

# THE AUGUSTINIAN

## 100 YEARS OF SAINTS!

Tolle Lege

Issue 2 November 17, 2022 St. Augustine High School

## Fall Sports Bring Home the Hardware



Junior Evan Newlon dives to keep the ball in play against Francis Parker.

Courtesy of Coach Palafox



By Ben Nault ('26)  
STAFF WRITER

### Beach Volleyball

The Saints beach volleyball team entered the Division II CIF playoffs this year, looking to win their first ever CIF title. Led by seniors Andy Boeh and Patrick O'Leary, who are 8-1 on the year, the team added a new fives team for playoffs, consisting of sophomore Trent Gorsich and freshman Ben Bayless.

Saints started off playoffs with a bang,

powering to a 4-1 victory over San Marcos on October 18. Standout players were Noah Heuring and Luke O'Leary, who dominated in a commanding 2-0 win as the twos pair.

The following week, Saints took on Classical Academy. On October 25, the team bulldozed their way to another 4-1 victory, hardly breaking a sweat to advance to the championship round. Sophomore Oliver Fendley and freshman Nick Boeh had to play three games to secure a victory as the threes pair. Despite going

down 2-10, they fought back to win in a thrilling 19-17 victory in the final set.

Finally, on October 20, Saints took on La Costa Canyon in the finals. The team was at a disadvantage right off the bat, since the ones pair of Boeh and O'Leary were at Kairos, meaning LCC was winning 1-0 before they even showed up. But the team was motivated by a Pit of Saints freshman, given extra credit by Coach Palafox for attending the game.

Saints wasted no time showing that they were a better team with four pairs

than most others were with five. The twos and threes pairs set the tone early, with lopsided wins of 2-0. With the overall score now 2-1, the team only needed one more pair to win to be CIF champions.

Unfortunately, the fours pair of juniors Will Stowell and Luca Liciago took a tough 0-2 loss, despite fighting hard for every point. So it would all come down to the fives pair.

As the sun started to set, the final game commenced. It was all up to Gorsich and Bayless, playing in tough conditions with fleeting daylight. After losing the first set, the duo persevered for a win to push the game to a third set.

The pair started off the third set down 2-6, but fueled by the energy of the Pit, they began to mount a comeback. Gorsich and Bayless took advantage of some LCC errors to even the score at 6-6. The two pairs traded points until Saints pulled ahead 14-13, one point from victory. Finally, Gorsich got the winning kill to capture the Saints beach volleyball program its first CIF championship.

### Cross Country

Our cross country team outshined the brightest of stars to win the Eastern League Cross Country Championships. On top of that, our very own Jimmy Markowicz took home the Runner of the Year award.

First off, the times. Markowicz achieved a time of 16:16.47 to take 1st place, Nate Wilson ran a 17:09.51 coming in 4th, Colin Behan accomplished a 17:30.41 for 9th place, and Owen Arnaudy ran a 17:46.81 for 12th place. These runners have all had an amazing cross country season overall, with Markowicz personally breaking the school record of fastest 5 kilometer run. With the top finishes of these four runners, the team was

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## OMGC Mural Artist Discusses Her Work



By Patrick O'Leary ('23)  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On September 16, Saints unveiled a new mural of Our Mother of Good Counsel on the side of Villanova Hall. It was designed to match a 15th century fresco found in Italy to connect the Augustinian community in California with the one in Italy. The mural's artist was Carole Choucair Oueijan, an acclaimed Lebanese-Greek artist who specializes in mosaics. She was kind enough to tell us a little about herself and her work. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

**The Augustinian:** Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? How did you become an artist?

**Oueijan:** I was born in Beirut, Lebanon. My dad was a priest, and my mom was a banker, and both of them were very encouraging about art in all its forms. I first thought that I would follow my love for singing, but over time, I realized that painting was my passion.

I initially got my technical degree in Interior Design, but painting was always my only interest. I then attended the

Institut National Des Beaux Arts—The Lebanese University of Fine Arts and got my Bachelors of Fine Arts. Because of my dad's encouragement, I went to Greece after graduation to study the Mosaic Byzantine Indirect Technique. This is when I fell in love with these little pieces of glass that can do wonders.

In 1990, my husband Milad and I decided to come to the US to escape the war and find a better life. We have three kids now, and we feel very blessed to have made the decision to come here.

