



# THE TORCH POST

CRUSADER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Crusader Family and Friends,

With 2024 in full swing, we are filled with immense gratitude for the distinctive community that characterizes Catholic Central which has always been a beacon of faith, knowledge, and compassion. It is because of individuals like you, who embody its values, that Catholic Central students continue to thrive as they grow and learn about the world around them. For our seniors, making their way into the second half of the school year is filled with emotions as June starts coming into focus. With the flurry of college applications, scholarship forms, and ceremonial occasions, Senior Year flies by! Many of you heard some of our seniors speak at the Monsignor Burns Centennial Dinner in November and saw what a wonderful group of students there are representing your alma mater.

Continuing with Catholic Central's Centennial Celebrations, we invite you to join us at the upcoming **Maureen Stapleton Stage and Screen Symposium on March 9th at 2:00** at the Maureen Stapleton Theatre at Hudson Valley Community College. This tribute is also a reflection of the rich history and talent of our school and a testament to the indomitable spirit that defines Crusaders. We are thrilled so many alumni have already registered for this free event! Lobby displays will highlight Maureen's career and will feature items from her work on Broadway, Hollywood, and television. A panel interview with film clips will provide insights into Maureen's artistic process, her friendship and symbiotic relationship with Tennessee Williams, and her lasting impact on the entertainment industry. Following the presentation, we invite you to join us for a light dessert reception.

Your impact on the Catholic Central community continues to shape the very essence of our school, for yours are the shoulders our current students stand on as they make their way and uphold the principles that define Catholic Central. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the next generation of Crusaders!

With faith and gratitude,

Lily Spera and Richard Harrigan, III  
Co-principals  
Catholic Central School

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There's something truly transformative about a Catholic education that goes beyond textbooks and classrooms. Nurturing the intellect with the inclusion of spiritual growth and character development provides students with guiding principles that prepare them for a lifetime of decision-making, relationships, and contributions to society. Values-based learning, community, belonging, academic excellence, faith, service, and social justice are hallmarks of an education at Catholic Central School. Through this year's Annual Appeal, "One Campus. One Mission.", we aim to build upon the many areas that make Catholic Central School exceptional, such as ongoing facility improvements, tuition assistance, classroom technology, ongoing professional development, and athletic equipment for our new outdoor fields and programs. Your investment plays an important role in advancing and imparting Catholic values to the next generation.

**INVEST TODAY**

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**A Homecoming Journey - From Graduate to Events Coordinator Extraordinaire**



There exists a special bond that transcends time—the connection between an alumni and their alma mater. We are thrilled to announce the addition of Tina Coblish Gierka, '86 to the Catholic Central School staff! Tina joins us from St. Rose College where she has been Manager of Conferences and Events. Tina's extensive experience in orchestrating successful events within an academic setting perfectly aligns with our mission of building community and creating a legacy that bridges the past, present, and future. Tina joins a team of eight other alumni who have come full circle and now share their expertise and passion with the next generation of Crusaders. Their journey from students to staff members showcases the enduring impact of Catholic Central's educational programs and serves as a testament to the nurturing environment that encourages lifelong connections. When asked about starting her new position at Catholic Central School, Tina smiles and says, "I'm home."



*Alumni staff members at Catholic Central School include: (Back row) Erin Quirk '89, Curtis Richards'18, Tina Gierka '86, Michael Kujan '08, Anne Marie Blaire '99, Terry Murphy '71 (Front row) Kristen Campito '04, Carol Fitzgerald '71 and Shana Gregoire '96.*

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**UPCOMING CENTENNIAL EVENT WILL FEATURE A "HOST" OF ALUMNI!**



Jackson Murphy, '16



Kathy Sheehan, '73

As a part of Catholic Central School's Centennial Year, there will be a celebration honoring the cinematic legacy of Maureen Stapleton from the Class of 1942. The Pre-Oscar event will be held on Saturday, March 9th at 2:00 pm in the Maureen Stapleton Theatre on the campus of Hudson Valley Community College. The event will be hosted by Emmy-winning film critic and 2016 Catholic Central graduate Jackson Murphy. "I am excited and honored to be hosting this event celebrating the incredible life and career of Maureen Stapleton", says Jackson. "She's an entertainment icon and a Capital Region legend, whose work has been admired for generations. This will be a great day for Stapleton, her family and Catholic Central."

Lobby displays will highlight the actress' career which spanned over 50 years and will feature items from her work on Broadway, Hollywood, and television. The program will feature a panel interview, which includes Executive Director of the Hart Cluett Museum and CCHS alumna Kathryn Knothe Sheehan, '73. When asked about her participation in the symposium, Kathy comments, "I am thrilled and honored to be a part of celebrating one of our most famous alumni! There is a little of Troy in all of Maureen's characters. She leaned heavily on her experiences growing up in a multi-ethnic neighborhood; that and her experience at Catholic Central High School brought a vibrancy and realism to every character she portrayed."

In addition, the program will include a short documentary from Maureen's son, Daniel Allentuck, along with clips from signature films. Additional contributors include Russell Sage College Theatre Professor David Baecker and Maureen Stapleton historian William G. Carey, Jr. A light dessert reception will follow the program.

Due to limited free seating, pre-registration is highly encouraged and can be done on the Catholic Central School website or by clicking on the image below. We look forward to seeing you on March 9th! ↓ ↓



# MAUREEN STAPLETON '42

## STAGE & SCREEN SYMPOSIUM

### CLASS NOTES



#### CLASS OF 1971

**Pamela Considine** graduated from SUNY Brockport in 1975, retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2009 and then moved to Florida in 2011.

#### CLASS OF 1977

**Debora Spuck Plantier** works as a high school substitute teacher. She has 4 grown children and 2 grandchildren.

#### CLASS OF 1978

**JoAnn Gatzendorfer Bolduc** retired after 40 years of teaching and is enjoying time with her two adult children and her very special grandson!

#### CLASS OF 1994

**Kathryn Kopach Biel** is a school-based physical therapist and is a USA Today Bestselling Romance Author.

#### CLASS OF 2005

**Ashley Patnode** moved South and became a restaurant manager. Her

#### CLASS OF 2015

Kathryn is currently working on her second book!

son keeps her busy as a volunteer with the Boy Scouts!

**Alex Weeden** was a hairdresser in New York City and now is back living in the Capital Region.



Enjoy issues of The Torch, update your contact information and enjoy some vintage photos by clicking here!

Let's be social!



INVEST IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

AT

CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL!

**Our Contact Information**

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\*{{Organization Address}}\*

\*{{Organization Phone}}\*

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