at St. Anthony Parish in Walston. Fr. Bobal went on to shepherd several rural Catholic churches in Osceola Mills, Houtzdale, Ridgway, Grampian and Curwensville. In 1994, he was appointed a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of Monsignor. Msgr. Bobal was a beloved founding faculty member at VCHS, and he will be missed.

2023 MEMORIAL ROLL

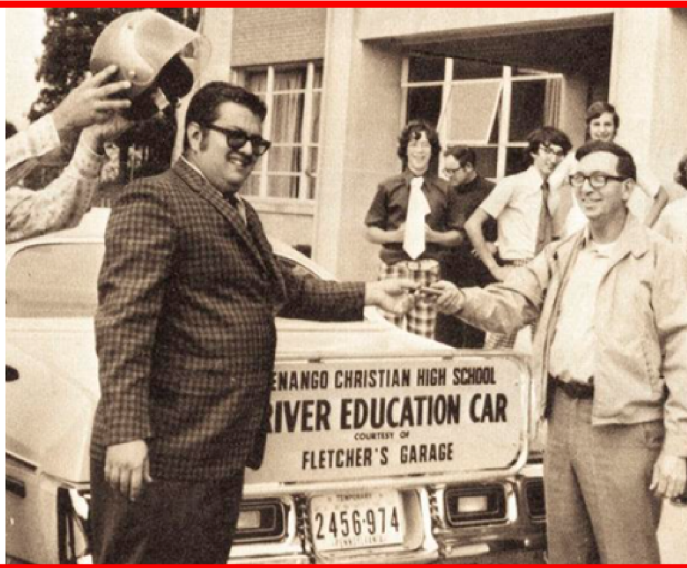
Veronica "Roni" L (Ruby) Beith '66
 Mary Jane (Pindel) Bucholz '64
 Zigmund Mark Buczek '68
 Emily Chatley '66
 *Andrew F. Eisenman '50
 Paul Gabreski '69
 *Peg (Poulson) Gregory '51
 Michael "Mike" G. Kelley '72
 William John Lauer '75
 *Mary Katherine (Beary) McElroy '58
 Reverend Matthew J. Ruyechan (Friend of VRCS)
 Mary Elizabeth Schettler '79
 William Schwabenbauer '68
 Frank E. Seneca '68
 *Mary Lou Socha '57
 Judith Wenner '64

2022 MEMORIAL ROLL

Nicholas Michael Amore '72
 Kathleen Ann (Kelley) Cano '80
 Marie Ann Cassano '71
 Amy Marie Daugherty '76
 Patricia "Patty" Jo Drelick-Schutt '72
 Catherine L. "Cathy" (Owens) Friedrich '64
 Stephanie Ann (Cavell) Gauzza '68
 Anthony Thomas Giordano '80
 James C. Guyton '66
 Timothy Mark Hargenrader '79
 Timothy Doyle Beaulaguard Keely '72
 Joseph "Joe" P. Kenniston '66
 Melissa Lynn Mackie '78
 Michael McMahon '64
 *Frank Oliver '58
 Lois Ann (Hill) Orlando '63
 Laura J. (Lamberton) Rusnock '71
 Cara Beth (Gates) Salsgiver '91
 William Joseph Spring '73
 Tammy Lyn (Schwab) Taylor '89
 Deacon J. Timothy Wren '71

*Indicates Alumni of St. Joseph High School

James Ruby received the keys to the first driver education car at Venango Christian High School from **Paul Fletcher** at Fletcher's Garage during the 1973-74 school year. This picture is from the 1974 VC Saga yearbook.



LIFE LESSONS OF ALL KINDS WERE DR. RUBY'S CALLING CARDS AT VC

By: Mark Oliver (VC Class of '75)

James Ruby, a longtime teacher and later headmaster at Venango Christian High School whose tenure spanned almost all of the school's first quarter century, was certainly one of a kind.

His style in the classroom, which combined vast amounts of knowledge with healthy doses of humor but also a strong touch of intimidation if a student wasn't prepared or interested, left its mark on all those students who felt lucky enough to attend VC "back in those days."