**TA:** How were you selected to recreate this mural?

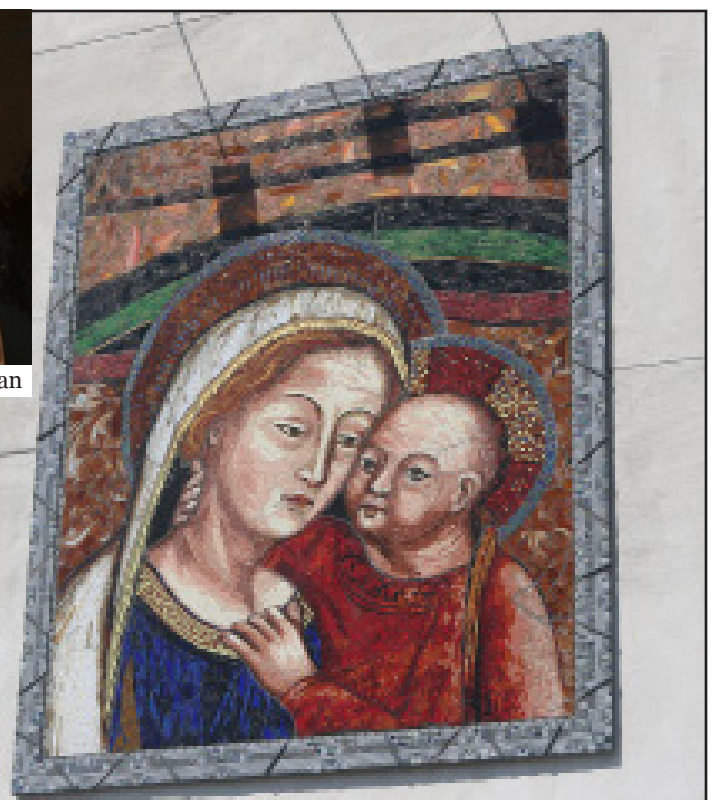
**Oueijan:** At the end of July 2021, I received an email from Casey Callery saying, "We're looking for a mosaic artist and you were referred to us." Good friends of mine, Kim Emerson and Julie Richie, both lovely people and great mosaic artists, had recommended me.

In my first call with President Edwin Hearn and Casey, I explained the technique and materials that I use. They were both convinced and decided to give me the project.

SEE MURAL, pg. 6



Carole Choucair Oueijan



VILLANOVA HALL

# Qatar World Cup Kicks Off With Controversy



By Liam Olds ('26)  
STAFF WRITER

I'm not going to pretend I know anything about soccer. I've casually followed Premier League football for a little while, and more recently, spent my fair share of hours scouring *The Athletic*, trying to find enough information so that I wouldn't sound like a complete outsider writing this article. Nonetheless, no matter how hard I try to avoid it, the fact of the matter is that I am an outsider – no amount of articles that I read can match the knowledge of the billions of people who follow soccer worldwide.

The FIFA World Cup is expected to be viewed by over 5 billion people this year, at least 4.999 billion of whom have exponentially more soccer knowledge than I do. Instead of simply accepting this fact, however, I'm going to find an excuse as to why this is true. While attempting to console myself for being an ignorant American, I realized something – it's not my fault!

The World Cup is the biggest sporting event in the world – the only other one coming close is the Olympics. However, of the 3.5 billion viewers of the 2014 World Cup, only 30 million people in the U.S. watched the games. Mind you, according to the latest census (2020) the U.S. has a population of 329.5 million people. That means only 10% of the population in America watched the World Cup.

Comparatively, Germany, the country that won that year, brought in 34.65 million viewers. According to the same census, Germany had a population of about 83 million people in 2020. That means that they were drawing about 40% of the country as viewers. Though it's a lot of numbers to prove my point,



The official 2022 FIFA World Cup logo

I'll simplify – the World Cup is not viewed as very important in the U.S.

Now that I've outlined everything that I don't know about soccer, here are a few things that I do know:

The first World Cup was held in 1930, and 13 national teams participated. Nowadays, the tournament is held every four years, with 32 different teams participating, soon to expand to 48 teams in 2026. Over the course of its history, the World Cup has been held in 17 different countries, and 79 different national teams have participated. Only eight different nations have won the Men's World Cup, Brazil winning the most with a total of five World Cup victories.

The most successful World Cup player of all time is Pelé, who played for Brazil. He won three World Cups and has the most all time goals scored for Brazil (77 goals in 92 games). In this year's tournament, the three main players to watch for will be Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, and Kylian Mbappé. Messi has announced that this will be his final World Cup, and it will likely be Ronaldo's last Cup as well, since he is 37 years old. Of the three, Mbappé is by far the youngest, at the mere age of 23.

After the initial qualifying pool play, the World Cup is organized into four rounds: the opening round, known as the "Round of 16" because of the 16

teams that participate, the quarter-finals, the semifinals and the finals.

This year, the U.S. is in Group B with England, Iran, and Wales, with their first match against Wales on November 21. Mexico's opening group, Group C, includes Argentina, Saudi Arabia, and Poland, with their first match against Poland on November 22.

According to FIFA, the top five favorites, ranked, are Brazil, Belgium, Argentina, France, and England. The biggest upset so far this year is the absence of the Italian national team in the tournament. Despite winning the European Championship in 2021, Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup after an embarrassing loss to North Macedonia in the qualifying rounds.

The World Cup is being held in the gulf state of Qatar. It was a very controversial decision, since there were rumors that FIFA Congress members were being compensated in return for supporting Qatar, leading to cries of corruption.

Human rights are also a concern for FIFA in holding the tournament in Qatar because of the kafala system. This is a labor practice dominant across much of the Middle East in which many immigrant workers are tied to their employers and have very minimal workplace protections. The president of FIFA, Gianni Infantino, even compared the system to a type of "modern slavery."

Despite the controversy of the host nation, the 2022 World Cup will be a sight to see. This global stage will provide an opportunity for young players to make a name for themselves, while a few veterans cement their names in stone as some of the greatest to have ever played. All we can do now is sit back and enjoy the show.

# Markowicz Breaks Cross Country Record



By Jacob Soro ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

This fall season, we witnessed Saints history. Cross country senior superstar Jimmy Markowicz accomplished an almost impossible feat. As he crossed the finish line, the clock read 14:56. He had done it. He had broken the twenty-year school record.

