



# The Blue Don Bulletin

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL—REGINA COELI ORA PRO NOBIS

Fall 2021

Volume 7, Issue 4

## Madonna High School Hall of Fame Celebrates Class of 2020

On Saturday, September 18, 2021, Madonna High School inducted ten new members into their Hall of Fame during the induction ceremony held at Williams Golf & Country Club. The ceremony was originally scheduled for the fall of 2020, but had been postponed due to Covid restrictions.

The following honorees were inducted:

Public Service: Delegate G. John Avoli '70

Athletic Excellence: Charles 'Chuck' Boniti '67

Athletic Excellence: Juliana DeLuca Daugherty '88

Athletic Excellence: Sarah Setcavage '02

Coaching Excellence: Bob Kramer

School Service: Ed and Charlie Klee

Academic Excellence: Dr. Kristen Finley Sobota '00

Lifetime Achievement: Cris and Lisa Enrietti Conti '76,'75

Weirton attorney, Madonna alumni, and member of the Madonna Hall of Fame class of 2012, Dan McCune '80, was the Master of Ceremonies and took time to mention the connections he had with



Madonna High School Hall of Fame Class of 2020: (Back row, left to right): Bob Kramer, Julie DeLuca Daugherty, Sarah Setcavage, Dr. Kristen Finley Sobota, Cris Conti. (Front row, left to right): Charlie Klee, Ed Klee, Lisa Conti. Not pictured: Delegate G. John Avoli, Charles "Chuck" Boniti

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each of the inductees. Rev. Fr. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., Madonna's designated pastor prayed the Invocation and Benediction with touches of reverence and humor. He also made mention of the advancements Madonna is making in academics when he spoke of the school winning the Innovations in Catholic Education Award in Instruction and Curriculum from "Today's Catholic Teacher Magazine" in 2020.

The 2020 inductees are the fifth class to join the Madonna High School Hall of Fame. The previous classes include:

**2018:** John Harcharic, Peter Horoszko, Richard Martijevich, Paul Paolisso, Maureen Lafferty, Edward Fusiek, Richard Mahoney, Norman D. Ferrari, Jr. (Posthumously), Timothy Castelli, Norman D. Ferrari, III, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

**2016:** Joyce Kaczynski-McCarthy, Harold Miller, Jr., Dr. Edward Neely, Ron Sekersky, George Vargo, Robert Valenti, Bill Zanieski

**2014:** John Backel, Robert Canei, Melvin Coleman, Donald and Betty Gianni, John Greco, Jayne Andochick Kline, Babe Lesho, and Diocese of Wheeling Charleston

**2012:** Bill Barrett, Joanna Bernabei-McNamee, John Capito, Romie Castelli, Don Donell, James White Construction, Joe Krivak, Dan McCune, Msgr. Daniel Patrick Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starvaggi, Gene Trosch, Walter Wieloh

For more information on the Hall of Fame please visit: [Hall of Fame | Madonna High School \(weirtonmadonna.org\)](http://Hall of Fame | Madonna High School (weirtonmadonna.org))



Chuck Boniti and Delegate John Avoli joined the ceremony via Zoom where they were able to give their acceptance speeches to those in attendance.



Pictures from the dinner.





The annual Friends of Madonna Picnic was held on August 21st at the Serbian Picnic Grounds. Despite cancelling in 2020 due to Covid, friends of Madonna turned out in droves. Alumni, family, and friends gathered for a fun evening. “Meet the Team” for fall sports was a highlight of the night.







Students from Madonna and St. Joseph the Worker joined Chloe's Campus Cleanup to clean the school and church grounds.



St. Paul Church had its parish/school picnic in September. Classes from Madonna painted faces, sold cotton candy and made tie-dye shirts to help raise funds and have fun!







**St. Joseph the Worker Church held its parish picnic in August. Madonna classes set up booths to raise funds, Mr. Lesho and seniors manned the dunk tank, and all enjoyed a beautiful day.**



**St. Joseph the Worker Church hosted its annual Blue Mass to honor the first responders in the Weirton area. Police, EMTs, firefighters, and city officials were guests of honor. Madonna, St. Joseph the Worker, and St. Paul Schools collectively participated in the mass. Picture credit: Vince Trupiano**



**There are two new faces at Madonna for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Ben Hlivko is our new addition to the Science Department. Mrs. Alicia Evkovich is our Enrollment /Student Retention Specialist.**





## Our Partner Schools



**St. Joseph the Worker School**



**St. Paul School**

St. Joseph the Worker started their school year off with a splash! Fr. Dennis and Mrs. Fuscardo made an entrance on the water, then students enjoyed a fun day at Follansbee Park.



Pre-K students at St. Joseph the Worker School have new dry erase tables in their classroom.