Those fond memories have come flooding back to alums from the mid 1960s all the way through the late 1980s with the sad news that Dr. Ruby, as almost all his students still called him decades later, passed away Dec. 9 at the age of 85.

I am one of those VC grads (1975) Dr. Ruby influenced both in and out of the classroom. We often reminisced fondly about the VC days when we saw each other, particularly the time when he asked me in very stern terms why I wasn't giving it my all in advanced history.

Venango Christian opened in September 1962, and Dr. Ruby came on board as a teacher in 1965. He was named headmaster in January 1973 and remained at the school in both

capacities until 1989.

Dr. Ruby was a towering figure in local education circles during and well after his time at Venango Christian. His family summed up his numerous academic accomplishments quite well in his obituary, including the many innovations he helped spearhead at VC that changed traditional learning models in the 1960s and 1970s and brought the school some nationwide prominence.

The VC Saga yearbook for 1972 (my freshman year) listed Dr. Ruby's titles as administrative assistant-curriculum and discipline, humanities department head and social studies head.

He wore many hats and could teach many things, but the word that should have been in capital letters in that job description is discipline. That was certainly a Dr. Ruby strong suit as many grads will attest.

We all looked forward to our big CC Week (Comparative Cultures) projects every year, and Dr. Ruby's weekly DFPNQs (Derrick Front Page News Quiz) kept us abreast of current events of the day.

And we watched things such as Princess Anne's wedding in 1973 and the classic movie "Giant" from the 1950s in the classroom. We all

thought we had the best of everything at VC, and Dr. Ruby was front and center for much of it.

He'd pop up at all the sports events, choral performances and class fundraisers outside of school as well.

His passing sent me looking to my VC yearbooks, where I found the pictures that accompany this story.

They capture his personality and sense of humor and remind so many of us what made our VC days memorable [...]

Janet Parker, my alphabetical classroom and locker neighbor all through grade school and high school [...] shared this story.

"In high school, I skipped one class. One class one time. Of course I got caught by him. It was the last week of our senior year. He handed me the book, 'Inside the Third Reich', which was perhaps over 1,000 pages, and told me I would not graduate unless I read the entire book and reported the contents back to him in an individual conference. I did it."

Deb Duda Gale, a 1973 VC grad who now lives in England and has become a long-distance Facebook friend, also shared some of her memories, and four words she used jumped out — legend, scary, fun, taskmaster. They all applied.

Dr. Ruby sent many correspondences to me at the paper over the years with suggestions and story ideas and also critiques of what we were doing.

He never signed those letters, which continued up until the last year or so, but there was no doubt who they were from [...]

He was a mentor and friend to be treasured. 🇺🇸 🇬🇧

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Permission to reprint this article was granted by Mark Oliver, City Editor at The Derrick. Due to space constraints, some quotes have been omitted.

To view the entire story visit:
www.thederrick.com/

TEACH. PRAY. REST.



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

On November 10, the VRCS faculty and staff traveled to Cranberry, PA to attend a retreat facilitated by **Mrs. Evelyn Wheeler** (shown at right) and assisted by **Principal Katie Chandley**.

The members participated in the Liturgy of the Hours throughout the day. It was a great opportunity to focus on spiritual development, as well as each person's individual relationship and communication with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. John Miller offered adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and made available the Sacrament of Penance. The St. Thomas More Center was an attractive facility. The weather was nice, and the grounds were serene and beautiful. The retreat provided a nice respite and growth opportunity for our busy faculty and staff.

The little dog is our Mascot, Einstein!