Ever since freshman year, Jimmy was always dedicated to getting better and working hard. He was not born with this speed, he had to earn it with his training. Even during the Mile Fridays (which most people jogged or walked), Jimmy took it as an opportunity to get in another practice session, always hoping to finish under 6 minutes.

His schedule held him accountable to getting better each and every day. Jimmy was really determined to keep improving his time. This specific training found himself up at 6:00 in the morning to take a run before school and 7:00 at night after practice, where he gave it his all. Working his body every day slowly helped him increase his speed.

Outside of running, Jimmy based his life around cross country as well. He focused on maintaining a healthy diet, getting enough sleep every night, and ensuring he took any other measures necessary to feel his best.

There were days when it was hard, but Jimmy never had the intention of quitting. His four years of devotion are a sign of how much his passion drove him his whole high school career.

"Coming to high school, it's a new life, so you have to acclimate to it," Jimmy said. This was a huge hurdle he was going

to have to overcome. However, his heart drove him every second to improve.

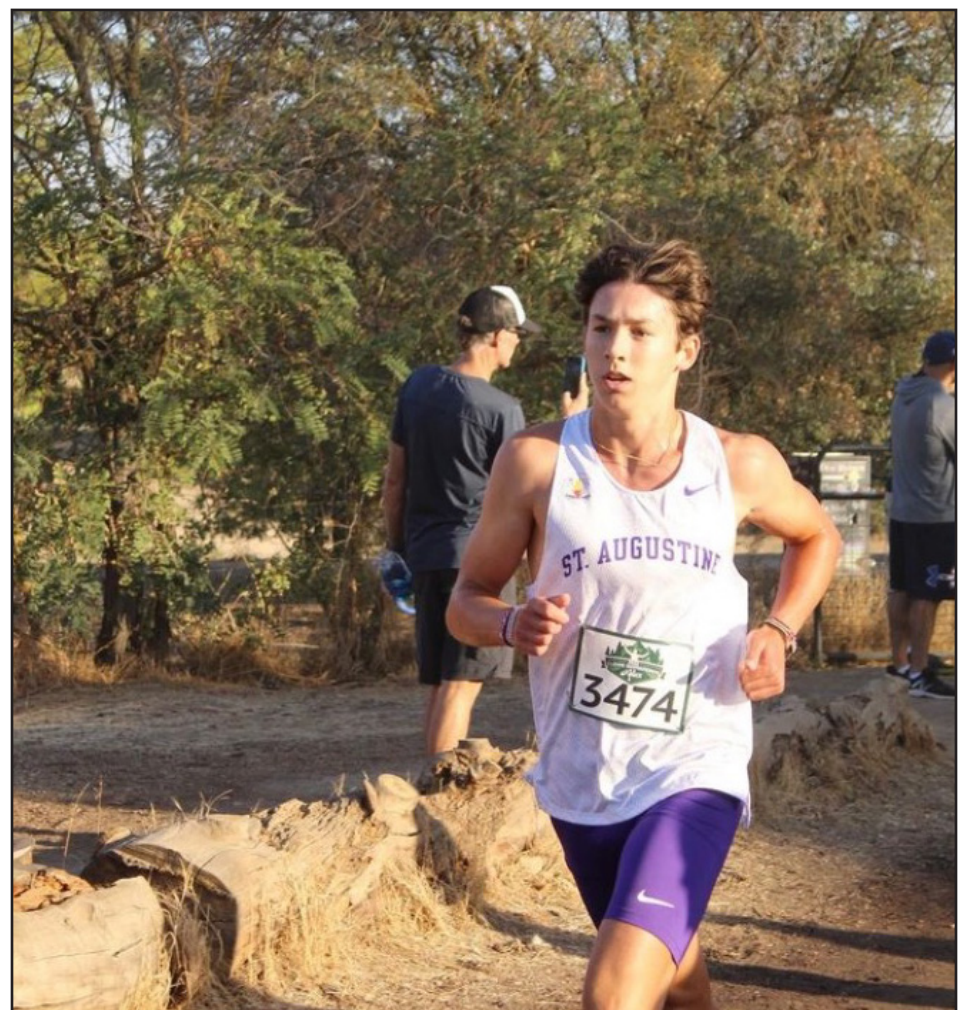
At first, Jimmy only saw running as a hobby. But he soon realized that he could expand on it and make it competitive. He loved the satisfaction he felt after every jog, every practice, and every race.

Many times in his Saints cross country career, Jimmy has not performed as well as he would have liked, but he says he would not have changed anything. These failures have taught him more than his successes. As a freshman, he would never have expected to see himself in the position he is in right now. He has exceeded his own goals and has learned to take advantage of what has come his way.

This year, Jimmy was prepared to take on his final challenge: He wanted to finish the 5-kilometer race in under 15 minutes. Entering into the season, Jimmy was not really expecting this level of success but said it was possible through his commitment and hard work.

Jimmy does not take anything for granted. Just as he gives it his all in competition, he ensures that he does the same in his day-to-day life. Most importantly, he is specifically looking forward to competing in CIF this year, embracing the moment one last time after all the hard work he has put in for the past four years.

This season has already been an accomplishment to the cross country team, with Jimmy out in front. They have clinched Eastern League 2022 and have yet another opportunity for CIF. After last year's disappointment, they are getting ready to make a strong comeback in the CIF finals.



