

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Kellie Lucas Scarpino
St. Thomas Class of 1997



Educational Background: Attended STS K-8th grade, graduated from PND High School in 2001, attended ICC for 2 years, then graduated cum laude from Illinois State University in 2005, with a BA in Elementary Education, and became a licensed teacher in Illinois.

Recent Achievements: I have been a first grade teacher at St. Mary School in Plano, IL (Joliet Diocese) for 11 years.

Family: My brothers were also graduates from STS (Kevin in 1995 and Fr. Kyle in 2001). My parents have been parishioners of St. Thomas since 1980, and were such a huge impact on where I am in my faith today. They worked very hard and sacrificed a great deal to be able to send my brothers and me to Catholic school. I am so grateful for everything they have done and continue to do for me. Even though I didn't attend a Catholic University, I stayed strong in my faith by getting involved with the St. Robert Bellarmine Newman Center (now the St. John Paul II Newman Center) while I attended ISU. I met so many amazing people who helped me along my faith journey, including my husband of 16 years. We now have 3 children (12 year old twin boys, and a 2 year old girl).

Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet: I loved all the extra curricular activities at St. Thomas. I wanted to be involved in everything! From the school play, to sports, to Declamation, to Scholastic Bowl, to student council, to choir, I did just about anything that was offered! I loved having those opportunities for friendships to form and grow, and also to learn very important life skills and lessons. I also loved participating in the school masses, such as reading, taking up the gifts, altar serving, and singing in the choir. It brought me so much closer to Jesus during the mass when I felt like I was playing a special role.

St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you: I loved all of my teachers at St. Thomas. They all impacted me positively in some way and made me love learning, which ultimately led me to become a teacher. I particularly remember Miss Hertz's class because she was always so joyful and enthusiastic. I loved beginning my day in her class with our morning prayer circle. All of the teachers I had at STS taught me so much and pushed me to be the best student I could be.

Piece of advice for current Comets: My advice would be of course to work hard to be the best student you can be, but also to stay close to your family! Friendships are important too, but your family members will be the ones you will stick by you no matter what! Remember how special they are and how much they love you! Also, in every situation that comes along, be kind, and think about what Jesus would do. He will always love you!

