



# 9th Annual State of the School January 28, 2025

*Faith + Family<sup>1</sup> + Excellence*



# Agenda

- Prayer
- Introductions
- Catholic Schools Week!
- Foundational Documents Review
- What We've Done
- Where We Are Going
- Questions and Closing Prayer



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

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# **Our Parish Staff**

**Father Tom Lilly (Pastor)**

**Father Bala Yandava (Parochial Vicar)**

**Katherine Mitchell (Parish Secretary)**

**Marcy Adkins (Pastoral Assistant/Business Manager)**

**Bob McMorrow (Director, Catechesis and Evangelization)**

**Gabe O'Lena (Youth and Young Adult Minister)**

**Doug Berry (Junior High Minister)**

**John and Shelby Burger (Super Sunday Coordinators)**

**Elaine Potter (Church Housekeeper)**

**Steve Ring (Director of Music)**



**LUMEN † CHRISTI**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Our School Board**

# School Board

## 2024-2025 Actions



- Developing the 2025-2026 budget
- Brainstorming and evaluating what Lumen Christi 2030...and beyond looks like!
- Continuing to host the Fall and Spring Speaker Series events

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# School Board Spring Speaker Series



**Tuesday, April 29, 7pm**

**Speaker: Dr. Joe Zalot  
Director of Education and  
Ethicist**

**The National Catholic Bioethics  
Center  
(Broomall, PA)**

**Topic: Dignity of the Human  
Person and Health Care and  
Ethical Decisionmaking**

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# Catholic Schools Week 2025

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 1, 2025

[www.NCEA.org/CSW](http://www.NCEA.org/CSW) • #CSW2025

## Monday Celebrate Our Students

- Prayers for Students
- Student Awards Assembly, 1pm
- **Wear House Colors**

## Tuesday Celebrate Our Nation

- Teacher provide lunch for students
- 9th Annual State of the School, 7pm
- **Wear Red, White, and Blue**

## Wednesday Celebrate Our Vocations

- Vocations Panel, 1pm
- **Wear School Uniform**

## Thursday Celebrate Our Community

- Parents pick up and drop off at OLG
- All Catholic School Mass at 10am at OLG
- **Wear Mass Uniform**

## Friday Celebrate Staff and Parents

- School Board Surprises
- **Wear Lumen Christi Spirit Wear**

“Souper Bowl” and Prayers for Priests all week

# Our School Staff



**Brian Ross (Principal)**  
**Kimberly Guzman (Front Office)**  
**Anne Gore (Director of Advancement)**  
**John Warren (Athletic Director)**  
**Doug Berry (Campus Minister/Theology)**  
**Debra Brewer (Dean of Academics/Math/Science)**  
**Michael Morales (LA/Theology)**  
**Carolyn Baldessari (English/LA)**  
**Rebecca Gerke (Math/Science/Survey of Technology)**  
**Alison Craig (Math/Science)**  
**Morgan Herschberger (Math/Social Studies/PE)**  
**Megan Spillers (Social Studies/Theology)**  
**Catherine Haslett (Social Studies/Theology)**  
**Lea Bouton (Math/Science/Theology)**  
**Deacon Gustavo Azpilcueta (Spanish/Theology)**  
**Father Tom (Theology)\***  
**Drew Loeffler (Band/Choir Director)\***

**\*Part Time**





# Review of our Foundational Documents

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# **Mission Statement**

## **(What we are called to do)**

**As a ministry of St. Benedict Parish,  
Lumen Christi High School provides a  
rigorous Catholic education in a  
Christ-like environment**

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# **Our Philosophy and Core Values (What we are called to be)**

**We are called to proclaim the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
to build community,  
and to serve our brothers and sisters.**

**We are united in our Core Values of  
*Living Faith, Celebrating Family,  
and *Achieving Excellence****

# 6 Attributes of Lumen Christi Graduates



“Mind” (Academics)  
“Body” (Athletics)  
“Spirit” (Faith Life)

## Our Graduates:

- **Have a worldview centered in the teachings of Jesus Christ**
- **Respect the value and dignity of others as made in God’s image**
- **Are servant leaders in the Church, community, and society**
- **Strive to live justly and value service to others before self**
- **Communicate effectively, think critically, and solve problems**
- **Are confident and prepared for life’s challenges**



# What We've Done

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# St. Scholastica

## “Snack Shack” Renovations

- Completed during summer/fall 2024
- New cabinets, sinks, countertops, electric, and center island
- Concession stand averages \$800-\$1000 of revenue in a three-day tournament
  - Two windows into the gym allow viewing of the court = no more excuses!
  - Cannot open without parent support!

