

S A I N T

MARY

Messenger

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

We salute the graduating high school seniors of our parish. We applaud your hard work and faith commitment, appreciate your contributions to our parish community and wish you God's blessings as you embark on a new stage in your journey. We hope you will always feel welcome and loved at St. Mary Parish. God bless you!

## GROWING IN WISDOM, FAITH AND COMMUNITY

*We are grateful* for the many gifts this year's high school seniors have shared with our parish. Christy Burkemper and Steven Schaaf helped lead PSR classes, and Christy and Alex Montgomery proclaim the Word at Mass. Brice and Kyle Walsten and Jason Lund regularly serve as acolytes. Christy, Brice and Kyle were LIFE TEEN junior core team members, and Jason often helps at Knights' breakfasts. Jessica Kriszciokaitis regularly babysat RCIA participants' children during RCIA sessions this year.

Following are the seniors' pictures with their names, the schools they are graduating from—Bishop Carroll, Campus, Derby, Kapaun Mt Carmel, Mulvane or Rose Hill High School (BC, CHS, DHS, KMC, MHS or RHHS), and their plans. May they (and we) continue to grow in gratitude, wisdom and faith.



Morgan Anderson, RHHS, will go to Butler Community College, then Emporia State University, for a degree in elementary education.



Cansu Bakirci, RHHS, an exchange student with Steve and Lea Anderson, will go to college in Istanbul, Turkey to become a math teacher.



Kaylee Becker, DHS, wants to travel, model, and go to Cowley County Community College. Her goal is to become a flight attendant.



Alexandre Blanco, DHS, will be a premed student in Brazil. He lived with Diana and Luis Claudio as a foreign exchange student this year.



Emily Bright, DHS, will study social work at Hutchinson Community College, and will be a member of the dance team there.



Christy Burkemper, KMC, will attend Kansas State University (KSU), and plans to study architecture.



Arika Buzzi, DHS, English Literature major at Butler County Community College, plans to teach elementary school.



Caty Compton, DHS, will attend William Jewell College in Liberty, MO as a pre-med major.



Karly Cornejo, DHS, will attend Butler County Community College and major in business.



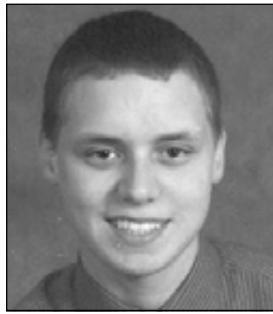
Renee Coufal, KMC, will attend Kansas State University (KSU), and plans to be a pharmacist or teacher.



Sam Daniel, DHS.



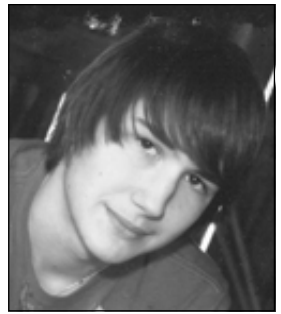
Ashley Dennes, DHS, will major in physical therapy at Texas State University, San Marcos.



Anthony Fanello, KMC, will major in accounting at Cowley and Butler Community Colleges.



Aubreigh Foos, DHS, will major in elementary education at Emporia State University.



Thomas Ford, DHS, will attend Butler and WSU for a degree in computer information sciences.



Bryan Halloran, DHS.



Katlynn Howell, DHS.



Alex Jarchow, DHS, will major in journalism at Kansas State University.



Jessica Kriszczokaitis, KMC, will study zoo science at Friends University.



Sarah Lewis, DHS.



Lauren Lollar, BC, will major in exercise science or nutrition/kinesiology at KSU.



Jason Lund, KMC, will study chemical engineering at Colorado School of Mines.



Megan Madsen, KMC, will study business at Butler County Community College.



Joshua McMillin, DHS.



Andrew McWilliams, DHS.



Alex Montgomery, KMC, plans to be a pre-med major at WSU or Newman University.



Shae Pelkowski, DHS, will study agronomy at KSU and is interested in biotechnology. He plans to be a plant geneticist.



Hilary Perren, DHS, is attending WSU and majoring in forensic science.



Kari Plagmann, DHS, will attend WSU, and plans to become a teacher.



Tessa Ring, KMC, will study nursing at Butler County Community College. She is interested in labor and delivery.



Amy Rossillon, KMC, will study business at Butler County Community College.



Steven Schaaf, DHS, will attend Drake University, studying Law, Politics & Society and Psychology.



David Schmeidler, CHS, plans to continue working for DBK Windows in Wichita for now.



Kristen Shavlik, DHS, will major in Chemistry at WSU, and plans to become a pharmacist.



Austin Shockey, KMC, will attend Butler County Community College and then Kansas University.



Cecilia Spencer, DHS.



Brice Walsten, MHS, plans to study mechanical engineering at Kansas State University.



Kyle Walsten, MHS, will attend WSU and plans to become a pharmacist.



Sarah Williams, KMC, Human Environmental Sciences major, plans to be an optometrist or elementary school teacher.



