

## The 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. James School

**St. James School  
in the  
1990s**



### The Students and Staff in the 1990's



**Jeff Marshall, Mary Russell (Grandmother)  
and Michelle Marshall**

Students whose parents, grandparents, and even great grandparents who attended St. James School were now enrolled in the school in the 1990s (and continue to the present). Julie Gmeinder and Ali Grosse who shared memories with their classmate Maureen McCartney of their time at the school in the interview posted for this month are only two of the many students who have long-time family connections to the school.

The school in the 1990s also had many new students to the school. In 1991, there were 195 students enrolled in the school from 125 families, 94 of which were parish families, 12 families from other Catholic parishes, and 19 non-Catholic families. One quarter of the enrollment were students of color.

The diversity was an asset, and the school celebrated it multiculturalism, including a Cultural Arts Day in the spring. In the 4th grade, students studied their family histories, writing a report and creating a poster about their family. Their teacher, Chris Eshun, who is in her 35<sup>th</sup> year at the school, arranged many field trips throughout the year, including to Old World Wisconsin. Other memorable trips included the Agricultural Campus on the University of Wisconsin (a walking trip), the Octagon House in Watertown, Horicon Marsh, and Mrs. Eshun's home farm near Holy Hill.

### **Sister Kathleen**

Dominican Sister Carmella Pierick, O.P. retired as principal in 1993 when another Dominican Sister, Sister Kathleen Loughrin, O.P. became principal. Sister Kathleen soon learned each student's name and seemed to be at the school 24/7. Sr. Kathleen was the heart and soul of St. James School for so many years until she retired as principal in 2016. Sharon Barry continued to be there for the kids, staff, and parents as the school secretary, St. James School community.



Sr. Kathleen Loughrin, O.P.

Kindergarten which had started parttime the previous decade became full-day, full-time, and the school's after-school care program continued to grow and feature learning opportunities. Mrs. O'Donnell (Joanna), a school parent, became a favorite after-school director. When her family moved to Minnesota, several others assumed the role until Mary Ann Parnell, St. James graduate and school parent, became director. Another school parent who became a favorite of the children was Margaret Dewey who served as librarian.

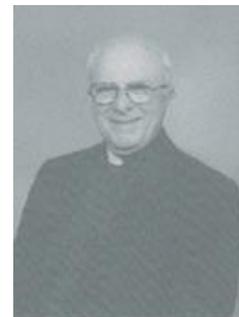
### **Fr. Doug**



Msgr. Doug Dushack

Msgr. Douglas Dushack was appointed the sixth pastor of St. James the summer of 1991.

Affectionately known as Fr. Doug, the pastor had the help of Fr. Harry Lauters, a retired priest in residence from 1991 until his passing in January 1996. Fr. Harry celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination on September 29, 1995.



Father Harry Lauters

In announcing Fr. Harry's passing, Fr. Doug wrote, "He loved to teach in the school; he went over to the kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades every week to teach them about God. The children were eager to see him and enjoyed his stories and prayers with them."

**And Staff 1990-1991 and 1998-1999(below)**



**St. James School, Madison WI 1998-99**

				Father Dushack, Pastor Sr. Kathleen Loughrin, Principal Mrs. Barry, Secretary Sr. Mary Therese, Rel. Ed.
				Sr. Patrice McGovern Mr. Schuchardt, Maintenance Coor. Mr. Thao, Custodian Mrs. Dowc, Playground Supervisor
				Mrs. Fulligan, Hot Lunch Coor. Ms. Simmet, Kindergarten Mrs. Russell, Grade 1 P.M. Mrs. P. Stevens, Grade 1 A.M.
				Mrs. Rifo, Grade 2 Mrs. T. Stevens, Grade 3 Mrs. Eshun, Grade 4 Mrs. McKenna, Grade 5
				Mrs. Wainish, Grade 6 Mrs. Alcala, Grade 8 Mrs. Alenber, Grade 7 Mr. Thornton, Phy. Ed.
				Mrs. Robinson, Music Ms. Smogolecki, Spanish Mrs. Walker, Grade 1 Assis/Daycare Mrs. Hanson, Title I Teacher NOT PICTURED: Mrs. McGuire, Counselor Mrs. Selje, Band

