



GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

December 2, 2022

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, and Friend of Gibault Catholic High School,



**ADVENT 2022** Jesus called those who would be his followers to an experience of ongoing conversion, a lifelong commitment of change and development aimed at living the gospel and striving to follow the will of God. Make the spirit of your Advent two-fold: Self reflection on the coming of the Incarnation and the service that Jesus calls us to do in His Name. Four weeks of waiting. Four thousand years of Hebrew history till Emmanuel---*God made man*---arrives. We recall our Jewish roots and rejoice in our God who says "Follow Me." All the baptized are called to be *disciples* of Jesus Christ, not just "Christians." Do something to make your Advent special. Engage your family in religious experiences that they will remember for their lifetime. Beat the height of holiday stress by reflecting and service. Get to Church this Sunday and find the community you don't even know you need! No one on their deathbed has said "I wish I hadn't gone to Church so much." It is a huge sense of relief to them if they have stayed connected to the Church.

**BROKEN HEARTS AND OUR CONDOLENCES** Ozzy Embrich, 1 year old son of Corey & Mallory Embrich, will be laid to rest tomorrow. Ozzy is a first cousin to Brie Miller and great nephew to Michelle Miller and Don Polacek.

<https://www.quernheimfuneralhome.com/obituaries/ozzy-embrich>

Our Dress Down Day today raised over \$450 for the family. We will continue to accept donations on Monday if any student forgot.

Theresa Birkner, Aunt of Mr. Andrew Skaer, has died at age 46. Our condolences to him, his Mom Faye, and all the family on their loss. God sits with us on the mourning bench.

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK** The New Principal has come up with a Scriptural analogy of his first week at Gibault Catholic High School. *The Apostles were fishing all night. Caught nothing. Jesus saw them in their frustration and asked how they were doing. Nothing! Jesus said "Cast your net over the other side of the boat." Yeah-right! They did. The nets started breaking.* Mike Kish is the Apostles' net. He knows what he is supposed to do, but he just can't seem to get the job done. In all seriousness, I am having a ball. I cannot believe how much I have learned and how great we have it here at Gibault Catholic! I'm still lost but Mrs. Grohmann always points me in the right direction. The Faculty and Staff are bending over backwards to make me feel welcome and productive and help our students find joy in our daily Scripture. (Join us at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Sign up for the daily readings and be amazed that God always speaks to us right where we are!) The local funny papers have me plastered all over in a good way. Read the next issue of The Messenger for some serious thoughts. And I have already been told there is a betting board laying out odds at *Outsiders* on how long I will last here. Vegas odds are coming.

**MODUS OPERANDI...** in other words---how I roll. MBWA---management by walking around. Let's solve problems using the principle of subsidiarity. Start at the lowest level and move up. Do not jump your problem over the teacher and principal directly to Mrs. Grohmann. Thanks! 95% of all problems are communication problems.

**IT WAS JANUARY OF 1963** and I came to the old SPPS High School for the Placement Exam as a back-up in case I couldn't pass the St. Henry's Prep Seminary Entrance Exam. On the bulletin board next to me were the words "*Well Begun is Half-way, Half-done.*" Tomorrow we will have our **Placement Exam at 9:00.** Thanks to Mrs. Kelly Day and Ms. Susan Mackin for this big event. Nothing beats good preparation. Spread the word to take the exam and become a Hawk. There will be a January test for those who we can add on or are ill.

**IN THE GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT**...(which is not always about money but sometimes it is)...Mr. Dave Schauer has received a \$1700 grant for a "Resusci Annie" for his CPR course and Mrs. Elizabeth Hess has received a \$500 grant from Monroe County Electric Cooperative for a new camera in our Innovation Commons! It would be great to have Grant Writer as a student here but we have to do it in-house in our spare time. If you come across any grants or have matching gifts from your place of business, please send them out way!

