



MADONNA TRUMPET

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL—REGINA COELI ORA PRO NOBIS

April, 2017

Volume 3, Issue 3

Spotlight on Alumni

Coach Christopher Blair

Christopher Keith Blair is the son of Mary Ann and Tracey Kinder of Weirton, WV and Brad and Mary Blair of Wheeling, WV.



Chris was born in Wheeling and raised in Weirton. He has one brother, Matt, and two sisters, Christina and Caty. He says, "We had a great childhood; we were brought up in a great Christian home, and we were taught good values. I am very appreciative of what my parents have done for us, and I have been blessed and couldn't ask for better parents."

Christopher graduated from Madonna High School in 2003. His favorite aspects of attending Madonna were the friendships and the memories he made, the teachers who prepared him for the future, and competing and having fun on the soccer and basketball teams. He believes that Madonna is a challenging school that prepares students for not only college and the work force, but also for life in general. He says, "There are not too many places like Madonna; it is a very special place."

After graduating from Madonna, Christopher attended and played basketball for West Liberty University. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business and finance in 2007. He then attended law school at Duquesne University, while also getting an MBA in business. After graduating from Duquesne, Chris worked for Rokisky and Associates law firm and, in 2016, became a partner at (what is now called) Rokisky, Wilharm, Blair and Rokisky where he practices in the areas of elder law, estate planning and oil and gas. In June of 2016, he married the love of his life, Sierra Svoboda, who teaches at Weirton Elementary. They are expecting their first child in June.

After assistant coaching under Coach George Vargo for 8 years, Coach Christopher

Blair accepted the head basketball coaching position in 2015. He says that playing basketball has always been a passion of his, and he truly enjoys sharing his love for basketball with the kids. When asked about the challenges of serving as head coach, he says, "Teaching young kids with different attention spans and getting everyone on the same page can sometimes be challenging." He finds it rewarding to see them work hard and to help them develop a mindset and work ethic that will prepare them for life. Coach Blair says, "I think basketball teaches them how to compete on the floor and in the real world, which helps these boys turn into men. I feel that this is something I should give back to a community that has given so much to me."

In his free time, Christopher enjoys hanging out with his wife and is eagerly awaiting the birth of their child. He and Sierra love to travel and experience different lifestyles and cultures. He also enjoys working out, playing basketball, and being active.

To current Madonna students, Coach Blair gives the following advice: "Set your goals high, write them down, and be willing to work for them. Give thanks to the Lord and pray daily." He also says, "God bless the current students and families of Madonna." And to our alumni, Christopher says, "I encourage [our alumni] to be involved, whether it be with teaching, coaching, or donating time or resources, just give back to the wonderful kids and community. Being part of the Madonna family is truly something special."

We at Madonna think you, Coach Blair, are truly special. We are grateful for your many services to our school, our kids, and our community.

Interview by: Mallory Santoro and Rachel Weaver; Written by: Lauren Schuller



Alumni John Greco Receives Award

Funeral Service Research Group, a Texas based firm announced that Greco-Hertnick Funeral Home was rated "best of the best" for the year 2016. Funeral Service Research Group surveys over 100,000 individuals annually who experience the loss of a loved one in the United States, Canada and Singapore. John Greco ranked at the top of the more than 1000 funeral arrangers that were surveyed during the year. John was honored in Dana Point California this past February.



John graduated from Madonna High School in 1982 and is currently a member of the MHS Advisory Board. His daughter, Elle, is a member of the Class of 2019.

MADONNA HIGH

Class of 1977

Save the Date!!!!

July 8, 2017

DETAILED INVITATION TO FOLLOW.....

Can you believe it has been **40** years!!

Come catch up with old friends at this year's reunion!!!

We are working on final plans!!

If you have any suggestions contact us!!!!!!

Rhonda Serra Quattrochi:
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Softball Team Recognizes Bishop Donahue Team

A special day for MHS Girl's Softball- 2 wins in a double header against Bishop Donahue. MHS girls presented each player from Bishop Donahue with a rose & they took time to pray together.

Madonna Students Say Goodbye

Anthony Joseph "Joe" Thomaselli II

December 11, 1967- February 11, 2017



It is with great sadness that the Madonna Family must say goodbye to one of its most stoic and courageous alumni members.

Anthony Joseph "Joe" Thomaselli III, 49, of Weirton, passed away Saturday, February 11, 2017, at Weirton Medical Center with his beloved wife, Jodi; his mother, Mary Beth; and

his two loving children, Anthony and Presley at his side.

Joe was born on December 11, 1967, in Pittsburgh; he was a son of Mary Beth (Rodriguez) Thomaselli and the late Anthony Joseph "Tony" Thomaselli II. Joe was the older brother to Marco and Christopher Thomaselli, both of Weirton.