Julie Yunk, DHS.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

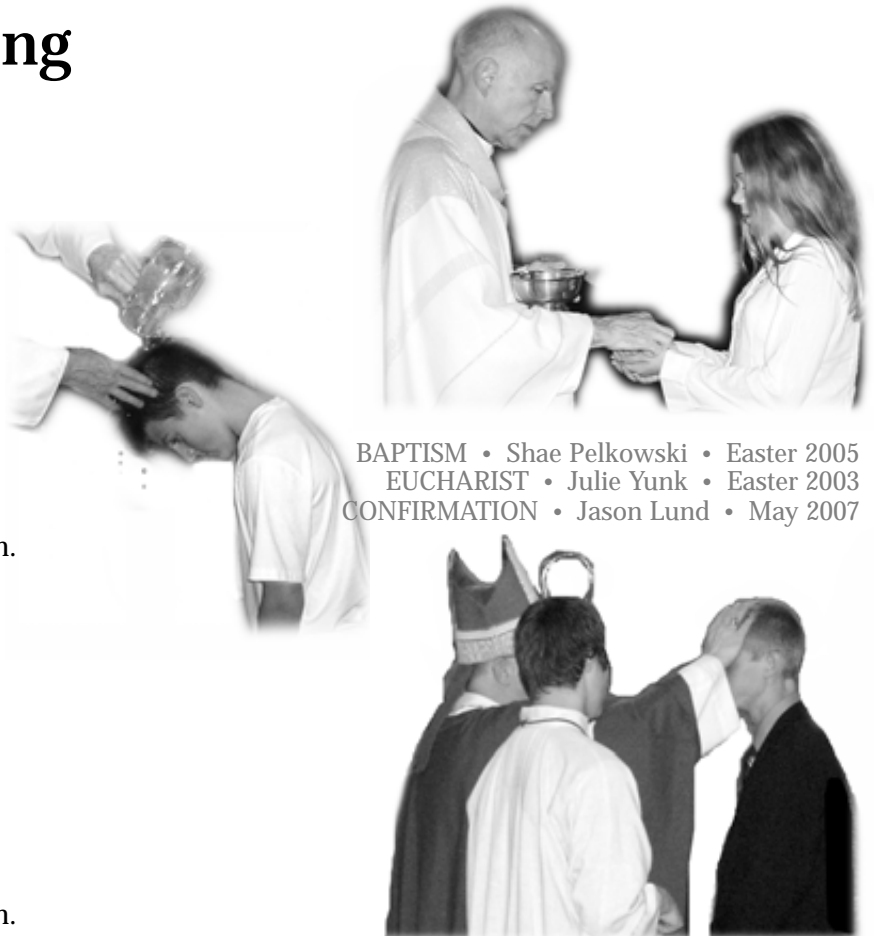
LOVING GOD,  
we thank you  
for your **abundant** gifts  
of the sacraments,  
of family, **friends**, teachers and parish.

May we always share  
your gracious **love** with others,  
listen to and respect  
those of different backgrounds,  
and **foster** a sense of stewardship for our earth.

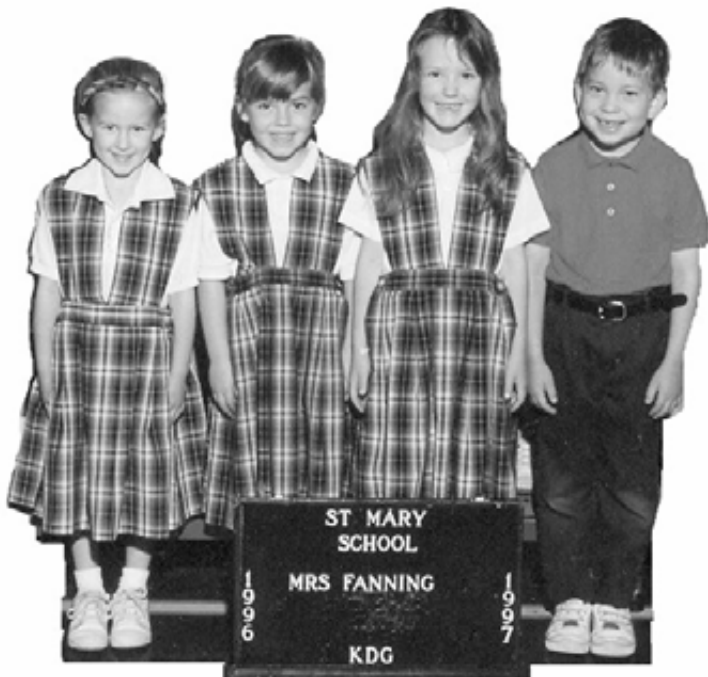
May the friendship, loyalty and laughter  
we shared so **joyously** as students  
continue to mark our personal relations,  
and may we always grow in **faith** and love.

We ask this through JESUS CHRIST,  
our LORD and brother.

Amen.



