St. Pius X / St. Leo School Alumni News

Fall 2026



1st row: Stacy (Mihulka) Zuerlein, Laura (Huettner) Bugay, Sue (Schimonitz) Murray, Kathy (Goodman) Gantt, Carol (Brown) Gaebler, Patty Kemler, Terri (Durkan) Staats, Jean Hutchinson. **2nd row:** Dave Masilko, Bob Banker, Larry Klein, Pam (Starman) Lowndes, Janet (Mueller) Bond, Sue (Byers) Post, Stephanie Meyers, Theresa (Cotton) Hessel, Dave Batter, Molly (Jenkins) Cohen, Linda (Filley) Fitzpatrick. **3rd row:** Blake McGill, Dave Brown, Ron Coughlin, Tom Glow, Tim Halbur, Jeff Fleming, Marty McCaslin, John Lowndes, Bess (Gruber) Searles, Danny Mulhall, Dan Lohaus, Bob McDonald.

50TH REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1976

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the 50th year reunion for the Class of 1976 on Saturday, May 9, 2026. All attendees agreed that the 50 year reunion was a huge success!

The reunion started with Mass at St. Pius X Church, which was attended by most classmates. Outstanding music for the liturgy was provided by classmates **Dave Batter, Linda Filley and Sue Schimonitz**. Then, alumni headed to school for a tour followed by dinner in the cafeteria featuring school lunch staples from back in the day: St. Pius X sloppy joes and sugar cookies made using the original recipes. The reunion planning was led by **Patty Kemler**.

It was an incredible evening of catching up and reminiscing. Discussions were endless of teachers, who was in which group for classes, school lunches, recess, dodge ball, attending Mass every day, how little everything in the school looks today…..the list goes on and on.

The group had fun singing the “School Fight Song” and noticed the little ways the words have changed over the years.

The most important take aways from the evening were the core values, faith, and sense of security the Class of 1976 received from their formative years at our elementary school and how the alumni have carried these values with them throughout their lives. The alumni agreed that St. Pius X helped mold them into the great people and classmates they are today.

The Class of 1976 found their first friends in life at our school, and they have become friends for life. It was also an honor to remember classmates who have passed away. Once a Panther, always a Panther!

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PANTHER HAPPENINGS

Class of 1961
Leonard Rocky Lohman, Jr. has two adult children, Jeffrey and Bradley. He and his wife, Mari, reside in Bellevue, NE. Leonard is now retired and enjoying time with this family.

Class of 2008
Zoe Ursick and Patrick Davlin (2009) welcomed twins, Colm Mitchell and Margaret Ann in August 2026.



Class of 2010
Joe Brown and his wife, Molly, welcomed a baby girl, Eloise Ann, in September 2026. Eloise joins big brother, Sawyer.

Class of 2011
Jamie Cimino graduated from Kansas City Medical School in May 2026. She started her OB-GYN Residency at Creighton University in Omaha in July 2026.

Class of 2014
On September 13, 2026, **Emma Newman** got engaged to be married to Josh Lohr.

Class of 2015
Mitchell Blaine received the Walter Scott Scholarship at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. Mitchell has a BS degree in Molecular Biology from Rockhurst University. He served one year in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Bend, OR. He entered the Scott Scholars program at UNMC in July 2025, a month before the beginning of medical school.

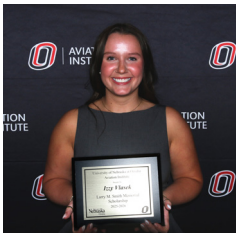


Class of 2016
Delano Lockhart resides in Portland, Oregon and works at the Nike World Headquarters as an Apparel Technical Designer.

Class of 2017
In August 2026, **Nolan Gorczyca** got engaged to be married to his fiancé, Rylee.



Class of 2021
Izabella Vlasek was awarded the Larry M. Smith Memorial Scholarship by the UNO Aviation Institute. This prestigious award recognizes excellence and dedication in aviation studies. Izzy is currently majoring in Aviation-Professional Flight at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with the goal of becoming a professional pilot.



Class of 2022
After graduating from Mercy High School in 2026, **Rae Barton** now attends Creighton University in the College of Arts and Sciences studying Communication on a Pre-Law track. In addition to receiving the Grit Scholarship which covers her full tuition, she has been accepted into the Dean's Fellows Program and Pre-Professional Law Program.



James Schartz and Olivia Schartz were both awarded the Grit Scholarship at Creighton University. The Grit Scholarship is a selective award funded by the Charles and Mary Heider Family Foundation that provides full tuition to incoming students who show exceptional perseverance, passion, and determination.

Olivia graduated from Duchesne Academy in May 2026, and she is now studying nursing at Creighton.