St. Paul School hosted a "Back to School Bash" where students, families, and teachers enjoyed an evening of fun activities and fellowship to kick off the new school year.

St. Paul School's music program includes ukulele instruction this year. Students in grades 3-8 are excited to learn a new instrument.





**Madonna spring sports turned into summer sports as the season extended into the month of June. The baseball team won its 3rd straight OVAC 1A Championship, softball won sectionals, and track & field had numerous medalists at OVACs and States. It was a long, but successful spring (summer) sports season!**

## Track & Field



**2021 Track & Field Team**

**Seniors: Thomas Sessi, Mason Smith, and Krista Velegol**





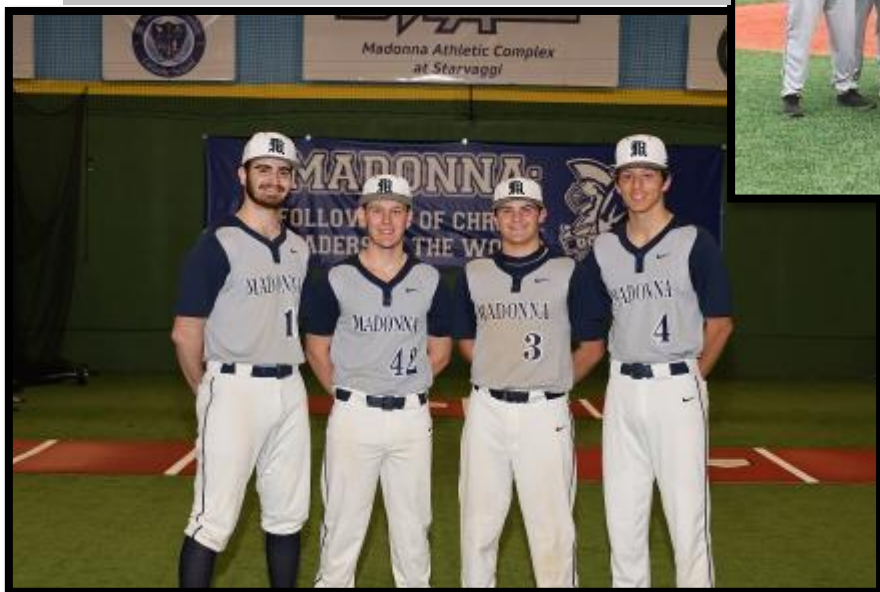
## Baseball



**Top: 2021 Baseball Team**

**Right: Winning the OVAC 1A Title**

**Bottom: 2021 Seniors: Lucky Pulice, Ethan Rowing, Dom Brncic, and Tyler Starvaggi**





## Softball



**Top: 2021 Softball Team**  
**Bottom: Winning the Sectional Title**



**2021 Seniors: Jordan Dillon, Adriana Lenhart, Michaela Battista, Casey Yacos, Madalena Daugherty, Miranda Sole**



## Accomplishments



**Madalena Daugherty**

- 1st Team OVAC All-Conference
- OVAC All-Star Game
- North-South Team
- WV Sportswriters Association Class A All-State Team



**Landry Bone**

- 1st Team OVAC All-Conference
- WV Sportswriters Association Class A All-State Team



**Michaela Battista**

- 1st Team OVAC All-Conference
- OVAC All-Star Game
- North-South Team



**Miranda Sole**

- 2nd Team OVAC All-Conference
- North-South Team



**Matt Amaismeier**

- OVAC 1A All-Conference



**Dom Brncic**

- OVAC 1A All-Conference
- OVAC All-Star Game



**Mason Thompson**

- OVAC 1A All-Conference



### **OVAC Meet Finishers:**

Kristina Lesho—1st Place 800M

Sofia-Teresa DiBacco—2nd Place 400M

Angelina Spickard—3rd Place 100M

Olivia Shafer, Onna Welsh, Krista Velegol, Mia Chiodo—3rd Place Shuttle Hurdle Relay

Sofia-Teresa DiBacco, Angelina Spickard, Kristina Lesho, Juliana Velegol—3rd Place 4x400M Relay

Sofia-Teresa DiBacco, Juliana Velegol, Ella Wingett, Kristina Lesho—1st Place 4x800M Relay

Lennon Dietrich, Peyton Moore, Mark Pietranton, Corey Kakascik—3rd Place 4x800M Relay

### **State Meet Medalists:**

Kristina Lesho—3rd Place 1600M and 6th Place 800M

Sofia-Teresa DiBacco, Angelina Spickard, Kristina Lesho, Juliana Velegol—4th Place 4x400M Relay

Sofia-Teresa DiBacco, Juliana Velegol, Ella Wingett, Kristina Lesho—3rd Place 4x800M Relay

Lennon Dietrich, Peyton Moore, Mark Pietranton, Corey Kakascik—6th Place 4x800M Relay





Jonathan Serafine '18, was sworn in as a probationary firefighter in Weirton on August 25th. Mayor Harold "Bubba" Miller '64 performed the swearing-in ceremony.

