

Nazareth Prep Prepares for Summer School

THIS PAST YEAR WAS CHALLENGING for students, switching back and forth between in-person and virtual learning, so we wanted to be sure to offer a robust summer school program to help them catch up if needed. Curriculum will focus on science and math and include some local field trips.

As we prepare to begin these classes, we want to give a huge thank you to our incredible donors who contributed over **\$50,000** toward this program!

NAZARETH
PREP



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Pittsburgh, PA 15202

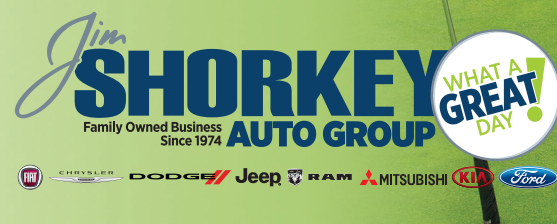
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Holy Family Institute's 35th Annual Golf Classic

HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE AND JIM SHORKEY AUTO GROUP present HFI's 35th Annual Golf Classic to be held on July 26, 2021 at The Club at Nevillewood. Foursomes, sponsorships, and advertising options are still available! Visit www.hfi-pgh.org/event/golf for more information and to register.



HOLY LIGHT

SUMMER 2021

A NEWSLETTER OF **HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE**

Celebrating Nazareth Prep's Class of 2021

"SHOUT OUT TO GOD FOR STOPPING THE RAIN AT SIX O' CLOCK!"

Principal Rita Canton's remark earned a hearty laugh from Nazareth Prep graduates and their supporters, who had crowded under tents to escape the light sprinkling of rain. Despite the cloudy weather, moods were bright as thirty-four graduates crossed the stage to collect the reward of a highly unusual school year.

The program opened with a visit from Elias Khoury, local musician and Nazareth Prep graduate, who performed the song he wrote for his own graduation ceremony two years ago. After thanking students, families, teachers, staff, and board members for their contributions, Sister Linda Yankoski blessed the Class of 2021 for their courage and conviction throughout unprecedented times: "There will never be another year quite like this one."

Justice Pennix, the class salutatorian who will be attending Carlow University on a full scholarship, reminisced about the "rollercoaster" experience of moving back and

forth between in-person and virtual learning. "I'm grateful to sit here today and make the best out of our senior year," she said. "When you look at your diploma, remember everything you went through to get it!" She then encouraged her fellow

graduates to carry the memories – of both their failures and successes – as they prepare to face the challenges of the "real world."

Commencement speaker Tracey McCants Lewis, Vice President of HR and Deputy General Counsel for the Pittsburgh Penguins, labeled graduates "The Resilient Class" for persevering despite learning interruptions, repeated lockdowns, economic disruptions, and losses of both loved

ones and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. "To say this year has been a lot," she said, "would be an understatement."

As a proud internship mentor to a Nazareth Prep junior, however, she shared her admiration for students who have experienced the "real-world rigor" that many of her law school students had never before experienced. McCants Lewis also

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PA Provides Funding for Main Campus Renovations

LAST YEAR, THE PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF THE BUDGET awarded Holy Family Institute and Nazareth Prep a \$1 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant. This money has allowed Holy Family Institute to begin renovations on the main building in Emsworth, creating new office space and classrooms for Nazareth Prep and expanding the kitchen and cafeteria.



RACP is a Commonwealth grant program that funds projects with cultural, civic, historical, regional or multi-jurisdictional impact. Holy Family Institute and Nazareth Prep's grant application received the support and advocacy of Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Pennsylvania State Representatives Anita Kulik, Jake Wheatley, and Valerie Gaydos, and Pennsylvania State Senators Jay Costa and Lindsey Williams.

Specialized Learning Hosts Field Day for Students

ON JUNE 4, Holy Family Specialized Learning (HF-SL) hosted an end-of-year field day event at their campus in Ross Township. Students participated in many exciting events like creating tie-dye t-shirts, playing giant Jenga, and racing through an inflatable obstacle course. This has been an unpredictable year for students which made this field day celebration all the more exciting!



Two HFSC Members Graduate with Masters Degrees



In May, two of our Holy Family Service Corps (HFSC) members, **Ryan Crawford** and **Adele Smith**, each graduated with a master's degree from Duquesne University, Adele with a Master's in Education and Ryan with a Master's in Theology. While a part of HFSC for the last two years, Ryan has taught Religious Studies at Nazareth Prep and Adele has taught various subjects at both Nazareth Prep and Holy Family Specialized Learning. *Congratulations, Ryan & Adele!*

Celebrating Nazareth Prep's Class of 2021 *(continued from page 1)*

drew on Nazareth Prep's motto for inspiration, urging students to "Live Well" by showing gratitude rather than dwelling on obstacles or losses. Of the motto's mandate to "Learn Well," she encouraged students to pursue any learning opportunities that present themselves. "Never start thinking that you're done," she said, stressing the value of staying prepared and taking full advantage of blessings that appear. "Black Americans risked their lives to get the opportunity to read! Don't take that for granted."

While addressing the final part of the motto – "Pray Well" – McCants Lewis urged graduates to experience and celebrate the presence of God on a regular basis. With a reminder that strong principles make a more well-rounded leader, she told graduates: "Your commitment has prepared you for college and the workplace; no matter what you choose, you will reap those rewards."

In her address, Principal Rita Canton took inspiration from the Biblical story of Esther and the well-known words of Sister Thea Bowman: "Remember who you are and whose you are." She encouraged graduates to define themselves not through the challenges they encounter or the successes they

achieve, but through their relationships with God and their ability to affect positive change in the world. "You might not feel royal like Esther, but you're here for such a time as this," she said. "Be proud of yourself; be proud of your courage, tenacity, and resilience. Our ancestors died so you could have rights, find your voice, and speak. We need you to be on the team, not just a cheerleader. Allow God to lead you," she concluded, "and nothing will go wrong."

Cherub Massey, Nazareth Prep valedictorian, took the stage last before diplomas were conferred. Classmates whooped and cheered as Mrs. Canton announced that Cherub would be attending Boston University on a full academic scholarship. In her speech, Massey lauded her fellow graduates for turning the struggles and obstacles they had faced into acts of service.

After sharing fond memories of food drives and basketball championships, she praised classmates for being uncomfortable with mediocrity. "We wanted more for ourselves," she said. "We found passion within our daily routine. We made connections with businesses, law firms, and hospitals. We found meaning and connection in service. And our job now is to make sure our story impacts others."



Proud family members hold cut-out sign of a graduate's face.



FRS & Shores Community Events:

Our Family Recovery Services (FRS) and Shores programs have partnered with Allegheny County Health Department's Overdose Prevention Coalition to support spreading treatment and recovery information throughout Allegheny County communities. We have participated in several events in the last few months and are planning to continue to have a presence at other recovery and wellness outreach events throughout the summer. Thank you to the Allegheny County Health Department for welcoming us to these county-wide events!