# All School Retreat... and Potluck

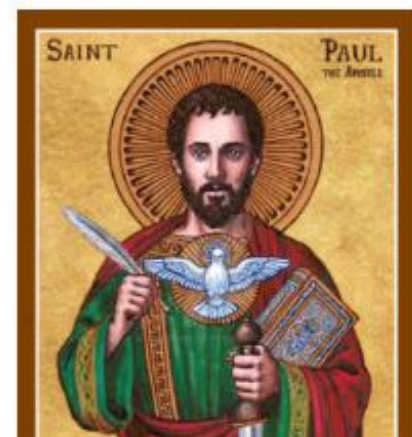
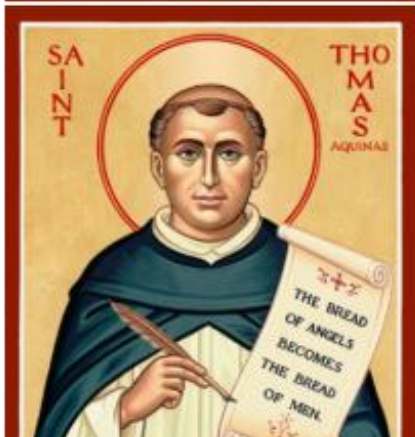
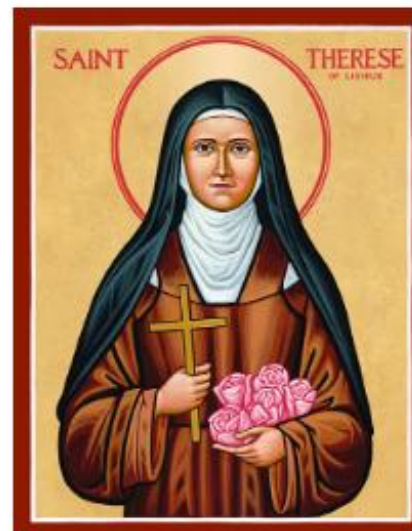


- From our Strategic Plan
  - “[Desire to engage] in social occasions in a faith-filled environment”
  - “Create opportunities for Lumen Christi parents to directly engage with one another, both in faith formation and socially”



# House System

## “Six Houses, One Home”

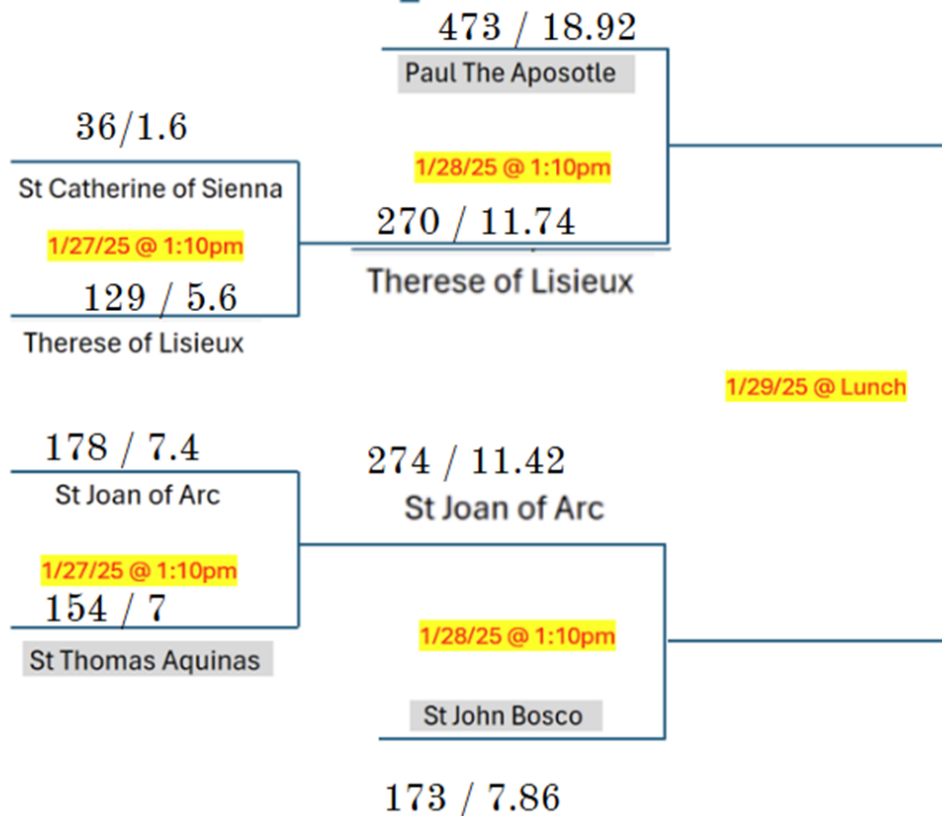


**We are proud of our House system and the opportunity it provides for our students to thrive, grow and create community!**





# Souper Bowl 2025



Winner will be determined by the highest average of Soup Cans Per House Member.