The members of the Madonna Class of 1968 recently celebrated their 70th birthday as a group at Oglebay Park in Wheeling. The celebration was originally scheduled for 2020, but was rescheduled due to Covid. They enjoyed renewing friendships and reminiscing.



Madonna Alumni won the 7th annual Alumni City Golf Championship held at Williams Golf & Country Club this summer.



## ***Madonna Alumni***

*Have reunion pictures to share?  
Have a new job? Did you get married or have a baby? Share your news with your fellow alumni! Send any information and pictures you would like to share to [cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org](mailto:cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org).*

### **IN MEMORIAM**

We ask that you pray for the repose of the souls of our dearly beloved Madonna family members who have passed away in the last few months, including:

Anthony Bonaventura '79

Al Boniti '69

Thomas Dodson '75

Paul Duffy

Ronald Higgins

Mark Kosar '82

Dr. Marion "Mun" Kostka '63

John Lestini '81

Ed Rowing

Timothy Russell '69

Carl Thompson

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

If you know of any deceased Madonna alumni or friends of the school, please contact Madonna at 304-723-0545



**Every student who attends Madonna High School receives the benefit of a tuition grant. Since the actual cost to educate a student is \$8,300 and the Catholic tuition rate is \$6,000, Madonna is always looking for ways to fill the gap between the two. On average, each student is receiving assistance of at least \$2,300. That is why grants, tuition assistance packages, and your donations are crucial to keeping Catholic education affordable for our families.**

**Ever since Madonna High School opened its doors in 1955, there have been many helping make the cost of a Catholic education affordable. There is a long history of cooperation among families, community organizations, partner parishes, and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to establish funds designed to ease the burdens of Madonna families.**

**Think about your experience here at Madonna and consider ways that you can help to make that same experience a reality for current students and those yet to come.**

**Here are some things you can do:**

- Get together with a group of classmates or friends to establish a “Class of ....” Fund or some type of fundraiser dedicated to tuition assistance.**
- Take an active role in school fundraisers and events. The money raised is vitally important to so many of our programs.**
- Consider Madonna in your estate planning. What better legacy to leave than that of knowing you are helping to secure Catholic education in our community for years and years to come?**
- Continue to support the Blue Don Fund through your annual giving. Prayerfully consider increasing your contribution. Donations to the Blue Don Fund go directly to enhancing the learning experience for our students.**

**Remember, there is no greater investment you can make than that of our children. By supporting Madonna, you are providing the same benefits you enjoyed to current and future generations.**

**Thank you to those who contributed to the Blue Don Fund last year. With your generosity, \$75,000 was raised!**



**2020-2021 Blue Don Fund****Regina Coeli Club—\$10,000+**

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Mrs. Donna Rodney

**Bishop's Club - \$5,000-9,999**

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Manack  
 Mr. Ronald Tisch

**Blue and Silver Club - \$1,000-4,999**

Delegate John Avoli  
 Mr. John Billie  
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony DeCaria  
 Mr. and Mrs. David C. Duerr Sr.  
 Duerr Family Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation  
 EQT Foundation  
 Mr. Patrick Flatley  
 Knights of Columbus #3734  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Pellegrino

**Monsignor Murphy Club \$750-999****Father Dube Club \$500-749**

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Boniti  
 Mr. Dan Hawrot  
 Mr. Frank Pietranton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Trella  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams  
 Edward Zagula, MD

**Silver Club - \$250-499**

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 Anonymous  
 Mr. John Capito  
 Mr. Bruce Gould  
 Mr. Bruce Hoover  
 Mr. John Hudek  
 Mr. Matthew Provenzano  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Owens  
 Shafer Electric & Construction  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sweat

**Blue Club - \$100-249**

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Arnold  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason Backel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Baire  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ballato  
 Mrs. Patricia Ballo  
 Mr. John Bertram  
 Mrs. Rebecca Gianni Biacco  
 Ms. Kay Bilal  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sarvey Canella  
 Mrs. Cathie Caranda  
 Ms. Deborah Catton  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Cercone  
 Mr. Jordan Chilensky  
 Ms. Lisa Chiodo  
 Mr. and Mrs. Cris Conti  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Crawford  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dillon  
 Mr. John DiGirolamo  
 Mr. Richard Evans  
 Mr. Michael Gianni  
 Ms. Mary Elaine Goleski  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Grishkevich  
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 Mr. Frank Rocchio  
 Ms. Margaret Rurak  
 Mrs. Lori Schattner  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mikel Serafine  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sharpe



**2020-2021 Blue Don Fund**

Mr. Daniel Troia  
 Mr. Mike Wenzowski  
 Mr. William White  
 Mr. and Mrs. Chad Wingett  
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. York Jr.

