

St. Mary's Catholic School
Development Office
313 E Hwy 20
O'Neill, NE 68763
402-336-1602
www.stmarysoneill.org
Facebook: /stmarysoneill/
jmwallwey@archomaha.org

President

Father Bernard Starman

Principals

Mrs. Paula Atkeson, '84

Mrs. Jennie Schneider, '84

Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Paula Atkeson, '84

Athletic Director

Mr. Tony Allen

Development Director

Mrs. Jennifer Wallwey

Director of Operations

Deacon MJ Kersenbrock, '74

Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic School is committed to forming students in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, through the hands of Mary, fostering the formation of the whole person, body, mind and soul.

Change of Address

To notify us of address changes or personal updates, please fill out the on-line form at stmarysoneill.org under the Alumni Tab or call the Parish Office at 402-336-1602.

Upcoming
EVENTS

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION
MAY 10, 2026

ALUMNI WEEKEND
JUNE 26-27, 2026

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI SPIRIT NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

From Father Starman, President



Dear St. Mary's Alumni, Benefactors and Friends,

Happy Easter!

I cannot believe that as write these we are just seven weeks away from the end of another academic year. It seems like only yesterday that we welcomed our students, faculty and staff back to campus.

It has been a busy year at both St. Mary's Catholic School and St. Patrick Parish. The reconstruction of the school, following the October 7, 2024 explosion of the Parish Center, was completed shortly after the end of the 2024-2025 school year. In September 2025, a squirrel caused a power outage in part of O'Neill, and when the power was restored, it blew out almost 200 of the new light fixtures in the grade school. Our electricians spent several weeks replacing them as they were able to get replacement fixtures. Then in October, a water line broke in the high school social studies room on the second-floor flooding not only that room but the offices, storage rooms, and hallway below. This forced the replacement of carpeting, ceiling tiles, light fixtures, etc. in that part of the building, all of which had been replaced following the explosion. The installation of the air-to-air geothermal system in the school buildings was also delayed by the explosion, but it is now nearing completion. One of the "hiccups" we have experienced with that project is that we received a number of compressors from the manufacturer that were defective, which has significantly slowed down the completion of the project. However, the good news is that it is all warranty work from here on out.

Finally, we moved out of St. Patrick Church on Sunday, June 1st, 2025, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass and began the demolition phase of our church restoration project. Our goal was to be back in our church for the First Sunday of Advent, and the goal was met! The church is absolutely beautiful. If you haven't seen it please stop by or you can find pictures of the whole process on our website at: <https://www.stpatoneill.org/st-patrick-restoration-project>. Our next project is to build a new parish office building. We hope to break ground for that soon. We will rebuild on the same site, but the building will be only one floor and a full basement.

Rereading this myself, maybe that's why the year seems to have flown by...

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
President/Pastor



Keeping up with all of you is no easy task! We love to hear from our alumni about how they are doing and any news they may have to share! We also REALLY love when you keep us up to date with your address & email address, so we don't have to pay return postage & go through the challenge of locating you! You can visit our website at www.stmarysoneill.org/alumni-updates and fill out updated information there. (Parents—let's get your kids listed at their own addresses!!) Or reach out to Jennifer at the parish office at 402-336-1602 or email jmwallwey@archomaha.org. Thank you!

Alumni Weekend 2025



St. Mary's 50 year Class of 1975: (front, l-r) Jean Kallhoff, Tom Fritton, Ann (McCarville) Sparapany, Cindy (Fox) McCarville (back row, l-r) Joe Janousek, Mike Morrow, Barbara (Berigan) Tracy, Barbara (Dufek) Swegarden, Vicki (Schaaf) Kuhn, Karen (Gettert) Shoemaker



St. Mary's 25 Year Class of 2000: (l-r) Ryan Ohri, Eliabeth Fuchser, Megan (Givens) Legenza, Mary (Marx) Dougherty, Jennifer (Shoemaker) Koehlmoos, Crystal (Wettlaufer) Walters, Courtney (Flaherty) Mass, Paul Koenig



St. Mary's 10 Year Class of 2015: (l-r) Krissy (Krotter) McClintic, Molly (Atkeson) Ryan, Adam Soukup, Mackenzie (Wecker) Gideon, Bridget (Schneider) Bulau





Alumni Weekend- June 27 @ 28, 2026



This year's Alumni Weekend will be held Friday June 27 & Saturday June 28. Our honor classes this year are **2016** (10 years), **2001** (25 years), and **1976** (50 years.) Each year, the alumni weekend is to be arranged by the honor classes. The 25 year class (**2001**) handles the banquet decorations, speaker, and clean up. The 50 year class (**1976**) is in charge of the mass. The 10 year class (**2016**) is responsible for the social before the banquet dinner. Please contact Peg Gray at 402-340-4308 to make sure arrangements are lined up, and she will get you details. **Please Note:** If your class would like to make special arrangements for seating together or assistance with finding a place for other gatherings—please do not hesitate to ask!

Friday, June 28

6-8 pm Wine & Cheese Social in the St. Mary's High School Commons

Saturday, June 29

5:00 pm Alumni Mass at St. Patrick's

6:00 pm Honor Class Pictures on the church steps for classes of 1976, 2001, and 2016

6:00 pm Social in St. Mary's Commons

6:45 pm Banquet Dinner in St. Patrick's Parish Hall in basement of St. Mary's

Contact any of the Alumni Banquet committee members for further information:

'70 Peg (Hammond) Gray 402-340-4308 (grayp1970@hotmail.com)

'73 Ann (Hershiser) Wrede 402-336-3948 (awrede73@q.com)

'62 Mary Lois (Jansen) Mlnarik 402-336-1664 (mlmlnarik@q.com)

'79 Linda (Ziska) Schneider 402-340-7923 (lschneid91@gmail.com)

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Graduation Year: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email : _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

BANQUET:

Guest Name(s): _____

I am current/previous faculty/staff from St. Mary's. (Your banquet meal is FREE but we do need an RSVP)

Total Number attending: _____ x \$40 each = _____

Checks should be made to St. Mary's Alumni Association. Return registration form and check to:

St. Mary's Alumni Association

c/o Peg Gray

PO Box 12

O'Neill, NE 68763

You can also register and pay for your tickets online at www.stmarysoneill.org/alumni-weekend

Is your class holding a gathering at an additional time? Please let us know what class & where/when you are meeting so we can have a list available! _____

Greetings to our St. Mary's Alumni!

