

# Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., retires after 33 years of devoted service at Epiphany School

SAYRE – Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., has never been one to seek the spotlight.

Quietly devoted, deeply faithful, and always focused on the students entrusted to her care, she has spent the past 33 years shaping the hearts, minds, and spirits of countless children at Epiphany School.

But on Monday evening, June 16, 2025, the spotlight turned toward her – and rightfully so – as the Sayre community gathered to celebrate her remarkable legacy as she retires from her position as school principal.

“I’m just grateful for the support I’ve had all these years. The parish has been tremendous. The community has been tremendous. They love their school. It is going to be 100 years old in 2029 and they have supported it with love and care all these years,” Sister Kathleen said. “I’m going to miss that support.”

Current students, alumni, faculty, families, and friends from across generations filled the pews of Epiphany Church for a special Mass of Thanksgiving to honor their principal – a woman whose presence has become synonymous with Catholic education in northern Bradford County.

Father Gerald W. Shantillo, Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for the Mass representing the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, who could



**Sister Kathleen Kelly, I.H.M., center, is honored during a special Mass of Thanksgiving at Epiphany Church June 16, 2025, as she retires as principal of Epiphany School after having served the community for 33 years. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

not attend because he was out of town at a meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Sister, you have taught so many people about Jesus Christ, (about) how to pray, how to serve, how to love like Him, how to forgive like Him. You’ve touched countless people in this community, and they will never forget that,” Father Shantillo said at the beginning of Mass.

Father Dan Toomey, pastor, Epiphany Parish, who has collaborated with Sister Kathleen for the last four years, delivered an emotional homily. He indicated that

the long-time principal has had quite an impact, and the Mass is a special time to pray for her.

“Sister Kathleen has had an amazing presence as a principal,” Father Toomey said. “I saw her establishing standards. She didn’t have favorites and had poise and balance and was able to keep people focused.”

Throughout her career at Epiphany School, Sister Kathleen has brought with her the charism of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Many of her students say her religious order

affiliation has helped to bring a steady, compassionate presence to everyone who walked through the school’s doors.

“She is a great role model. She knows every student’s name,” student Evelyn Owen said. “She is always kind and generous to everyone.”

“She has very high standards, but she applies them to all students. She doesn’t pick favorites,” student Madeline Lincoln added. “I’m very grateful for having Sister Kathleen. She has always supported me.”

While many families say Sister Kathleen’s leadership style was marked by humility and grace, several students also say she was known for her sense of humor as well.

“I remember when she used to come into our classrooms. She would make funny jokes, and it always made me crack up,” student Ellen Heffron added.

As the Mass ended and reception in the church basement began, Sister Kathleen admitted the evening was “a little overwhelming.”

Though her official role as principal may be ending, her influence will continue to echo through the classrooms and hallways of Epiphany School for years to come.

“It is a real warm community and a giving community,” she reflected. “I’ll miss the people, the teachers, the students, the parents and the community.”

## Voter Voice Alert: Ask Your State Lawmakers to Support EITC & OSTC Programs

HARRISBURG - As budget discussions continue at the Pennsylvania Capitol, it is a very critical time for getting tax credit funding for Catholic schools across Pennsylvania.

In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, all faithful are encouraged to send messages to their state lawmakers to support funding for the EITC and OSTC Programs.

EITC stands for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program and OSTC stands for the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program.

Taxpayers are encouraged to reach out

to their state representatives and senators and ask them to support school choice and a meaningful increase in the budget for EITC and OSTC scholarships.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton and all across the Commonwealth do a tremendous job educating students despite having to deal with financial challenges that are not faced by public schools that benefit from tax dollars.

To easily send an email to your state lawmakers, visit the Diocese of Scranton website and click on the “Voter Voice” tile focused on EITC & OSTC Programs.



**THANK YOU!**



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES  
DURING NEPA GIVES 2025!  
WITH BONUS DOLLARS, WE RAISED \$84,350 DURING THE 24-HOUR CHALLENGE**

## Saint John Neumann Regional Academy

WILLIAMSPORT — Graduation exercises were conducted for the Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Class of 2025 on May 27 in the George S. Klump Center at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

Saint John Neumann Principal Alisia McNamee presided over the presentation of diplomas to the 12 members of this year's graduating class, which were conferred by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered remarks and the closing benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 22 at Saint Lawrence Church in South Williamsport, where Father David Bechtel, high school chaplain, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

This year's Saint John Neumann valedictorian is Sophia Reid, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Reid, residents of Linden. Salutatorian honors were bestowed upon Kaidance Meixel, daughter of Sara and Heith Meixel of Williamsport.

