

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL SPRING 2020



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Mission Statement

St. Pius X High School is a Catholic community dedicated to the education of the whole person in an environment where extraordinary care and concern for the individual is ordinary.

Vision Statement

We, the Catholic learning community of St. Pius X High School, strive to maintain recognized excellence in all educational programs for students of all abilities. We strive to impart Christian ethical principles of living to students, preparing them to be productive and contributing members of a global society. We, as members of the St. Pius X High School community, seek to challenge each other individually to become lifelong learners in mind, body, and soul.



From the President, Jim Lehn



As we conclude our 60th anniversary year, I want to say thank you to the many constituencies that make up the St. Pius X High School family.

- Students, thank you for your willingness and adaptability as we rapidly pivoted to a virtual learning environment to complete the 2019/2020 school year.
- Teachers, thank you for continuing to provide extraordinary education
 and embracing the virtual learning platform on such short notice this
 spring. Your commitment to moving beyond the traditional
 instructional model allowed our students to learn and demonstrate
 mastery of our established curriculum.
- Parents, thank you for partnering with St. Pius X to ensure that your students continued to learn and grow academically in the digital instruction model we found ourselves facing during the last few months of the school year.
- Alumni, Friends and Business Alliance members, thank you for your overwhelming support and stewardship. Your contributions and dedication allow our school to thrive and provide a vibrant, Catholic education for any student seeking to grow in mind, body and spirit.

During the latter part of the 2019/2020 school year, we found new ways to move forward. I choose to see the positives. Families are closer than ever and reconnecting. At St. Pius X, the new Wellness Center still has the new construction smell. We converted what was the weight room into the new Athletic Director's (AD) office and a visitor locker room. The new office location allows the AD direct access to the Wellness Center and the gym. As for the visitor locker room, this provides visiting teams a place to use while on our campus. We also replaced our old chair lift with a wheelchair lift. This will be very helpful for sporting events or other events in our second floor gymnasium. The new wheelchair lift also has a drop down seat for those not in a wheelchair but unable to safely use the stairs. Installation of the wheelchair lift was made possible by a grant from the Archdiocese and the funds raised at this year's Legacy Gala. Speaking of the Gala, this year's event was 100% virtual for the first time. This was uncharted territory for us and we were hopeful that our community would continue to support this event - - I was humbly overwhelmed with the support as we surpassed \$85,000!

I am also pleased to share with you news of two new positions being added to the staff beginning with the 2020/2021 school year. St. Pius X will now have a fulltime Learning Consultant and an Industrial Arts/Trades teacher. We are excited to further expand our academic support system and course offerings.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ, Jesus. Philippians 4:6



From the Principal, Karen DeCosty



Happy Anniversary Lancers! As Mr. Lehn mentioned in his message, we are wrapping up our 60th anniversary. It seems like just yesterday I was a young alumna returning to teach as we were celebrating our 40th anniversary. At that time I did not truly understand, or know, the rich history of St. Pius X and the impact it has had on our

community. Over the years I have learned so much about the founding of the school as well as many of the graduates of the school and have realized each of us play a role in this story. In another 20 years we will continue to celebrate this amazing school, and community, and all of the great things that have happened.

This year alone we have had so many exciting things happen that will impact the future of our school. Trying to narrow that down is like trying to figure out what to put in a time capsule. As we close out the 2019-2020 school year here are the things I would put into the time capsule:

- The fourth year of our House System. This was the first time we did not have students in the school that were here before the launch of the house system. This was the best year yet. It has really developed a routine and personality of its own at this point. In fact, April 28th marked the 4 year anniversary of this system that I believe has had a positive impact on our school by the way it helps strengthen our already strong sense of community.
- Classroom Updates. Over the past few years we have been blessed to
 receive grants from the Roman Catholic Foundation to update different
 classrooms. First it was all three science rooms. Next we were able to
 update the lower level of the annex into a more conducive working
 space for new programs. Now I am excited to announce the 2020-2021
 school year will see an updated art room! We will be tearing down walls
 and putting in new flooring and lights. These are in addition to the new
 Wellness Center, the first new construction since the school opened.
- Curriculum Updates. In 20 years our community will see how we have kept up with the times as we continue to revise our curriculum and our course offerings. Over the years we have added courses such as Forensic Science, Engineering and Design, Coding and Robotics. We are excited to announce a new course beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. While we are still deciding on the official title of the course, it will offer the opportunity for those who are interested in a career in a trade to learn a bit more about it. It will include, but is not limited to, both the understanding and basic engineering behind things like electrical circuits, simple mechanics, and HVAC. Since we do not have a shop, this year long course will take field trips to see how what they are learning is applied in the field.

