

Corpus Christi Catholic School and its predecessor, St. Matthew, have provided Catholic education to families in the Glebe area since 1900. In that year, St. Matthew School, the original small, two-room school on the site at Fourth Avenue and Lyon Street opened, serving the four lower grades.

St. Matthew expanded with the growth of the area and, at the time of the formation of Blessed Sacrament Parish in 1913, the school needed to rent a two-room annex at the corner of Bank Street and First Avenue so that all of the primary grades could be accommodated. Enrolment at St. Matthew in 1913 was 186 students.

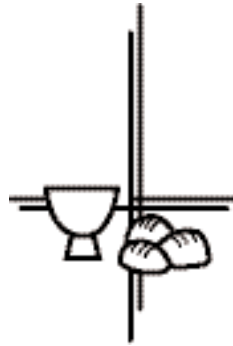
From 1913 through to 1920, the classes were taught by members of the Grey Sisters as well as by lay teachers. In 1916, enrolment at St. Matthew had grown to 259 students. This necessitated the construction of another classroom, bringing the total to six. Beginning in 1920 and continuing until 1928, the students were taught by the Sisters of St. Mary, as well as by lay teachers.

Continuing growth in the area in the 1920s meant that construction of a larger school became necessary. In 1926, a new school containing eight classrooms was built and named Corpus Christi Catholic School. H.J. Morin was the architect and Henri Dagenais served as the contractor for the \$47,600 school. It is believed that this new Corpus Christi School probably opened in October when the lease on the annex premises at Bank Street and First Avenue expired. The construction of this new school did not mean the demolition of the original St. Matthew building. It continued to be used as part of Corpus Christi School for another 40 years until it was eventually razed in 1967.

The name of the school emerged as a result of a spiritual connection to the new

# CORPUS CHRISTI

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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Blessed Sacrament Parish. Some time after the parish was established in 1913, an annual procession on the feast of Corpus Christi concluded with Benediction being held on the grounds of St. Matthew School. Since the new school was being built on these same grounds and its construction was commencing soon after the feast day, "Corpus Christi" seemed to be a most appropriate choice.

From 1930 through to the 1970s, the students at Corpus Christi School were taught by the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and by lay teachers. The parish was involved with the school in these early

years. In 1933, for instance, it spent \$200 for Bible pictures that were used in Catechism classes at the school. Both Bible history and Catechism were taught at this time by two assistant priests from Blessed Sacrament.

Much was happening at Corpus Christi School in the 1930s. There was an annual Christmas concert. A motion picture machine was purchased in 1935. Mary J. Waygaman donated 20 volumes of books to the school library in 1936, the same year that an electrical Victrola was purchased for the school. French-language instruction began at the school in 1936. In 1937, Grade 9 was introduced at the school, and a rotary class system began. Shop equipment was installed, as well as more equipment in the Home Economics class that was completed in 1938, consisting of a dining area, sewing area and combined kitchenette and laundry. A radio was purchased for the school. In 1941, a school rink was constructed in the boys' play yard. This would appear to have paid dividends as the school's intermediate hockey team won the McKinley Trophy in 1945, playing for coach Max Rowan.

Following World War II, the Glebe area continued to experience residential growth, especially by young families. This created the need for a six-room addition designed by architect R. Thibault. But even with this addition, the school was not large enough, necessitating plans for a major expansion.

In 1967, the St. Matthew School building was torn down, making room for the new north wing and gymnasium of the school. E. J. Cuhaci was the architect for this project. In 1977, Corpus Christi Catholic School held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The event's activities included sculptor John Tappin working with the students to make fibreglass totem panels which were mounted on the new light panels, in the main hall of the school.

In 1988, major renovations took place at Corpus Christi Catholic School. These included replacement of windows, doors and the heating system. In 1991, an Earth Day initiative at the school was the installation of a community recycling depot in the parking lot.

In 1994, new play structures were built in the schoolyard thanks to the effort of the parents. This was followed in the year 2000 by the construction of a shared play structure with neighbouring Mutchmor Public School. The year 2000 was also special for Corpus Christi Catholic School as the choir sang for author Margaret Atwood when she received the key to the City of Ottawa at an event at the nearby Glebe Community Centre.

Corpus Christi Catholic School community continues to be active. In February 2002, students made Valentine cards and took them to the Ottawa Heart Institute. In 2004, the team from teacher Triona White's grade 5-6 class won the catapult contest at the Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa. This was the same year that the first Blues in the Schools performance took place at Corpus Christi School. Also in 2004, the school's students, along with students from 20 other schools, created paintings depicting winter, which were displayed at 240 Sparks Street in Ottawa.