Ten members of the senior class will be pursuing further education on the university/college level, including two graduates who plan to attend Catholic institutions of higher learning. As a class, the Saint John Neumann graduates earned seven academic scholarships worth more than \$420,000.



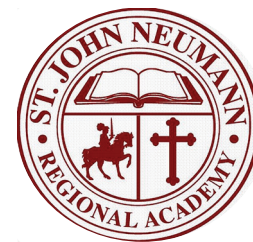
**Sophia  
Reid**



**Kaidance  
Meixel**

**“Class of 2025, the time has come...we are graduating and we have influenced one another in so many different ways and experienced so many different things together.**

**And for that, wherever we go, whatever we do, we'll always be a part of one another's journey.”**



**— Sophia Reid**  
*Valedictory Address*  
*excerpt*

**“As we prepare ourselves for the end of this chapter in our lives and begin a new one, I want us all to remember that we can't fast-forward through our lives. We are so anxious about starting our new lives...These school-day moments *are the story*. It is the friendships and the bonds we have made that will hopefully be everlasting.”**

**— Kaidance Meixel**  
*Salutatory Address*  
*excerpt*

## Holy Redeemer High School

WILKES-BARRE — Holy Redeemer High School was the second Diocesan secondary school to hold spring commencement exercises when the graduation ceremony was staged on May 28 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre.

A total of 98 Holy Redeemer seniors, led by Principal Colin Martinson, were conferred their diplomas by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also addressed the graduates and offered benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 27 at Saint Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, with Father Joseph Evanko, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Southern Region of the Diocese of Scranton, serving as principal celebrant.

The 2025 Holy Redeemer class valedictorian is Cole Bradley, son of Shane and Carla Bradley of Swoyersville. Earning salutatorian honors was Jenna Pipan, daughter of Method and Joann Pipan, who reside in West Wyoming.

Of the total number of graduates, 87 will be enrolling in colleges or universities to further their education, including 41 who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The 2025 Holy Redeemer senior class merited a total of 576 scholarship awards worth approximately \$34.2 million.



**Cole  
Bradley**



**Jenna  
Pipan**

**“I challenge each and every one of you to find your place and make your mark in the world, as ‘everything is possible for one who believes.’ All of us are capable of boundless accomplishments, and no group of people is more ready to take on what comes next than the Class of 2025 sitting before me tonight.”**



**— Cole Bradley**  
*Valedictory Address*  
*excerpt*

**“Know wherever you go, you will carry with you the lessons you have learned here. With the knowledge and values which have been instilled in us, and with the guidance of our Holy Redeemer, we can go out into the world with full confidence that we can achieve our dreams.”**

**— Jenna Pipan**  
*Salutatory Address excerpt*

# 210

*The total number of young men and women who graduated from the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese.*

# \$63.6 million

*Graduates merited more than 1,160 scholarships, cumulatively earning this much toward their future schooling.*

# 93%

*The percentage of seniors who will continue their education in college. More than 80 graduates will attend Catholic institutions of learning.*

## Holy Cross High School



**Zachary Kovaleski**



**Gavin Monahan**

DUNMORE — The Sette La Vergetta Center for Performing Arts at Marywood University was the setting for the annual commencement of Holy Cross High School.

Graduation for the 75 members of the 2025 Holy Cross senior class were held on May 30, led by school Principal Benjamin D. Tolerico.

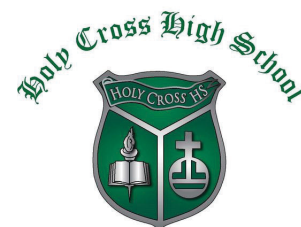
Presiding over the commencement exercises and conferring the high school diplomas was Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who addressed the Holy Cross graduates and offered the benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 29 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, with Father Cyril Edwards, high school chaplain, serving as principal celebrant and homilist.

The 2025 Holy Cross valedictorian is Zachary Kovaleski, son of Jeffrey and Brenda Kovaleski of Dickson City. Class salutatorian is Gavin Monahan, son of Michael and Kathryn Monahan of Throop.

Ninety-six percent of the Holy Cross graduating class will be attending institutions of higher learning, with 32 graduates planning to enroll at Catholic colleges or universities. As a whole, the class earned 516 post-secondary scholarship awards totaling nearly \$25 million.