## Endowment Fund

On May 28, 1993, Bishop Wirz and Msgr. Raymond Klass, Vicar General of the Diocese approved the formation of the St. James School Endowment Fund. Both school parents and the Education Commission asked that this Fund be established with a goal of \$1,000,000. The idea of an endowment fund came from both parents of the school and the Education Commission. Msgr. Doug Dushack and Fr. Harry Lauters, Sr. Kathleen along with parents and parishioners were the organizing force to form the Endowment Fund and market it.

Dale Otradovec, parishioner and parent of alums has been instrumental from the beginning in guiding the Endowment Fund. Dale is still the person keeping track of the Fund for the school.

**Fundraising** during the 1990s included Market Day, Gift Wrap sale, and the Annual Italian dinner. The now well-attended **Spring Auction** began with a silent and a live auction started in the 90s and continues to be a major fundraiser for the school.

Under the leadership of Sister Kathleen, St. James School received accreditation from Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association in 1998. The school celebrated the International Year of the Family in November 1994.



Mrs. Robinson

Music continued to be important part of the school curriculum. Shirley Robinson, a retired public-school teacher, joined the staff in the 90s. Mrs. Robinson soon became a part of the school family. Continuing the school Christmas program, Mrs. Robinson empowered the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to set the theme for the program and write and direct it. She encouraged all students to share their musical talents at Mass, during special performances, and at the Christmas program.

Band was another special opportunity for the students. The school contracted with a band teacher to provide lessons and direct a school band. Musically motivated students tried out for the parochial school honors band that rehearsed at Edgewood High School weekly and then put on a spring concert.

**Alumni coaches:** Despite being smaller than many of the other parochial schools, St. James continued to do well in sports. Johanne Grinde Caamal

remembers winning the League Volleyball championship against a much bigger Queen of Peace in 8th grade. The winning coach was St. James School Alumna, Jan Annen Lombardino.

St. James has had many alumni come back to help coach St. James teams as well as many parents of students. From Johanne fondly remembers two other alumni who coached her basketball team: Matt Tiller and Tim Moschkau. Tim is now a school parent. The girls loved Tim and Matt, even if the coaches sometimes found the adolescent girls challenging.

Johanne appreciated the diversity of her class and the many opportunities to participate in extra activities, including Mass as a server, lector, and musician. Classes took turns planning the liturgy for the school Masses. Mrs. Eshun trained the servers and helped with Mass planning.

Other memories from the 90s included Family Skate Nights at Fast Forward, special teachers, the mean-sounding dog behind the fence, Fr. Doug's friendly dog, the End-of-the School Year Play Day and "Snack Attack" sponsored by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. The students liked being able to buy snacks after school and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders learned how to conduct a business.

### Special Programs



In the 1990's, St. James hosted a special evening event for Alumni, School Parents, and Parishioners: **The Spring Fling Casino Night**. Alumna, Bonnie Hocking, provided hors d'oeuvres. Bonnie was well known for her great culinary talents from her years of working at Ella's Deli. The evening provided good food, a great social evening and gambling with

paper money.



**Music Man**-In April, 1999, the musical and drama talents of our St. James students were on great display when they performed the **Music Man**. Uriah Rinzel played the role of Professor Harold Hill and Emma Lange-Novak was Marian, the Librarian. Mrs. Shirley Robinson, Music



Teacher for the school, was the Director of the play. It took students and staff from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade to produce this production. Even the Band played an important role in the 1999 play. It was a big production but both the players and audience alike loved the performance.



1999-The Music Man



'Music Man' staged

MADISON — Students at St. James School here recently presented the musical "The Music Man" directed by Shirley Robinson.

Uriah Rinzel played Harold Hill and Emma Lange-Novak was Marian. Students and teachers from kindergarten through eighth grade took part.

One unit of music St. James students had studied this year was musicals. In order to see how important each part is to the whole, presenting a musical seemed the challenge.