Senior Jimmy Markowicz led the cross country team to an Eastern League title.  
Instagram: @saints\_tfxc

Jimmy's advice for other freshmen out there is to turn the pain into gain. "When running, when feeling the burn and pain of your legs, let it push you to become better," he said.

Jimmy also wants to stress the value of overcoming adversity. It was only by learning from his failures and using

them as motivation that he was able to reach his full potential. He also wants to encourage all Saints men to follow their passion.

"No matter how you feel, whatever activity it is, do not give up," Jimmy said.

In other words, passion beats talent every single time.

# Saintsmen Debate: Minimum Wage

*The \$7.25 minimum wage is a starvation wage, not a living wage*



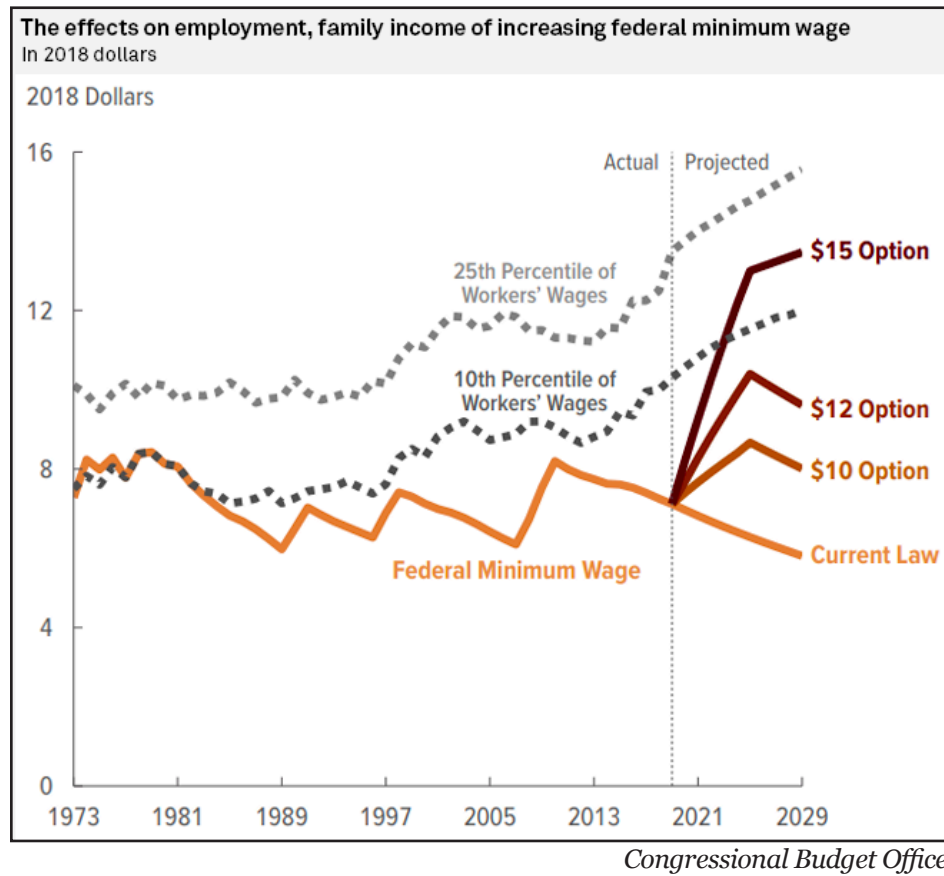
By Nathaniel Kotnik ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

After three years of pandemic-induced economic insecurity, millions of workers across America are beginning to feel the effects of rampant inflation and unemployment crisis. Most notably, the veil surrounding the federal minimum wage has been lifted, revealing the many issues with the abstract number that have yet to be changed in over a decade.

According to the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics), the groups that rely on minimum wage the most include workers under 25 years of age, and women make up two-thirds of the labor force that earns a "living wage." Given that minority populations are more likely to work minimum-wage jobs, these positions should function as starting points for economic freedom. Instead, most workers face a financial burden that threatens to pull the younger, less-educated workforce into poverty.

Low-income families from vulnerable communities who struggled through the COVID-19 crisis are, on average, expected to survive from a meager \$15,080 yearly salary. Simply put, the minimum wage is an obstacle few workers can overcome to stay in America. Moreover, less-educated workers who are making only \$7.25 would likely find it impossible to climb the social ladder and escape poverty with the current wage stagnation.

In addition, minimum-wage workers are more likely to report poor health, suffer from chronic diseases, and require more government support, according to a study from the Bay Area



Regional Health Inequities Initiative.

"Let's be clear. The \$7.25 an hour federal minimum wage is a starvation wage," Senator Bernie Sanders emphasized. "No person in America can make it on \$8, \$10, or \$12 an hour. In the United States of America, a job must lift workers out of poverty, not keep them in it."

According to *Britannica*, a person working full time at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour earns \$15,080 in a year, which is below the poverty line if there is a child under 18. Therefore, increasing it to \$10.10 would lift 900,000 people out of pov-

erty.

Last year, the federal government spent \$113.8 billion on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The SNAP assists those at and below the poverty line. Relief programs like SNAP could drastically reduce these expenditures by increasing the minimum wage to above \$10.10 an hour.