Dear St. Mary's Alumni,

As fellow graduates of St. Mary's (Class of 1984), we often reflect on how many memories are tied to this school—the classrooms, the gym, the stage, and the friendships that began here. It is a privilege for us to now serve the school that helped shape our own lives.

Our fall sports seasons ended strong! Our volleyball team finished as District Runners-Up, and our football team traveled to Lincoln to play at Memorial Stadium in the D-2 State Championship game, finishing as State Runner-Up after falling to Wynot.

In November, our One-Act cast and directors finished as STATE CHAMPIONS! We are so lucky to have Christina (Reynoldson) Spader and Merri (Tielke) Schneider as our directors (we also have really talented student actors!).

The Christmas season brought many joyful moments. Mrs. Jennifer Wallwey and our K-6 students presented their Christmas program in December, and grade school students also paired with their high school Cardinal Buddies to make ornaments for residents of the nursing home and Evergreen Assisted Living. These simple acts of kindness are a reminder that service has always been part of a St. Mary's education.

What an exciting first semester!

Catholic Schools Week was another highlight, with activities like Saint Bingo with Cardinal Buddies, a talent show, a high school pitch tournament, bowling, Adoration, and a film about St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Our winter sports teams have had very successful seasons. The boys basketball team were District Champions and competed at the State tournament to finish 3rd in Class D-2. The girls basketball team finished as District Runners-up, and Lainey Druke placed 4th at the Girls State Wrestling tournament.

Our speech team competed at Districts on Monday, March 16, placed as District Runner-Up, and also had several STATE qualifiers who competed at State Speech. We are very proud of our 2 State Champions, Ben Pongratz in Informative Speaking & Lauren Winkelbauer in Persuasive Speaking, and our team took 3rd at State!

Many alumni have asked about the school following last year's explosion. While work continues, our students and staff are grateful to be back where they belong—learning, praying, and growing together at St. Mary's.

St. Mary's High School recently said 'au revoir' (thank you, Sister Antonella!) to the statue of Our Mother of Perpetual Help that had graced the entryway for many years—we know our classmates will remember her! With the renovation of St. Patrick's Church, Fr. Starman reclaimed the statue, which originally belonged to St. Patrick's. Not wanting to leave the space empty, Mrs. Bridget (Schneider '15) Bulau began searching for a suitable replacement. She was able to locate another beautiful statue, and with generous financial support from the Sisters of St. Francis and the Knights of Columbus, was able to purchase it. We are now eagerly awaiting its arrival and look forward to dedicating the new statue as a special addition to our school.

Next fall, St. Mary's will undergo an external review as part of our five-year Continuous Improvement cycle. As part of this process, we would love to hear from our alumni. If you would like to participate in our alumni survey, please email Jennie Schneider (jschneider@smcards.org) with your name, graduation year, and email address, and we will send you the survey link.

Thank you for continuing to care about St. Mary's and the generations of students who call it home.

With gratitude,

'84 Paula (Boyle) Atkeson and '84 Jennie (Dugan) Schneider, St. Mary's Principals



*Once a Cardinal . . .
Always a Cardinal.*

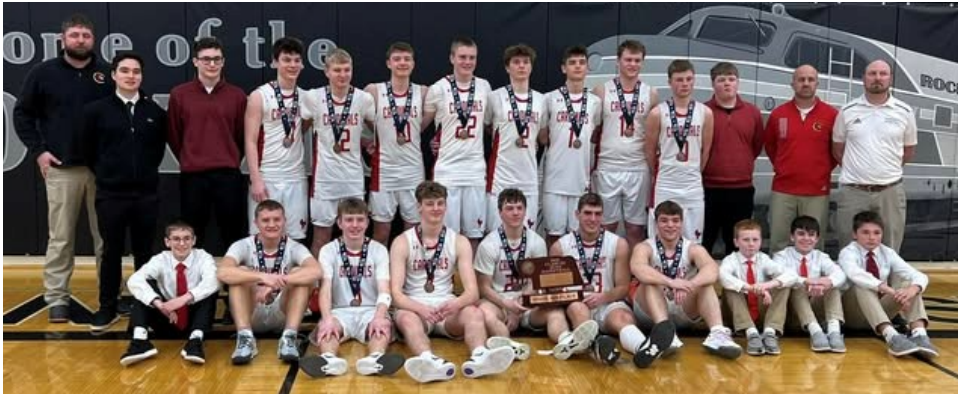




The Varsity Volleyball team was 2025 District Runner-Up.



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
 CLASS D2 STATE CHAMPIONS
 PERFORMING
 AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD



The Varsity Boys Basketball Team placed 3rd at State Basketball this year, with a 27-3 record.



Anna Otte received Outstanding Performer at State One Acts!



The Varsity Girls basketball team was 2026 District Runner Up!

Laney Druke, freshman, placed 4th in her weight class at State Wrestling!



Dalton Hurley & Keigan Couch placed at District Wrestling to punch their tickets to State!



The Varsity Football Team was 2025 State Runner Up!

St. Mary's Speech Team placed 3rd as a team at State this year!



St. Mary's One Act Tech Team received Outstanding Tech Crew & best techies, Samantha Asche & Laura Otte.



