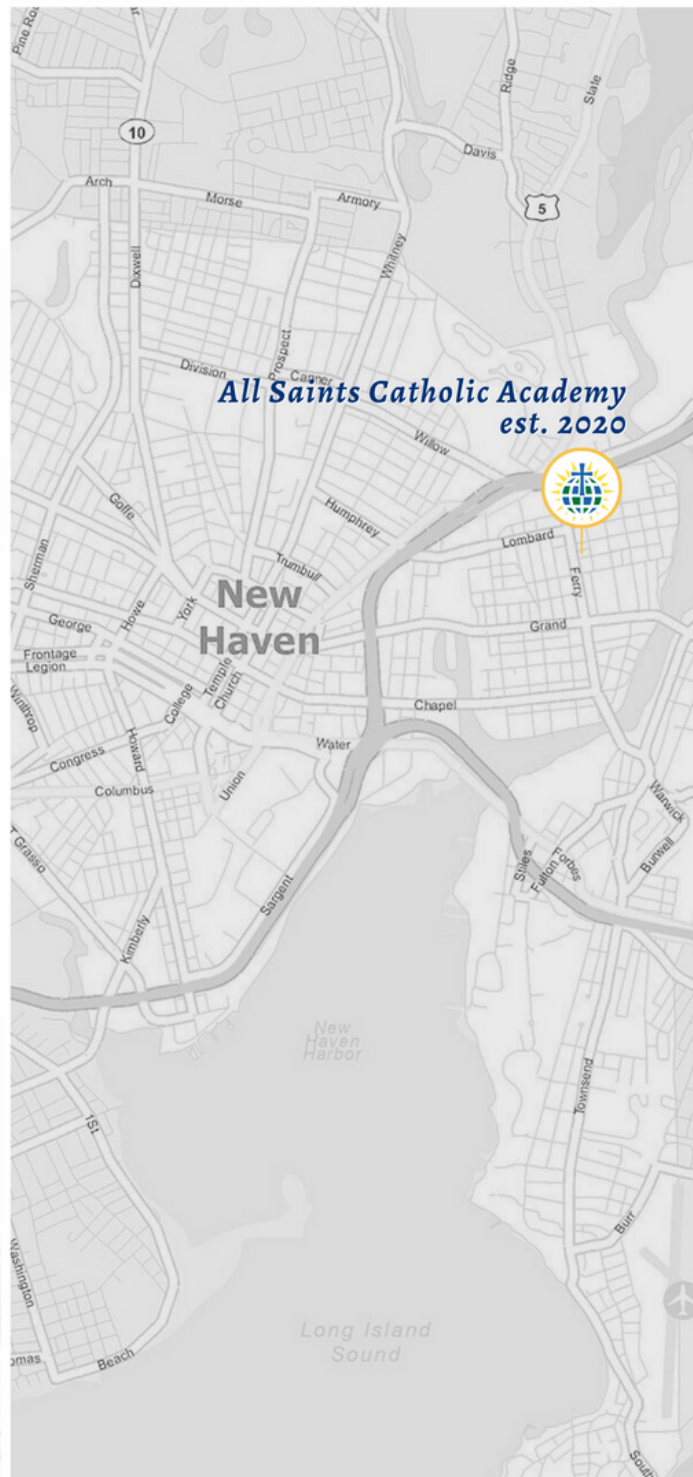


Catholic Elementary Education in New Haven:

CONTINUING THE LEGACY



A Prayer of Gratitude

Loving God, our hearts are filled with gratitude as we celebrate the legacy of our New Haven Catholic elementary schools. We are grateful for the sacrifices of our parents, for the dedication of our priests, religious men and women, lay teachers, administrators and staff. Our schools have grounded us in our Catholic Faith, have given us an education that prepared us for high school and beyond, and have been the source of lifelong friends.

Today and each day we give thanks for all that has been, we ask you to bless us with grace and strength to reflect your love in our daily chores, and may your Holy Spirit guide us in the days ahead as we educate future generations of students in our Catholic elementary schools.

May the patron saints of our individual schools and may all the saints of our Church continue to be an inspiration and model for us as we make our pilgrim way to eternal life in your kingdom. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, God forever and ever. AMEN.