2023 Faculty and Staff Retreat at St. Thomas More House of Prayer
Back Row:

Mr. Brian Slider, Ms. Juliette Zimmerman, Ms. Katie Chandley, Mrs. Martina Love, Ms. Jackie Wice, Ms. Elizabeth Schmude, Mrs. Mary Beth Hutchinson, Mrs. Misti Kresinski, Dr. Ray Feroz

Middle Row:

Mrs. Leslie Pacior, Mrs. Andréé Sporer, Ms. Mary Anne Oliver, Ms. Jessie Pyle, Mrs. Emily Hicks, Mrs. Beth Metz, Mrs. Alicia Daman, Ms. Mary McDonough, Mrs. Alicia McMillen, Mrs. Heather Harmon

Seated in Front:

Ms. Shannon Goreczny, Ms. Jill Lander, Mrs. Tiffany Warner



“Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”

Pope Francis @Pontifex

TEACHER FEATURE

NAME: Mary Beth Hutchinson

EDUCATION (College/Degrees):
Clarion University, Bachelor of
Science in Music Education

Youngstown State University &
Duquesne University,
Graduate Studies in Music and
Music Technology

Gannon College, Graduate
Studies in Education

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
I started teaching at Rocky Grove
High School, where I was the
instrumental music instructor
and band director. I taught for
eleven years in the Oil City school
district as both an elementary
music classroom and as a 5th-
grade instrumental instructor.

TOTAL YEARS SPENT TEACHING:
37 years (28 years in school
classrooms, plus private study
students)

YEARS TEACHING AT VRCS: 16

CURRENT SUBJECT/GRADE:
Music (Preschool thru Grade 12)



2023 PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival

"I am thankful and blessed for the opportunity to share my faith and to pray with my students through music at VRCS."



Mrs. Hutchinson and the VCHS Bells of Joy

NOTEWORTHY NEWS:
On Friday, December 1,
the VCHS Bells of Joy
performed as part of the
Oil City Light-Up Night in
Town Square. The bell
choir performance took
place between 6:30 PM
and 6:45 PM.

WHAT OTHER EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN YOUR CLASS THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

In late January, **Olivia Miller** and **Alice Moll** will represent VRCS at the 2024 PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival at Freeport High School.

On March 7-9, VCHS is co-hosting the PMEA Region 2 Chorus Festival with Oil City High School. VC will host 160 singers on March 7 for auditions to advance on to state chorus. Rehearsals and the concert will take place at the OCHS auditorium.

On March 14-16, Venango Catholic students will join with Oil City students to present "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" for the annual High School musical. **Mr. Steve Luxbacher**, the choir director at OCHS, is the stage and tech director, and I am the music director and accompanist.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES AND RECREATIONAL PURSUITS:

I am active as a lector, cantor, musician, and extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion at St. Joseph Parish in Oil City, as well as a long-time supporter and volunteer for St. Elizabeth Center.

Additionally, I have served on different boards for the VNA of Venango County and have been a member and past president of the Belles Lettres Club. I am a 37-year member of the Franklin Silver Cornet Band. I have acted as music director, accompanist, and pit orchestra musician for too many shows to count at the Barrow-Civic Theatre in Franklin and for Community Playhouse in Oil City.

I have also been a leader for the Emlenton Echoes and mentor for the 4-H robotics team 3954 in FIRST robotics, as well as the VCHS robotics team in VEX robotics.

Thanksgiving Table Settings Take Shape Amid Afternoon Tea Party

On Saturday, November 18, sixth-grade students gathered at VC for an afternoon of tea and treats – with boba tea being the big hit of the party. Grandmothers, mothers, and daughters worked together to craft unique fall-inspired centerpieces. Attendees were invited to take their creations home for Thanksgiving.

Thank you to the volunteers and participants who made this event possible. We look forward to hosting a similar event next year in the fall.



1. Sherry Cook, Susan Shiley, and Emma Shiley. 2. Natalie and Brooke Lander 3. Chief tea preparer Sandy Sciuillo-Baughman and Ida Sciuillo 4. Faculty member Emily Hicks and student volunteers Catherine Hicks and Olivia Miller 5. Arabella Wolbert

FACULTY & STAFF

Ms. Mary McDonough
PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Leslie Pacior
PRESCHOOL AID

Ms. Jackie Wice
KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Heather Harmon
FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Andr  e Sporer (VC '82)
SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Alicia Daman
THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Martina Love
FOURTH GRADE

