

# BISHOP LUDDEN NEWSLETTER

"Where character, commitment,  
and community come together in  
a school for all."

December 2023

## It's the most wonderful time of the year!

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

#### Main Office:

Ms. Lombard  
(315) 468-2591

#### Health Office:

(315) 459-7160

#### Counseling Office:

Miss Shattell  
(315) 488-3237

#### Enrollment:

Ms. Petrera  
(315) 579-0086

#### Tuition Office:

Mrs. Petrus  
(315) 459-7175

#### Development Office:

Mrs. Gilheney  
(315) 579-0061

#### Alumni Relations:

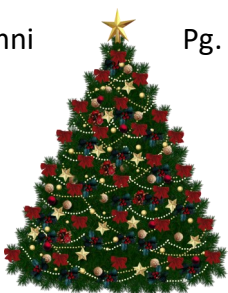
(315) 579-0061



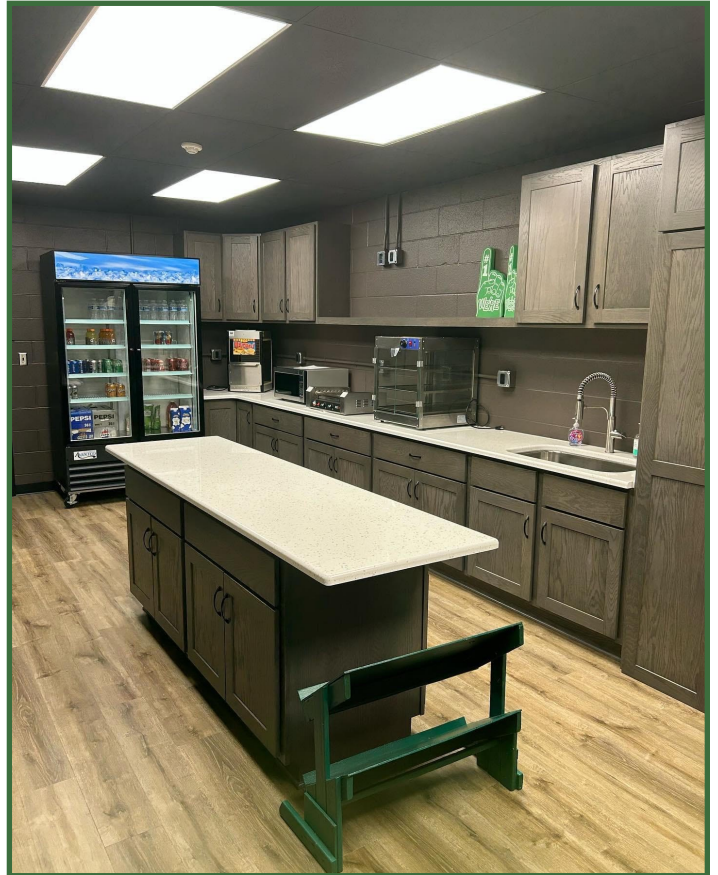
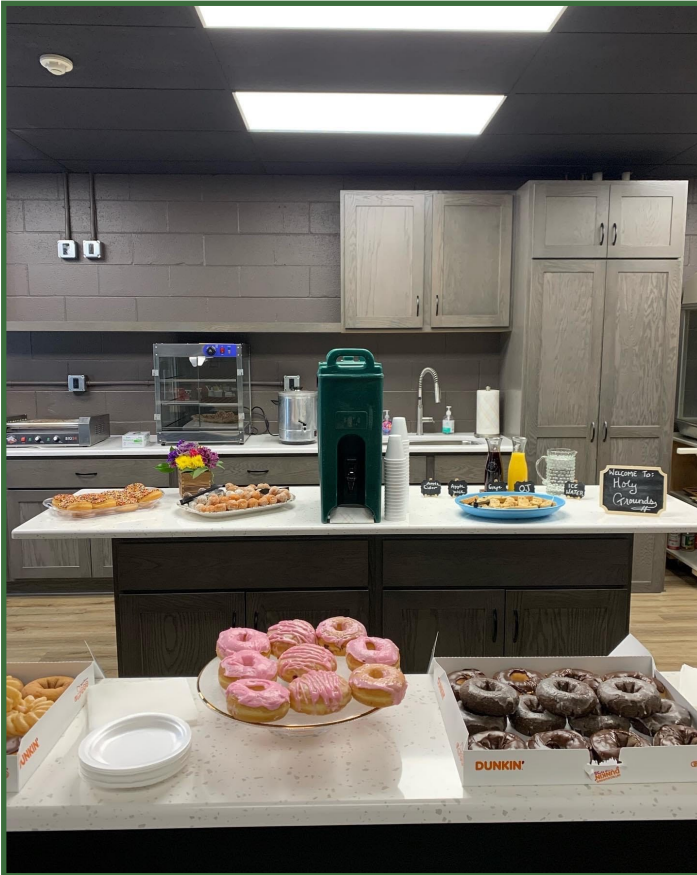
The annual Christmas concert brought joy and cheer leading up to the celebration of the day our Savior was born.