We are also excited to announce that we will have a full time Learning Consultant/Interventionist on staff. This person will work directly with our diagnosed learning student needs as well as analyze collected data to help us find ways to support any student. I would like to thank Mr. Greg Ferguson for the many years he has been our Learning Consultant and to thank him for being a resource in this transition. I would also like to thank Ms. Czmarko for taking on many of the duties a Learning Consultant would be doing if one was on staff full time. This new position will allow for us to support our students even better, allow for us to make data driven decisions within our curriculum, and allow for Ms. Czmarko more time to focus on the Dean of Students and Counselor roles.

God has done a wonderful job watching over St. Pius X High School and its community for the past 60 years and I know he will continue to watch over us and be proud as we enjoy another 60 years of providing Catholic Education, and the "St. Pius Way"!

Business Alliance

Platinum

Mercy Hospital Jefferson Craig R. Ruble, M.D. - Orthopaedic Surgeon Sheet Metal Contractors, Inc. Tim Surdyke's Gold Star Harley-Davidson and Street Track & Trail Compi Distributing Surdyke Motorsports

Gold

All Weather Sewer Service, Inc. Animal Care Service, Inc. Arnold EyeCare - Dr. Diane (Werkmeister '80) Wilson Carrollton Bank D & S Fencing Co, Inc. Jones Animal Health Clinic Leftridge Masonry Live Stream STL Sapaugh GM Power State Farm Insurance - Sandy Vest, Twin City Toyota

Tilver

Arnold Animal Hospital Bauman Oil Distributors, Inc. Dieb Enterprises, Inc. Genuine Appliance H.W. Herrell Distributing Company The UPS Store - Festus

(Bronze

Andres's @ Oak Valley Golf Course & Resort Autumn Ridge Residences PawJama Party Kennels

Thank you to all of our Business Alliance members. Please patronize these businesses who support our school. If you want to learn more about being a member of our Business Alliance program, please contact: Jim Lehn at (636) 931-7487, ext. 141 or president@stpius.com.

Theology & Campus Ministry

From Campus Ministry Mrs. Anne Corio and Ms. Tori Aubuchon

This has been an unusual ending to the year for sure. Many Campus Ministry events had to be cancelled or done in a different way due to the pandemic. There was no annual root beer float sale to raise money for charity. Juniors were not able to go on retreat. We did not celebrate Easter Mass as a school. The senior affirmation notes, usually given at the farewell service, are being done in a totally different way. The list goes on and on for how things we planned and worked on for this year are radically different.

Jesus has a different and better plan for us this year. We started out the year with the theme of Divine Mercy, and boy, did Jesus deliver a year that would require us to put into practice the Divine Mercy message! This message was given to St. Faustina in the 1930s by Jesus Himself in which she was also instructed by Jesus to have a painting of Him made with the inscription "Jesus, I Trust in You."

Complete trust in Jesus is an integral part of the Divine Mercy message, and trust is exactly what Christ is calling us to this school year and summer. Jesus has invited all of us to place our many worries, fears, and struggles during this very uncertain time at His feet. While we don't yet know the good that God will bring out of this, it is made very clear to us during this time that we are ultimately not in control and we should allow and trust God to take control.

Starting on Good Friday, Campus Ministry invited the St. Pius X community to participate in the Divine Mercy Novena. Jesus asked for this novena to be prayed leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. As a community, we spiritually brought groups of souls to Christ's ocean of mercy as we prayed for God to have mercy on us and the whole world. This school year has been a great opportunity for spiritual growth, and we look forward to a new school year where we can be back in the St. Pius X school building together.

Virtual Learning

This spring, as the Covid-19 pandemic grew, St. Pius X faculty and administrators took steps to ensure that the school curriculum could be delivered efficiently in a virtual learning environment. Having some experience with the E-Learning initiatives implemented for some snow days in the winter, faculty underwent two days of intense training on using Google's G-Suite, especially tools such as Classroom and Hangouts. The training was held March 17 and 18, right at the start of the quarantine. Teacher and Technology Coordinator Kevin Halley and teacher Kathy Thompson led the training.