Ms. Mary Anne Oliver (VC '76)
FIFTH GRADE

Ms. Jill Lander
SIXTH GRADE

Mr. Gregory Knox
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Mary Beth Hutchinson
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Ms. Elizabeth Schmude
ART DEPARTMENT

Ms. Shannon Goreczny (VC '17)
ENGLISH, HISTORY, & THEOLOGY
DEPARTMENTS

Mrs. Emily Hicks
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT;
DEAN OF DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Alicia McMillen
HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Ms. Jessie Pyle
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Ron Shoup
SR. HIGH MATH CONSULTANT

Mr. Brian Slider
THEOLOGY & LANGUAGE DEPTS;
DEAN OF ACADEMICS

Mrs. Tiffany Warner
JR. HIGH MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Christie Rihel
TITLE I READING TEACHER

Mrs. Melissa Ace
Mrs. Amanda Mott
Mrs. Suzanne Reed
Mrs. Lacy Shoenfelt
Mrs. Cathy Tarr

ACT 89 PROFESSIONAL STAFF
(RIVERVIEW INTERMEDIATE UNIT 6)

Faculty/Staff Tribute

Thank you, Lord God, for the gift of Catholic education.

Recognized here are individuals who have dedicated their lives to Catholic education for more than eleven years. This list has been created in descending order by years of service and only includes names dating back to the 2018-2019 school year.

If a name has been unintentionally omitted, please contact the publications team by emailing vrcsoutreach@venangocatholic.org so that a correction may be printed in the January issue of the VRCS Monthly Newsletter.

- Current VRCS employee
- ♥ St. Patrick School - Franklin
- ♥ St. Stephen School - Oil City
- ♥ Venango Catholic High School - Oil City

A NOTE FROM OF A 2005 VC ALUMNA...

When you look back on your time at St. Joseph High School, St. Patrick School, St. Stephen School, or Venango Christian/Catholic High School, the first people that probably come to your mind are the faculty and staff who created a loving atmosphere where you and your classmates could grow and thrive.

If it weren't for the support that school teachers gave to me when I attended VC, I would never have graduated college, met my now husband, or have six lovely children (three currently attending SSS).

These men and women have been the hands and feet of Christ in our presence. Please take the time today to thank the retired, former, or current Catholic school employees who helped to form you in mind, body, and spirit.

Special thanks to **Msgr. John Herbein** (♥ 20+ years) and faithfully departed **Rev. Matthew Ruyechan** (♥ 12 years) for their support of Catholic education in this area.

Lastly, I'd like to thank **Mrs. Andree Sporer** and **Mrs. Cindy Eckert** for helping me to gather the information included in this tribute.

Melissa

41 - 50 YEARS

- ♥ **Carol Long** (VC '65) - Teacher/Principal
- ♥ **Mary Ellen Hynes** (VC '69) - Teacher
- ♥ **Paula Klinger** - Teacher
- ♥ **Deb Mitchell** (VC '75) - Teacher
- ♥ **Mary Anne Oliver** (VC '76) - Teacher ■■

31 - 40 YEARS

- ♥ **Gertrude Ward** (VC '76) - Teacher
- ♥ **Cindy Eckert** (VC '71) - Teacher
- ♥ **Andree Sporer** (VC '82) - Teacher ■■
- ♥ **Kathy Lynch** - Teacher
- ♥ **Joan Hartle** - Library & Computer

21 - 30 YEARS

- ♥ **Denny Kelly** - Maintenance
- ♥ **Pam Kahle** - Music
- ♥ **Martina Love** - Teacher ■■
- ♥ **Rose Marie Estok** - Teacher
- ♥ **Sherry Cook** - Teacher
- ♥ **Christine Garmong** - Teacher
- ♥ **Marge Hajduk** (VC '64) - Teacher/Principal
- ♥ **Mike Kiesell** - Custodian
- ♥ **Tom McNellie** (VC '68) - Teacher
- ♥ **Heidi Lucia** - Technology Maintenance
- ♥ **Cathy Tarr** - Current Act 89 Staff ■■
- ♥ **Julie Parquette** - Teacher