Mary Mother of the Church, pray for us!
Saint Joseph, Patron of our Archdiocese, pray for us!
Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!

Photos on cover:

Top: *St. Louis School, Class of 1919; George Robillard is the student in the back row, third from left.*

His daughter, Sister Jacqueline Robillard, DHS, is attending the Legacy Brunch

Middle: *St. John the Baptist School, Class of 1944*

Bottom: *St. Francis School, Class of 1981*

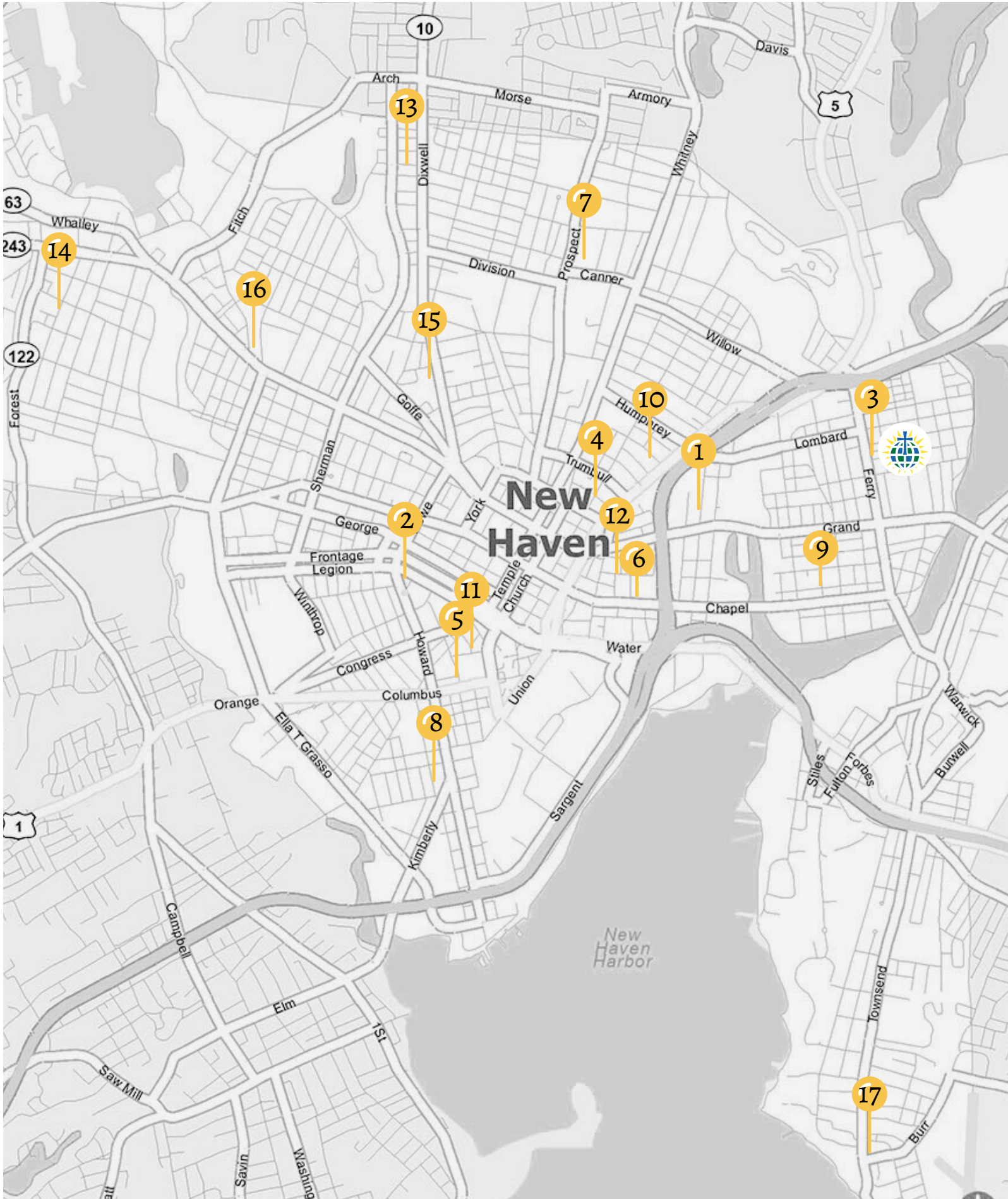
Catholic Elementary Education in New Haven:

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

This booklet was created for the occasion of the Legacy Brunch on Sunday, May 21, 2023, an event to celebrate the legacy of Catholic elementary education in New Haven, CT.