SMH SENIOR CLASS OF 2026



Thiago Argentina

Host Parents: Jacob & Tara Soukup
Parents: Flavio & Claudia Argentina



Samantha Asche

Parents:
Paul & Jennifer Asche



Lane Bybee

Parents:
Rob & Laura Kliesen



Myles Hamilton

Parents:
2000 Jason & Desiree Hamilton



Gage Hedstrom

Parents:
Jim & Lisa Hedstrom



Ramsee Hofer

Parents:
Jason Hofer & Karlee Hofer



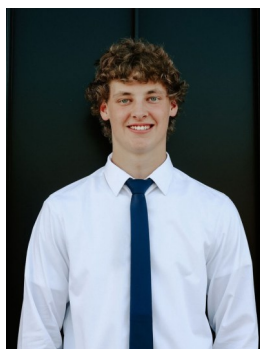
Elle Hoffman

Parents:
Preston & Jenna Hoffman



Ruger Kraft

Parents:
1990 Gert Shannahan



Brayden Krugman

Parents: 2003 Tim & 2003
Falycia (Wagenaar)Krugman



Will Meyer

Parent:
Susan Curran-Morrill



Emerson Mlnarik

Parents:
Josh & Lisa Mlnarik



Anna Otte

Parents:
Matt & Ranell Otte



LaShanna Werth

Parents:
Monte & LaDonna Werth



Gracie Williamson

Parents:
Curt & Autumn Williamson



Lauren Winkelbauer

Parents:
Matthew & Erika Winkelbauer



Aubrey Wohlert

Parents:
Kris & 1998 Becky (Gray) Wohlert



Alumni Babies

Kipton Thomas Lammers, son of '03 **Brooke (Earley)** and Brenton Lammers was born on December 21, 2024 in Lincoln.

Hayden Crumly, son of Courtney & '17 **Jacob Crumly**, was born in March 2025.

Scottie Jo Thompson, daughter of Jaclynn & '17 **Andrew Thompson** was born on March 4, 2025.

Hallie Scott Novak, daughter of Sabrina & '15 **Zachary Novak** was born on March 4, 2025 in O'Neill.

Judd Jacob McClintic, son of William & '15 **Kristine (Krotter) McClintic**, was born on March 21, 2025 in O'Neill.

Amelia Beatriz Schneider, daughter of Mayra & '09 **Hayden Schneider** was born April 25, 2025 in Virginia.

Beau William Schafer, son of '12 **Miranda (Pribil)** & Dalton Schafer was born April 28, 2025.

Liam Joshua Cuddy, son of Hannah & '13 **Jeremiah Cuddy** was born on April 29, 2025 in O'Neill.

Tatum Paul Kerkman, son of '17 **Logan (Connot)** & Travis Kerman, was born on May 15, 2025.

Scarlett LuEtta Pardun, daughter of '14 **Sarah (Pribil)** & '14 **Kyle Pardun**, was born on May 30, 2025 in Omaha.

Eli Benjamin Crumly, son of Cassandra & '08 **Ross Crumly**, was born on June 10, 2025.

Ezra John Roche, son of '20 **Betsy (Crumly)** & Daniel Roche, was born on June 21, 2025.

Ava Lou Bilstein, daughter of '16 **Riley (Sibbel)** & Riley Bilstein, was born on July 10, 2025.

Eastyn Gianna Wilkins, daughter of '16 **Paige (Gaughenbaugh)** & Jake Wilkins was born on August 12, 2025.

Jerzie Capri Kelly, daughter of '07 **Megan (Gaughenbaugh)** & Nate Kelly was born on August 29, 2025 in O'Neill.

Charlie Michael Regan, son of Shelby & '14 **Kyle Regan** was born on September 2, 2025 in O'Neill.

Thomas Luke Bulau, son of '15 **Bridget (Schneider)** and Luke Bulau was born September 3, 2025 in O'Neill. Luke & Bridget are both teachers at St. Mary's.

Allie Dugan Andrew, daughter of '09 **Katelyn (Schneider)** and Luke Andrew was born September 6, 2025 in O'Neill.

Paxton Alvin Reynolds, son of '16 **Rylie (Pistulka)** and Shelton Reynolds, was born on October 24, 2025 in O'Neill. Rylie is the 2nd grade teacher at St. Mary's.



'09 **Katelyn Schneider** and Luke Andrew were married May 9, 2025 at St. Patrick Church, O'Neill.

'20 **Kaitlyn Pongratz** and Elijah Rittscher were married on May 31, 2025.

'19 **Cole Gaughenbaugh** and Kelsie Cada were married on June 21, 2025 at St. Wenceslaus in Wahoo.

Lauren (Arens) and Leonard Schaecher II were married on July 12, 2025 at St. Patrick Church O'Neill. Lauren is the 5th grade teacher at St. Mary School.

St. Mary's Memorabilia

Do you have old yearbooks, pictures, or other memorabilia from St. Mary's Academy/School or St. Patrick Church over the years that you don't know what to do with? We would greatly appreciate anything you have that you would like to give to a "good home" with us! Please contact Jennifer Wallwey with any questions at jmwallwey@archomaha.org or 402-336-1602, or you can just bring them by the Parish Office, or bring them along to the Alumni Weekend at the end of June! Thank you so much!

Class of 1976



50 years ago we each started a new chapter ...now it's time to come back and share where our stories have taken us.

Join us June 26th and 27th 2026

Friday:

- 5:30-8:00, Wine and Cheese, along with school tours at St. Mary's
- 6:00-? Fiesta gathering hosted by Julie Becker Owens at her home

Saturday:

- 5:00 Mass, class picture, banquet
- Then we move to the O'Neill Country Club to swap (and make) more memories.

We are excited to see YOU! Please join us for any or all of our celebrating. Kindly text your number to Ellen 402-340-5978 or Jeanie 402-340-5087 so we can send more details as the date gets closer.