An influx of job growth would also decrease the need for unemployment insurance, another form of welfare while giving people a stable income. As a result, the government would have to spend less on insurance programs,

leaving room for other funding that could be directed towards other critical issues facing America.

A common misconception about an increase to the minimum wage is that it will eradicate jobs and risk mass layoffs from employers. This is not the case, however. A study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found "no discernible effect on the job markets" from a sample of over 2,700 chain restaurants across the country.

In fact, jobs would become more attractive, and employees would be less likely to leave companies in search of better working conditions. Better wages result in greater satisfaction and productivity from workers, which eventually translates to the economy as a whole. A 2014 University of California Berkeley study found "striking evidence that... turnover rates for teens and restaurant workers fall substantially following a minimum wage increase," declining by about 2% for a 10% increase in the minimum wage.

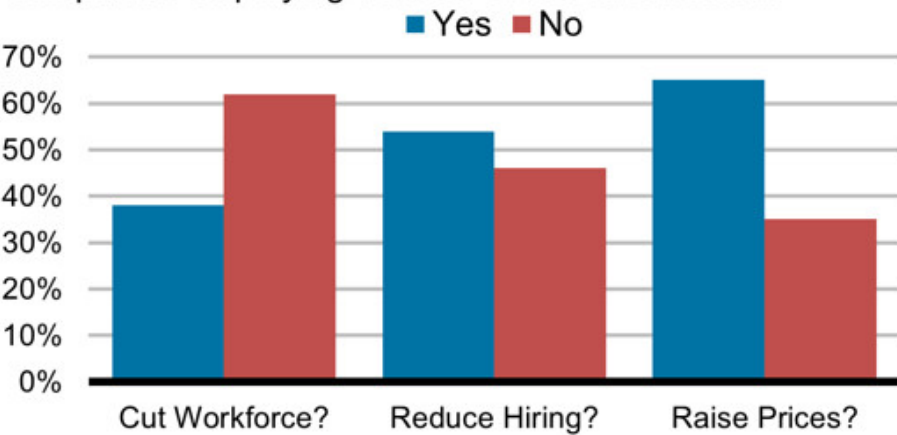
The Economic Policy Institute stated that a minimum wage increase from the current rate of \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 would inject \$22.1 billion net into the economy and create about 85,000 new jobs over a three-year phase-in period.

The resulting effects include lifting nearly 900,000 people out of poverty, and it would not only benefit those individuals directly, but also businesses and the national economy as the spending power of those workers would grow exponentially. These slow changes will lead to a gradual job growth and economic stimulation would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.

## Raising the federal minimum wage will hurt those it's meant to help

### Minimum Wage Effect

If the minimum wage were to increase to \$10.10 per hour, companies employing workers at that rate would...



By Alex Granda ('24)  
STAFF WRITER

From employees and employers, to the floors of the House and the seats of the Senate, minimum wage is the hottest debate in the U.S government right now. With rampant inflation and states like Florida and California planning to increase their minimum wage to almost \$16.00 an hour by 2026, a call for an increase in the federal minimum wage is becoming louder and louder. But is raising the federal minimum wage the most helpful thing for the American people? And do people fully understand the negative effects that an increase in the federal minimum wage would have?

The federal minimum wage has stayed exactly the same at \$7.25 per hour since 2009. Although wealthier states like California have set their minimum wage higher at \$15.00 an

hour, most states generally stay in the area of the \$7.25 per hour minimum wage mark. This creates the first issue of raising the federal minimum wage.

Raising the minimum wage harms the poorest areas of the United States. Small businesses in some areas simply cannot withstand the added pressure of increased wages, and they would either have to close down or enact massive layoffs of their employees, hurting employees more than helping them. States such as New York that increased their state minimum wage due to the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic experienced subsequent layoffs of hundreds of thousands of employees and the closure of tens of thousands of new businesses.

A report by CNBC found that the proposed bill of raising the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour federally would lead to the closure of more than 20% of U.S. businesses while an-

other 13% of business owners said they would have to lay off some employees in order to increase the wages of others.

With the added operating costs on businesses that coincide with raising the minimum wage, businesses, if not turning to layoffs, would have to raise the prices of their goods and services to adjust their spending. The added cost of living and subsequent inflation resulting from the increase in prices would negate one of the most commonly cited benefits of raising the minimum wage - an increased standard of living.

The U.S., due to the effects of the COVID epidemic, is already suffering from massive rates of inflation; coupling this with an increase in prices of goods and services would virtually cripple the lives of many Americans and lead to higher rates of unemployment, higher rates of homelessness, and a worse standard of living for every American. It is no coincidence that California has one of the highest rates of minimum wage, as well as one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and the largest homeless populations in the country.

Young Americans trying to survive in the world would also suffer greatly from the increase in minimum wage. An increase in minimum wage jobs for businesses would mean higher requirements for minimum entry jobs. Young Americans who work at minimum wage jobs to support their college degrees or families, or who are simply trying to gain work experience, might suffer in the layoffs that occur or may have a harder time finding a job

as the minimum requirements for a job become outrageously high.