We dedicate this booklet to all the deceased faculty, staff, religious, and administrators of these schools, especially in memory of Fr. John Lavorgna, alumnus of St. Francis School, former Pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii Parish in East Haven, and supportive Board Member of All Saints Catholic Academy. May he and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

Map of New Haven



Listing of Schools

SINCE 1853, NEW HAVEN HAS BEEN HOME TO A DIVERSE AND VIBRANT CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY, boasting 17 original Catholic elementary schools, 21 schools total including later mergers. Thousands have been formed in faith and learning through these schools, each with their own unique history and traditions.

On the following pages you will find a listing of the schools, in chronological order by founding year. You will also find information about the religious communities that served at each school. Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to this collection of information. *Please note: Every effort has been made to provide accurate information. We apologize for any errors and will correct them in any future publications.*

LISTING OF SCHOOLS BY FOUNDING YEAR:

1. St. Patrick School/Hamilton Street School

2. St. John the Evangelist School

3. St. Francis School

Later home to St. Francis & St. Rose of Lima School

4. St. Boniface School

5. Sacred Heart School*

Later home to Sacred Heart-St. Peter School

6. St. Louis School**

7. St. Mary School

8. St. Peter School

9. St. Rose of Lima School

10. St. Stanislaus School

Later home to St. Michael-St. Stanislaus School

11. St. Anthony School

12. St. Michael School

13. St. John the Baptist School

14. St. Aedan School

Later home to St. Aedan and St. Brendan School

15. St. Martin de Porres School

16. St. Brendan School

17. St. Bernadette School



All Saints Catholic Academy

Learn more on page 10!

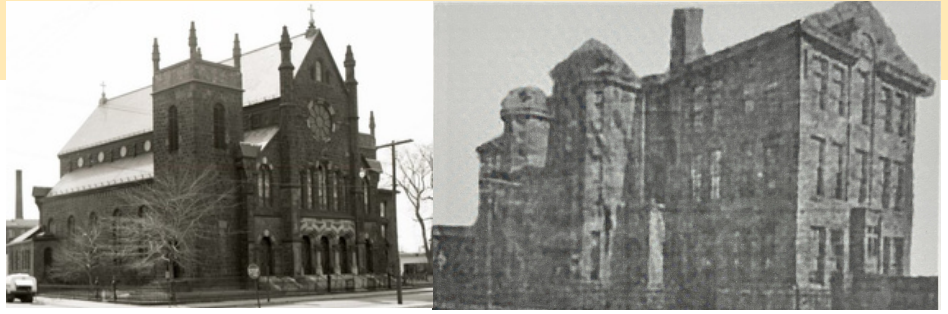
**New Haven is also home to St. Martin de Porres Academy, which serves 5th to 8th grade students. Founded in 2005 as a NativityMiguel model school, it operates independently of the Archdiocese inside the building that once held Sacred Heart School. **St. Louis School relocated to West Haven in 1962.*

1

ST. PATRICK/HAMILTON STREET SCHOOL 1853-1968

Hamilton Street

- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)



"In 1868, in a highly unusual arrangement between the New Haven Board of Education and the Church, the parish school became a public school and was renamed Hamilton Street School. The Sisters of Mercy continued to comprise the majority of the teaching staff."