Scholarships & Grants Program

Over the years, we have been blessed by the generosity of so many people who have continued to support St. Mary's School and its faith-based education. Your financial support of our Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program has enabled us to continue to provide a quality, Christian education at an affordable level, by assisting with tuition expenses for many of our students and families. Will you help another student continue their education at St. Mary's? If you would like to direct your gift specifically to a certain academic area, you can indicate that below. We ask that this form and the money be in to the parish office **May 6, 2026** so that it can be recognized at our awards program on May 13th. If you'd like to give online, or see more details about the specifics of this program, please visit stmarysoneill.org/support.

Through this program, as well as three larger estates that have been established in previous years, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to many of our families, both for academic excellence (scholarships) and for those who are in need of financial assistance (grants). Last year, over \$17,000 was given to students as scholarships, and over \$40,000 was given in the form of grants.

We will present the awards to our students at the academic awards program in mid-May. All donors will be listed in the program. It really is a wonderful way to honor a loved one through a gift to this program.

Once again, on behalf of our school, administration, staff, and school families, thank you very much for your support of St. Mary's Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated by our students and parents. Please contact Jennifer Wallwey with any questions 402-336-1602.

~~~~~  
Donor(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards **SCHOLARSHIPS** for St. Mary's students.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards **GRANTS** for St. Mary's students.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used as most needed for St. Mary's students tuition offset.

Given in honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

Preference of scholarship subject area (*cannot be guaranteed*): \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made to St. Mary's Scholarships & Grants.*

*Please submit all gifts for scholarships and grants to the Development Director. All gifts are tax deductible.*

*St. Mary's Development, 313 E. Hwy 20, O'Neill NE 68763*



## Marian Award Scholarships

As you know, every year we award up to two graduating students the "Marian Award." The Marian Award is the highest honor that a student can receive from St. Mary's School. The Marian Award recipients are the students who epitomize the spirit of St. Mary's School summed up in the school motto: "Magnificet Anima Mea Dominum" (May My Soul Magnify the Lord). The Marian Qualities are derived from the life of Saint Mary who gave her total "yes" to God. These students, like Mary, are never self-seeking, but are quiet, humble, servants of the Lord. They have and express a lively faith, trust, and love for God above everything else and seek to magnify the Lord in all aspects of life in school and in the community. Their demeanor is never bombastic or demeaning or self-serving but rather embodies gentleness, positive attitude, good manners, self-sacrifice, patience, kindness, openness, cooperation, hard work, honesty and a generous sharing of their gifts and talents. They do active ministry in the Church, strive for holiness, model prayerfulness, promote and defend Christian morals and purity among peers, and offer spontaneous, joyful service to their peers, school, and community at large. While no student perfectly embodies these qualities, the Marian Award recipient is the student whom the faculty feels BEST exhibits these characteristics.

We have recently established an annual scholarship to be granted to our Marian Award winners. (\$1500 each at this time.) Finances that are donated to this fund will be placed in an account to gain interest, and those who have donated will be shared annually. At this time, donations have been made in memory of Sharon Reichmuth, Don Duffy, and '46 Virginia (Podany) Zemeck. We are pleased to award these college scholarships to the honorable young men and women who exemplify the life of Mary.



'20 Presley Pribil is the founder of the foundation "Mind Worthy" whose mission statement is: Your mind matters. We are an organization dedicated to breaking the stigma around mental health. Our goal is to provide rural Nebraska schools with education and resources that address the rising rates of adolescent suicidal thoughts and attempts.



OFFENSIVE PASSING  
GAME COORDINATOR  
JAKE PEETZ  
Experience: 11 YEARS

'01 Jake Peetz, is the offensive passing game coordinator for the Super Bowl LX team Seattle Seahawks.

'21 Will Otte organized, prepared, and led the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, performed by an ecumenical choir at St. Patrick's in December 2025.



'99 Leaha (Dougherty) Hammer has written a book, titled "The Poker Player's Guide to Parenting" for which she did a book signing at the end of May. *The Poker Player's Guide to Parenting* is a funny, entertaining, and insightful guide that empowers parents with practical strategies, drawing playful yet effective parallels between poker and parenting to manage stress, communication, and discipline. Leaha has been a poker player her whole life, is married and has 3 children, 2 boys and a girl. She works as a mental health specialist and lives in Wahoo Nebraska.



'08 Jake Reiman & '08 Leah (Reiman) Chohon qualified and competed in the Boston Marathon in April 2025 where they ran 26.2 miles. Leah finished in 9,864th place and Jake in 5,967th place out of nearly 29,00 runners. In the female division Leah finished in 2,156th place out of 12,427 total female runners and in her age division, Chohon finished in 1,701st place out of 5,537! In the male division Jake finished in 5,294th place out of 16,266 total male runners and in his age division, he finished 3,304th place out of 5,694!



'73 John Grady is a 2004 Nebraska Rock n Roll Hall of Fame inductee in the "Professional Excellence" Category. It would take a short novel to cover the adventures of John Grady and his journey through the music business, from O'Neill, Nebraska to the Presidency of Sony Music Nashville. A graduate of St. Mary's Schools in O'Neill, Nebraska, John made his way through a stint at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, to a bachelor's degree in History and Education from Saint John's University in Minnesota.