Larger corporations are bound to outsource more and more of their jobs to cut their increased labor costs. We have already seen how large companies such as Adidas, Nike, Abercrombie, and more have moved jobs away from the U.S. to China, Vietnam, India, and other countries in order to keep labor costs down. An increase in the minimum wage would significantly increase the chance of these companies moving more of their jobs overseas and potentially moving all their factories to other countries. The loss of jobs would total in the millions and would dramatically increase unemployment.

If not moving overseas, larger corporations might be incentivized to replace jobs that were formerly reserved to be held by humans with machines. Millions of jobs have already gone away from Americans due the advancements in technology, and an increase in wages may increase the rate in which these companies are willing to replace human workers with machines.

Overall, increasing the federal minimum wage is a negative for every party involved. Prices of goods and services will increase due to the increase in labor costs, companies will leave the U.S. to find cheaper labor costing the nation millions of jobs, and poorer areas of the countries will suffer with business closures and a lack of employment. Inflation rates will dramatically increase, and not only will the U.S. economy struggle heavily, but the American people will as well. Raising the federal minimum wage is a short-sighted solution for a long-term problem.

# The Best Albums You've Never Heard, Pt. 2



By Riley Scanlan ('23)  
EDITOR

For those who do not know, last year I wrote an article listing the best eleven albums that do not receive the recognition they deserve. It was a difficult process, and I actually lost sleep over deciding which albums would make the cut. But now I have the opportunity to go back to some of these albums I was forced to cut, and to some new albums I have discovered since I wrote my last article. So without further delay, I present to you "The Best Albums You've Never Heard, Part 2."



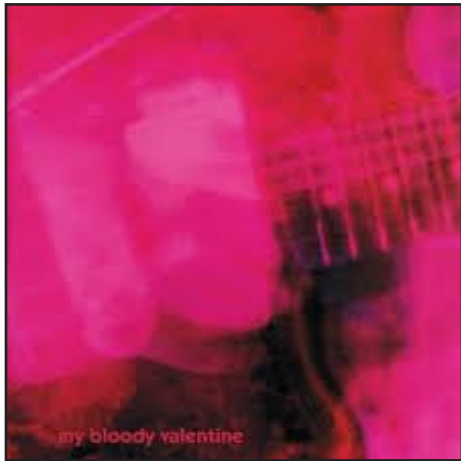
**98.12.28 Otokotachi no Wakare:** Fishmans (1999) — Fishmans are a Japanese band best known for their live albums, especially *98.12.28 Otokotachi no Wakare*. There is no better way to describe this project as anything other than pure gold, and some critics and fans go as far as to consider the project the best live album ever made. It was recorded as a farewell to the bassist of the band, Yuzuru Kashiwabara, who left the band, as well as being the last project ever made by the band's frontman Shinji Sato, who died on March 15, 1999. Most listeners point towards "Long Season," the 41 minute closing track, as the highlight of the album. Because songs such as "Long Season" are so lengthy, the album can seem daunting, sitting at a 2 hour 7 minute time frame. However, it's worth it, with gems like "Long Season," "Hikouki," "Nantettano," "Shiawasemono," and "Thank You."



**Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven:** Godspeed You! Black Emperor (2000) — Around a year ago, I gave this album a shot, with little to no enjoyment. It's extremely strange, even for my own liking at the time, consisting of only four tracks that run nearly 90 minutes. The album is also fully instrumental. Recently, though, I decided to give it another try. I was shocked to realize just how much of an emotional element the album had, shifting from the grand approach of "Storm" to the more ominous "Static." "Sleep" then opens with a monologue from an old man reminiscing on his life in Coney Island before shifting into a fantastic musical sound. Guitarist Efrim Menuck uses the monologue to talk about his own experience being homeless. The album concludes with "Like Antennas to Heaven," a grand and powerful gospel-like message. This album is insane, and I've never felt more emotionally connected to a piece of work.



**Days of Future Passed:** The Moody Blues (1967) — *Days of Future Passed* often gets labeled as the first progressive rock album. Throughout the album, innovation runs on all cylinders, as the band tries to mix elements of the psychedelic rock movement with those of classical orchestras. While strange in theory, this mix gives the listener an experience like no other. The album is a 7-track exploration into the repetitiveness of daily life. The emotional feel of the album changes to mirror the passing of the day, moving from "Dawn: Dawn Is a Feeling" to "Lunch Break: Peak Hour" and finishing with "Nights In White Satin (The Night)."



**Loveless:** my bloody valentine (1991) — *Loveless* is probably one of the more well-known albums on this list, but that doesn't mean it gets as much praise as it deserves. The album perfectly showcases the shoegaze genre of rock, of which my bloody valentine were pioneers. For those who don't know, the name "shoegaze" comes from the insane amount of guitar pedals the musicians would use. Since these pedals are controlled with the guitarists' feet, they would gaze at their shoes the whole time during live performances. The genre is characterized by its ethereal sound and distorted guitars that create tones that traditionally do not come from a guitar. This gives the project a unique feel compared to other rock projects of the time. Some of my favorite tracks are "I Only Said," "Only Shallow," "Sometimes," and "When You Sleep."