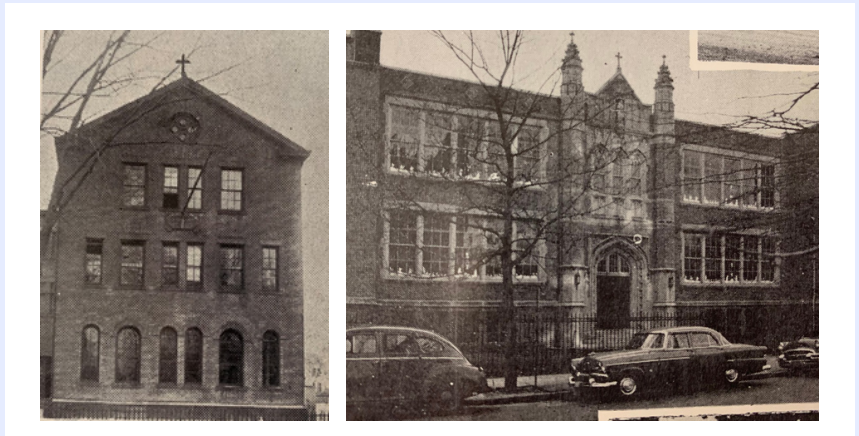
Source: Proto, Alphonse, *It Was Grand! New Haven's St. Patrick's Church, Hamilton Street School and Memories of a Unique Neighborhood 1940-1966*, Foz LLC, 2019

2

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL 1864-1969

South Street

- Sisters of Charity of Elizabeth Ann Seton (SC)
- Daughters of the Holy Spirit (DHS)



3

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL 1881-2009*

**Merged to become St. Francis - St. Rose*

Ferry Street

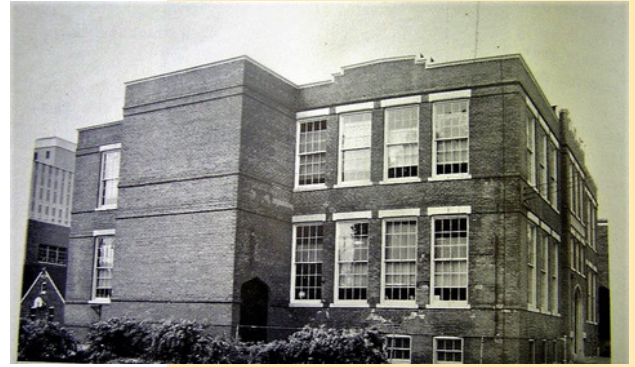
- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)
- School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND)



4 ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL
1893-1971

Audubon Street

- German Franciscan Sisters
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN)



5 SACRED HEART SCHOOL
1895-1995*

**Merged to become Sacred Heart - St. Peter*

Columbus Avenue

- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)
- Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (ASCJ)



**Now used by St. Martin De Porres Academy (5th-8th)*

6 ST. LOUIS SCHOOL
1898-1962*

**Moved to West Haven*

Chestnut Street

- Daughters of the Holy Spirit (DHS)



7

ST. MARY SCHOOL 1904-1986

***Ashmun Street,
then Prospect Street***



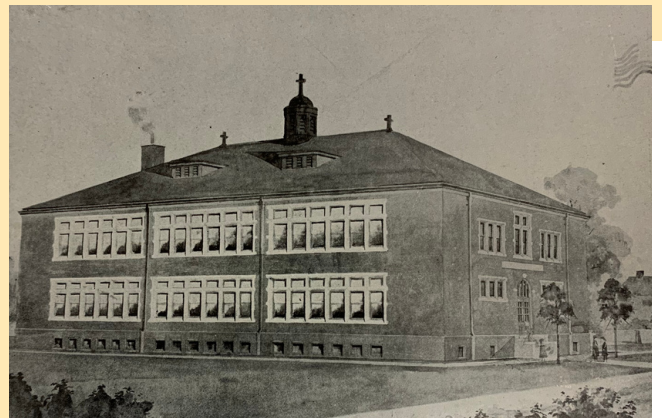
- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)
- Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (OP) (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace)

8

ST. PETER SCHOOL 1911-1995*

**Merged to become Sacred Heart - St. Peter*

***St. Peter St,
behind Kimberly Ave***



- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry (CSJ)

9

ST. ROSE/ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL 1916-2009*

**Merged to become St. Francis - St. Rose*

Richard Street



- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)

