

THE HILLTOPPER HERALD

*Featured:
Valedictorians
Stephanie & Lily
Class of 2026*

HILLTOPPER HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating student achievements, leadership, and the moments that make Catholic Central shine

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Showcasing Alumni who are living their faith, pursuing excellence, and giving back to their communities — keeping the CC spirit alive in everything they do

TRADITIONS THAT CONNECT US

Honoring the faith, service, and partnerships that continue to shape the Catholic Central experience

50 YEARS OF HILLTOPPER GREATNESS

Reliving the unforgettable 1975–1976 championship basketball season that helped define Catholic Central athletics



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT-PRINCIPAL

BUILDING A DESTINATION FOR EXCELLENCE AT CCHS

Dear CCHS Alumni and Friends,

The past five months at Catholic Central High School have been nothing short of transformative. As we look at how far we have come, one thing is clear: none of this would be possible without you. Your unwavering support is the bedrock of our mission, empowering us to provide the exceptional Catholic education our students deserve.

Because of your commitment, the energy on campus is higher than ever. Here is how we are turning your support into action:

This March, we break ground on our new fitness center renovation. When matched with our Topper Power program, this facility will become a hub for student health, athletic development, and wellness, ensuring our students are physically ready to take on their challenges.

We are redefining the value of a CCHS education. Through our expanded partnership with Gateway, students can now earn up to 35 college credits before they even graduate. This is more than just a curriculum change; it is a financial game-changer for families and a massive career head start for our students.

Looking ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we are moving to a block schedule. This shift is designed to foster "deep work," allowing students to explore electives, engage in leadership training, and develop executive skills, all while maintaining a healthy school-life balance.

The community has taken notice of this growth. We are proud to announce that we are on pace to welcome one of the largest incoming freshman classes in recent history.

We are celebrating this momentum, but we are not slowing down. We are already looking toward the horizon, with plans for a dedicated STEAM lab and advanced technology integrations for our math and science departments.

Our goal is simple but ambitious: to make CCHS the premier "destination school" for families seeking academic excellence rooted in faith. Thank you for walking this path with us.

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Kelly
President-Principal
Catholic Central High School



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Dear Treasured Alumni,

Supporting Catholic Central High School is a powerful way to ensure future generations have access to the wonderful opportunities that shaped many of your own journeys. By contributing your time as a mentor, staying engaged through participating in high school events, or helping financially support our school, you directly impact the quality of student life, from funding facility upgrades to ensuring that the tools needed for student success are in line with today's rapidly evolving world. Some of the ways in which you can support our mission at Catholic Central are:

- Join our Roundtable organization. Members commit to \$1,000+ each year for five years and are celebrated through exclusive, specially tailored events. Donations can be made annually, semi-annually or quarterly. This organization is responsible for providing important funding for: tuition assistance, updated technology, instructional programming, classroom upgrades, building improvements, added transportation, faculty retention and other immediate needs.
- Purchase Scrip through the RaiseRight Program and discover the most convenient way to earn money for what matters most! Help support CC and offset the cost of your current or future child's/grandchild's tuition just by paying for routine expenses with physical or virtual gift cards when shopping in person or online. Join now and help maintain the financial sustainability of our school and have 50%-80% of your rebates going towards a child's tuition, all at the same time!



- Prepare a Planned Gift such as appreciated stock, insurance policies or real estate.
- Provide a gift through an IRA Distribution. Know that distributions after age 73 are required and are not only tax-free, but lower your adjusted gross income. This would pertain to your IRA, Simple IRA, SEP IRA or retirement account.
- Check with your Human Resource Dept. for information on Matching Funds. Many companies match gifts even if you are retired. See <https://doublethedonation.com/corporate-matching-gift-programs/> to check if your company matches.

Beyond helping others, staying connected fosters a lifelong sense of belonging and pride. Ultimately, your involvement helps bridge the gap between the past and future, turning your individual success into a collective legacy for the entire school community.

In Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgean Selburg".