**“Remember just weeks ago at prom — our final dance together — when we got in a circle and reached our hands up in the sky, trying to grasp something we can never reach? We all have the potential to do great things. Now it’s our time to go off on our own and chase our stars. The real dance is just beginning.”**



— Zachary Kovaleski,  
Valedictory Address  
excerpt

**“An integral part of our Catholic education was the fostering community of those around us who were willing to look past our faults and have faith in our God-given ability to succeed...This gift of faith that we were given by our Catholic school is something that we should carry with us and give back to those around us, as we believe in others who never felt like they were believed in.”**

— Gavin Monahan, Salutatory Address  
excerpt

## Notre Dame High School



**Matthew Ahnert**



**Madison Brown**



**Michael Peterson**

EAST STROUDSBURG — Commencement exercises were held May 31 for Notre Dame High School, during which 25 graduates received their diplomas from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered the principal address and closing benediction.

The high school theater set the stage for the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2025 at Notre Dame, led by school Principal Bryan Scotton.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated May 27 in the school’s theater by Father Brian J.T. Clarke, chaplain of Notre Dame High School.

In addition to their valedictorian — Matthew Ahnert, son of Kevin and Dana Ahnert of Bushkill — this year’s Notre Dame graduating class includes co-salutatorians: Madison Brown, daughter of Kevin and Michelle Brown of East Stroudsburg; and Michael Peterson, son of Richard and Kathleen Peterson, Pocono Lake.

All 25 graduates of the Notre Dame Class of 2025 will continue their education at the university/college level, including six students who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The class received a total of 63 scholarship awards valued at more than \$4.1 million.

**“I am privileged...to belong to a community that values selflessness through deeds and good works. Participating in the drives and (National Honor Society) over the years has instilled the need for purpose in our lives. ”**



— Matthew Ahnert  
Valedictory Address  
excerpt

**“To our teachers: thank you for showing up, especially on the days we didn’t. You gave us your time, your patience, and way more chances than we probably deserved. To our families: thank you for your late-night pep talks...your grace and your love, even when we weren’t at our best.”**

— Madison Brown, Salutatory Address excerpt

**“We have so many memories as a class that have taught us valuable lessons, along with amazing memories. Class of 2025, don’t be afraid to take something from your past, whether it be a skill, a way of doing things, a frame of mind, or a lesson.”**

— Michael Peterson, Salutatory Address excerpt

# Congratulations Catholic High School Graduates!

## Class of 2025



### HOLY CROSS

Samichha Baniya  
Austin Anthony Bicking  
Lucien Bolola  
William Mark Boock  
Audrey Ella Borick  
Gavin Quinn Brennan  
Frederick Henry Ceccacci  
Natalie Elizabeth Charles  
Trista Chickeletti  
Andrew J. Cleveland  
Anthony Nicholas Colonna  
Gianna Sarah Coroniti  
Kyle John Cortazar  
Olivia Lucille DePrato  
Layla Ruth Dodgson  
John Michael Elko  
Conor Joseph Farrell  
Ethan Steven Flieger  
Mia Rose Galella  
Aayush Ghale  
Grace Marie Thérèse Gregorowicz  
Brenley Nicole Harashinski  
Megan Catherine Hassaj  
Gavin Andrew Hegedus  
Morgan Anne Hembury  
Michael Thomas Hughes

### ★ Valedictorians

David Anthony Jennings  
Evan James Juice  
Makenna Knight  
Kate Ann Kobierecki  
Zachary Jeffrey Kovaleski ★  
Elizabeth Susan Lalli  
Calder A. Lehman  
Joshua Noah Lentowski  
Mia Mary Lochie  
Ashley Lopez

### 🎓 Salutatorians

Allie Lynn Mozeleski  
Clinton James Muir  
Tyler Joseph Musso  
Elizabeth Christina Myronyuk  
Sara Ellen Nealon  
Rockne James O'Connor  
Jacob Stephen Paroby  
Anthony John Piestrak  
Hunter Pisanchyn  
Hannah Christine Pisarcik



Emma Isabella Luciani  
Matthew Thomas Lyons  
James Anthony Mancini, Jr.  
Connor Robert Martin  
Katie Martinez  
Mario George Matrone  
Lily Anne Matthews  
Chloe Lauryn Mendicino  
Sophia Marie Moffitt  
Gavin Michael Monahan 🎓  
Brayden William Moran  
Kendall Lora Morrison

Jacob Robert Pope  
Grace Catherine Rogers  
Roger Carl Rossi  
Christopher Julian Rotell-Tierney  
Nicholas John Rusinko  
Rocco Donato Sansone  
Richard Andrew Patrick Shelp  
Mia Sosa  
Olivia Jean Marie Strazzeri  
Nicholas Anthony Tunis  
Lucas James Urban  
Jacob Adam Villano