"The teachers have been great," Thompson said. "Many have been working outside of their traditional teaching comfort zone, learning new methods of providing instruction and allowing a variety of ways for students to demonstrate mastery. I've been excited to hear several teachers comment that they have found useful tools and strategies that they will continue to implement in their traditional classroom after this virtual learning time is over."

"I am so proud of the challenge that our entire community has taken on," said principal Karen DeCosty '93. "It was our attempt to try to keep one thing normal for our students....school. A parent recently shared with me that what we are doing is not normal. What we are doing is extraordinary, innovative and heroic. I believe these three words explain our Lancer community, not just during this time, but always."

"The coursework is equivalent to what we would be receiving if we were actually at school, even if it may not seem that way," said senior Gabrielle Werner. "Our learning was not put to a halt by any means, which really shows the perseverance and dedication St. Pius has."

While teachers and students alike would prefer to have finished the school year in the building, it speaks to the educational excellence of the school and particularly the dedication of everyone involved that the school year reached a successful, albeit unique, conclusion in mid-May, with everyone hoping to be back in traditional classrooms come August.







House System

The House System at St. Pius X celebrated its 4th anniversary in April of this year. During these past few years we have seen bonds form between all classes, educational growth, and lots of memories made.

"The benefits of the House System that I see are communication and cooperation between seniors and freshmen. I see people who never would have spoken on a normal day brought together by something as seemingly silly as a chair race. The House System really does allow everyone the chance to better connect with people outside of their regular social circles." -Molly Laiben '22









The St. Pius X art students have been hard at work these past months creating projects to include in our virtual art show. They focused on many different artistic categories including Surrealism, Pre-Columbian, Contemporary, and Creative Strategies of Social Distancing. The seniors were able to create a project of their choice using a medium they learned over the past four years. To view more of their art, please visit our website.



Bouquet of Emotion Sunita S.



I Live Outside the Box Kacey F.



Stacey's Mom Madison K.



Rebirth Abigail W.



Verbose Mind Colleen K.

Choir and Band

For the Fine Arts Festival, the Concert Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Chorus and Beginning Band students recorded their individual parts for a song and sent them to Mr. Roskowske, who then put them into a digital audio program and combined them into a finished product. Each member also contributed a picture of themselves or other group members to put into a slideshow to accompany the songs. Several students won awards this semester-Bailey Macke, Clara Kokenge, and Magdalena Kokenge all received Gold Medals, and Adam Bishop received a Silver Medal at the District Solo and Small Ensemble contest at Festus High School on March 7th. Maggie Key, Rose Surdyke and Dirina Selmon were all named to the Jefferson County Honors Band that performed at Herculaneum High School on March 14th.





The Caparet







The St. Pius X Circle Theatre is proud to have held the Cabaret 2020 in early spring. This was the third annual performance of Circle Theatre's variety style show. This year featured the one act play, The *Devil in Sherman Marsh* by Don Zolidis, alongside a slew of other comedic and dramatic events. There was also a special performance by the Jazz Band, led by St. Pius X Music Director Ron Roskowske.

Student of the Month



Cianna Fanger-White

January

"The St. Pius way to me means going out of your way to help others, being a leader and knowing that the choices that you make do have effects."



Sydney Proffer February

"St. Pius X has a very small and welcoming atmosphere. I really enjoy just how involved the teachers are with our lives and I feel like I could talk to many of them for advice if any problem came my way."



Sara Kutilek March

"The first time I walked through the doors it immediately felt like home. I knew that I was going to really enjoy my high school experience here and that I would have a family to share that with. Even though the St. Pius community is quite small, it is strong."



Rosemary Surdyke April

"What I like most about St. Pius X High School is the extensive opportunities offered to me by my teachers and my peers. I can be involved in numerous groups and clubs throught the school year."



Moah Pocilujko Mau

"Since St. Pius X is smaller compared to other high schools, the teachers are able to have a better relationship with their students, and I think that this allows for the teachers to better help their students and see them succeed."