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# Holy Grounds Café: A magnificent transformation



Thank you to all the generous volunteers who helped renovate our café, Holy Grounds!

**Cabinets, countertop & sink** - Kitchen Express, Scott & Christy Marvin

**All new electrical, LED lighting & ceiling tiles** - TCG Electric - Dan Olivia

**Cabinet & floor installation:** Matthew De'Angelis & Matthew Hosek -Alums class of 2016

**Tables & chairs:** Tickets.com - Mike Dunham

**Demo:** Dave Gilbertson, Jeff Boyea, Carm Petrera, Meg Olivia, Katie Boyea, Marty Masterpole

**Painting & finishes:** Dave Gilbertson

**Design:** Scott Marvin, Bridget Gilbertson & Meg Olivia

## Our Mission

Bishop Ludden Junior Senior High School exists to further the mission of Jesus Christ by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel, according to the sacramental life of the Roman Catholic Church. Through the educational ministry, we promote, develop, and appreciate the sacredness of the whole person. We are called to provide a curriculum and school environment which fosters spiritual growth, moral development, academic excellence, extracurricular achievement, critical thinking and life-long learning.





# We dig the new dugout!



Grace and Casey Ganley (both class of 2011) and Rob Ganley (class of 1970) designed and led the crew who built the softball dugouts this late summer and fall. All the labor was donated to build these dugouts. Rommel Fence LLC donated the materials and labor to add to the fencing on the field side of the dugouts. Other volunteers who helped work on the project are Frank Hosek (class of '79), Gary Cunningham (friend of Ludden!), Jim Rooney, Bill Middlestad (who currently has a son attending Ludden), and Taylor and Kyle Suttcliff.



# As you sit before the manger, what is it saying to you?

Dec 21, 2023 | Bishop Lucia (Published in The Catholic Sun)

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go ..." These words came to my mind as I began to write this column for the Catholic Sun edition that will be published on the Thursday before Christmas. As I reacquainted myself with the lyrics of this Christmas song written by songwriter Meredith Willson, I was struck by its fifth verse:

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas  
Soon the bells will start  
And the thing that will make 'em ring is the carol that you sing  
Right within your heart.

In fact, the Psalm responses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day invite us to do exactly what these lyrics suggest: to sing out and announce God's goodness and the joy of salvation that Christ's birth brings to our world! As Psalm 98:1 proclaims: "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm."

Yes, the marvelous deeds of our God! These are the gifts you and I are invited to unwrap this Christmas. One might wonder how we are to do so? What I would suggest is to do something I consider one of my favorite things to do — to sit before the manger scene and let it speak to me! What is God saying to me and to the rest of the human family in the events that surround Christ's birth, and in the people and places that are part of it?

In his 2019 Apostolic Letter, *Admirabile Signum*, on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene, Pope Francis writes:

"The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him" (#1).

The Holy Father goes on to say:

"Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins" (#3).

*Continued on next page*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6





## Bishop Lucia *continued from last page*



Finally, in words that connect us so intimately to the Eucharistic Revival that is ongoing here in the United States, the Pope notes:

“Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as ‘the bread come down from heaven’ (Jn 6:41). Saint Augustine, with other Church Fathers, was impressed by this symbolism: ‘Laid in a manger, he became our food’ (Sermon 189, 4). Indeed, the nativity scene

evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus’ life and brings them close to our own daily lives” (#2).