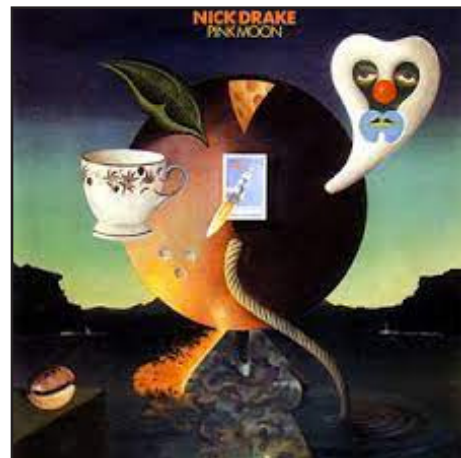


**The Mollusk:** Ween (1997) — *The Mollusk* is an alternative rock album, and the cover alone gives a lot of insight into just how chaotic of an experience this album is. Ween has a very playful approach to songwriting, with many parts of the album sounding like they could come out of *Spongebob Squarepants*. The album can best be described as raunchy anarchy, seen in tracks such as "Pink Eye (On

My Leg)" and "Buckingham Green." It's best known for its track "Ocean Man," which Saintsmen will undoubtedly recognize, but each song has its own unorganized sound. There is no better way to describe the album than pure fun, and for anyone interested in Ween, this is the best place to start. I would especially recommend listening to "The Mollusk," "It's Gonna Be (Alright)," and "Cold Blows the Wind."



**Moon Safari:** Air (1998) — Air's *Moon Safari* goes down as an experience like none other. The project is best known by many, including myself, as one of the best electronica albums of all time. The Parisian duo, Nicholas Godin and Jean-Benoît Dunckel, team up with vocalist Beth Hirsch to create a beautiful blend of French *chanson* (music) and soul music. The album is spectacular, using a great blend of real instruments with the ever-evolving electronic elements that were being innovated heavily in the late 90s. Favorite tracks of mine include "Ce Matin-Là," "La Femme d'argent," "Le voyage de Pénélope," and "You Make It Easy."



**Pink Moon:** Nick Drake (1972) — This is one of the rare folk records that can match the prestige of musicians like Joni Mitchell and Neil Young on albums such as *Blue* and *On the Beach*, respectively. The album is short, with a runtime of a mere 28 minutes, yet it gives you a glimpse into the mind of Nick Drake. Despite dealing with themes of depression, the music sounds relaxing and allows the listener to feel encapsulated in the lyrics and the music as a whole. *Pink Moon* was Drake's third and final studio album before he tragically ended his own life in 1974 at the age of 26. However, his legacy lives on in songs like "Place to Be," "Harvest Breed," and "Things Behind the Sun."



**American Football:** American Football (1999) — American Football comes

from the midwestern emo subgenre, which gives a rebellious feeling to teens across America and those who look back on their lives with fond memories. The album is nostalgic, even for those who weren't alive or aware of its existence at its release. It makes you miss something you might never even have experienced. The album is subtle, taking influences from the punk genre, while making it its own sound. It's loaded with hypnotizing electric guitar riffs that create soothing textures and addicting melodies. My favorite tracks are "Never Meant," "The Summer Ends," "Honestly?," "But the Regrets are Killing Me," and "Stay Home."



**Fear of a Blank Planet:** Porcupine Tree (2007) — *Fear of a Blank Planet* is the ninth studio album by Porcupine Tree, and it's widely considered their best album. The theme of the album revolves around the growing culture of apathy among adolescents and the drug and mental health issues that have arisen. The album is utterly perfect. Porcupine Tree does not sacrifice any quality, making sure each of the six tracks is a masterpiece. This is best seen on "Anesthetize," a 17-minute track that I consider one of the best songs ever made. The entire album is loaded with heart-pounding guitar riffs, virtuosic drums, and soothing soundscapes. My favorite tracks include "Fear of a Blank Planet," "Anesthetize," and "Sentimental." For those interested in other sounds of the band, I'd also recommend *In Absentia* and *Deadwing*, which was mentioned in the prequel to this article.



**The Cyberiam:** The Cyberiam (2018) — The Cyberiam is by far the least known band on this list, with only 200 monthly listeners on Spotify. I only discovered the Chicago-based progressive rock band because they were the opening act at a concert I attended. It quickly became clear how talented the band was, and I listened to their whole discography when I got home. Their debut, *The Cyberiam*, is just as good as most mainstream rock and metal albums. One of the album standouts is the the vocals - lead singer Keith Sample was actually a contestant on *The Voice*. The Cyberiam is actually my fifth most played band of the year, and they are currently recording another album, set to release next year. Favorite tracks of mine on the album include "Alice in Afterland," "The Fall," and "Don't Blink."

What did you think of my picks? Let me know at @stanevpaper

# New Teachers Join Saints Team, Part 2



**By Henry Barwick ('26)**  
STAFF WRITER

The previous issue of *The Augustinian* featured four of the seven new faculty members. This issue will focus on the remaining three: Coach Hourani, Mr. Gayton, and Br. Mauricio.



Donovin Bocalan ('23)

Firstly, we have Coach Victor Hourani. He went to high school for three years at Rancho Bernardo High School, but then switched schools and graduated from Bonita Vista High in Chula Vista. Currently, he is attending Point Loma Nazarene for his Master's Degree and teaching credentials. He has already completed his undergraduate degree at Brandman University, now known as UMass Global, a college offering both in person and virtual education.

Coach Hourani teaches freshman and sophomore P.E. in blocks 1, 3, and 5. He also coaches football and is the Director of Football Operations. Some of his hobbies include golfing, fishing, and snowboarding. A few of his favorite things about Saints are the history of excellence, the alumni involvement, and how many people share a common goal for the students.