Georgean Selburg
Executive Director of Advancement
gselburg@cchsnet.org or (262)763-1518

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT



This year's musical production of "Fiddler on the Roof" included graduates: Anton Nickolai '02 as Tevye, Catherine (Stacy) Modrak '06 as a Russian, Cynthia (Lindhorst) Yopp '85 as a Villager, Sean Hartwick '02 as a Villager/Russian, Phillip McIlheran '94 as a Villager/Bottle Dancer, and Matthew Merkt '98 as a Villager

Our performing arts program remains a lifelong home for alumni, who often return to contribute their talents to our annual musicals. See the upcoming dates and times included in this newsletter.

Kathleen (McCourt) McCarthy '50 is a retired Registered Nurse and is married to Richard McCarthy. She is enjoying retirement because it gives her the opportunity to spend more time with her four daughters and their spouses and her grandchildren and great grandchildren!



Sydney Robson '18 is an associate in the Firm's International Arbitration Group (White & Case, a global law firm). She advises private companies and foreign sovereigns in the resolution of international disputes. Her practice includes assisting with complex cross border litigation in U.S. federal courts involving the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), and the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards and judgments. She also advises clients on whether state actions comply with international law and bilateral investment treaties, as articulated in decisions by international tribunals.

Sydney graduated summa cum laude from the American University Washington College of Law, where she was an articles Editor for the American University Law Review and was a member of the Jessup Moot Curt Team. She also holds a Master of Arts in International Affairs, with a concentration in Post-conflict Security.

During law school, Sydney served as a Senior Research Associate with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and as a Legal Assistant to the International Law Commission (ILC) Special Rapporteur on Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction, contributing to projects on immunity of State officials, treaty compliance, and post-conflict peacebuilding initiatives. Sydney also clerked with the US Senate permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Office of General Counsel.

Sydney was recently invited to be the guest speaker at CC's Annual Scholar's Breakfast honoring juniors and seniors who have maintained a 4.0 or greater GPA throughout their high school education.

Catholic Central welcomed Kathy (Warren) Baumeister '66 as our "Principal for a Day", an event auctioned off at this year's Annual Topper Gala and Auction! Kathy enjoyed a "first-hand" look at the daily operations of the school through the eyes of President/Principal, Nic Kelly. The day included: speaking to the students during morning announcements, observing classrooms, attending meetings, joining the students and staff at Mass, and having lunch alongside students in the grade school cafeteria.

Kathy graduated from UW LaCrosse with her Bachelors in Physical Education and Biology and while still in college, she married Darrell Baumeister. Shortly after graduation, she began working for the Kansasville Graded School District. After leaving that job, Kathy began teaching at St. Mary's Grade School (now BCS) until she felt it was time to stay home and raise her children: Stacy '90, Vicki '93, Franci '94, Brian '01 and Darren '03. Kathy and her husband, Darrell, ran a dairy farm for many years until selling it to their two sons. They continue to help out with the farm, while enjoying their 16 grandchildren! As Kathy wrapped up being a principal for a day, she expressed, "I believe Catholic Central High School has evolved into a school that is educating the whole student; academically, spiritually, and socially while guiding them towards a successful future."



ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS



BIRTHS

- Jack Czerwinski '17 and Natalie are expecting a baby in June of 2026
- Courtney (Kienast) Rivera '15 and Jonathan are expecting a baby this spring
- Haley (Meinholz) Robers '10 and Kevin are expecting a baby boy this spring
- Leah (Nickolai) Krueger '04 and Eric welcomed Jade on 11/4/2025
- Nathalie (Oehlers) Adamonis '10 and Dan are expecting a little girl in July
- Becky (Paruszkiewicz) Hoyer '07 and Matt welcomed Jonah James on 12/2/2025
- B.J. Ritzman '09 and Elizabeth welcomed Charlie on 12/31/2025
- Amanda (Sedlacek) '12 and Caleb welcomed Logan Russell on 11/5/2025
- Abigail (Sheehan) Nelson '20 and Nathan welcomed Joseph Nathan on 12/26/2025

IN MEMORIAM (11/10/25-2/1/26)

James Crowley 1955
Terry Kramer Beam 1965
Daniel Moloney 1993
Margaret Riesland Reindl 1962
Ignatius Robers 1951
Marilyn Shaw Schilz 1952
James Vos 1956
Lawrence Wiemer 1950
Richard Wieners 1957

We apologize if a loved one was missed in our memorials.

WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS

- Lindsey Lehman '17 is engaged to Tyler Krupp
- Josh Muellenbach '17 married Cassidy Nelson on 1/3/2026
- Finnian O'Brien '20 is engaged to Jack Ogren
- Abbey Robers '16 married Danny Madonia on 10/17/2025
- Colleen Schauer '07 is engaged to Chad Mueller



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARGARET FREY WORTMAN

Margaret Frey Wortman, 96, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025. Margaret was a beacon of light in the lives of all who knew her. A lifelong resident of Burlington, Margaret was the cherished daughter of the late Joseph and Loretta Frey. She was a proud graduate of St. Alphonsus grade school, where she laid the foundation for a life marked by faith, education, and service. In her professional life, Margaret was a dedicated employee of Lavelle for an impressive 41 years, where her strong work ethic and warm personality were greatly valued.



Margaret's life was a testament to love and commitment. She was the beloved wife of the late Richard Wortman, with whom she shared countless memories and a beautiful life. Together, they raised a family of strength and compassion, including their loving children: Lynn Wortman '72, Mary (Dan) Bauman '73, Julia (Marc) Elvin '75, Esther Witter '85, and the late Richard Charles Wortman '71.

Faith played a central role in Margaret's life. She was deeply involved in her church, the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary, Catholic Church in Burlington, Wisconsin. Her commitment to her faith community was unwavering, and she touched many lives through her service and kindness.

Known for her exceptional culinary skills, Margaret loved to cook and host gatherings for family and friends. Her home was a hub of warmth and laughter, where memories were made around the dinner table.

Margaret's generous spirit extended beyond her kitchen. She was loving and caring to everyone she met, embodying a spirit of generosity that knew no bounds. Her kindness and compassion left an indelible mark on her community and will be a lasting legacy.

Due to the generosity of family and friends, \$500 was donated to Catholic Central High School.

(Obituary courtesy of Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home & Crematory)

HILLTOPPER HIGHLIGHTS



KARLY

Congrats to junior, Karley L. on hitting an incredible milestone—500 career varsity points! Karley reached this achievement during our Varsity Girls Basketball game on January 6th against Shoreland Lutheran! Way to go, Karley!



LILY

Senior, Lily N. has been selected as a Wisconsin state essay contest winner for the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution. Lily's essay will now move on for consideration at the national level, where students are eligible for some very substantial scholarship awards. Lily will also be formally recognized this April at the Wisconsin Sons of the American Revolution Annual Dinner.



NATE

Senior, Nate R. was recently confirmed as an Eagle Scout. Only 6% of Scouts actually attain the Eagle Scout rank. Earning this rank requires 21 merit badges (Nate has earned 40), a service project, a demonstration of leadership skills and a final board review. After at least a year of planning, fundraising and months of hard work, Nate completed his Eagle Scout project by creating a ceremonial flag burning site in the Town of Burlington. Congratulations, Nate!!



JOEY & JAX

Junior, Joey K. and Sophomore, Jax D., who are a part of the Mukwonago Co-op Varsity Ski Team (Boys), along with their teammates from Mukwonago, Burlington, Waterford and East Troy high schools, placed 5th overall out of the 22 qualifying teams at the State Championship in La Crosse!

SAM

Junior, Sam F. broke the long-standing scoring record previously held by Ben Heiligenthal (Class of 2016, 1451 points) with our win over Kenosha Christian Life on January 24th.



Congratulations, Sam F., on becoming Catholic Central's new all-time leading scorer. Your hard work, dedication, and leadership continue to set the standard for Topper Athletics! We're proud of you!



This year, Catholic Central is fortunate to celebrate not one, but two outstanding students who earned the exact same weighted GPA and will reign as this school year's co-valedictorians. Stephanie C. (pictured left) and Lily N. (pictured right) will share the honor, represent their class by speaking at graduation, and receive a valedictorian medal at Honors Convocation. A remarkable achievement and a testament to their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to our co-valedictorians!