PAVE THE WAY...LEGACY WALKWAY

The front entrance to St. Pius X High School is paved with individually inscribed bricks. An already popular idea, Lancer Landmark bricks are a timeless way to honor St. Pius X families, graduates, parents, faculty members, and friends. It is an inviting walkway, enjoyed by everyone, leading to our front foyer. Symbolically, it bridges alumni, parents, and friends to future generations of the St. Pius X High School family.

Winter Sports Recap

Boy's basketball had a 20-8 record in Chris Miller's first year as coach, with five of those losses by one or two points. The senior-laden team earned the district title, the squad's first since 2006, with a heart-stopping 45-44 victory over Steelville, only to see the season end in a similarly exciting game in sectional play, a 57-56 loss to Ava. Other highlights include winning the Valley Park HS Tournament early in the year and a thrilling overtime win against Festus in the Jefferson County Shootout. Three seniors are continuing their basketball careers in college.

Girl's basketball posted a 20-5 mark, the team's best win total since the 2010 team went 26-3. Season highlights include winning both the Orchard Farms HS and Valley Park HS tournaments and a 13-1 start to the season. Junior AJ Agers found herself amongst St. Louis area leaders in points per game, three-pointers and steals at season's end. With just one starter lost to graduation, the team looks primed for another successful season in 2020-21.

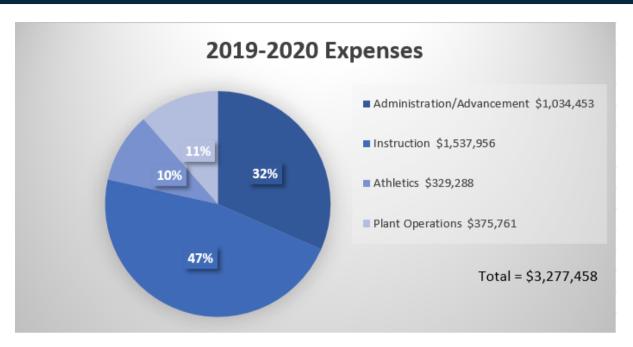


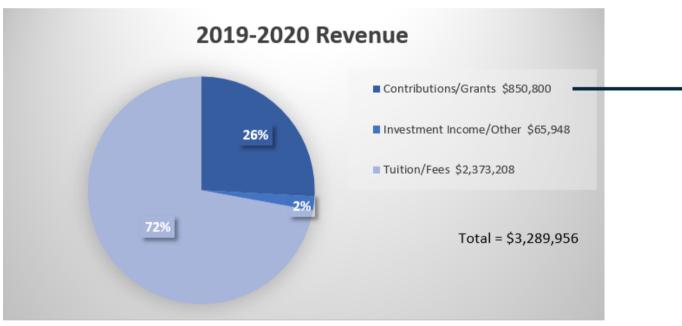


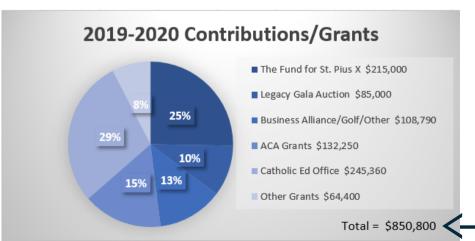
Admissions



2019 - 2020 Financial Report







1 enlisting in the United States Navy 1 starting full-time job May 18 78 attending college

78 students attending 32 different colleges in 12 states

12 attending two-year/technical college

attending four-year college/university

59 students earned \$2,618,956 in accepted merit/talent scholarships as of May 15, 2020



College Matriculations

Benedictine College (KS)

College of the Ozarks (MO)

Columbia College (MO)

Drury University (MO)

Hillsdale College (MI)

Jefferson College (MO)

Lindenwood University (MO)

Lindenwood Offiversity (IV

Maryville University (MO)

McKendree University (IL)

Middle Tennessee State University (TN)

Missouri Baptist University (MO)

Missouri State University (MO)

Missouri University of Science and Technology (MO)

Murray State University (KY)

Ranken Technical College (MO)

Rockhurst University (MO)

Sacramento State University (CA)

Santa Barbara City College (CA)

Southeast Missouri State University (MO)

Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville (SIUE)

Spring Hill College (AL)

St. Ambrose University (IA)

St. Louis College of Pharmacy (MO)

St. Louis Community College (MO)

State Technical College (MO)

Truman State University (MO)

Tulane University (LA)

U. of Mary (ND)

U. of Missouri - St. Louis (MO)

U. of Missouri-Columbia (MO)

U. of the Incarnate Word (TX)

Webster University (MO)

A Continuing Commitment to the Students of St. Pius X Lancer Endowment at St. Pius X (L.E.A.P.)