Upon graduation, John took a distribution job with Pickwick Distribution in Minneapolis, getting his feet wet, before joining Clive Davis and Don Lenner as Regional Director of Promotion for Arista Records in 1982. Over the next 20 years, John Grady would have his creative hand in the marketing, promotion, and sales of dozens of top selling artists, including Whitney Houston, Kenny G, Bonnie Raitt, MC Hammer, & many more. Between 1993 & 2002, John was Senior Vice-President of Sales, Marketing and Promotion for Mercury Records in Nashville, where he helped launch the career of Shania Twain as well as break the multi-million dollar selling movie soundtrack, "Oh Brother where Art Thou?" The worldwide success of "Oh Brother", propelled Grady into a partnership in DMZ Records and CBS Records, with movie producers, The Coen Brothers and platinum guitar icon, T-Bone Burnett.

*Taken from nebmusichalloffame.org/john-grady*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
DALTON ALDER MEMORIAL WALK

Event Hosted by Mind Matters  
Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 11 am - 2 pm  
Located at O'Neill Public Track & Field



Join us for community building and mental health education.



Best Choice  
UPC Symbols

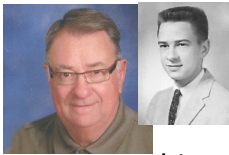
We are beginning a new way to help out our parish and school, that harkens back to the days of Campbells Soup Labels & Box Tops! Simply shop your local community grocer for best choice family of brands projects. You can find a list of participating stores here: <https://bestchoicebrand.com/where-to-buy/>

Clip the UPC labels and collect them for us. We receive \$.03 per label, but they add up quickly! Once we have 1000 labels, we send them in to earn \$30 in cash! If you'd be willing to help collect & count, we would love your help with that as well!

Contact Jennifer Wallwey with any questions at 402-336-1602 or send in your labels at any time: St. Mary's Development Office, 313 E Hwy 20, O'Neill, NE 68763. They can also be dropped off at the Parish Office!



*In Loving Memory*



**'60 Don Bosn** passed away on November 29, 2023. Don was in the US Air Force at Sheppards Air Force Base in Texas from 1963-1967 where he learned the trade of refrigeration. In the year of 1986, Don and Jackie became entrepreneurs of a family owned and operated Commercial Refrigeration, Plumbing and HVAC business in Lincoln, retiring in 2014. He is survived by: his wife of 48 years, Jacqueline Froehlich Bosn, children Reginald (Carolyn) Bosn; Ryan(Ginger) Bosn, Russell (Celeste), Rochelle (Andrew) Essay, and Ross (Keely) Bosn; 19 grandchildren; and 2 sisters '48 Roseline Gallagher and '53 Jean Lucero. Donald was preceded in death by siblings: Raymond Bosn, '45 George Bosn, Albin Bosn, Dorothy Blomstrom, Margaret Cook, Marian Harty, Teresa Jefferies.



**'56 Janice (Turner) Lemek** passed away at the age of 85 on February 13, 2024. Her most important role was being a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Janice was a devout Catholic who shared her knowledge preparing children for the Sacrament of Confirmation. She loved music, was a talented pianist, and a solo vocalist. Janice was preceded in death by husband, Robert Lemek, brother, '59 Gene Turner; sister, '57 Donna Reising and nephew, Tom Reising. She is survived by daughter, Robbie (Rick) Dunlop; son, Mike (Beth) Lemek; daughter, Cindy (Jess) Long; daughter, Cathy Lemek; sisters, '54 Mary Kay Kostic (deceased 2/17/2025) and '61 Betty Crow; 7 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.



**'54 Mary Kathryn (Turner) Kostic** passed away on February 17, 2025 in Thornton, Colorado. Mary Kay leaves behind a legacy of dedication to her family, career, and community. A devout member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Parish, Mary Kay's faith was a cornerstone of her existence. Her hobbies included gardening, playing softball, and genealogy. Mary Kay is survived by her youngest sister, '61 Elizabeth Crow, and her son Bill. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Bill Kostic in 2020, her brother '59 Gene Turner, two sisters '57 Donna Reising and '56 Janice Lemek and two nephews Tom and Doug Reising.



**Lance Michael Schluns**, of O'Neill, age 48, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Lance attended St. Mary's schools. He is survived by his wife, Amanda, five year old twin boys, Alexander and Wyatt of O'Neill, his mother, '73 Deb (Tom) Young, his sister '98 Brandi (Michael) Flynn, and brother '15 Drew (Anna) Young along with many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.



**'67 Robert E. Gallagher** passed away on April 3, 2025. He will be forever remembered for his love of his Irish heritage and his Irish wit; he was a kind and generous man. Robert is survived by his children Liam, Conor (Martina and daughter Nilde), Nolan, Keenan (Hillary), and Caitlin. Siblings surviving Robert include '66 Kathy Donohoe, '70 Eugenia Gallagher, '71 Richard (Karen) Gallagher, '72 Colleen (David) Mills, and '74 Thomas Gallagher. Robert was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife, Pam, and brothers '64 Michael and John.



**'59 JoAnn (Shoemaker) Schaaf** passed away on April 21, 2025. She and her husband Jerry made their home in Fort Knox, Kentucky while Jerry was in the Army, then Omaha, O'Neill, and the Epiphany Rectory before settling back in O'Neill in 1978. JoAnn is survived by her children '81 Kathy (Rick) Boyle, '82 Gerald Schaaf Jr., '84 Gary Schaaf, '89 Timothy (Carolyn) Schaaf, '04 Matthew Schaaf; five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; siblings, '60 Jim (Dianne) Shoemaker, '67 Mary Ellen (Ed) Humpal, and '69 Jerry Shoemaker. JoAnn was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years Jerry Schaaf; brother, '62 Gene Shoemaker; sister-in-law, Maureen Donlin; brothers-in-law, O.J. Armatys, Jerry Kuhn, Bernard Schaaf; niece, '86 Margaret (Maggie) Pierce; and nephews, '88 George Shoemaker, '92 Jimmy Shoemaker, & Jimmy Schaaf.



**'60 Peg (Sullivan) Shelhammer** passed away on April 28, 2025. Peg & her husband Richard were the owners of Shelhamer Petroleum and Fox's Food Plaza and Taco Johns before she retired in the mid 1990's. Peg enjoyed going to the river and spending time at the cabin, reading, and watching tv. She enjoyed interacting with her costumers at the store and all of her friends, but most importantly she enjoyed attending her grandchildren's activities. Peg is survived by her daughters, '83 Carrie Hahlbeck and '86 Laurie (Greg) Hansen; three grandchildren, Brian Hahlbeck, Jason Hahlbeck, Nicholas Hansen; her sister-in-law, Marilyn Shelhamer; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband '58 Richard in 2025 and her sister at birth.