Indeed, the closeness of our God, that is what is at the heart of the Christmas celebration! And yet, you and I are invited to consider in this moment our own closeness to God and neighbor in response to the two Great Commandments we are called to observe as disciples of the Lord Jesus:

“The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mk 12:29-31).

I can’t help but wonder how different the world could be if in the coming new year, I really started to sing from the heart the new song that the cry of the Babe of Bethlehem brought into our world. A common sentiment is how we wish our world would change for the better! Yet, it seems that we look at it from the point of view as “something out there” — not necessarily having anything to do with me!

There are some who even want to blame God and religion for what is wrong with the world, while ignoring the simple fact that it is the human person trying to play God and overlooking what God has said, that is the real source of all the world’s troubles. As one Christmas greeting I received reminded me: “When it seems that despair dominates and darkness reigns, the Lord becomes one of us. Enlightens and sanctifies. Liberates and heals. Gives life and restores hope. God is close. God is with us!” In other words, we have the remedy, are we willing to take or use it?

It is hard to believe, but this is my last printed column for the year 2023. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many readers who offer me such encouragement in having a regular column in The Catholic Sun. I wish to them and all the faithful of this Diocesan Church my prayerful best wishes for a blessed and merry Christmas! It is also my prayer for 2024, that you and I will teach the world to sing the new song the child of Bethlehem brings with his birth!

Joy, Peace, and Love this Christmas and into the New Year!

## 2023 Bishop Ludden A has best finish in program history



The Geneva Quiz Bowl Invitational is in the books for Bishop Ludden. All four teams worked to take as many points as possible from the competitors. The A Team finished #1 in prelims (the first time in program history) because of this strategy, finishing number two overall after a tough loss to Ithaca A in round eight of the championship bracket. The A team was 8-2 overall, with Peter Smith taking the All-Star Individual Award as the tourney's top player. Peter scored 515 total points in the seven preliminary

games and 185 total in the three championship games. Bishop Ludden B was 2-1 in consolation playoffs with Payton Campbell named as a book prize winning All-Star. Bishop Ludden C's Zander Craner was the number 5 player in prelims and was named an All-Star Book Prize winner.

Team members Captain Alex Ewaynk, senior Peter Smith, Momin Naveed, and Mya Barnaba qualified the A Team for NAQT's High School Nationals Championship Tournament for the second straight tournament and Small Schools National Championship Tournament, Open Division for the fourth straight tournament. Sophomore Momin Naveed was on the A Team for the first time this season and scored 210 points. Freshmen Mya Barnaba and Alex Ewaynk scored 145 points each in the tournament. "Peter is such a dominant player, it's difficult for our other players to get on the board. This combination of players had our best-balanced scoring of the season. We have been moving our rising players on different team combos to let them thrive and score," explained Head Coach Maxine Babcock. "We've been prepping them for a 2026 SSNCT run for the top prize."

The B Team scoring was led by All-Star Payton Campbell's 375 and Theresa Quigley's 185. The pair rotated from the A Team to give Momin and Mya a chance to start on the A Team. Molly Smith added 155, while Ryan Skanes had an even 100. The C Team was led by All-Star Zander Craner's 345, while Liv and Julia Smith added 130 and 50 respectively. The young D Team scored a total of 350 points against the more experienced teams with Caitlyn Coryell having her best tournament ever with 190 points. Gabriella Berry scored 110 and eighth grader Noor Naveed scored 50 as the only junior high player in the tournament.

The teams focus on Science Olympiad and History Bowl for the next three months before deciding which national championships to attend in the spring. The teams are coached by Maxine Babcock, Susie Moon Davis, and Grace Babcock.



### Fun with forensics

**Students work with fingerprints in the Forensics Fingerprints Labs**



## STEM Til 5 with Holy Family

Bishop Ludden's STEM Club is piloting a STEM Til Five Program with our elementary schools in the diocese.

Holy Family fifth- and sixth-graders are first up, with 14 or more students coming up to twice a week to work with Bishop Ludden STEM All-Stars Peter Smith, Ryan Skanes, Julia Smith, Zander Craner, Olivia Smith, Payton Campbell, Anthony Taylor, Mya Barnaba, and Alex Ewanyk and coaches Grace Babcock, Maxine Babcock, and Sara Loving.