The students enjoyed all the music from the opening "You Got Trouble" to "Seventy-Six Trombones," from "Gary, Indiana" to "The Wells Fargo Wagon." More important was the process of working together and en-

—John Rielly photos

Harold Hill (played by Uriah Rinzel, above) warns citizens they've got "trouble in River City" in the St. James School production of "The Music Man." Students of all ages took part in the elaborate production, complete with the school band, pictured at right.



1999-The Music Man



1998 (The Music Man)  
"Pick-a-Little, Talk-a-Little"

**Talent Shows:** Students of any age could try out for the Talent Shows that would be performed each year in the School Auditorium. Competition was strong which led to lots of nervous students for both the try-outs and the performances. Does anyone remember the cleverly costumed "The Three Little Pigs" by three 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in 1992 and "I Heard It Through The Grapevine"—The California Raisin song?

### Education about Drugs and Smoking

The dangers of smoking and drugs were emphasized through the D.A.R.E. program. The students who were slated to graduate high school in the year 2000 participated in a state campaign sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to be the smoke-free class of 2000. They put on a play and participated in special activities as they progressed through school. **(Check out the singing in the Interview by our alumnae. Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/rIHL6saBmyo>**

## Service

Helping with all kinds of projects has always been a part of being a student at St. James School. In 1976, Fr. DeBock asked Emmett Schuchardt and Dorothy Dittmann to investigate what has become a famous part of the Fall for St. James. Together, Dorothy and Emmett found an elderly parishioner who had the original recipe for the pfeffernuesse cookies that have been made every year since. Since every cookie needed to be hand rolled, many hands of students and parents alike were needed and they came and rolled cookies. The Fall Festival, the Spaghetti Dinners and even the Pork Hock and Sauerkraut Dinners needed the efforts of our students and parents.



Emmett Schuchardt

**1990's Moments:** Science Fairs, Field Trips (even to see Bucky), The Spring Auction began.

**1990:** Silhouettes of every student in the school

**1991:** Market Day begins as a big fund raiser for the school.

**1993:** Jump for Heart

**1995** 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass for the School,

**1996:** Field Trip to Camp Randall, St. Nick visits the school

**1997:** The Sound of Music

**1998:** Skating in the gym begins, Las Posadas

**1999:** The Music Man, RSVP (Retired Seniors Visiting Program), Parents and Reading Connect Program

**Conclusion:** During the 1990s, the school attracted a diversity of families. As the only school in "inner city," parents who worked downtown or on campus or in one of the two nearby hospitals appreciated the school's location near their workplace which made it easier for them to volunteer at the school.



And so, the "little school with a big heart" founded by German immigrants continues to serve all who walk through her doors.

(See pictures on next page and at this link:

<https://www.thegoodshepherdmadison.org/photos/view/id/66690>



Class of 1990 celebrating on Graduation night.



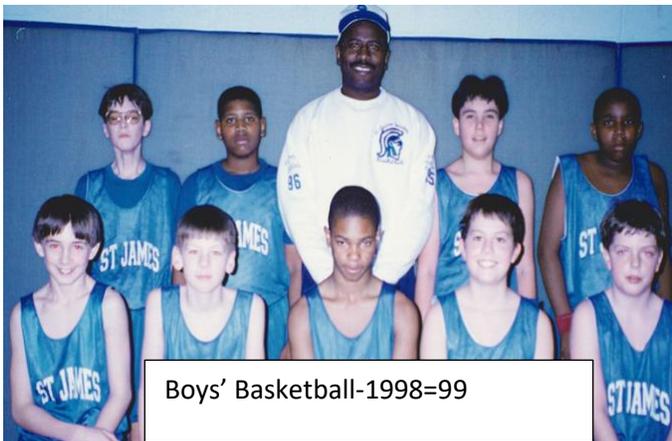
1996-one of many field trips



1998 Our Staff in the Christmas Program  
The Sound of Music



1998-The Sound of Music



Boys' Basketball-1998=99



1995-96 Volleyball