**'65 Mike Mahony** passed away at the age of 78 on May 19, 2025. Mike was the 10th of 14 children. Mike bought into the Ericson/Spalding Sale Barn with his brothers in 1994. He retired from O'Neill Farms and sold his stake in the sale barn in the early 2000s to focus on his own ranch which included his son, Curt. Mike is survived by his wife, Kim (Reiter) Mahony; four children, Cyndy Pfeiffer, Aimy (Bob Adair) Mahony, Marny Plog, '05 Curt Mahony; four step children, Travis Reiter, Heather Landauer, Tosha (Shawn) Murdock, Tyler (Makayla) Reiter; 10 grandchildren; 10 step grandchildren; seven great grandchildren plus two on the way; seven siblings, '54 Bette Boyle, '57 Charlene Boyle, '59 Charles (Diane) Mahony, '61 Aggie (Paul) Halverson, '63 Rosemary Cooley, '72 Kevin (Patty) Mahony, '74 Theresa (Gary) Parker; mother-in-law, Sandra Madsen; father-in-law, Jerry Horwart; many nieces, nephews, friends, and his special AA Family. He is preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, '87 Jill Mikkelson; six siblings, '52 Maureen Rohde, '53 Mary Jo Gallager, '56 Karen Ramold, '60 Pauline Carr, '66 Patrick Mahony, and '68 Sister Colleen Mahony.



**'67 Arlene (Fritton) Bell** passed away on May 18, 2025. She was the third child of seven. She worked at St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill before moving to Scottsbluff to work at the hospital there, and later at the nursing home in Sidney, NE. Arlene is preceded in death by her parents, sister '66 Anna Buckley; brother '69 Bernard (Bernie); brothers-in-law Mike Heater, Alan Gross and LaVerne Buckley. She is survived by her daughter Chelsea (Brandon) Amateis; sisters '71 Mary Heater, and '60 Elizabeth (Liz) Gross; brothers '75 Thomas Fritton, and '70 Theodore (Diane) Fritton, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.



**Don Templemeyer**, faculty member at St. Mary's from 1954-1963, passed away at the age of 98 on May 20, 2025. He graduated from Louisville, Nebraska High School in 1944 and enlisted in the United States Army, serving in the Philippines at the end of World War II. While his wife, Pat, was his true love, coaching was a close second. Over his life he served as head coach in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball, Track, Wrestling and Cross Country. Football was his forte, winning 72% of his games as head coach. He authored 2 coaching books, published articles in National Coaching magazines, and spoke at numerous coaching clinics in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa all while teaching and coaching high school sports in those states. Don was baptized into the Catholic faith on February 14, 1948, and truly took the command to "Serve the Lord" seriously. He worked tirelessly with the Boy Scouts, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Serra Club and Meals on Wheels. Don and Pat also volunteered as foster parents in the state of Iowa. Don is survived by his children and their spouses: '67 Rose Vogan; Paula Templemeyer; Terri (Deacon Dave) Prenger; and Michael (Chong Ah) Templemeyer; 9 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife Pat, his sister, and 2 brothers.



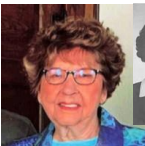
**'57 Jerry McGinn** passed away June 12, 2025 at 87 years young. Jerry lived a rich and joyful life filled with love, laughter, and service to others. Jerry's sense of humor, warm presence, and love of storytelling were legendary. He was the kind of man who made everyone feel like they belonged and were accepted. Jerry is survived by his daughters, Deborah T McGinn, Mike Pittz, Maureen (Nick) McGinn Palmer; sister, Donna (Richard) McGinn Hill; brother, Jack (Donna) McGinn; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends. Jerry is preceded in death by Mary McGinn and Georgia Borchner.



**Carol Jean (McDermott) Bruce** passed away June 22, 2025 at Good Samaritan Center in Atkinson. She was born in December 1946 in Norfolk, Nebraska, adopted by Gerald & Veral McDermott & attended St. Mary's School. She spent many years trucking with her husband BJ Darcy before returning to Nebraska, later settling in Orchard where she worked at IMAC & bartended at the Orchard Bar. Carol is survived by her daughter, Brenda L. Harrison, 3 grandsons, and 3 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a stillborn baby, her daughters Rebecca & Roberta Bumgardner, her son Byron Bumgardner, her husband, Billy Jack Darcy, and her husband, Richard Bruce.

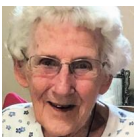


**'68 Tom Coker** of Omaha passed away on June 26, 2025 from complications due to Parkinson's Disease. A graveside service was held at the O'Neill Cemetery. Tom is survived by sisters '70 Ellen (Larry) DeMers and '80 Julia Coker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Berneice Coker.



**'54 Mary (Belzer) Burival** passed away on July 17, 2025 at the age of 88. In 1956, she married Clifford Burival at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in O'Neill. They became the parents of three children. She went on to work as an active partner in their farming and ranching operation, always working and doing what all farm and ranch wives do. Mary is survived by her daughter, '75 Deb (Julius) Hipke; sons, '76 Clifford Burival Jr., and '81 Steven Burival; grandsons, '12 Jared and '13 Jacob Hipke; many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, two brothers, and her husband Clifford Burival.

**'46 James Merriman** passed away July 25, 2025 in Santa Rosa, California. James was born and baptized at St. Patrick, O'Neill, Nebraska in May of 1928.



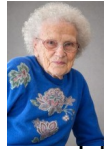
**'49 Ramona Ann (Schneider) Babl** of O'Neill passed away on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. In 1953, Ramona was married to Wendell Babl, and they had 13 children. She is survived by children Tony Babl, Larry (Diane) Babl, '79 Beth Babl, '80 Barb Lindberg, '82 Mary Jo (Jeff) Peterson, '83 Charlie ('83 Shelly) Babl, '84 Rich (Debbie) Babl, '85 James Babl, '88 Mike Babl, '90 Wendy (Todd) Grosse and '94 Vicki (Gabe) Baros, 28 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wendell, and sons Ed Babl and Robert Babl. Ramona spent her life doing community service, sewing, baking and cooking and helping various St. Patrick church organizations and was a friend to many.



**'49 Lawrence (Larry) Minton** of O'Neill passed away on November 3, 2025. Larry served four years in the Air Force. Larry enjoyed working with people at the O'Neill Post Office, volunteering at St. Patrick Church and he remembered names and addresses until his final days. Larry loved his brother Dick's six children as his own and they were a big part of his personal life. Larry is survived by Lois Minton, his stepson Collin Cavanaugh and nieces Rose Minton, Mardelle ('75 Mike) Morrow, Miriam Minton, Kathy (James) Ward, and Colleen (Tim) Burns and nephew Tim (Melissa) Minton and their families.