11 - 20 YEARS

- ♥ **Theresa Zlotnicki** - Library
- ♥ **Judy Frost** - Teacher
- ♥ **Mary Peiffer** - Office
- ♥ **Brian Slider** - Teacher ■■
- ♥ **Mary Beth Hutchinson** - Music ■■
- ♥ **Lori Crockett** - Teacher
- ♥ **Heather Marvin** - Teacher
- ♥ **Cathy Campbell Sowden** - Cafeteria
- ♥ **Shelly Feather** - Teacher

Additional Notes:

- ♥ **Pauline (Polly) Miller**, a beloved "lunch lady" who managed the school kitchen for over three decades, passed on to eternal life on June 10, 2020.
- ♥ **Kathryn (Kathy) Reed**, a dedicated teacher having taught for four decades, died peacefully February 20, 2020. [Their retirement dates were not known at the time of this newsletter's publishing.]

SCHOOL NEWS



Bus Trip to the Theater

Grades 3-6 traveled to the Barrow-Civic Theater to see *"Fairy Tale Christmas"* on Monday, November 20.

The students were very excited to support one of our SSS fifth-graders who participated in the production!

According to the audience and rave reviews on the Barrow's Facebook page, this was definitely a show worth watching.



Liturgical Celebration

On November 30, **Fr. Cory Pius** celebrated Mass for the students and staff at St. Stephen School.

Fr. Pius wore red vestments, since it was the Feast of Saint Andrew – apostle and martyr.

The Gospel reading recounted when Andrew and his brother Simon Peter met Jesus as they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus told the men, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Mt 4:19).



All-School Holy Day Mass

Fr. John Miller offered Mass at 10:30 AM at the VCHS gym on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The attendance featured the whole VRCS student body and St. Joseph parishioners, for the Holy Day of Obligation. Earlier in the day, the sixth graders had a chance to experience classes at VC. All St. Stephen students enjoyed lunch at the VCHS cafeteria following Mass.



A Tradition Returns

VRCS Home & School members and volunteers brought back Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2. The event was a hit! The breakfast was sold out, and the kids had a marvelous time. Thank you to those who made donations, lent a hand, or bought dinners and raffle tickets.



VRCS Students Serve Their Community!

GIVING BACK

Our student councils have begun two wonderful service projects to benefit others:

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE "Food For Kids, From Kids"

(Preschool - Grade 6)

The sixth-graders who visit and volunteer at Saint Elizabeth Center each month wanted to share some cheer with other children this holiday season. They have generated a list of suggestions for those who wish to donate a special treat to the food pantry. The whole school will win a pajama day if we collect over 1000 boxes/packages of individually wrapped goodies. Items are due by December 13.

STOCKING STUFFER COMPETITION

(Grade 7 - Grade 12)

Our junior and senior high youth are collecting donations of small toys that will be gifted to children as "stocking stuffers" this Christmas. This collection has been greatly appreciated by the families who receive the gifts. The class with the most items per student will win a pizza party, sponsored by the senior high student council.

All donations will be distributed through the Saint Elizabeth Center to families in need in Venango County. Thank you!

Ms. Chandley

FOOD DRIVE SUGGESTIONS

Items to gift include: Pop Tarts, Oreos, Gushers, Pretzels, Chip Bags, Goldfish, Granola Bars, Fruit Roll-Ups, Rice Krispie Treats, Fun Cereals, Crackers, Fruit Snacks, Candy Canes, etc.



STOCKING STUFFERS IDEAS

Donations may include: pacifiers, baby wipes, sensory toys, small picture books, coloring books, crayons, stickers, chapstick, matchbox cars, trading cards, fidget toys, flash cards, bath bombs, stuffed animals, fuzzy socks, and playing cards.