James graduated from Creighton Prep, and he plans to study business at Creighton. James also had one of his photographs selected to be in the 9th Annual Nebraska Governor's Residence Art Show. His work, "Hawaiian Waves" was on display throughout the summer of 2026.



Class of 2023



Jay App was named a Semifinalist in the National Merit® Scholarship Program. Jay scored in the top 1% of the over 1.2 million high schoolers who took the PSAT. He has the opportunity to pursue the title of National Merit Finalist. Jay will graduate from Creighton Prep in May 2027.



CLASS OF 1964 REUNION

A wonderful group of alumni from the Class of 1964 joined together on Saturday, August 22, 2026 for a reunion. The festivities were organized by **Karen (Mullen) McElroy.** The classmates gathered in the St. Pius X Parish Center where they enjoyed food, spirits and fellowship. They enjoyed sharing stories and reconnecting with their classmates.



CLASS OF 1972

In May 2026, the Creighton Prep Class of 1976 celebrated its 50th high school reunion. Many in attendance were also graduates of St. Pius X in 1972. **Tom Sutko** shared this photo of Pius Panthers who got to spend time together at this event.





OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The St. Pius X / St. Leo School community extends our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Jim Ehler	Class of 1964
Lucy Franks	Class of 1964
Gary Richer	Class of 1964

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Memorials and Tributes are a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Listed below are donations received from or in honor of Alumni for the SPSL Education Endowment Trust Fund between March 5, 2026 – September 15, 2026 (Alumni designated by graduation year).

John ("Jack") Alfers, Jr.
- Doug Ewald (1977)

Cathy Burkhard
- Rick and Pam (Albrecht) Adams (1968)
- Christopher Cold (1971)
- William and Linda (Simpson) Gillespie (1988)
- Shirlee Goaley
- Joyce Gubbels
- Dick (1963) and Maureen (Jenkins) Kizer (1965)
- Diane and Bill Ojile (1974)
- Mary Seger (1972)
- Peggy Wagoner (1968)
- Ellen Weist
- Maurice Zach

Thomas Findley
- Jim and Jean Ambrose
- Thomas and Kimberly Egan
- Tom Elser
- Max and Beth (McCarthy) Engel (1989)
- James and Sarah Findley
- Richard and Judy Fitzgerald
- Harry and Judith Gaylor
- Matthew and Melissa Gerard
- Mack and Barbara Greder
- Shirlee Goaley
- Joyce Gubbels
- Molly Haske
- Cindy and Scott Heider
- Catherine Hilgenberg
- Tom and Margaret (Guziec) Hoarty (1962)
- Eric Gautschi and Colleen Hoarty (1986)
- James Kasher
- Donald and Donna (Anderson) Kalhoff (1977)
- David and Marilyn Keller
- Erin and David Keller (1980)
- Stephanie Kremla and Dustin Heng
- Lesley (Merrick) Lowe (1986)
- Carol Maginn
- The Maher Family
- Larry and Carol McChesney
- Kelly McDonald and Bill Jackson
- Kathleen McKay
- Mary McQuade
- Bill and Peg Monzu
- Mike and Sigrid Moylan
- Catherine Grow and David Packard
- Tom and Anne Pogge
- Julianne Pribyl
- Ron and Teri Quinn
- John and Amy Reefe
- Jan Richardson
- Joel and Erin Russell
- Julie Fitzgerald Ryan (1984)
- Sally and William Sibbernsen (1983)
- Terry and Kathleen Sibbernsen
- Susan Shoemaker
- Jenni Shukert
- Kevin Thompson
- Joseph and Chris Vacanti
- Ron and Rosie Volkmer
- Janelle Ward
- Mark and Patricia Weber
- Ellen Weist
- Gary Witt

Pat Franks
- Rita Bianchi (1966)
- Therese and Rich Bollerup (1966)
- Robert Leavitt (1965)
- Katheryn (Lohaus) McGillivray (1977)
- Colleen Dwyer Morrissey
- Cheryl Freese
- Jean McGill
- Mary Coyle
- Linda Rix
- Jen Martinez
- Catherine (Brown) Pakiz (1962)
- Carol Brown
- Julie Sladovnik
- Katie Chisholm
- Thomas and Margaret (Guziec) Hoarty (1962)
- Ron and Rosie Volkmer

James Kineen
- D.C. Bradford III and Patricia Bradford
- Marcia Bredar
- Kathleen Brennan
- Tim and Patricia Buechler (1975)
- Michael and Kathleen (Kirk) Burns (1978)
- Rosemary Nolan Byam
- Michelle Finnegan Drew
- Jerry Dyksterhuis