10 ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL
1923-1993*

**Merged to become St. Michael - St. Stanislaus*

State Street

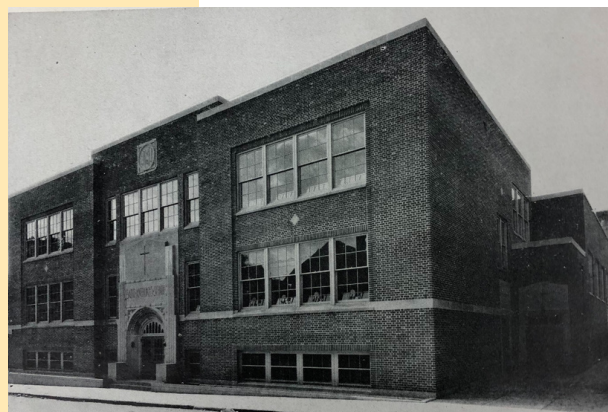
- ▶ Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN)



11 ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL
1936-1971

Gold Street

- ▶ Missionary Zealatrices of the Sacred Heart (MZSH), later known as Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (ASCJ)



12 ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL
1936-1993*

**Merged to become St. Michael - St. Stanislaus*

Greene Street

- ▶ Missionary Zealatrices of the Sacred Heart (MZSH), later known as Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (ASCJ)



13

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL 1937-1973

Dixwell Avenue

- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)
- Congregation of Notre Dame (CND)



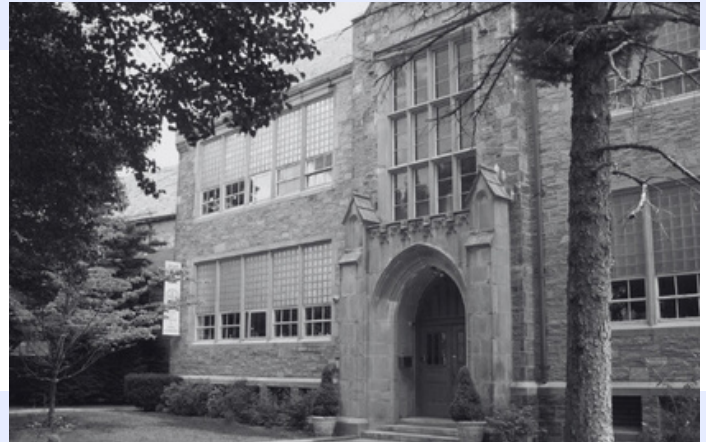
14

ST. AEDAN SCHOOL 1950-2008*

**Merged to become St. Aedan and St. Brendan*

McKinley Ave

- Sisters of Mercy (RSM)
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN)



15

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SCHOOL 1955-1988

Ashmun Street

- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN)



16

ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL 1956-2008*

**Merged to become St. Aedan and St. Brendan*

Ellsworth Avenue

- Daughters of the Holy Spirit (DHS)
- Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary (OP)
(now the Dominican Sisters of Hope)
- Daughters of Our Lady of the Garden (FMH)



17 ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL 1957-2020

Burr Street

- Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena (OP)
(now the Dominican Sisters of Hope)



... COMBINED SCHOOLS

18 **St. Michael - St. Stanislaus School** 1993-1995

19 **Sacred Heart - St. Peter School** 1995-2007

20 **St. Aedan and St. Brendan School** 2008-2020

- Daughters of Our Lady of the Garden (FMH)

21 **St. Francis - St. Rose of Lima School** 2009-2020

and finally...in the former home of St. Francis - St. Rose School



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC ACADEMY 2020-PRESENT

Ferry Street

All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA)

was established in 2020 as an independent, Archdiocesan-sponsored Catholic elementary school governed by a Board of Directors, to continue the legacy of the 17 original elementary schools of the city. Served by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, ASCA is fully accredited by NEASC and is creating a 5-year Strategic Plan to lead the school into the future.



By the Numbers:

- 22-23 Enrollment: 148 students
- Average class size: 16 students
- Catholic students: 72%
- New Haven residents: 88%
- Receive financial aid: 92%
- Annual tuition cost (23-24): \$4,500
- Average aid amount: \$1,485 (from inside and outside funding sources)



Make a Gift

IN HONOR OF THE
PAST AND IN HOPE
FOR THE FUTURE



Dear friends,

Preparing for this celebration has been a privileged and exciting time for our school community. It is amazing to see reflected in so many people the reality that our school experiences have such a great impact on the direction of the rest of our lives.