The students choose activities including Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, Science Bee, Geography Bee, History Bee, and eSports (Rocket League, Splatoon, Smash Bros, and Mario Kart).



Photo Courtesy of Annie Straight

## FACTS portal now open

The Grant & Aid Application portal in FACTS is now open. Families can apply online by visiting [online.factsmgt.com/aid](https://online.factsmgt.com/aid).

The application and supporting documentation must be completed and submitted by **Feb. 1**.

If you need assistance in completing or submitting your application, contact me directly at 315-459-7175 or at [mpetrus@syrdiocese.org](mailto:mpetrus@syrdiocese.org).

Ms. Petrus's hours are typically 8 a.m. to noon if anyone would like to meet in person.

## Bishop Ludden eSports makes playoffs for first time

Bishop Ludden eSports teams had their best records in the program's three-year history. Captain Peter Smith, Hayden Parkhurst (both are founding members of the program and have played all three years), Julia Smith, Aidan Bush, and Zander Craner finished #12 in PlayVS New York Region Rocket League and made the playoffs for the first time in our three-year history. Hayden Parkhurst was a weekly all-star in score per game four times, while Peter Smith was a weekly all-star in goals per shot. The team dropped to Washingtonville in the Sweet 16 Bracket.

Bishop Ludden's PlayVS Mario Kart 8 Deluxe squad missed the playoffs by one match, finishing 15/31 in the Eastern League. Bishop Ludden Gaelic Knights match record was 4-4. The team competed for the first time this year and had a winning game record of 9 - 8. Team Members were led by Captain Ben Gentile, with Alex Gentile, Dawson McCann, Olivia Smith, Anthony Taylor, Brady Davis, Patrick Coleman, and Ryan Skanes.

The Gaelic Knights' PlayVS Northeastern Region Splatoon™ 3 also missed playoffs by one match, in the team's second year in the league, finishing at #17/40 with a match record of 4-4. Team Members were Captains Peter Smith and Ben Gentile, Olivia Smith, Ryan Skanes, Anthony Taylor, Dawson McCann, Brady Davis, Alex Gentile, Kira Ray, and Patrick Coleman.

Bishop Ludden fielded two teams in PlayVS - New York Region Super Smash Bros.™ Ultimate in our second year in the league. At #58/79, the Bishop Ludden Smash Brothers had a Match Record of 3 - 5 and a Series Record 11 - 15, Game Record 25 - 31. Team Members Patrick Coleman, Dawson McCann, Alex Gentile, Olivia Smith, Ryan Skanes, and Brady Davis competed in the head-to-head competition. At #63/79 Bishop Ludden Gaelic Knights finished with a match record of 2-6 and a series Record of 8-18, with a game record of 23-28. Team Members were Peter Smith, Ben Gentile, and Anthony Taylor.

The teams are coached by Maxine Babcock.