**CONTINUED GOOD NEWS...** from the Director of the recent ARCH Engineering contest: *Gibault wins its first Gateway Arch National Park Engineering title. This is a fine moment for GCHS and your team. It was the most difficult problem we have had in the competition and the*

*competing ideas were all very good. I believe it was the hardest fought battle we have had in the program's five years. Your five-man crew did an excellent job and Joe Hencken of CBC told me, "Gibault really brought it" as the teams were going to lunch. I believe he thought he would relinquish the trophy, but CBC is still a juggernaut - but now so is Gibault. Congratulations! Make sure everyone at Gibault knows just how hard this competition is to win and how you and your men put in the work.*

*As the contest grows, and it will, as we now have Washington University involved as host, Gibault will always be a perirenal [sic] powerhouse and one of the teams to beat. In the future, when a big-name corporation adopts the contest, and 32 schools are fighting it out in a NCAA style bracket, the teams will not be pleased to see Gibault as their next opponent. "Ach," they will say, "We face Martel's Gibault team next." And when they say this, you will have earned the accolade. Hencken tells me this contest is a state championship and that pleases us greatly.*

*You now have the trophy for a year. the juniors you teach now have something to look forward to - Defending the trophy.*

*Next year I introduce you as defending champions,*

Past winners: 2022 Gibault 2021 CBC 2020 Parkway Central 2019 CBC 2018 CBC

**GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT** The annual Gibault Christmas Concert is this Sunday, December 4, at 7:00pm in the Hustedde Gymnasium. The concert is free, open to the public, with free refreshments afterward. The concert features the Concert Band, Chorus, The Hawkappellas, the Jazz Band, and bad Christmas jokes from the director. :) More students get to The Final Four each year in Band than ever get there playing the sport. We need to beef up our Band numbers. Music comes from the right side of the brain. Music is like learning a foreign language. Music raises your math scores. Show me a lead guitar player and I will show you a potential coder and programmer! Thanks Mr. Scott Ruppel!

**HAWKS FLYING HIGH...**Our Lady Hawks are 6-0 and so enjoyable to watch! Our men's team is 1-1, playing very well, and take on Winchester West Central tomorrow at 1:00 and Routt Catholic in Jacksonville at 7:00. These two teams are projected to get to the Sectionals. I call this looking forward and great planning! Good going HOF Coach Dennis Rueter and A.D. Jim Montgomery! Get our games on your calendar!

**AND OUR BOWLING TEAM IS ON A ROLL!**

**WE MAKE OUR MONEY HERE THE OLD FASHIONED WAY:** We beg for it! EMPOWER ILLINOIS, one of our major ways to provide tuition support, is under siege in the Legislature. I have given to this program personally. You get 75% back as a credit on your Illinois State Income Tax. We need your help! More info coming!

**And finally, unprofessionally written off the top of my head:**

What a week! You decide if I am complaining or bragging: this week---25 ½ meetings with Mr. Montgomery-Sound Squad-Mock trials, Asbury School of Architecture-Christmas time with

Mr. Skaer-Understanding the quadratic formula-visiting the seniors and juniors- finish strong-follow the rules-take care of your feet-take care of your eyes-God always speaks to us right where we are-Faculty survey coming-toy collecting-marketing class for Giving Tuesday-Placement exam-fighting in the Art Room while Planning for next year's curriculum-Scott Credit Union \$1700 grant-MO County Electric grant-new School Board members-a major retirement coming up-Men's and Women's Basketball-2 funeral home visits-Office meetings with a staff who now knows how helpless I am-working with a child of a student in my first class as a highly respected colleague-humble bragging with the Arch contest Coach-connecting with the Staff who work behind the scenes to make us all smile-hiring a Religion teacher- the Academic Challenge Team!-mental weight lifting without the strain of the upper and lower body work-Saturday School is back-the Mo County Start-up program-a new digital projector on the way!-Gibault Senior Project Planning-shadowing-tours of Gibault-The nervousness of the Annual Christmas Concert-Reminders to pray from the Campus Minister-a Staff Member reporting for duty as a member of the National Guard-Development Report thanking over 600 donors to allow you to come to Gibault---we owe them, you owe them your best! Advent is a time of waiting and gratitude!

I think I'll take tonight off!

Thanks for loving and supporting Gibault and putting up with my "Kishisms!"

Happy Advent Week 1 and 2



Principal  
Gibault Catholic High School