During his formative years, Joe attended St. Paul Grade School. It was in the eighth grade that Joe met his future wife, Jodi Kuzma while at a grade school party at the home of a long-time friend, Rick Sekersky. Thereafter, Joe attended Madonna High School and graduated with the Class of 1986. He studied business at West Liberty University. Joe married his first love, Jodi on September 17, 1992. Together they shared in the pride of raising two beautiful children, Anthony 21, Madonna 2014 graduate and Presley 18, who will be graduating from Madonna this May with the Class of 2017.

Joe was a loving and devout Catholic, a family man who treasured the love and faithful devotion from his wife and children. Joe was a voracious lover of nature who shared his passion of the outdoors with everyone he knew. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, who also enjoyed the recreation of boating, water skiing, kayaking and the love of fast cars. Adventures such as these consumed and nurtured his audacious spirit. In every moment he could, Joe would engage in these activities with those he loved most.

Joe enjoyed the outdoorsman's life so much, that he launched his professional career as a tree surgeon and began his company as President and CEO of Alpine Tree & Shrub Company in the fall of 2009. Throughout many obstacles that life would

deliver to him, Joe Thomaselli never permitted his spirit to be broken or faith to be shattered. It is the same tenacious spirit that he will live on in each of his surviving loved ones.

Sometimes in life, it is natural for one to recall the moments, a date, or a major life event that has happened. One also tends to remember "the first" of moments that have occurred. These are moments one acknowledges that the presence of God is near. But then everyday life resumes and the request for God's presence is no longer recognized. A man with time-tested faith needs no calendar or monumental event to remind him that God is with him because the experiences of Him are many and have sustained the test of faith. Joe Thomaselli made a practice to pay attention to everyone, and everything, all the time! It was in the everyday moments that Joe felt fully alive and in the presence and Glory of God. An instance similar as each morning when he laced up his work boots, filled his thermos with diet coke, kissed his wife goodbye and revved up the engine of his GMC Boom truck. The day was about to begin. As Joe pulled away from Powers Road with the distinct trail of diesel fuel permeating the brisk January air, his heart filled with anticipation for the aroma of freshly cut cedar, and singing in unison with Waylon Jennings, Joe knew— God was with him.

The only two things in life
That make it worth livin'
Is guitars to tune good
And a fine lovin' woman

I don't need my name in the marquis lights
I got my song and I got you with me tonight
Maybe it's time we got back to the basics of love.

Let's go to Luckenbach, Texas
With Waylon and Willie and the boys
This successful life we're livin'
Got us feuding like the Hatfields and McCoys
Between Hank Williams pain songs
And Newbury's train songs
And blue eyes cryin' in the rain
Out in Luckenbach, Texas
Ain't nobody feelin' no pain
Out in Luckenbach, Texas
Ain't nobody feelin' no pain

Bishop Celebrates Mass



On Wednesday, March 29, Bishop Michael Bransfeld of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrated mass with the students of Madonna High School. The students would like to thank Bishop for taking the time out of he schedule for this event. The Bishop is pictured with members of the Freshmen class, Lexie Melnyk, Gabrielle Mazzone, Kelsey Crawford, Kennedy Martin, and Jakob McCombs who did the readings during the mass.

IN MEMORIAM

We ask that you please pray for the repose of souls of our dearly beloved Madonna family members who have also passed away this year.

Donna Latkiewicz
Victor Greco
John Kuzio
Cornelius (Corky) O'Brien
Anthony J. Thomaselli III
Joseph Duco
Mary Ann Ciccoello
Carolyn Castelli Herron





**WEIRTON MADONNA
FOOTBALL
ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE**

\$75.00 Per Person
\$300.00 Per Team

**SATURDAY
JUNE 3, 2017**

GOLFER PACKAGE INCLUDED

- Golf Tee
- Lunch & Soft Drink
- Reception

**SILENT AUCTIONS
• RAFFLES
• MULLIGANS**

MOUNTAINEER'S WOODVIEW GOLF COURSE
Registration: 8:00 am Shotgun Start: 9:00 am
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT WEIRTON MADONNA FOOTBALL



REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.
CONTACT COACH DARRIN HICKS FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 27, Junior/Senior Prom
May 2, Amazing Raize
May 20, Baccalaureate Mass

May 21, Commencement for the Class of 2017
June 3, Madonna Football Golf Tournament
August 19, Madonna Picnic at Serbian Picnic Grounds

Faculty and Students Honored at Bishop's Dinner



Three Madonna students and one teacher were honored at the 23rd Annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Schools on April 2 at the

Morgantown Event Center.