HILLTOPPER HIGHLIGHTS

TRADITIONS THAT CONNECT US



Front Row-Left to Right: Ty G., Jayce A., Nate R., Isaac J., Nate R., Jacob F.
Back Row-Left to Right: Currant S., Sam F., Max H., Parker M., Wyatt L.



Left to Right: Averie C., Roselyn N., Madeline L., and Ava G.

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, our entire Catholic Central community came together for a powerful, school-wide day of service. In just one hour, students and staff assembled 371 complete meals—club sandwiches, chips, cookies, water, and oranges—for neighbors in need. These meals were assembled to help the Transitional Living Center, Veterans Housing and Recovery Program, the Waterford Community Church Food Pantry, and the Community Kids Family Ministry. Later, our Varsity Boys Basketball team helped distribute the meals at the Waterford Community Church food pantry.

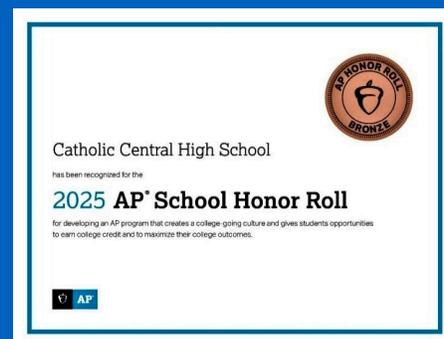
This day was a beautiful reminder of what it means to live out our faith—serving others with compassion, teamwork, and love. We are proud of our students, staff, and athletes for putting faith into action and making a real impact in our community!



AP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Catholic Central High School was recently named to the 2025 AP School Honor Roll– Bronze Level by the College Board, recognizing its Advanced Placement program for expanding access to AP coursework and helping students achieve success on AP exams. This distinction reflects the school's commitment to academic rigor and college readiness.

The AP School Honor Roll is an annual recognition program from the College Board that honors schools for broadening access to AP courses, improving student success on AP exams, and strengthening college-going culture.



Catholic Central celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a beautiful Mass led by Archbishop Grob that included: Burlington Catholic Schools, St. Francis De Sales Grade School (Lake Geneva), St. Andrew's Grade School (Delavan) and St. Alphonsus Grade School (Greendale). Archbishop Grob shared a heartfelt homily, reflecting on a childhood memory of The Velveteen Rabbit and its lasting impact of faith formed in his early years. We are grateful for our parish partners and for the strong foundation they help build for our students. Thank you to everyone who joined us in prayer and community!

A LETTER FROM OUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Dear Catholic Central Alumni,

Catholic Central Athletics have made tremendous strides over the past several months. From a reinvigorated sense of pride among our athletes, to a tremendous group of coaches that have set the standard high.

The hiring of Dan Meddaugh as our boys basketball coach and Erin Schwenn, a 2019 alum, as our girls basketball coach are without a doubt a part of that standard. Although progress is typically measured in wins and losses, the most important progress with our boys and girls basketball programs, and athletics in general, has happened beneath the surface. Both teams are competing in games that, in recent years, may not have been close, by playing with improved discipline, communication and a sense of team. There is still much work to be done, but with the leadership of our coaches and the buy-in from our student athletes, the foundation established through these principles will propel both these teams and athletics to future success.



Building that foundation requires more than our coaches alone. It requires the right environment and resources to physically improve our athletes. Because of the generosity shown by all at the annual gala, we are able to take an important step forward in providing that environment. We are proud to announce that we have raised the required amount to initiate phase 1 of the weight room, which will allow a larger, safer and more efficient training space for our athletes and students!

Phase 1 is set to be complete in early April. This will allow us to utilize the facility this spring and summer in preparation for the 2026-2027 athletic season. This will also allow our PE program and any other student looking to improve their mind, body and spirit, an amazing opportunity.

As we head into the last stretch of winter before spring sports, we are also excited to announce the hiring of former CC student, Michael Seitz, as our softball coach. Another individual who understands first-hand the history and tradition of success at CC.

