

St. George School was established in 1951 and commenced classes for the 1951-1952 school year. St. George School celebrated its 70th anniversary last school year, 2021-2022, and was blessed to have Dr. Ferris attend. She was a student in the very first class and a long-standing principal for 12 years at St. George. The school was opened by the parishioners, led by Father Alphonsus Bock, O.S.B., pastor.

The facility was built with four classrooms, a cafeteria and staffed by two Benedictine nuns from Sacred Heart Convent in Lisle, Illinois. Approximately 60 students, grades one and two in one classroom and grades three through six in the second comprised the first academic year. The Sisters initially lived with parishioners Anthony and Lena Donze; a block away from the school.

The following year, the school's attendance grew to 100 students across eight grade levels and were taught by four sisters who lived in a garage apartment across the street from the school. St. George's first eighth grade graduating class consisted of four boys for the Class of 1952 – 1953. In 1954, Msgr. Donald Hartnett became pastor and school enrollment grew significantly. During the 1954-55 school year, half of the cafeteria was partitioned to provide two more classrooms with a staff of five sisters and one lay woman.

Mother Superior of Sacred Heart convent, in Lisle, shared with Msgr. Harnett that St. George needed a convent if she were to increase staffing the school for continued support. An eight bedroom, four bath convent was built, which today are parish offices. In 1954, four additional classrooms were added for the 1955-56 school year, staffed by eight sisters; teaching all eight grade levels and full-service cafeteria.

A new church was built during the 1956-57 school year to serve 1200 families; followed by 500 students enrolled in grades one through eight for school year 1957-58. In years following, a library in the church was converted into a stand-up classroom to relieve overcrowding in the first and second grades. The number of lay teachers also increased to work with the sisters to staff the school.

In 1960, St. George School reached its highest recorded enrollment with 513 students; however, in 1963, the parish was divided to create the new parish of St. John the Apostle located to the east in the mid-cities area. When St. John's Parish opened a school that same year, St. George enrollment dropped dramatically. The number of assigned sisters also declined and in 1969 the Sacred Heart Sisters were unable to staff St. George due to an increased number of women leaving the convent.

St. George School faced a near reality of closing in 1969 due to financial burdens brought on by the drop in enrollment and the higher salaries of lay teachers. In 1970-71, the seventh and eighth grades from both St. George and St. Peter Schools were moved to Nolan High School; creating a Junior High School class structure there.

Enrollment in grades one through six was approximately 125 students, the principal Mrs. Dorothy Kassel, along with six lay teachers. It had been decided if enrollment fell below 100, the school would be closed. Concerned parents went knocking on doors asking parents to send their children back to St. George, even though there were no sisters present to teach. In 1971, a kindergarten class was added to the campus. These were turbulent times for both the parish and the school because of many changes in personnel and associated stressful reasons.

St. George School currently has over 120 students enrolled in Pre-K through 8th grades. The student population is comprised of all ethnic backgrounds reflecting Hispanic, Anglo, Black and Asian families. St. George Catholic School continues to improve staffing and curriculum; graduating students to attend Nolan Catholic HS, Cristo Rey HS, Cassata HS and surrounding public high schools. The current principal is Mrs. Nikki Leafgreen, who brings a wealth of Diocesan School teaching and administrative experience to the St. George community.