Advancing House will have opportunity to add Soup Cans for next matchup.

**Total Soup Cans divided by Total House Students = Avg Cans per Member (At time of event)**

**& Casual Day  
Winning house gets Pizza Party!**

# Student Opportunities with ASD



Class of 2026 Junior  
Lilly Muller (4<sup>th</sup> place)  
Service Wrestling



Class of 2028 Freshman  
And Cadet Private  
Margaret Henry  
Dimond JROTC



FriarWorks907

# College and Career Planning



- Judy Friar (ASD counselor for 20+ years) meets with our students 2-3 times per month
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Importance and impact of grades. Understanding a transcript. Encourage participation in school (clubs, activities, etc.)
  - 10<sup>th</sup> grade: Career Interest Inventory. Discuss career choices and post high school education
  - 11<sup>th</sup> grade: Exploring colleges and finding the perfect fit.
  - 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Finalizing the college essay, which can be a resume builder. Prep for Early Admissions Nov. 1. Scholarship opportunities and FAFSA.

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# College and Career Visits



GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY™



## Other Lunch Topics:

- “Not interested in college? How about being a diesel mechanic?”
- “So you wanna be an Alaska Airlines pilot?”
- “Surviving your first semester of college!”



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**We are proud of the 20 members of our Class of 2025!  
\$1.7 million in scholarship awards!**

**Attribute of Lumen Christi Graduates:  
Are Confident and Prepared for Life's Challenges**



# Theology 12 Course



- Fall semester focus on bioethics and the dignity of the human person through a Catholic moral framework
- Extensive reading, daily seminar discussions, culminating in 10-12 page research paper and 8-10 minute oral presentation in front of staff, peers, and parents

**Attribute of Lumen Christi Graduates:**

**Communicate Effectively, Think Critically, and Solve Problems**

**Attribute of Lumen Christi Graduates:**

**Respect the Value and Dignity of Others as Made in God's Image**

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# A Sampling of Theology 12 Paper and Presentation Topics

“Somatic Gene Editing or Germline Engineering”

“Xenotransplantation: A Solution to Donor Organ Shortage?”

“Sterilization”

“Brain Death”

“Ethics of Organ Donation”

“Interventions of Ectopic Pregnancy”

“The Charlie Gard Case”

“Advanced Directives and Living Wills”

“Surrogate Motherhood”

“Transgender Surgery”

“Invitro fertilization (IVF)”

“Savior Siblings”

# A Busy January Sports Travel Schedule



HS Varsity Girls Basketball Team  
in Nome



HS Boys and Girls Basketball Teams  
headed by Alaska Ferry to Cordova  
Tip-Off Tournament



# School First, Sports Second "Study Hall On the Road"





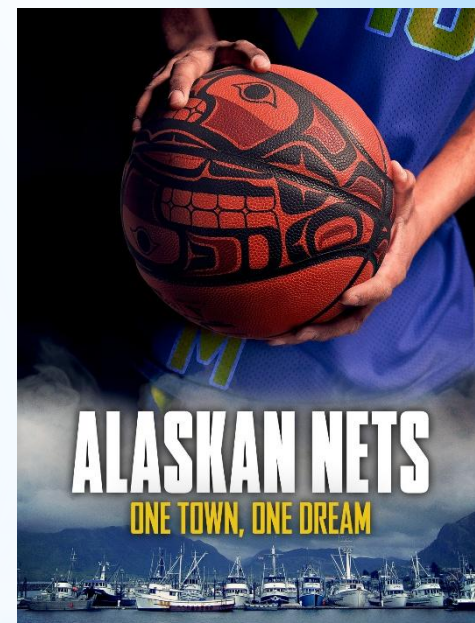
# Where We Are Going

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# 2A Basketball “Conference Clash”



- January 30-Feb 1 @ Lumen Christi
- 16 teams from across the State including Lumen Christi, Metlakatla, Cordova, Hooper Bay, Petersburg, Unalakleet, Nenana, and Su-Valley
- Ticket sales via GoFan App (by Session)
- WE NEED PARENTS TO HELP WITH ADMISSIONS, PARKING, CONCESSIONS, AND CLEAN UP!!
- Help us earn revenue and statewide visibility for our school!