Ms. Jean Shotting received newly Created Golden Apple Award for service and dedication to teaching. Senior Austin Grant received the 2017 Aquinas

Award Recipient Austin was selected as the award winner by the faculty of Madonna High School. The award recognizes students for their outstanding qualities of faithful discipleship, academic excellence, leadership and service to the school, parish and community, reflecting the



ideals of Catholic education epitomized by St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students. It is the highest honor a student can receive from the diocese.

Gianna Antinone and Hunter Payne will each receive the St. Sebastian Medal. The St. Sebastian Medal is named for St. Sebastian, patron saint of Athletes because he was always depicted in fine physical shape. Gianna and Hunter are being recognized for being high-achieving student athletes and

exhibiting the qualities of sportsmanship, teamwork, academics, and a high respect for school, classmates, teammates, opponents, parish and the community.

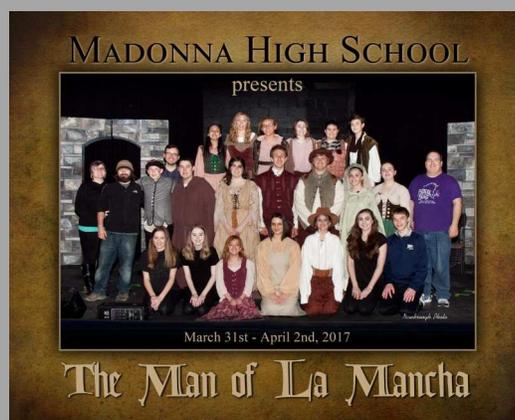


Baseball Team Travels to Tennessee

Madonna's Baseball Team traveled to Knoxville Tennessee to play in the Daily Times Classic against teams from all over the country.

Coach Provenzano had this to say about the trip. We played quality baseball programs while we were in Tennessee. A team can learn a lot about themselves when you play schools that have won on the national level and have 3000 to 4000 students enrolled. Although the outcome of the games weren't in our favor we won in so many other ways. We created an identity something we have lacked so far this year. You only get stronger by playing great competition. Most importantly though is we came together as a team. These boys are truly amazing. So many memories were made not just on the baseball field. This is something I feel is very important if we are going to be an elite program. We got to do our normal things as well like Kangaroo Court and give out the Hard hat award winner.

Drama Presents "Man of LaMancha"



Congratulations to the cast, crew and Mr. Steve Fournier for their recent outstanding production of "The Man of La Mancha"



Madonna High School recently held an open house for potential students and their parents. Faculty and coaches were available to answer questions and National Honor Society Members gave tours throughout the building.





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Check us out

On the web at www.weirtonmadonna.org

On Instagram at [madonnabluedons](https://www.instagram.com/madonnabluedons)

On Facebook at Weirton Madonna High School Alumni, Supporters, Family and Friends and Weirton Madonna Blue Dons

On Twitter at [@MadonnaBlueDons](https://twitter.com/MadonnaBlueDons)

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A Word From Mrs. Kristin Bowman-Cross, Development Director

The Amazing Raise Ohio Valley is BACK!!

The Amazing Raise has raised well over \$1,000,000 for the Ohio Valley in just 3 years. The Community

Foundation for the Ohio Valley is gearing up for its fourth annual campaign on May 2, 2017 with 114+ participating organizations. Online giving has been growing exponentially over the years in the Ohio Valley, inspiring dozens of other giving days across our region and nationwide this week, through Give Local America. CFOV uses a combination of fun themes, bonus funds and prize challenges as incentives to attract new donors and keep them giving throughout the day to a variety of causes. How much will we raise in 2017? Join us and make a difference in the Ohio Valley.

WHAT IS THE AMAZING RAISE OHIO VALLEY?

Part of a national day of giving called Give Local America, the Amazing Raise Ohio Valley is a one-day online fundraising event designed to raise as much money as possible for local

nonprofit organizations.

Led by the CFOV, the 24-hour event provides area nonprofits with increased exposure to potential new donors and helps them launch beneficial relationships.

WHEN IS IT?

Tuesday, May 2, 2017
12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Nonprofits - The Amazing Raise Ohio Valley is open to any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization within the counties served by CFOV. These include Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Tyler and Wetzel Counties in West Virginia, and Belmont and Jefferson Counties in Ohio.

How Do I Donate?

Go to <http://www.giveov.org> and use your credit or debit card to donate to WMS. You can search for our school by name or by service category (Education). The minimum donation is \$10 and is tax deductible.

You can also send your donation directly to the school and in the memo box, please put Amazing Raise

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

*INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING
MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL?
THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU
CAN HELP.*

Volunteer

Serve on a committee

Donate to the Annual Fund

Include us in your will

For more information please
contact Kristin Bowman-
Cross at 304-723-0545