Max and Beth (McCarthy) Engel (1989)
Steven and Kathleen Ferrarini
Shirlee Goaley
Mack and Barbara Greder
Joyce Gubbels
Thomas and Mary Kay (Maginn) Halpin (1979)
Robert Howard
Cindi and Terri Huntington (1970)
Renee and Josh Kizer (1968)
Susan and T. Edward Kizer (1977)
Leisa Kolberg
The Marian Girls-Ann Cripe
Barbara Marchese
Mike and Nancy McCarthy
Jean McGill and Jane McGill (1985)
Thomas and Sara McKeon
John and Mary Monson
Mike and Sigrid Moylan
Daniel O'Halloran
Wayne and Sarita Penka
Alan and Christine Peters
Derald and Susan Peters
Tom and Anne Pogge
Greg Schatz
Terry and Cramel Simmons
Susan Shoemaker
Ted and Julie Stessman
Karla and Joseph Townley (1976)
Ellen Weist

Kathleen Lowndes
Tom and Liz Duggan
Connie Dunham
Shirlee Goaley
Stewart and Carol (Brown) Gaebler (1976)
Jacque Hamburger
Brian Hamburger
John and Anne (Weist) Kalkowski (1985)
Margaret Lowndes
Melissa Starman (1983) and Chad McCain
Leslie and Tom McCaslin (1984)
Jean McGill
Wayne and Sarita Penka
Jim and Becky Reilly
Debbie Schmadeke
Jeff Starman (1980)
Colleen (Pulte) Starman (1979)
Karla and Joseph Townley (1976)
Ellen Weist
Beth (Weist) Zeigler (1989)
Mary Jo Ziskey

John Maginn
Ann and Tom Berger (1963)
Kurt and Kathleen (Kineen) Bollish (1981)
Michael and Regina Boyd
Joe Byam (1966)
Shannan and Brad Brommer
Daniel and Natalie Burkey
Linda and Mary Campbell
Michael and Cherie Carlson
Sharon and Curtis Dall
Teri and Keith Deras (1971)
Frank and Patricia Dowd
Beth (McCarthy) Engel (1989)
Bob and Mary Foley
Shirlee Goaley
Mary Kay (Maginn) Halpin (1979)
Colleen and Mitch Johnson
John and Mary Jean Kasher
Mike and Joanne Van Keirsbilck
Ann Kineen
Dick (1963) and Maureen (Jenkins) Kizer (1965)
Barrett and Christine Knudson
Steven and Monica (Kizer) Lanik (1979)
Jean and Jane McGill (1985)
Carol Maginn
Paul Maginn
Gary and Mary Marasco (1959)
Barbara Marchese
Jeannette Maxwell
Mary Kay Miller
Mike and Sigrid Moylan
Edmund Murphy
Stephen and Nancy Nielsen
Janell Nesler
Megan Palmer
Wayne and Sarita Penka
Tom and Anne Pogge
Greg and Mary Lynn Schwietz
Kathryn and Thomas Sudyka, Jr
Melisa and Chris Sunde
James, Michael & Margaret Timmerman
John Timmerman (2012)
Karla and Joseph Townley (1976)
Julie Tunnell
John and Jean Ullrich
Ron and Rosie Volkmer
Ellen Weist
Ron and Regina Worthington
Beth (Weist) Zeigler (1989)
Rob and Katie (Pogge) Zimmerman (1990)

Gary Richer (1966)
Rita Bianchi (1966)

George, Pat and Steve Vogel (1968)
Christy and Denny Vogel (1966)
Nancy and Jerry Vogel (1965)
Dan Vogel (1974)

Vema Nuss Wemhoff
Beth (Weist) Zeigler (1989)

Jeremy Zeigler
Max and Beth (McCarthy) Engel (1989)
Shirlee Goaley
Jerald and Delores Hickey

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT SPSL



STRONGER TOGETHER

We are proud that our student body is reflective of the city of Omaha's racial and ethnic demographics:

White	56.3%
Black	16.7%
Asian	10.4%
Hispanic	8.3%
Multi Racial/Other	8.3%



As alumni and parents of alumni in the SPSL school community, you have experienced the benefits of a SPSL education. We hope you will consider a gift to pay those benefits forward to deserving students by becoming a SPSL Education Partner.

There have been a number of changes around SPSL over its 70 years of educating young students in a welcoming and faith-filled learning environment. In the early years, SPSL classrooms were mostly filled with nuns teaching our students, and our school was tuition-free. With the change to an all lay faculty, parent paid tuition became a central source of funds to operate our school, and that has increased as the cost of a Catholic education rises each year.

Tuition and fees for the 2026-27 school year are $4,275 per student, while the actual cost to educate a student at our school is $8,820. Approximately 30% of SPSL students qualify for free or reduced lunch under federal guidelines. Parents continue to pay as much tuition as they are able, and our two Parishes continue to provide significant financial support, yet over 40% of SPSL families need tuition assistance.