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# Annual Gala



*It's an all Alaska*  
**CAMO & carhartt**   
*Gala!*

16  
Tickets  
left!!!

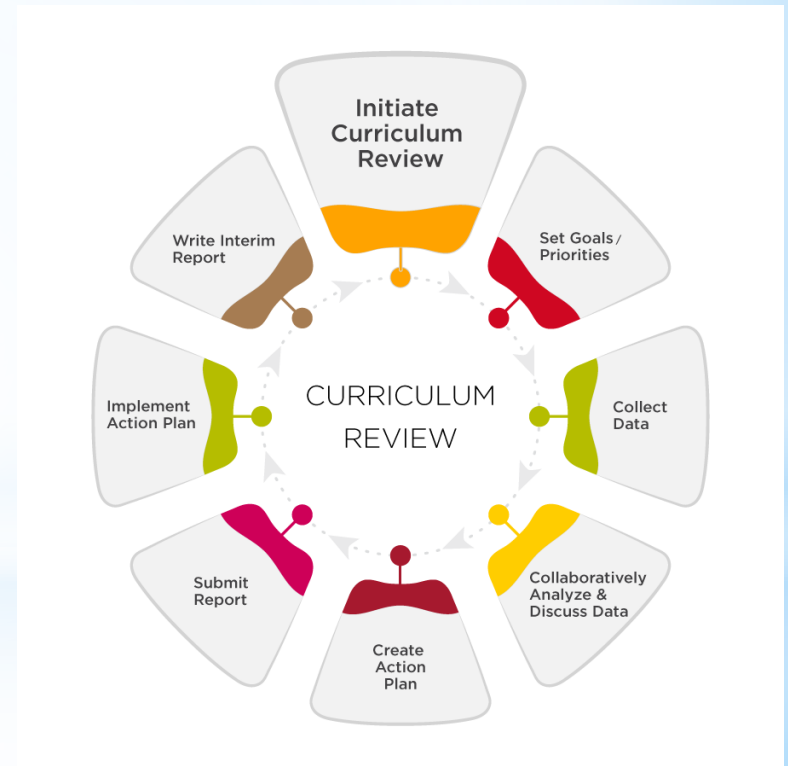


February 8, 2025

# Social Studies Curriculum Review



- **Spring 2025: Review standards, content, textbooks, and learning outcomes and survey students**
- **Courses to be Reviewed:**
  - US History
  - World History
  - International Affairs
  - US Government
  - Economics
  - Alaska Studies
  - Social Studies 7/8