At All Saints Catholic Academy, we recognize that we stand on the shoulders of giants as the remaining Catholic elementary school in New Haven. The needs and circumstances have changed throughout the years, but the mission remains the same: to educate young people for life, with Christ at the center of everything we do.

Will you please consider making a gift today for the students of tomorrow? Perhaps your gift will be in gratitude for your school, or in honor of a particular individual who influenced you. You can rest assured that your gift will be stewarded well as we plan strategically for the future.

Thank you and God bless you,

Sr. Diane Mastroianni, ASCJ, Principal

Fr. Christopher Ford, Chair of the Board of Directors

Your support will help to provide tuition assistance to families in need, expand programs and opportunities for students, improve and enhance the school facilities, and more!

Make your gift using the provided envelope, or visit the website to donate securely online at



www.allsaintsnewhaven.org/donate

Planned Giving

Making a gift through your will or trust is a simple yet lasting way to make a difference in the lives of countless students. Because your gift is a charitable contribution that qualifies for tax benefits, planned giving can benefit you and future students at the same time. Types of planned giving include: wills or living trusts, securities, IRAs or 401(k)s, life insurance policies, and real estate or personal property. All Saints Catholic Academy can be added simply to your will with one or two sentences expressing your wishes. **Sample language: I give and devise to All Saints Catholic Academy, Tax ID # 85-2020653, [the sum of \$___] OR [___% of my estate] to be used for its general support.** For more information about planned giving and to talk about how you can make a lasting impact for generations to come, please contact Sr. Cathy Phillips, ASCJ, at srcathy@asca.eduk12.net or 203-777-5352.

School Memories

In preparation for the Legacy Brunch, the Committee identified one person from each of the original schools to serve as a School Captain, helping to gather classmates and spread the word. The captains also answered interview questions about their experiences, such as *What do you remember best about your school? What is important to know about it? And, how has your experience stayed with you during your life?* Excerpts from their answers follow...

Elaine Ballerini
St. Aedan School
Class of 1965

When I think about my time at St. Aedan's, I remember that the academic challenges were balanced by rewarding extracurricular activities. Some of my favorites were choir and volleyball. But even more significantly, the best gifts from my time at St Aedan's are the lifelong friendships I made.

Anita Bellmore
St. John the Baptist School
Class of 1965

I remember best the sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. Most of them were very young, but they were very dedicated teachers. My education at St. John's was an extension of my religious training in my home. The school and the church were very connected within our neighborhood and families.

Gail Thibaudeau Bellucci
St. John the Evangelist School
Class of 1968

When I think about the fact that we were not children of great economic means, I am grateful for the rich educational experience we received at St. John the Evangelist. It was a different time, but forty children were in the classroom, and we learned! All of this was underpinned with experiences of faith: Friday walks to the church for Stations during Lent, Mass every morning before classes, and Sunday Mass as a school. Through my experience there, I find meaning in faith and a sense of community and a responsibility beyond myself.

George Cahill
St. Peter School
Class of 1964

My entire family (my parents, 2 aunts, 3 uncles, 3 brothers, and my sister) attended St. Peter School. In fact, I had the same teacher in second grade that my parents did. I remember especially our school Masses. All the grades were assigned their pews. I also remember that I enjoyed playing baseball for St. Peter's team. We were a very good team.

Don Deloge
St. Francis School
Class of 1955

My father was a graduate of St. Francis and both he and my mother were very active in the parish. Their connection to the church and school left a lasting impression on me. St. Francis School was the hub of neighborhood activity, and the school played a large role in fostering the Catholic tradition. A large majority of my classmates continued a Catholic education at either Notre Dame, St. Mary's, or Sacred Heart. Following my retirement, I became active in the school's development program and school board in a desire to help make the St. Francis experience a positive one for the current students.