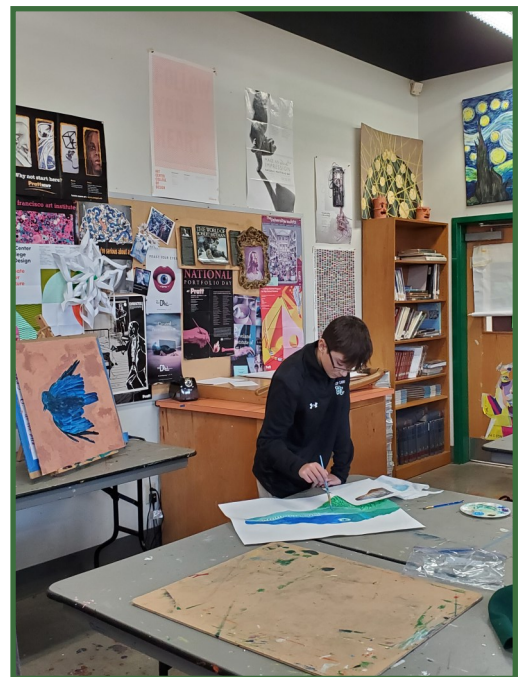
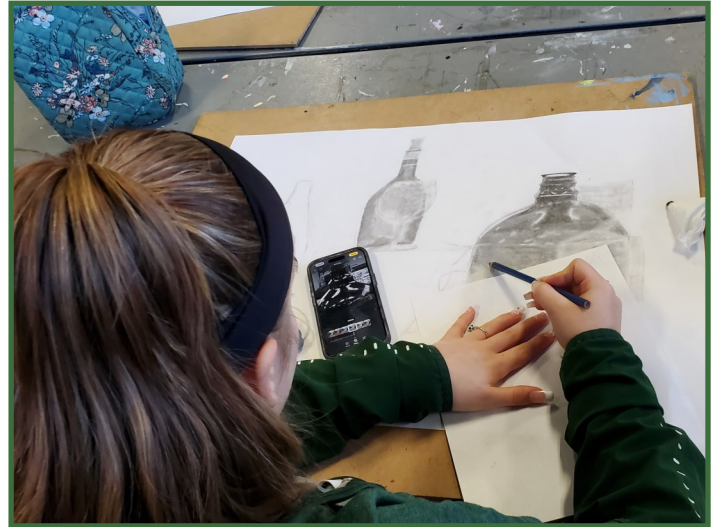
## ART/MUSIC

### Lessons in art

Eighth grade art students are working on animal paintings in cool and warm colors.

Drawing & Painting is working on a pencil still life of bottles.

Studio Art is working on POP Art and learning about Andy Warhol. Their candy paintings are a lesson in observation.



### Ludden singers selected for the 2024 Sr. High All-County Chorus

At the Sr. High All-County auditions, held annually in November by the Onondaga County Music Educators Association, music students compete against other strong music students in Onondaga County and are selected to participate in the Sr. High All-County Music Festival, held in January every year.

This year, there were two students from Bishop Ludden's Concert Choir who were chosen to participate: **Serena Royal** and **Molly Smith**. Congratulations to these two 2024 Sr.-High All-County Chorus singers!

The All-County Chorus, Band and Orchestra concert will be at Liverpool High School at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 13. Come hear Serena and Molly sing with this all-star, Onondaga County high school chorus!



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DRAMA

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BISHOP LUDDEN JR/SR  
HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS:



PRINCE ST PLAYERS VERSION

*March 8th and 9th 2024*

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Class of 2003 celebrates 20 years since graduation



The Class of 2003 celebrated on Nov. 24 their 20-year class reunion held at the Rail Line. Thank you to Ryan Steele, Monica Walsh Elinger, and Liz Judge for planning the event.





## IN MEMORIAM

### Matthew J. DeSantis, class of 2001



Matthew James DeSantis, 40, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, December 4, 2023 with family by his side. He was a graduate of Bishop Ludden Junior-Senior High School and SUNY Oswego. He was employed by New York State as an accountant.

Matthew is survived by his parents, Patrick and June

(Mickey) DeSantis; his brother, Patrick (Marcy) of Maryland; sister, Amy; nephews, Mark Collins and Dylan DeSan-

tis as well as a large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins. He is predeceased by his maternal grandparents, James and June McNamara and his paternal grandmother, Joan DeSantis.

The family would like to thank the staff of Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY and Hospice of Central New York and the Finger Lakes for their care of Matthew the past several years.

In lieu of flowers please consider contributions in Matthew's memory to Hospice of Central New York and the Finger Lakes, 990 7th North Street, Liverpool, NY 13088 or at [www.hospicecny.org](http://www.hospicecny.org).

### Virginia Jessie Nicastro, class of 1982



Virginia Jessie Nicastro, 59, of Webster, New York, died November 10, 2023 peacefully at home with her family. Virginia was the daughter of the late John A. and Kathryn A. Clark of Syracuse, NY and was predeceased by her brother-in-law Richard Armstrong of Brentwood, TN; Stepfather-in-law, David Nier. Virginia retired from her position as Air

Transportation Manager for Carestream Health, Rochester and previously worked at Kodak and CSX Transportation. Virginia attended St. James School, Bishop Ludden High School and Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY. She received her Masters of Business Administration in Logistics from Syracuse University in 1991.