In the early 1980s, Rev. Donald T. Dalton gathered a group of St. Pius X founders, patrons and parents. That group resolved to establish a fund to assist in tuition payments where there was a need.

The Lancer Endowment at St. Pius X (L.E.A.P.) is a 501(c)(3) independent tax-exempt corporation that functions through an eleven-member Board of Directors who are appointed for three-year staggered terms. All are volunteers deeply committed to the belief that tuition assistance is an investment in young people who hold the promise of tomorrow.

The LEAP Board oversees an endowment which funds a portion of tuition assistance each school year at St. Pius X High School. Their primary responsibility is to grow the endowment and work to preserve the principal fund through careful management.

This is just one example of the many members of the St. Pius X family who contribute "time, talent and treasure" in support of the extraordinary students of St. Pius X.

The L.E.A.P. Board of Directors

Mark Bishop

Tiffany Charleville

Carey Filer

Paul Flynn

Jacquelyn Moran Jeff Price

John Price

Michael Turley

Anne Wiehagen

Lancer Endowment at St. Pius X (L.E.A.P.)

PO Box 760

Festus, MO 63028

leapinquiries@gmail.com • (314) 369-7257

Class of 2020



Legacy Families



Victoria Arriaga Brenda (Nahlik '79) Arriaga



Carson Fischer Anthony Fischer '84



Kacey & Molly Flanagan Peggy (Condon '91) Flanagan



Nathaniel Hahn Christopher Hahn '93



Madison Kurzweil Stacey (Burger '91) Kurzweil



Sara Kutilek Eric Kutilek '86



Emily Laiben Michael Laiben '92 Mark '69 and Joyce (Meyer '70) Laiben



Marissa LaMartina Candice (Queen '92) LaMartina



Nicholas Mathews Kimberly (Reissing '88) Aldridge



Isabelle McAfee James McAfee '83



Caly Otec Charles '82 and Shelley (Overberg '82) Otec



Lillian Ott Daniel '97 and Rebecca (Eldridge '98) Ott Paul Ott '76



Ryan Passig Thomas Passig '88



Tristan Jacobson Heather (Lang '94) and Aaron Portell '94



Sydney Proffer Mary (Held '88) Proffer



Cody Ruegge Amy (Baker '97) Ruegge



DiRina Selmon Della Selmon '88 Laura Selmon '86 Josalyn (Selmon '84) Dunlop



Sunita Siebert Jane (Gettinger '84) Siebert



Rosemary Surdyke Tim '83 and Janice (Laiben '89) Surdyke Mark '69 and Joyce (Meyer '70) Laiben



Gabriel Verzola Erwin Verzola '90

Featured Alumni: Erin (Blaha '04) Muth

If you have a story you'd like to share, fill out the Featured Alumni form at www.stpius.com/featuredalumni.

It was late March when Erin (Blaha '04) Muth was confronted with the news that her father Steve had been diagnosed with Covid-19. Feelings of despair and hopelessness were compounded by the inability to visit him in the hospital because of the strict visit restrictions brought on by the transmissibility of the virus.

By the time Erin was made aware of her father's status, the St. Clare Hospital had already put him in full isolation. During that time, Muth told KSDK 5 On Your Side, the family had very little contact with him "They wouldn't allow any visitors," she explained. The infection progressed to a point where her father's heart stopped and they had to do CPR to resuscitate him. Afterward, Erin thought "that was going to be the end. We had no communication with him since he was intubated." Muth wanted to make sure to say her last words to



him. She was able to speak with him on the phone, a nurse was able to host a video chat with him the next day for the entire family. "He started to make improvements every day after that point, and I have to think the communication made a difference. I know that's part of what made him turn around," she said.

A nurse came up with an idea to get iPads donated. That's when Muth thought, "I could maybe donate some iPads!" The SSM Foundation reached out to help. Together, they came up with a plan to get iPads for the ICU and COVID-19 units.