BAPTISM • Shae Pelkowski • Easter 2005  
EUCARIST • Julie Yunk • Easter 2003  
CONFIRMATION • Jason Lund • May 2007



Some members of the kindergarten class: Kari Plagmann, Lauren Lollar, Jessica Kriszciokaitis, Kevin Dana

## Many gifts, one Spirit of love

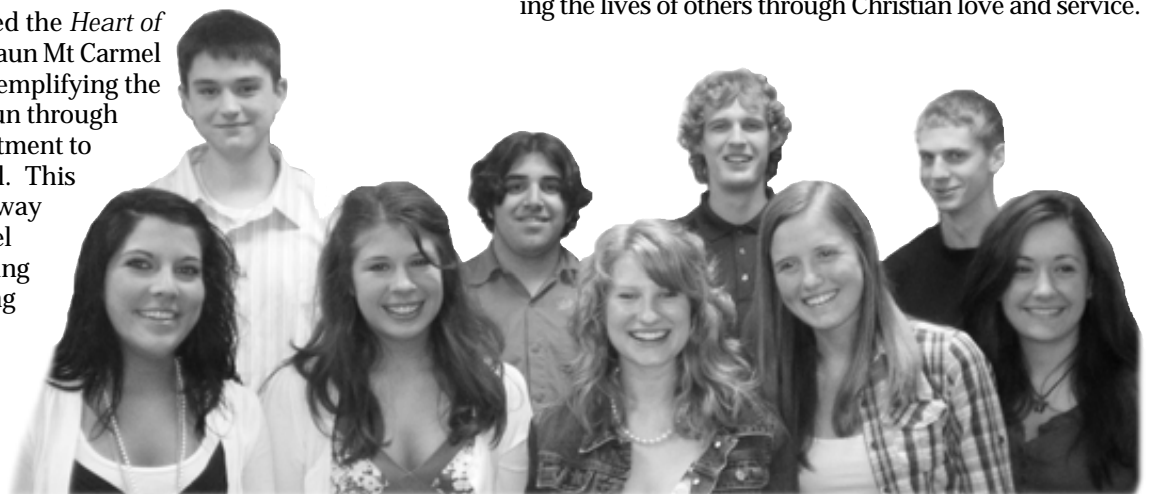
by Davi Stuhlsatz

Some members of the Class of 2009 have been life-long parishioners. Some were here in their younger years but are no longer with us, some joined in middle school, and some just came this past year. No matter the length of their time here, they have all touched our lives, and we have touched theirs. We are joined as one Body in Christ.

This year's seniors have many spiritual, academic and other gifts. **Christy Burkemper** and **Brice Walsten** received parish *Light of Christ* awards for four years of participation in youth ministry, parish life, diocesan, regional, community and school activities. **Brice** went on to receive the Region V *Light of Christ* award. **Kyle Walsten** received the parish *Outstanding Catholic Youth* award.

**Alex Montgomery** received the *Heart of the Crusader* award at Kapaun Mt Carmel High School (KMC) for exemplifying the spirit of Father Emil Kapaun through his dedication and commitment to make KMC a better school. This includes going out of his way to make other students feel welcome, actively practicing his faith and demonstrating respect for others.

**Alex** and **Tessa Ring** are both interested in careers in the medical profession and participated in the St Gianna Health Academy at KMC.



Emily Bright, Alex Montgomery, Sarah Williams, Alexandre Blanco, Caty Compton, Kyle Walsten, Renee Coufal, Jason Lund and Christy Burkemper participated in the Senior Recognition Dinner

**Caty Compton** is also interested in medicine, and received numerous scholarships and awards for academics, cross country and track. She received *national* recognition for her business acumen. Her Business and Financial Services Marketing Research Project took first place at the 2009 DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, CA out of approximately 100 other teams. She worked with Dr. Drake at Rainbow Valley Veterinary Clinic on her project, which addressed how to increase and maintain a client base in tough economic times.

**Caty** and **Steven Schaaf** were both Academic Letter recipients at DHS. **Steven** received academic scholarships from Drake and will be competing in Lincoln-Douglas Debate at Nationals in Birmingham, AL in June.

**Amy Rossillon** received the Family and Consumer Science Award at Kapaun, and **Anthony Fanello** was the Masonic Essay Contest winner.

**Christy Burkemper** and **Jason Lund** received numerous scholarships and awards. They were both named National Merit Commended Students last fall, participated in KMC's Cum Laude program, and received ACT/SAT Scholar, Kansas State Scholar, and Kansas Honor Scholar awards. In addition, **Christy** received the KMC Drafting Award and academic scholarships from KSU.

WSU awarded **Kari Plagmann**, **Kristen Shavlik**, and **Kyle Walsten** academic scholarships; **Shae Pelkowski**, **Brice Walsten** and **Sarah Williams** were recipients of KSU scholarships; and **Jessica Kriszciokaitis** received a scholarship from Friends.

These young people first learned about faith from their parents, so **thank you** first to their parents for modeling Christ's love. Thank you also to the rest of the parish. Your Stewardship and active involvement in the Mass and in parish life has helped shape these young adults. Most of them participated in faith formation at St Mary, either through the school, PSR or LIFE TEEN. In various parish ministries, they are now helping teach our faith to younger students and peers, and are touching the lives of others through Christian love and service.