Virginia was a member of St. Rita's parish and the Legion of Mary at Holy Trinity Church in Webster.

Virginia battled Stage 4 colon cancer and associated challenges for a remarkable 128 months > (10 years). Virginia lived with faith, determination, grace and courage. Virginia's greatest joy in life was her husband Gary and her daughters, Marissa and Rose, and her dogs Sophie and Charlie.

Virginia will be remembered for her love of family, her thoughtfulness of others, her sense of humor and her devotion to Jesus, the Eucharist, Blessed Mother Mary and the rosary.

The Nicastro family wishes to thank everyone that helped them walk this journey. Special thanks and appreciation to: Chelsea McCaig, P.A, Dr Aram Hezel, Jacqueline Behr, N.P, Dr Michael Milano, Hannah L, Nurse, Dr Marc Eigg and all the staff of the Wilmot Cancer Center.

Additionally, Julie Cohen from St. Rita's parish, along with family, and the many friends who helped and supported them and most especially those who prayed for Virginia and her family.

The Nicastro Family has established The Virginia Nicastro Memorial Fund at Rochester Area Community Foundation. Virginia has always inspired people throughout her life and even though she physically is no longer with us, we will continue to live by her as she guides us and watches over us in heaven.

In lieu of flowers, the Virginia's family is requesting donations in Virginia's memory to: The Virginia Nicastro Memorial Fund at Rochester Area Community Foundation. Donations can be made online at: <https://www.racf.org/Nicastro> Or mailed to: 500 East Ave Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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### Terrance P. Morgan, class of 1979



Terrance P. "Terry" Morgan, age 62, of Geddes, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family and friends on Friday, December 1, 2023. Terry was born in Syracuse, NY to Dennis and Beverly (Riordan) Morgan. Terry retired after 35 dedicated years of service from Onondaga County Department of Transportation.

During Terry's retirement, he had a passion for spending time with friends and family, golfing with his sons, watching Syracuse sports, Yankees baseball, Boston Celtics basketball, and his beloved Miami Dolphins. Additionally, Terry fell in love with gardening and hanging out with his daughter's dog Riesling.

Along with his parents, Terry is predeceased by his in-laws, Nicholas and Stella (Pompo) Natalizio; and his brother William.

Terry is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Cindy (Natalizio) Morgan, and their three children; Brian (Trisha), Megan, and Joseph (Morgan), granddaughters, Stella and Peyton; siblings, Dennis (Sherri), Beverly, Patricia, Michael (Kelly), Robert (Cyndy), and Eileen; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Terry's brother, Michael Morgan, and dear friends, Lisa Smith, and Sara Case for all their support and assistance during this difficult time. As well as Terry's wonderful nurse Erin from Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of CNY or Hematology Oncology Association of CNY. Words of comfort may be expressed at [TJPFuneralHome.com](http://TJPFuneralHome.com).

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### Judith A. "Judy" Wright, Class of 1967



Judy Wright, 73, of Baldwinsville, NY passed away after a brief illness. She was born in Syracuse, NY and graduated from Bishop Ludden High School.

Judy was employed by the phone company and retired from Verizon with over 35 years of service. Judy loved animals, especially dogs, and was an avid bird watcher.

She was a member of Syracuse Obedience Training Club as well as Onondaga Audubon Society. Judy was thrilled when her pointer Sarah earned her agility title. Judy was known to jump in the car, often with a friend, to go to Cross Lake to watch eagles catching fish. When she learned of a rare bird being spotted at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Judy would grab her binoculars, jump in the car and head to Montezuma. Judy

had a unique laugh and a twinkle in her eye that would warm your heart.

Judy is predeceased by her parents, Jack and June (Woytan) Wright and her brother Kenneth Wright. Survived by her aunt Beverly Wright and several cousins. Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, January 10 from 3:00pm to 6:pm at Edward J. Ryan & Son Funeral Home, 3180 Bellevue Ave, Syracuse, NY 13219. A memorial service will follow calling hours.

The family would like to thank the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital who provided Judy expert care and compassion throughout her stay; especially ER Dept., ICU and Unit 3-1.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Judy's name to American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc., 8051 Arco Corporate Dr. Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27617 or Onondaga Audubon Society, P.O. Box 620, Syracuse, NY 13201.