## Present Principal

Monica Kerwin

## Principals

Sister St. Teresita (1930-33)  
 Sister Frances Morris (19??-53)  
 Sister Mary Stanton (1953-5?)  
 Sister Mary Patricia (195?-65)  
 Sister Mary Stanton (1965-??)  
 Sister Theresa Kelly (19??-74)  
 Doreen Brady (1974-78)  
 James McStravick (197?-81)  
 John Knoble (1981-86)  
 Anthony Charbonneau (19??-9?)  
 John Shaughnessy (199?-95)  
 Lucille Pummer (1996-99)  
 Jim Rogers (1999-2003)  
 Bonnie McLaurin (2003-2006)

## Teaching Staff in 1930

Sister St. Teresita, Principal  
 Miss O'Grady  
 Miss Searson  
 Miss Gogins  
 Sister Frances Margaret  
 Sister Maureen  
 Miss O'Connell  
 Miss McCready  
 Miss Kelly  
 Sister Jane Frances  
 Daniel O'Connor, Custodian  
 Mr. Godbout, Attendance Officer

## Former Students

Brian Smith, professional hockey player from 1960 to 1973 including playing for the Los Angeles Kings and Minnesota North Stars of the National Hockey League and for the Houston Aeros of the World Hockey Association. He was also well known locally as a sports broadcaster with Ottawa television station CJOH from 1973 until his tragic death in 1995 when he was murdered by a deranged gunman in the station's parking lot.

Patrick Hayes of the Ottawa Police Department received the Order of Merit of the Police Forces in 2002, the first Ottawa police officer to receive the award, which recognizes officers for conspicuous merit and exceptional service. An inspector in 1999, he was the officer in command of the police response unit at OC Transpo headquarters when four OC Transpo employees and their shooter died. After 35 years of service, he was the most senior member of the Ottawa Police Department.

Garry Guzzo served on the City of Ottawa Council and as a Progressive Conservative MPP in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1995 to 2003. A lawyer by profession, he also served as a provincial court judge.

Maureen Lafontaine and Helen McCloskey won the National Prize for essays on topics of Irish history in 1942.

Theresa Picher won the National Prize for essays on topics of Irish history in 1944.

Frank Dunlap became an Ottawa lawyer. He also played in the Canadian Football League and went on to become a commentator on radio broadcasts of Ottawa Rough Rider football games.

## School Colours

Green and grey or white

## Logo

The Corpus Christi School logo features a cup of wine and loaves of bread representing the body and blood of Christ. The cup and loaves are superimposed over a stylized crucifix.

**Song**

The only known school song is a playground chant dating from the 1950s . . .

Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi  
Sitting on the fence,  
Trying to teach Mutchmor  
A little bit of sense.

**Honour Roll**

The school has an honour roll with the names of all of the graduates of Corpus Christi School who served overseas in the army, navy or air force. Among those who died in World War II were Andrew McKenna, Gerald Mansfield, Francis Quinlan, Kelliker Player, Robert McMillan, Stuart MacDonnell, Robert Bradley, Homer Courtright, Joseph Courtright, Eric Post, Michael Leary, Kenneth Sheehan, Alex Cameron, Blake Dennison, William Murphy and James Williamson.

**Priests from Corpus Christi**

Corpus Christi School students who went on to become priests include Fathers Larose, Maloney, Lowry, Brennan, Frank Freney, George Courtright, and L.A. Costello.

**A Teacher Writes**

I taught at Corpus Christi School from 1988 until 1993. I really enjoyed my experience there with the school's cosmopolitan flavour, a stark contrast from the homogenous groups that I had taught previously, especially in Northern Ontario, namely in Cobalt and Iroquois Falls.

While at Corpus Christi School, I accepted the responsibility to coordinate the liturgical life of the school, something which I enjoyed, especially because I had the full cooperation of the staff.

Whatever the occasion, I would choose the readings and then consult with Patti Murphy and Debbie Niemenen, the guitarists, to choose the appropriate hymns. It was then easy to lead the singing, backed up by these two excellent musicians.

Whether the event was in the gym or at the nearby church, Blessed Sacrament, the teachers whose students were chosen to do the readings would help the children prepare for the occasion. And, at all times, we had the blessing of the principal.

I remember my time at Corpus Christi School with much fondness.

Jeanne Marceau-Joyal