LADY VIKINGS RAISE FUNDS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

"At one of their last home games of the season, the Venango Catholic volleyball team planned a fundraiser that included basket raffles, a 50/50 and volleyball serving games. The team raised **\$583.00** to donate to the Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh." (Diocese of Erie Facebook Post)





VRCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Puleo (VC '83)
CHAIR

Greg Merkel
VICE CHAIR, PAST CHAIR,
NOMINATIONS CMTE CHAIR

Debbie Sobina
TREASURER

Penny Campbell
SECRETARY, ATHLETICS
CMTE CHAIR

Ken Lancaster
ADVANCEMENT CMTE CHAIR

Margaret Janidlo (VC '83)
MISSION ENHANCEMENT
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sandra Sciullo-Baughman
ENROLLMENT CMTE CHAIR

Dr. Rick Sabousky (VC '79)

Abigail Watson-Popescu

Amie Wood-Wessell (VC '92)

McKenzie Healy
PRESIDENT, HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



A "KNIGHT" TO REMEMBER

On Saturday, November 11, the Route 8 Band entertained guests at the "Friends of VC Gathering" held at VC. Attendees enjoyed an evening of good food, dancing, raffles, door prizes, and a cash bar. The Route 8 Band, including VRCS Board member and lead guitarist **Dr. Rick Sabousky** (VC '79), put on a fantastic performance. The event not only enabled the school to raise funds, but it also provided an opportunity for individuals to meet new people, re-kindle old friendships, and learn about the student clubs and activities offered at VRCS. A fun time was had by all!



1) Board members **Bob Puleo** (VC '83) and **Ken Lancaster** 2) VC student council representatives participate in the high school clubs/activities exhibition during the November 11 event. 3) **Emily Hicks**, VC faculty member, serves tasty treats to **Richard Sonoski** (VC '73).

a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools





On-going gift giving and/or pledges may be made throughout the month of December on our school website or by using this form.

Every dollar that is donated to VRCS makes a significant impact, *no matter the amount*.

Imagine if all of our 3,000+ constituents could donate or pledge just \$200 each... we could raise over \$600,000 in less than one month, meeting our diocesan fund-raising goal!



Venango Region Catholic School 2023 Commitment Campaign

☒ **YES, I am proud to support Catholic education at Venango Region Catholic School.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$75 ☐ Other _____

My donation is designated for ☐ General Purpose or ☐ For a Particular Area (Specify) _____

Gift Method:

☐ Check for **Venango Region Catholic School** enclosed or give online at venangocatholic.org/donate

☐ I would like to make a 2023 pledge. (Pledges are to be paid by 12/31/2024)

☐ Charge my one-time gift of \$_____ to my: ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

CARD NUMBER

EXP DATE

NAME ON CARD

SEC CODE

SIGNATURE

To provide dependable monthly support for VRCS, I'd like to become a **Sustaining Donor**. Please charge my credit card the following amount every month:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other \$_____

Thank You and May God Bless You for Your Generosity!

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE

Gifts from Your Will or Estate:


To leave a gift in your will, simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner:

"I bequeath \$_____ or _____% of my estate to Venango Region Catholic School, 1505 West First Street, Oil City, PA 16301."

☐ I/we have included VRCS in my/our will.

☐ Please contact me/us with more information about the EITC/OSTC tax credit program.

☐ My employer will match my gift.

 **Alumni, do you have news to share?**
We would love to hear how you're doing.
Please visit: venangocatholic.org/alumni



For questions, major donations, planned giving, or to pledge a gift by phone, contact Dr. Ray Feroz at 814.677.3098 or ray.feroz@venangocatholic.org.



Venango Region Catholic School

Venango Catholic Jr. / Sr. High School
1505 West First Street
Oil City, PA 16301
814.677.3098

Saint Stephen School
214 Reed Street
Oil City, PA 16301
814.677.3035

“A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 2010 Address to Teachers and Religious

Preview of Upcoming Events *Save the Date!*

December 6 - 21

12 Days of Christmas Giveaway (Weekdays Only)

Names of winners will be announced on social media.

December 18

VRCS School Board Meeting – VCHS Cafeteria

6:00 PM

January 27, 2024

Reverse Raffle – Seneca Fire Hall

5:30 PM - 11:00 PM; Open to the public;

Must be 21+ to attend.

January 28 – February 3

Catholic Schools Week



www.venangocatholic.org



@VenangoRegionCatholicSchool