Alder Anna Festa
St. Michael School
Class of 1981

I remember Sr. Mary Terese and her 12-string guitar. She was very athletic and so much fun to be around, not to mention a great teacher! I remember Mrs. Eastman and her great shoes, and my third grade teacher, Mrs. Longo, was always so loving and patient. Sr. Ludovica, the kindergarten teacher, was a treasure, especially in preparing for amazing graduations. Our school had a great sense of community and traditions. The memories that are built during those years stay with you as do the many friendships that develop.

Joanne Lenzi Fresco
St. Patrick/Hamilton Street School
Class of 1959

My parents had six children, all of whom attended Hamilton Street School. However, the school closed in the middle of my 8th grade year due to a fire. My class was able to finish the school year at the old Sacred Heart Academy on Greene Street in New Haven and we were the last graduating class of Hamilton Street School. I remember that for the upper grades the restrooms were in an outside building that didn't have any heat. If the weather was bad, you had to put on your coat to go use them!

Senator Martin Looney
St. Rose of Lima School
Class of 1962

I remember the painstaking and dedicated instruction of the Sisters of Mercy. They rigorously emphasized precise grammar and sentence structure to create effective writers. I owe the sisters a great deal in preparing me for high school, college, graduate school, and law school. I also cherish the sense of a stable community that we had. Most of the Class of 1962 had started first grade together in 1954!

Sr. Mariette Moan, ASCJ
St. Brendan School
Class of 1973

My eight years as a student at St. Brendan School were some of the best of my life! We were always encouraged to give our best to everything we did, no matter the outcome. During those years I witnessed my parents and many others working closely with the priests and sisters, and committed to the life of the parish and of the school. I was getting a first-hand lesson about how important it is to be of service and work together. I express gratitude to the memory of Fr. Joseph Dilion who was tireless in his energies to secure the future of St. Brendan School and committed to the communities of religious sisters who served there while he was pastor.

Clementina Mordecai
St. Anthony School
Class of 1965

I began at St. Anthony's in 4th grade when my family moved from Italy. It was very important for my parents to put me in a Catholic school, and we ended up at St. Anthony's because all the sisters there spoke Italian like my parents. I was taught English by Sr. Philomena. Moving from Italy to St. Anthony's was a beautiful experience of the universality of the Catholic Church. St. Anthony is like going home, and it has a special place in my heart. I am grateful to have met one of my lifelong best friends at St. Anthony's.

John Mordecai
St. Mary School
Class of 1962

I remember that I enjoyed going to school because I felt very supported there and special. The seeds of my faith were planted during my time at St. Mary's, and what I received there paid off later in life. At some point in my late 20s, I was looking for something... and I think I found the God of my youth. I was away from the church and then I came back. What was started as a child of God was always with me.

Bill O'Brien
St. Boniface School
Class of 1954

When I think about St. Boniface, there are lots of things I remember. I remember the nuns' Mass every day before school, two classes in a room, school uniforms, recess, and saying the Pledge of Allegiance and prayers. I went to school on a trolley my first year, and after that I was walked to school by a girl in the neighborhood. I wore heavy wool baseball uniforms with sponsors' names on the back: Bruce Oil Company, Chico's Bail Bonds, and Roessler's Yellow Tags. We also occasionally got to watch movies in the upstairs hall!

Suzanne Patry
St. Louis School in New Haven
Class of 1961

At the end of the day, my brothers and I and our friends would either walk or take a city bus to the Green downtown and wait by the three churches for a bus to West Haven where we lived. That early independence is one of my fondest memories of St. Louis School. The school was small, eight grades in only six classrooms. I met my late husband, John, in the 7th grade at St. Louis School! He transferred in from public school that year while I had been there since 1st grade. Our three children all later attended the school in West Haven.

Gerald Shea
Sacred Heart School
Class of 1961

Back then growing up, much of our lives involved the church and being active in the parish. We didn't realize it at the time, but the nuns were instilling in us the realization of the importance of education. I had six nuns and 2 lay teachers. I can remember almost all of the sisters' names. One of the lay teachers, Ms. Barbara O'Connor, taught my mother, her sister, and her brothers! I believe that my experience in Sacred Heart stayed with me my whole life.