### HOLY REDEEMER

Megan Albrecht  
Christina Therese Marie Alesson  
Samara Anne Bellas  
Isabella Rose Bennett  
Parker Charles Berry  
Sakinah Diane Zohrah Bhatti  
Tristan Andrew Block  
Samuel Levi Blum  
Sara Rebecca Blum  
Max John Bowen  
Cole Taylor Bradley ★  
Jack Thomas Broda  
Anne Marie Carter  
Brandon Cegelka  
Andrew Brady Chase  
Andrew Paul Cisney Jr.  
Owen Henry Clark  
Aidan Everett Davies

Raina Ellen Deiter  
Kasey Michael Delaney  
Kimberly Dinh  
Thomas Michael Dugan IV  
Christopher Ryan Dutko  
Sophia Frances Fiedorczyk  
Hayden Jacob Richard Fleege  
Riley Deionarra Franks  
Samyiah Monica Gallagher  
Jacob William Gensel  
Mason James Gibson  
Jane Rose Gillespie  
Olivia Ava Glasson  
Kaylee Autumn Guard  
Josue E. Lua Guerrero  
Ian Michael Harris  
Lauren Marie Hayden  
Arianna Elizabeth Hines  
Caleb Walter Hoffman  
Daniel Liam Hughes





Maria Eleni Humen  
 Jack Reichen Hurst  
 Melody Rose Josefowicz  
 Lane Kelsall  
 Avery Rose Kozerski  
 Brooke Anna Kroptavich  
 Nicholas Stephen Latinski  
 Evan Scott Licari  
 Daniel Limongelli  
 Joseph Anthony Lipinski  
 Mary Lynn Lombardi  
 Andrew B. Long  
 Brenden Makarczyk  
 Isabelle Josephine Marosevich  
 Nicolas Anthony Mazzarella



Emily Abigail McGowan  
 Kacy Robert Miller  
 Aubrey Christine Mleczynski  
 Katherine Elizabeth Morgan  
 Kendall Morris  
 Jason Nazario  
 Greyson John Nehila  
 Nicholas Michael Nuss  
 Liam O'Malley  
 Michael Raymond Oncay  
 John F. Ondich Jr.  
 Ryan D. Ondich  
 Christian Jaycob Jose Luis-Oquendo  
 Kayla Ann Pekarovsky  
 Carolyn Marie Phillips  
 Jenna Ann Pipan  
 Amira D. Pirrone  
 David G. Popson  
 Grace Elizabeth Potrzuski  
 Emily Theresa Pugh  
 Angelina Victoria Ranieli  
 Jack R. Roberts

Joshua Rocha  
 Addison Rose Rosenko  
 Helena Cecilia Ruch  
 Katie Schell  
 Zachary William Schultz  
 Logan Sinjin Sekol  
 Sophia Marie Sereyka  
 Taylor Elyssa Skibitsky  
 Brayden Thomas Sock  
 Aleese Marie Stair  
 Kayden Michael Stevenson  
 Mia Rose Swaditch  
 Tyler Robert Tamalicki



Grade Tedford  
 Allison Frances Van Pelt  
 Jadon Anthony White  
 Abigail Elizabeth Williams  
 Adrienne Arline Wren  
 Abigail Grace Young  
 Dakota Souchak Young  
 Claire Elise Zdancewicz  
 Andrey Zeitner  
 Emma Zylo

**NOTRE DAME**  
 Matthew Terrence Ahnert  
 Blain Y. Assegid  
 Madison Kayla Brown  
 Cesar A. Carrasco  
 Audrey MW Craig  
 Olivia Fennell  
 Ashley Forsell  
 Ommy LeDee-Gonzalez  
 Athena R. Greco  
 Teresa Rose Gregory  
 Marc Patrick Jackett  
 Federico Mikael Kourakos  
 James Joseph Malone  
 Milai Michael Molina  
 Ciara Imari Ocasio  
 Amanda Ochoa  
 Briana Ciara O'Flaherty  
 LeAnn Mari Perez  
 Michael Allen Peterson  
 Preston John Protheroe  
 Thandiwe Ramone  
 Isabella Ia Rinaldi  
 Matthew Elijah Rivera  
 John Anthony Siciliano  
 Zy'Quirius La'Shaun Whitney



**ST. JOHN NEUMANN**  
 Angelo Francis Birch  
 Gino Charles Birch  
 Lucas Frederick Bloom  
 Lucas James Bower  
 Lajon Demetrius Dizard  
 Joshua David Lovell  
 Kaidance Eleanor Meixel  
 Joseph Michael Pontious  
 Sophia Rose Reid  
 Shanniyah Omariyah Tutler  
 Thomas Edmond Whaley  
 Jager Gregory Woodring



**Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton**

Mrs. Kristen Donohue, M.Ed. • Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
 Mrs. Charlene Haggerty, M.S. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
 Mrs. Michele Long, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS • DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

# Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office recognizes these Seton Award recipients. The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award is recognition of 8th grade students who are enrolled in one of our Catholic high schools for the 2025-26 school year and exemplify the traits of Saint Seton: devoutness to faith, compassion, and desire to help others. This award is also given to students in 5th Grade at St. John Neumann Elementary School, and students in 6th Grade at Notre Dame Elementary, Epiphany and St. Agnes Schools, who meet criteria determined by their principal. Families of these individuals are commended for their commitment to Catholic education, and the students are congratulated for this distinguished honor. For these students and for all young people in our Catholic schools, Catholic education impacts their formation by incorporating a strong emphasis on the spiritual that is evident in all components of the learning process. Our vision for these students is to provide them an educational experience that promotes a lifelong learning in the faith, and one that prepared them to be responsible, competent, and confident persons as citizens of our country and world. In addition, our schools are dedicated to providing a loving, safe and nurturing environment where the young learn respect for themselves and for all persons.



Kyla Brunson  
All Saints Academy



Olivia Madore  
All Saints Academy



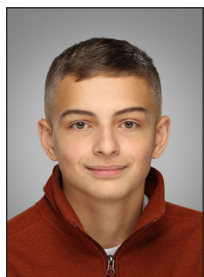
Ellen Heffron  
Epiphany School



Alec Groncki  
All Saints Academy



River Northup  
Epiphany School



Jacob Michael Kolcharno  
All Saints Academy



Nicholas Kovaleski  
La Salle Academy



Abigail Uhrin  
La Salle Academy



Giuliana Matrone  
Our Lady of Peace School



Monroe Bellows  
St. Agnes School



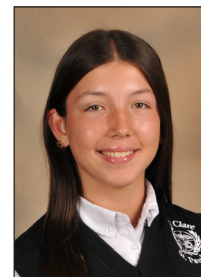
John Harris Santiago  
St. Agnes School



Luigi Cicco  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Nishila Williams  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



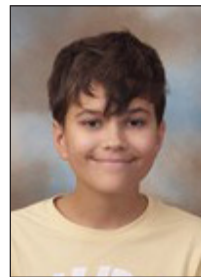
Maya DeSantis  
St. Clare/St. Paul School



Mary Grace Brooks  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



Katarina Morris  
St. Mary of Mount Carmel School



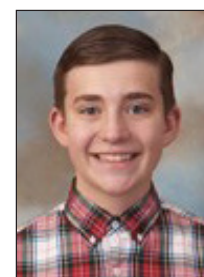
Bohdan Podlaszewski  
Good Shepherd Academy



Grace Morgan  
Good Shepherd Academy



Mason Williams  
Good Shepherd Academy



Nicholas Pokrifka  
Good Shepherd Academy



To the students who have benefited from a Catholic education, and to those who  
continue their educational journey in a Catholic environment,  
we salute you and pray that God, through the intercession of  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, guides you in

*Faith, Hope and Love.*



Keira German  
Holy Family Academy



Brody Sharkey  
Holy Family Academy



Eli Licari  
Holy Rosary School



Frederick Roughsedge, V  
Holy Rosary School



Leah Smith  
St. Jude School



Gabriella Gonzalez  
St. Jude School



Dominic Donato  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



Ryan Pugh  
St. Nicholas/St. Mary School



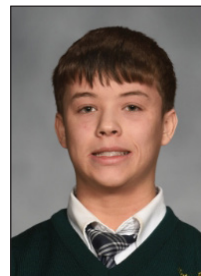
Julianna O'Hop  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Cayden Richards  
Wyoming Area Catholic School



Emilee Thompson  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Trennen Kless  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



Jakob Jablonski  
Notre Dame Elementary School



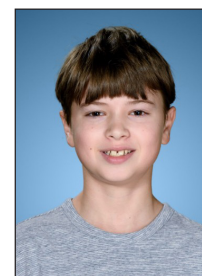
Leilanie Caamano  
Notre Dame Elementary School



Savannah Snyder  
St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. HS



Brycen Rauch  
St. John Neumann  
Jr./Sr. High School



Mason Knepley  
St. John Neumann  
Elementary School



Zale McPherson  
St. John Neumann  
Elementary School