**'60 James (Jim) Francis Shoemaker** of O'Neill passed away on October 20, 2025 in Omaha. Jim was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and served on the St. Patrick Parish Council, St. Mary's School Board and helped coach many St. Mary's track teams. He served in the US Air Force for 4 years in Spain. Jim worked at REA and farmed and ranched outside of O'Neill until his retirement. Jim is survived by his wife, Dianne, daughters, '85 Jo Ellen (John) Akerboom, '86 Maureen Shoemaker, '86 Mary Long, and son '93 Chris (Sarah) Shoemaker, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by siblings '67 Mary Ellen Humpal and '69 Jerry Shoemaker and many nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by sons '92 Jimmy, '88 George, and daughter '86 Maggie.



**'45 Mary Rita (Determan) Leibel** passed away on December 22, 2025 at the age of 98. She was a full-time mother and cook on the farm until Mary Rita & her family moved to town. She began at this time working at the Sacred Heart Church and also at the thrift center. She retired from her church duties in 2014 and continued to work at the thrift store until moving to Silver Threads in May of 2019. She is survived by her daughter Mary Lou (Tom), 7 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 2 step-great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. Mary Rita was preceded in death by her husband Paul, son Ray, her siblings: Ben, Bertha Putnam, Clarence, Florence Karrels, Hilda Raymond, Irene, Leo and Ray and all of Paul's siblings.



**Rita Donohoe Diedrich**, passed away December 26, 2025, in Rapid City, SD. Rita had attended St. Mary's High School in O'Neill. Rita is survived by her sisters, '64 Marilyn (Donohoe) Hinkle, '71 Carol (Donohoe) Reida, and brother Don Donohoe. She was preceded in death by brother '67 Bob Donohoe.



**'59 Paul Ziska** passed away on January 28, 2026. He was raised on a ranch near O'Neill and played as a guard on the undefeated 8-man football team that won the state championship in 1958. Paul spent his career in the insurance industry, eventually opening his own insurance agency in Carroll, Iowa, retiring in 2018. He served the Nebraska National Air Guard beginning in 1964 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1989. Paul is survived by his three children: Julie Trimble, Michele (Brian) Aschoff, and Holly (Chris) Stockman, and 6 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister '55 JoAnn (Ziska) Carlson & one grandson.



**'63 Owen Donohoe** passed away on February 8, 2026. He had his own business, Donohoe & Associates, in the medical device field, based out of Shawnee, Kansas. Owen also served 6 terms in the Kansas State Legislature. All who knew Owen will remember him for his quick Irish wit with a "tad bit" of sharp sarcasm blended in. Owen was a stand-out high school athlete. While lettering in football, basketball was his true passion. He held the record for most points scored in a game until his nephew, '82 Tony Shaw, broke it 20 years later. He was preceded in death by his brother, '58 Tom; sisters, '57 Ellen Shaw and '73 Ann; sister-in-law, Carolyn Larson; nephew, '82 Tony Shaw; and 2 infant grandchildren. Owen is survived by his wife, Charlene; his five children: Carri (Lorenzo) Person, Monica (Brent) Strasser, Jodi (Patrick) Espinoza, Chris (Jana) Donohoe, and Shannon (ZeHua) Shang, 16 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and his siblings: '61 Kathleen (Steve) Rosenberg, '66 Neil (Karen) Donohoe, '68 Bill (Sandy) Donohoe, '69 Mary (Dan) Straka, '71 Pat Donohoe, and '72 Jeanne (Joe) Hauser; his brothers-in-law, Jim Larson, Dean (Betty) Larson, Curt (Bonnie) Larson, and Mike Larson as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



**'67 Ronald Haselhorst** of Norfolk, Nebraska passed away March 14, 2026. Ron enlisted in the United States Army and served two tours in Vietnam. He kept in contact with his Vietnam War buddies and joined them for reunions and trips. Ron owned and operated RMH Construction in Norfolk much of his life. Ron's strong faith, humor and devotion to his family were evident to all who knew him. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Janet, and their five children and their spouses, and 10 grandchildren. Ron is also survived by his sisters '67 Kathy (Bill) Addison, '73 Karen Haselhorst, '81 Keli Bright, and brothers, '70 Roger (Deb), and '77 Rod. Ron's family will forever carry his stories, lessons, and laughter in their hearts.



**Susan Herley**, age 73, passed away on March 22, 2026. Sue was a resource teacher at St. Mary's Grade School from 1992 to 2018. Sue had a true passion for teaching and cared deeply for each child she worked with. She also enjoyed gardening, walking, crafting, and cooking. Above all, Sue cherished time spend with her family & friends. Sue is survived by her husband of 53 years, Jack Hurley, her children '97 Nicole (Jeremy) Tamisiea, and '06 John Hurley, five grandchildren, and sister Sharon Martinez.

**Forever  
In Our Hearts**



**Donald M Cleary**, of Omaha, passed away on March 24, 2025. Donald was born in Atkinson and attended St. Joseph Elementary there, and St. Bonaventure school in Elgin until he entered the St. John Vianney seminary in Elkhorn, Nebraska where he graduated in 1963. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1971 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha. Donald was an associate pastor of St. Patrick in O'Neill. He retired in 2018.

Our sympathies to the family of **Charlotte Shefl** who passed away on May 7, 2025. She is survived by her husband '53 Frank Shefl, daughters '99 Anna Shefl, & '96 Frances Shefl

Our sympathy to the family of **Florence McCarville** who passed away on May 27, 2025. She is survived by her brother Joseph Horak (Monica) and children '65 Joseph (Diane), '69 Robert, '75 George, and '75 Ann Sparapany (John), 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph & sister Jean.

With sympathy to the family of **Alice Marx** of Norfolk who passed away December 2nd, 2025 at Blair. Alice was from the Redbird, Nebraska area and later moved to O'Neill where she worked to build their family business, Quality Farm Center. Alice was the St. Patrick Parish receptionist in O'Neill from 1990 until her retirement in 2018. During this time, she also opened her home to many foster children. Spending time with family was a big priority to Alice. Alice is survived by her son '87 Bill (Sherrie), and daughters '86 Laura Schlachter and Melissa (Ron) Marx-Roth. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and extended family.