## TRIBUTE

# A tribute to my friend, her life, and her faith

By Tami Scott, newsletter editor



**Lisa was my son Jonathan's godmother. Here, she holds Jonathan at his baptism in 2015 with Deacon Tom Cuskey.**

For many people, the holiday months are not always the easiest, nor are they the happiest.

In November, I found myself grieving over the untimely and unexpected death of my best friend, Lisa Scott, who was more like a sister to me. We'd known each other since we were very young, our families having known each other for generations.

Lisa was one of a kind. She has been described as a bright light and incredibly inspiring. She lived what she believed and was so eager to share her love of God and His constant goodness. I believe she lived her life much like how it reads in Matthew 5:16. "Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see Him."

She was rooted by her deep faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ. She'd often say she was on fire for Jesus. She was heavily involved with the linked parishes of Christ the King Church and Pope John XXIII and was an essential part of their ministry team.

I share Lisa with you so you understand what her perspective was of life after death, which I hope will ignite or reignite your passion for and belief of God's promises. Especially during times of grief and uncertainty.

There's a conversation that we had a few months ago at my sister's house that has stood out in my mind since it took place, and I spoke about it at her funeral mass, too. There were a few of us in the kitchen talking about the unexpected death of the actor, Treat Williams. I was retelling the details of his day—what I knew from social media anyway—how he had posted a video of his farmland and that there was nothing like the smell of fresh mown hay. Hours later, he was killed in a motorcycle accident. I was sad about it all and made the comment that "he was having such a good day." And without missing a beat, Lisa said, "and then his day just got better."

When we grieve over the passing of a loved one, I hope we too can find comfort in those words: "Their day just got better."

To me, it helps to know that not only are they no longer suffering, but they are joyful and basking in the warm embrace of our Savior's love.

Lisa, you always sought to put God first and you mastered it. Your journey here is complete. Your next chapter I believe led you straight to the kingdom of God. There is no doubt that when you arrived, Jesus was there with arms wide open saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."



**Lisa and I at a Crunch game in 2022.**

## Grieving? There's HOPE

Hope for Bereaved offers support groups that cover many different forms of grief as well as one-on-one counseling. HOPE staffs a Help Line (315)475-HOPE (4673), publishes a monthly newsletter and presents community education programs to stay closely connected with those in need—always free of charge.

## REUNIONS

### Reunion News: Class of 1978

Inspired by some conversations with classmates at the end of the summer, we agreed that the time had come. Bob & Bridget Buttner arranged a social for the Class of 1978 at Chelsea's Restaurant in Syracuse. With a handful of emails sent out, the turnout numbered 21! Joyful greetings of "Hi! It is so good to see you! I am so glad you are here!" resounded with each person's entry. The upstairs room lent itself perfectly to a cozy heartwarming opportunity to reconnect with each other.

Name tags depicting high school graduation pictures were assembled on the spot and hugs and greetings ensued. The evening included delicious appetizers and beverages prepared by the capable kitchen chefs at Chelseas. We were attentively and delightfully tended to by our server. The evening was highlighted by spinning vinyl originals on a portable record player! Tunes by Marshall Tucker, Van Morrison, Frampton Comes Alive, Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen, Christopher Cross, The Spinners, Steely Dan, Saturday Night Fever and ended with Jerry Rafferty's Baker Street.

So good to see everyone – looking forward to our next events: **February 2024 in Ft Myers, Florida and an official reunion for June, 2024. Set aside that last weekend in June!**

### Next year's reunions ...

The classes of '73, '79, and '84 are starting to plan their reunions for next year. Watch for details to come!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Class of 1974 will hold its 50th Reunion on Aug. 2, 2024. Details to follow next year!

*Planning a reunion? We want to hear from you! Please call us at 315-468-2591*



## Celebrating our students!

**YES!** I want to help make a Catholic education a reality for another scholar!

Here is my gift for: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$  
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**CONTACT KATHLEEN GILHENEY TO MAKE A PLEDGE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN**  
**315.579.0061 or [kgilheney@syrdiocese.org](mailto:kgilheney@syrdiocese.org)**

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