

St Thomas Comets- *Meet our Inspiring Leaders*

Art Teacher- Donna Palkovic

Educational Background: I attended Sparland Grade and High School, graduated in 1976-the bi-centennial year (plus 9 years of 4-H which IS an education!) I attended Western Illinois University where I graduated in 1980 with a Bachelors of Arts degree and Home Ec design minor. I have taken several ICC art courses, online classes and attended Art workshops and conferences.

Why I teach in a catholic school: I love to incorporate Catholic Art in the curriculum whenever I can. Growing up on a farm, there were no Catholic schools close, so I attended Catechism to learn about my faith. I was always envious of my cousins who were able to attend Catholic schools. I felt they knew more about the faith than I did. I was also challenged by classmates all through my learning years about my faith, therefore it has always been a passion of mine to learn more about the Catholic teachings. I especially love learning about the Saints...Ancora Imparo! FUN FACT- My husband, Mike and I completed The Bible in A Year with Father Mike Schmidt (online daily podcast)during 2021!

Who inspires you: My parents have been my biggest inspiration. My dad was a very wise Faith filled farmer. He taught my family the Rosary as we walked the soybean fields, on road trips in the car and at home kneeling around the couch as a family of eight. When Archbishop Fulton Sheen was broadcasting, the TV was always on. My mom, a convert to our Faith, is the quiet, prayer warrior of our family who teaches by example and kindness ~she also makes the BEST apple pie in the universe. She taught me how to cook and sew during my 4-H years. I am also blessed with a mother-in-law who shares many of the same interests as I do. She and I have enjoyed learning different art techniques together and sharing a love of nutritional recipes. My husband Mike and my sister Deb are my inspirational support on my daily faith and life walk.



My favorite teacher was: Mr Etheridge- 7 & 8th grade social studies, Mrs. Horachek-college Design Professor

Hobbies/Interests: Anything with hand lettering techniques :Illuminated letters, Uncial, faux, pointed pen calligraphy, classic Italic! I enjoy sewing and I love creating interesting, beautiful food. I love collecting saint medals.

Dream meal: Grilled salmon, roasted jalapeno peach quinoa spinach salad, charred baby bell peppers with burrata on sourdough bread...and a glass of cabernet! My mom's apple pie(no other) or my mother-in-laws cheesecake.

Outside of school: spend as much time as I can with my granddaughters in Tennessee-Lucia and Glori. My husband and I like to ride bikes on the Rock Island Trail and hike in the Springdale cemetery. I enjoy sewing, creating Art, and making sourdough bread.