Our sympathy to the family to **Wanda Kallhoff**, who passed away on January 21, 2026. Wanda is survived by one son, Gary Kallhoff, three daughters, Tammy McCormack, '79 Joanie (Russ) Holz, and '91 Angie (Tony) Allen; 14 grandchildren; 34 great grandchildren; one sister, Lorene White, special friend, Rick Borer, and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Ted and one brother, Larry Thelander.

Our sympathy to the family of **Joan Turner**, who passed away on March 3, 2026. She was preceded in death by her husband, '59 Gene Turner. She is survived by her children, '84 Steve (Gloria) Turner, '88 Jenny Turner, '82 Kim (Randy) Atkins, and '82 Pam (Gaylor) Brockemeier.

## St. Mary's Wish List



The Saint Mary's wish list is one way you can help to offset the costs of some of our "wishes" that aren't included in the regular budget. The wish list supplies a large amount of our 'extra' expenses for school and students that go beyond the basic budget for curriculum. Some of the many different items that have been paid for by the wish list include (this list is not all inclusive):

- Document camera, docking station, technology needs
- Shelving & rolling carts for science storage
- Art supplies including clay, paper, paint, sketchbooks, chalk, etc.
- Choir chimes, music, and other supplies for music classes & programs
- Stage lights & stands
- Faith booklets
- Classroom subscriptions
- Biology & chemistry classroom supplies
- AR prizes and rewards
- Classroom incentives
- Seating, testing dividers
- Field trips
- Much more not listed

Current specific needs include:

- An additional omni-directional microphone for the students to use for leading mass musically (\$800)
- Technology needs are an ongoing need, including updated chromebooks, chargers, accessories, and so much more. We are developing a specific fund to help keep us up to date!

Donations can be made to specific needs/classes or to the wish list in general. Feel free to contact Jennifer with questions or suggestions at [jmwallwey@archomaha.org](mailto:jmwallwey@archomaha.org) or 402-336-1602, or you can make a donation by simply indicating "wish list" on your check. Please see the donation form on the last page of this newsletter.



*We thank our alumni, friends, families, and benefactors for all the many ways you support St. Mary's, whether it be through financials, other donations, time, prayers, and/or involvement in the school! We are beyond grateful for all that you give and do, and with your help, we continue to build the legacy of St. Mary's for generations to come!*

# St. Patrick Restoration



You can see more  
images on our  
website at  
[stpatoneill.org/  
st-patrick-  
restoration-  
project](http://stpatoneill.org/st-patrick-restoration-project)





The 2026 St. Mary's Red Carpet Gala was a tremendous success, raising funds that will directly support students, programs, and the future of St. Mary's. The evening was made possible by the incredible support of our sponsors, generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and enthusiastic bidders. Together, we raised over \$190,000 to support the future of St. Mary's and its mission. Thank you to all who came together for our St. Mary's community in such a meaningful and generous way!

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of two special honors at this year's Gala: the Spirit of St. Mary's Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by Father Starman and Archbishop McGovern.



The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Pat Drueke, Class of 1962, in recognition of her example of faith and her lasting presence and support of St. Mary's School. A proud alum, Pat has remained deeply connected to the St. Mary's community, offering her prayers, encouragement, and steadfast support. Her commitment reflects a lifelong dedication to faith, education, and service, and her influence continues to be felt by students, families, and faculty alike.

The Spirit of St. Mary's Award was presented to Jim and Pat (McKay) Gokie, Class of 1967, recognizing their compassion for others, generosity of spirit, and unwavering commitment to creating a meaningful and lasting impact on St. Mary's Catholic School. Through years of steady dedication, they have helped shape and strengthen this community in ways that will last for generations.

Thank you to everyone who made this special evening possible! Thank you to our Gala committee, '09 Molly (Chohon) Krotter, '09 Brittany (Petersen) Boyle, and Chelsea McIntosh! **Save the Date for the 2027 St. Mary's Red Carpet Gala, April 10!**



## St. Mary's Donation Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep my donation anonymous.

**I'd like to donate to St. Mary's School and/or St. Patrick Church!** *Just a reminder—all gifts are tax deductible!*

- |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to undesignated expenses at St. Mary's                                                           | <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to St. Mary's Foundation              |
| <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to tuition grants (need-based)                                                                   | <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to tuition scholarships (merit-based) |
| <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to wish list items for classrooms                                                                | <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to Marian Award Scholarships          |
| <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to technology needs                                                                              | <input type="radio"/> \$ _____ to St. Patrick's Foundation           |
| <input type="radio"/> I would be interested in setting up a recurring donation. Please contact me.                              |                                                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> I would like to discuss a planned gift to St. Patrick Church and/or St. Mary's School. Please contact me. |                                                                      |

**Given in honor of :** \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return form to: **Jennifer Wallwey, Director of Development, 313 E Hwy 20, O'Neill, NE 68763**  
or donate online at <https://www.stmarysoneill.org/online-giving>

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