Will you become a partner in education with a SPSL student? The Education Partners program at SPSL matches willing donors with students in need. If you can do so, please return the enclosed envelope with your donation to help with tuition for a student in need. Any amount is helpful!

Your contribution is entirely anonymous, and the student's family is simply told that a generous donor has assisted the student financially. A few times a year, you will receive a note from your student partner updating you on his/her progress.

The St. Pius X / St. Leo School motto is "More than a School, It's a Community." And it is a community—a community of people from the past, the present, and the future working together.

Become an Education Partner today! Questions? Contact Michaela Smith, 402-551-6667, michaela.smith@spsl.net.

CLASS OF 2026 JOINS ALUMNI CLUB

On May 14, 2026, 78 students in the Class of 2026 graduated from St. Pius X / St. Leo School. We love to highlight alumni whose children also graduate from our school. Here are photos of generations of Panthers from the Class of 2026:



Lynn (Brewster) Camerer (1988) & Grace Camerer



Jaime (Anderson) Carney (2000) & Ella Carney



Shelley (Bodnar) Haynes (1993) & Harper Haynes



Ted Ostronic (1987) & Miles Ostronic



Monica (Kethan) Taylor (1993) & Joel Taylor



Michele (Moluf) Wafer (1989) & Sam Wafer

JOIN US FOR BOLD 2026: PANTHERS GO PLATINUM, 70TH ANNIVERSARY BASH

The biggest fundraiser of the year for SPSL School, BOLD 2026, will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at Creighton Prep. The BOLD Chairs this year are Jesse and Allison (Lohaus) Schmidt, Adrienne and Howard Edwards, and Kara and Ryan Patch. The goal is to raise over $200,000 at BOLD.

In honor of the 70th year of SPSL School, the theme for the event is *Panthers Go Platinum, 70th Anniversary Bash*, and will feature 1950's style diner decor. Your ticket includes a delicious sit-down dinner, an open bar and an exciting program. Please purchase your event tickets using the QR code below.

Each year, the BOLD Chairs identify an area for improvement that falls outside the school operating budget and raise funds at BOLD through the "GIVE." This year, funds donated to the GIVE will help us install water bottle filling stations and enhanced water filtration for drinking water throughout the school. The goal is to raise at least $35,000 for this initiative. Other proceeds from the event support the school operating budget, teacher education, capital improvements, technology, and the school endowment.

Please consider participating in BOLD 2026 by attending the event, registering to bid or buy through Qtego, contributing to the GIVE, and/or participating in one of the raffles. Scan this QR code for links to all these opportunities to participate.

Given that this is our 70th anniversary year, our goal is to welcome alumni from every decade at the BOLD event. Class Ambassadors are reaching out to friends in their grade and surrounding grades to put together tables so alumni can attend together. If you have questions or would like to attend, please contact Michaela Smith at 402-551-6667 or michaela.smith@spsl.net. Thank you for your generous support of SPSL School!

ON THE CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 20, 2026: Grab dinner at Godfather's Pizza on 102nd and Maple between 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm, and 20% of your purchase will revert to SPSL when you identify your purchase as part of the SPSL fundraiser night event.

Tuesday, December 1, 2026: Please consider participating in an online giving opportunity: Giving Tuesday! Proceeds will provide needed support for teacher salaries – the largest part of the SPSL operating budget.

Saturday, January 30, 2027: Save the date for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Round-Up at St. Pius X / St. Leo School. Scan the QR code to set up a tour or contact Jess (Hoppe) Fisher (2004) at jess.fisher@spsl.net for more information.

Friday, May 14, 2027: SPSL students will participate in the annual Race for Education, a fundraiser involving walking, running, snow cones, and fun. This is a great way to support SPSL.

Thursday, May 20, 2027: Class of 2027 Graduation Mass at 8:30 am at St. Pius X and Graduation Service at 7:00 pm at St. Leo the Great.

Monday, May 26, 2027: The 23rd Annual SPSL Golf Tournament will be held at the Field Club Golf Course. Email michaela.smith@spsl.net to join in this day filled with golf, fun, and friends.

TOUR SPSL TODAY!

Do you or someone in your family have a little one entering school next year? This is a great time to tour St. Pius X / St. Leo School and get an early start on the enrollment process. SPSL offers half day programs for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds as well as a full day program for 4-year-old Pre-K and Kindergarten. Contact our Enrollment Director, Jess Fisher, to tour today!

ST. PIUS X/ST. LEO SCHOOL
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SHARE YOUR NEWS

We are proud of our St. Pius X / St. Leo School Alumni and we want to keep in touch with you. Please share your story with us – a wedding, a new baby or grandbaby, a move or a change in jobs/ retirement, we want to know! Send us an update and we will include your news in the next St. Pius X / St. Leo Alumni publication. We look forward to hearing from you!

SPSL.net/alumni-profile

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