Henrietta Szymolon
St. Stanislaus School
Class of 1961

From Kindergarten to 8th grade, St. Stanislaus School was the center of my life. We learned our subjects in English, but we learned our prayers and hymns in Polish and in Latin. It was a total immersion, a constant celebration of holidays, liturgical events, processions, and learning about our heritage. Not only did I get a complete education, I also got a lasting experience in faith and faith development. I also realized how much my parents invested in this education for me, how much it meant to them, and the sacrifices that they made.

Debbie Caruso Thorson
St. Bernadette School
Class of 1967

I vividly recall the sisters instilling in us that there are no "can't." They would say, "You are Americans, taught by Dominicans." My experiences at St. Bernadette and in Catholic education instilled the construction of moorings in faith, that grew deeper and rooted me in faith, hope, and charity. No matter how far I wandered, these moorings pulled me back to what is important in life and to the ongoing building of my relationship with God. No matter what life throws at you, these moorings in faith provide the stability to continue forward. No one can take away my faith and my education, and for this I am truly blessed and grateful.

Judge Robin Lynn Williams
St. Martin de Porres School
Class of 1974

My Catholic school experience has remained throughout my life. St. Martin de Porres imparted the Catholic faith to all the students. We were all a family, and the nuns paid great attention to the students to ensure that we were all learning and getting a good education. The discipline and structure that the nuns put in place prepared me well for high school, college, and law school, and carried throughout my professional legal career. I apply that same structure and discipline to this day as a Superior Court Judge.

Sponsors

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for your generous support of the Legacy Brunch! We are so grateful!

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Family of Rita Silvestro, *in honor of the Della Spina and Silvestro families*
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Marie Streeto, oldest living graduate of St. Francis School
Michael D. Griffin
Msgr. James Shanley, *in memory of my mother, aunts, and godmother,*
who all went to St. Francis School
Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish, Cheshire, *in memory of Fr. John Lavorgna*
Saint Michael Church, New Haven
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Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven
Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden
Saint Anthony Church, New Haven
Saint John Bosco Parish, Branford
Saint Margaret Church, Madison
Saint Mary Parish, New Haven

***We also thank the Diglio Family of Country Farms I, Northford, CT,
for donating the table arrangements!***



We extend our deepest gratitude to

Father Sebastian Kos, Pastor

Trustees, Council Members, and parishioners of

Saint Stanislaus Parish

for their major gift

to All Saints Catholic Academy for the

mission of Catholic education in New Haven

in honor of the Vincentian Fathers

who served at Saint Stanislaus Parish

from 1904 to 2022.



Acknowledgments

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., Archbishop of Hartford

Mrs. Val Mara, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The Archdiocesan Center for Catholic Education and Formation

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Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (St. Francis Church)

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The dedicated members of the Faculty and Staff

Our many generous donors, benefactors, and foundations

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Sister Diane Mastroianni, ASCJ, Principal

Tina Poet, Director of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Gail Thibaudeau Bellucci, Board Member

Sister Cathy Phillips, ASCJ, Director of Marketing and Development



Photos from the February and April captain lunch meetings

LEGACY BRUNCH SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Elaine Ballerini

Clementina Mordecai

Anita Bellmore

Deacon Jack Mordecai

Gail Thibaudeau Bellucci

Bill O'Brien

George Cahill

Suzanne Patry

Don Deloge

Gerald Shea

Alder Anna Festa

Henrietta Szymolon

Joanne Lenzi Fresco

Debbie Caruso Thorson

Senator Martin Looney

Monsignor David M. Walker

Sister Mariette Moan, ASCJ

Judge Robin Lynn Williams

Visit the
CATHOLIC LEGACY ALUMNI PAGE
online at
www.allsaintsnewhaven.org/legacy



There you will find the link to the new Facebook group for New Haven Catholic School Alumni, the slideshow of photos that was played during the Legacy Brunch, a way to submit your own photos and memories, and more!



All Saints Catholic Academy Mission Statement:

Rooted in the Catholic tradition, All Saints Catholic Academy empowers K-8 students to become lifelong learners through a rigorous academic program that promotes communication and collaboration. With prayer and service at the center of who we are, students are prepared to live and thrive in our global community as future leaders and difference makers.

All Saints Catholic Academy
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