With our focus on strengthening our athletic department, we will be establishing a Booster Club to help support Catholic Central athletics and our student-athletes. Stay tuned for more information!

Finally, Save-the-Date as we hope to see you at our Annual Topper Open on Friday, June 12th!

The past six months have marked an important chapter for Catholic Central Athletics. Significant progress has been made and the foundation for long-term success is firmly in place. A sincere thank you to our alumni community and your belief in the direction we are headed.

Go Hilltoppers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Schiessl".

Joe Schiessl
Athletic Director

ATHLETICS



Catholic Central High School is excited to re-introduce our official mascot, Harvey Hilltopper! Thanks to our generous donors, the new Harvey costume has been making its debut at home basketball games, bringing added energy, school spirit, and excitement to the stands! If you have attended a game lately, you may have already seen Harvey cheering on our teams and engaging with students and fans. We look forward to seeing Harvey continue to represent CC pride, unity, and Hilltopper spirit at future events.



CATHOLIC CENTRAL IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE MIKE SEITZ AS OUR NEW HEAD SOFTBALL COACH!

While many in the Burlington community know Mike as a local resident, Mike was a powerhouse in CC athletics, putting together an incredible wrestling career and proving himself as an elite track athlete with an impressive run to the state tournament. Coach Seitz brings a deep understanding of what it means to win at Catholic Central. Excellence in softball is a family tradition, his sister, Danielle Miles, was key member of the iconic 2014 CC State Championship team!

We are thrilled to have a coach who understands the history, the heart, and the high standards of Catholic Central softball. Mike's passion for the game and his deep roots in our school's winning tradition make him the perfect leader for our student-athletes.



50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY: 1975-1976 BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

WRITTEN BY GERRY AGNEW '76

"It was a privilege for some teammates from the 1975-1976 boys and girls basketball teams to be back at St. Mary's/Catholic Central High School, this past January. We were the first boys basketball team to ever win a conference basketball championship in school history, the first Midwest Prep Conference champions, and we were the first team to make it to the WISAA State Championship game, at what was then the Milwaukee Arena, where the Bucks and Marquette teams played.

That was the first season that Catholic Central had a girls basketball team. Under Coach Deb Schlagenhauf, the varsity completed an impressive winning season of 9 wins and 4 losses that included wins over much larger schools including: Milwaukee Notre Dame, Waukesha Catholic Memorial and Wilmot. If you look at the banners hanging in what we once called 'the new gym', many conference and state championship titles have been won over the years.

During the 1975-1976 year, we won football, basketball and baseball Midwest Prep championships, and we were WISAA runners-up in basketball and baseball, thanks to our coaches Dave Tanski (deceased) and Dennis Maikowski, who started coaching us as freshmen. We like to think we set a standard for excellence in both boys and girls sports for the years following.

A few highlights from our boys basketball season were:

- Defeating what is now St. John's Northwestern Academy that, at the time, recruited kids from New York City. We beat them twice including the team led by Eddie Lee, who went on to star at the University of Cincinnati, and broke Oscar Robertson's all-time assist record and was drafted as the 48th pick in the NBA draft by the Denver Nuggets.
- The exciting WISAA tournament wins over Racine Prairie School and Racine Lutheran and a buzzer beater in the Super Regional over Beloit Catholic, sending our team to the WISAA State Championship against Milwaukee Notre Dame. Tom Mason's shot to win that game was described by Standard Press Sports Editor Gregg Hoffmann as, "The (Cage) Shot Heard Around the State."
- Catching Tournament fever and unfortunately, the flu, which hit our school before we lost to Notre Dame in the final. That game was played in front of over 6,000 fans at the Milwaukee Arena and according to an article in the Racine Journal, "almost all of Burlington was there."