**Friends of Madonna - \$99-1**

Mr. Joseph Alongi  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Anile  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Backel  
 Mr. Matt Blair  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Brown  
 Mrs. Kimberly Brown  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim Connell  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Cottrill  
 Ms. Patricia Costa  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dalfol  
 Mr. and Mrs. Williams Deter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Carlo DiBartolomeo  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Dragisich  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Dunn  
 Ms. Sally Egan  
 Mr. Jeremy Eloi  
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 Mrs. Nancy Fluharty  
 Mr. Daniel Frankovitch  
 Ms. Rebecca Garan  
 Ms. Mary Hadobas  
 Mr. Jason Heckathorn  
 Mr. Andrew Higgins  
 Mr. Nicholas Higgins  
 Mrs. Catherine Hock  
 Mr. Joseph Hodor  
 Mr. and Mrs. Guy Holmes  
 Mrs. Eileen Johnson

Mrs. Mary Kohelis  
 Mrs. Mary Longhi  
 Ms. Tamera Mankey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd Martin  
 Dr. and Mrs. George Mascio  
 Ms. Diane McAfee  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCombs  
 Mr. Jim McKay  
 Ms. Maria Notni  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Anna Mary Owens  
 Sister Josephine Pate  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Pavan  
 Ms. Marilyn Perhacs  
 Mrs. Connie DeCaria Pulice  
 Mr. Mike Pulice  
 Mrs. Jennie Ralston  
 Mr. Richard Runkel  
 Mrs. Denise Schwab  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Schiffner  
 Mr. Louis Serafine  
 Ms. Jean Shotting  
 Mrs. Melissa Katsaris-Smith  
 Dr. Kristen Sobota  
 Mr. John Sopinski  
 Ms. Carol Standardi  
 Ms. Maria Sticco  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Velto  
 Mr. Danial Williams  
 Mrs. Rozanne Williams  
 Ms. Kathleen Wnuk  
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Zanieski

*Madonna has made every attempt to publish a comprehensive and accurate list of donors documenting gifts between July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021.*

*We sincerely apologize if your name was inadvertently omitted or printed incorrectly. If a correction needs to be made, please contact Christine at [cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org](mailto:cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org)*





*“Stir up one another to love and good works.”  
Hebrews 10:24*

**Our goal this year is \$105,000.**

**Help support the 2021-2022 Blue Don Fund today!**

The Blue Don Fund supplements funds needed to educate our students that tuition alone does not cover. The funds collected go to purchasing text books, classroom supplies, professional development for staff, and upkeep of the physical plant. Your generous donations have been essential to keeping Madonna High School successful for over 65 years. To make your impact today, please send your tax-deductible donation to:

Madonna High School  
Attn: Advancement Office  
150 Michael Way  
Weirton, WV 26062

or go to [weirtonmadonna.org/giving/](https://weirtonmadonna.org/giving/)

Your donation could be matched by your employer! Check with your HR Department to see if your employer has a matching gift program.



Are you following us on social media?  
Keep up to date on all the latest news  
and events at Madonna High School.



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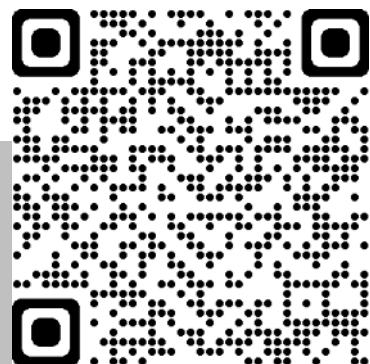


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Download the free Madonna High School App by scanning the QR code or by searching Madonna High School in the app store.







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<https://weirtonmadonna.org>

***Do you know of alumni who would like to receive information from Madonna? Please let us know!***

**FAITH, FAMILY, SERVICE...THROUGH MARY**

***INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING  
MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL?***

***THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS  
YOU  
CAN HELP.***

Volunteer  
Serve on a committee  
Donate to the Blue Don Fund  
Include us in your will

For more information please  
contact Christine Holmes at  
304-723-0545 or  
[cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org](mailto:cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org)

**Upcoming Events\*:**

***Mark your calendars to join us!***

Homecoming—October 15, 2021

Junior Ring Ceremony—December 3, 2021

**\*These dates are subject to change.**

Visit our website [www.weirtonmadonna.org](http://www.weirtonmadonna.org) for the  
most up to date information.