# “Investing in Our Teachers is Investing in Our Students”



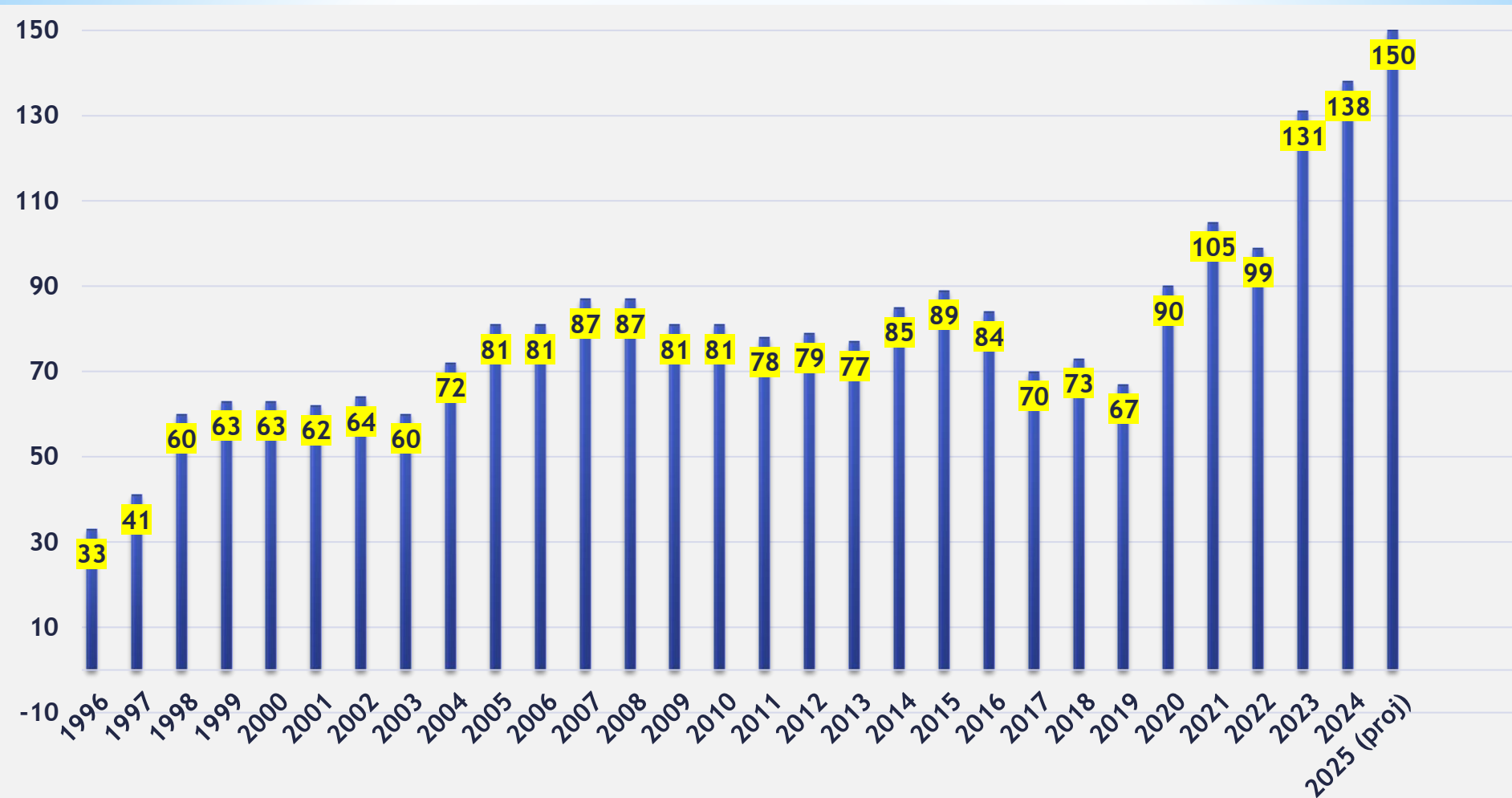
- Multi-year partnership with University of Mary in Bismarck, ND
- 5-6 faculty members will work towards Masters of Education in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and/or state teaching licensure starting summer 2025 (1.5-2 years to complete)
- Bottom line: Be gracious and patient with our teachers during this educational journey. They are educating themselves while educating your child!

# Other News...



- **MRS. HERSCHBERGER IS EXPECTING MID-MAY!!!!**
  - Continuity plan for her classes is in final stages and will be announced soon
- **Annual Garage Sale is May 30-31. Since 2020, we have raised over \$40,000 for our school selling “treasures” in our parking lot**
  - Think of us when you “spring clean”!

# Enrollment Update



Increased enrollment has helped reduce financial “burden” on St. Benedict’s from high of \$199k/yr in 2017 to \$0 in 2023 and 2024!!



# Close Up 2026



- Week (+) experience in Washington DC
- April 17-26, 2026
- Limited to 30 students total
- Estimated cost:  
~\$3500/student (includes tuition, airfare, and extra days)
- Parent Information Meeting:  
Monday, Feb 24 @ 6:30pm



Close Up 2023

# Closing Thoughts...



- **Current parents: Please answer Anne’s Re-Enrollment email—Grades are filling up fast!**
- **2025-2026 Tuition Amount will be announced end of April/early May once budget is approved**
  - **Expect 3-5% increase (inflation, teacher salaries, professional development)**
- **2025-2026 Annual Calendar is official**
  - **No school Mon-Wed of Thanksgiving Week (Nov 24-Nov 28) aligns us with our sister school, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School**



## Questions?

Members of the 2025 HS Boys Basketball team enroute to Point Hope!



## **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

**Saint Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle,  
be our protector against the  
wickedness and snares of the devil.  
May God rebuke him  
we humbly pray;  
and do thou, O Prince of the  
Heavenly host, by the power of God,  
Cast into hell, Satan and all the evil  
spirits who prowl around the Earth  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.**

**LUMEN  
CHRISTI**  
HIGH **+** SCHOOL

Catechism of the Catholic Church (334-336): *“the whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels. From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession.”*

## **Closing Prayer**

# Sources Used



- [https://www.ncea.org/csw/CSW/Catholic\\_Schools\\_Week.aspx?hkey=850a7489-42da-432a-8bcc-420b67eadb43](https://www.ncea.org/csw/CSW/Catholic_Schools_Week.aspx?hkey=850a7489-42da-432a-8bcc-420b67eadb43)
- <https://www.ncbcenter.org/meet-the-ethicists/jozefzalot>
- [www.lumenchristiak.org](http://www.lumenchristiak.org)