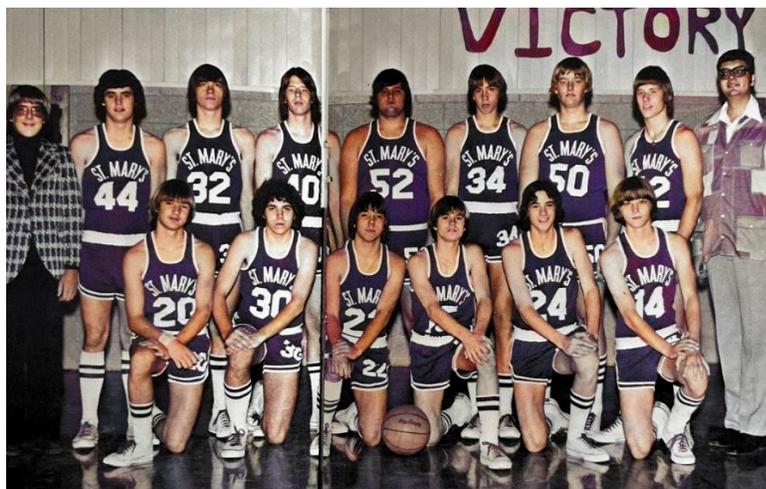
This was a fun night for us to casually get together and share some long-time friendships and memories. We appreciated the opportunity to be back.

Coach Dan Meddaugh and this year's Catholic Central team are impressive with their energy. They play hard, are aggressive and they dunk the ball more than our guys ever did!"

Go Hilltoppers!!!

Front Row (Left to Right): Tim Smith '76, Brett Busch '77, Tim Brandes '76, Tom Mason '77, Jean Uhen '76, Lori (Kuhn) Arnoldussen '76, Ann (Zarek) Wiemer '77, Marlee (Johann) Magdic '77 and Kathy Fait '77

Back Row (Left to Right): Scott Koenen '77, Steve Weber '77, Maureen Lavin '78, Gerry Agnew '76, Greg Uhen '77, John Slein '77 and John Smith '79 (Not pictured teammate Greg Epping '76 and many other classmates and friends that came out)



Bottom Row (Left to Right): Timothy Brandes '76, Barrett Breuckman '77, Tom Mason '77, Bill Smetana '78, Brett Busch '77, and Kevin Uhen '76
Top Row (Left to Right): Manager Mark Meyer '78, Gerald Agnew '76, Steve Weber '77, John Slein '77, Michael Wiskes '76, Scott Koenen '77, Gregory Epping '76, Timothy Smith '76, and Coach Tanski





SAVE THE DATE

APRIL
16

GRANDPARENTS DAY

MAY
13

SPRING CONCERT

JUNE
12

TOPPER OPEN GOLF OUTING

AUGUST
28-30

ST. MARY'S/CATHOLIC CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL'S ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND

- "Friday Night Lights" Home Football Game
- Saturday - "Beer, Bags and Brats" Event in Topper Bowl
- Sunday - Alumni Brunch at the Cotton Exchange Restaurant in Waterford

More alumni weekend details to come in the upcoming Spring Newsletter!

FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS, VISIT:
CATHOLICCENTRALHS.ORG





STAY CONNECTED

VISIT OUR CAMPUS



Alumni are always welcome back for a tour to see new and exciting developments!

KEEP US UPDATED & STAY INFORMED



We love hearing from our alumni! Share your updates and be sure to update your contact information to stay informed about Catholic Central news and alumni opportunities.



JOIN OUR FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK



<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCentralHS>



[catholiccentralhs.org](https://www.catholiccentralhs.org)



(262) 763-1510



148 McHenry Street | Burlington, WI 53105



TOPPER OPEN

Golf Outing

REGISTER NOW!



FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH

🕒 CHECK IN 10 AM
SHOTGUN START 11 AM

- ✓ SCRAMBLE
- ✓ TEAM PACKAGES AVAILABLE
- ✓ HOLE PRIZES
- ✓ RAFFLES
- ✓ SILENT AUCTION
- ✓ TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD
- ✓ LUNCH & DINNER INCLUDED
- ✓ SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE

JOIN US FOR ONE OF CATHOLIC CENTRAL'S FAVORITE TRADITIONS — A DAY OF GOLF, FELLOWSHIP, AND HILLTOPPER PRIDE WHILE SUPPORTING OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES!



RIVERMOOR GOLF CLUB
30802 WATERFORD DRIVE
WATERFORD, WI