After initially donating the \$8,000 to supply the 25 iPads, Erin and her husband had hoped to get a few donations from friends and family to recoup some of that money so they sent out a few emails and texts. Lots of people wanted to donate online in some way, so Erin created a gofundme.com account and donations started pouring in - \$9,000 in two days to start. In addition to the original 25 iPads donated to St. Clare Hospital, the next batch of 31 iPads will go to DePaul Hospital. Erin is working with the SSM Foundation, so at this time, all of the iPads will stay in the SSM Health network. She has been surprised by how generous her friends and family have been, but it has also been shocking how many people who donated don't even know them. She truly believes that finally having communication with her father is what gave him the extra push he needed to overcome the virus.



Today, Steve is recovering remarkably well and is expected to make a full recovery.

Erin says that serving others was emphasized at St. Pius X, and that resonated with her. She eventually chose a career in nursing to serve others. Also, at St. Pius X, she felt like part of a community. There was a sense that we are all in this together, we should help each other and be kind. She has searched for this sense of community in the places she has lived and it is hard to find. She currently resides in Des Moines, IA with her husband Andrew and children, Alexander, Elijah and Oliver. To stay up to date visit Erin's Go Fund Me Account at https://www.gofundme.com/f/ipads-for-covid-patients-to-commuicate-with-family

Class Reunions



Do you have a reunion planned? We would love to share it!

Class of 2000

20th Reunion | Amanda (Pagano) Mueth | (573) 275-7138 | Fall 2020

Class of 1970

50th Reunion | Thomas Tanner | Twtanner_98@yahoo.com | (408) 858-5679 Facebook Group: St. Pius X Festus 1970 Class 50th reunion | October 2020

Alumni Association Relaunch



If you would like to join a committee or volunteer please email Diana Parker at dparker@stpius.com. The next Alumni Association meeting will be June 10th. Please email Diana Parker to confirm the location.

Legacy Gala Wirtual Kuction

St. Pius X High School was the first to hold a black tie gala (Bona Fortuna Auction) in 1984 and 36 years later, we were the first to hold a Virtual Gala Auction in Jefferson County! Although it was not the night of hand shaking, hugging and reminiscing that our guests look forward to, it was a grand success on so many other levels! It brought us together as a community in a time when we could not "come together."

We were excited to share our beautiful new Wellness Center, and our current project of replacing the chair lift with a wheelchair lift that will enable so many more alumni, parents, grandparents and friends of St. Pius X to join us for so many more events, like sports and Grandparents Day, to name a few! The Wheelchair Lift is well underway and will be ready for next year's Gala.

St. Pius X High School's 60th Anniversary Year comes to a close with this event, but we are continuing to pioneer and lead by example as those before us did for us. So THANK YOU to those who supported us on every level, whether through the purchase of raffle tickets, champagne, auction items or donations to our Wheelchair Lift or Friends of Father Dalton Tuition Assistance. Every dollar counts more than ever in our 60th year!

We are proud to report that the Virtual Gala netted just over \$85,240! However, help is still needed in reaching our goal, and donations may be mailed to the Wheelchair Fund and Friends of Father Dalton at:

St. Pius X High School Attn: Gala 1030 St. Pius Drive Festus, MO 63028







SPX Trivia Night







The SPX Trivia Night took place on Saturday, January 18th in the Ralph Boyer Gymnasium. The evening began with a moment of silence in memory of Ralph Boyer who passed away January 14th and prayer led by St. Pius X High School President, Jim Lehn. Trivia Funhouse brought their A-game challenging the 33 tables with a wide variety of questions. Many of the tables rose to the occasion while others enjoyed catching up with friends.

At the end of the night, the winning table consisted of Steve and Mary Bacon (parent of alumni), Tom and Carla LaFloure (friends of St. Pius), Don and Lori Linderer (parent of alumni), Michael and Lora Barnes (parent of alumni). A special thank you to Eddie Mattingly '05 for donating the beer for the evening. Proceeds benefit the Alumni Association Award which was able to provide five \$1,000 scholarships.



St. Pius X High School

1030 St. Pius Drive Festus, MO 63028 www.stpius.com

Address Service Requested

Parent: If this issue of the Lancer Legend is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a permanent address, please notify St. Pius X of the new address at (636) 931-7487, ext. 113 or bervin@stpius.com.