"It's been fun and challenging," Hourani said. "We're continuing to build the football program back into a Brotherhood."

Next, we have Mr. Casey Gayton. Mr. Gayton attended school here in San Diego County, going to Steele Canyon High School in Spring Valley and San Diego State University. As the facilities manager on campus, he does not teach any classes here, but helps ensure that the campus is safe and secure and makes sure our facilities are in perfect condition. Before he accepted this position, he coached basketball here at Saints for eight years, so he is very familiar with the school.

In his free time, he enjoys anything basketball-related and has recently started riding his bicycle around local beaches. His favorite sports teams are the San Diego Padres and the Los Angeles Chargers. He loves Saints and says that his favorite thing about it is the environment.



Donovin Bocalan ('23)

"Everyone here is committed to excellence and comes in with great attitude and effort every day, from the staff to the students," Gayton said, "It makes me excited to contribute the same energy and professionalism so that we can all achieve our goal of making this the best high school in San Diego."

To sum up his experience here so far, he says that it has been a true blessing

and he has felt very welcomed. He is very excited to help provide a positive impact on the school as a whole.



Donovin Bocalan ('23)

Last but not least, we have Brother Mauricio Morales. He was born in Nicaragua and lived there until he was 17. He went to high school at Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Teresiano (Sacred Heart of Jesus, Teresian). He then moved to the United States and went to college at the University of San Diego,

where he majored in philosophy and minored in history. Here at Saints, he is one of four teachers that teach Faith Survey to freshmen, and he also helps out in Campus Ministry. A few things Br. Mauricio enjoys are reading, hiking, snowboarding, and taking road trips.

One of his favorite things about Saints so far is the community.

"From the students to the faculty, you all exemplify the idea of community living in fraternity and one mind and heart on the way to God," Br. Mauricio said. He also says that his experience here has been positive.

"As a new teacher, you question yourself often because you are trying to figure out what works best for your students." He wants his students to feel encouraged to challenge ideas, share their thoughts, and analyze everything being discussed.

This concludes the second article introducing the seven new teachers and staff here at Saints. Thank you to Coach Hourani, Mr. Gayton, and Br. Morales for your time, and we would like to wish you a very warm welcome into the community of Saint Augustine High School.

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# Saints Players Present Murder Mystery Clue



**By Griffin Cappiello ('24)**  
MANAGING EDITOR

This fall, the Saints Drama department is hoping to capitalize off of their recent success. Following a year of multiple sold-out shows, Saints will be bringing the popular board game *Clue* to the stage in their fall play.

Based off of the board game and the 1985 cult classic movie, *Clue: On Stage* is an ensemble comedy show. Six mysterious guests arrive to Boddy Manor on a rainy night for an unusual dinner party, but they are instead met with blackmail and murder. What ensues is a classic whodunnit murder mystery combined with hilarious slapstick comedy, as the suspects rush around the house to determine who did it, where, and with what.

The show stars sophomore Braeden Steele as the butler, Wadsworth, while seniors Christian Aldrete and Brandon Cruz, junior Griffin Cappiello, OLP juniors Abby Arnold and Felicity Shallen, and OLP sophomores Laura Allen and Sydney Scripps make up the rest of the suspects. Most of the actors are veteran members of the Saints Drama department, with Cruz returning for his seventh show at Saints, the most experienced actor in the program, while Shallen and Scripps make their Saints stage debuts.

"I'm so excited to have the oppor-

tunity to bring this great show to life," Scripps said. "It'll be a great chance to push myself out of my comfort zone, since I've never done a show at Saints before."

"We went through a lot of challenges with this show," Steele added, "But at the end of the day, we still have a show that people will be invested in and will make them laugh."

Meanwhile, senior Chris Ireland helps make the show go on from behind the scenes. As the assistant stage manager and resident props master for the Saints Drama department, he handles designing, creating, and organizing the many props that will be featured on stage. From revolvers and lead pipes, to chandeliers and dinner plates, any object that appears on stage is Ireland's responsibility.

"Sometimes, the guys behind the curtain don't always get the credit they deserve," Ireland said, "but the work they do is equally as important as the actors onstage."

The productions of *Clue: On Stage* will take place on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of November. Be sure to come out to see the show and support your fellow Saints-men and Pilots and all the hard work that went into producing the show. If you see a Saints thespian around campus, don't forget to remind them to "break a leg!"

St. Augustine High School Theatre

PRESENTS

# Clue

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

**SHOW DATES**

November 17, 7pm  
November 18, 7pm  
November 19, 7pm

Raymond Center for the Performing Arts  
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# College Board to Make SAT Digital



By Jonah Villafana ('25)  
STAFF WRITER

The College Board, the bane of the existence of high school students, has been undergoing recent changes. It has been desperately trying to retain an important role in the lives of students after high schools and colleges shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic. As it tries to claw its way back into relevance, the College Board is planning to release a new digital format for the SAT, along with announcing the coming of two brand new AP classes.

The first digital SAT will become available to U.S. students in the spring of 2024, meaning that the class of 2025 will be the first ones to take it online. The College Board is also planning to release a digital format for the PSAT in fall 2023. The digital test will be about an hour shorter than the paper-and-pencil version, measuring the same basic skills.

The digital SAT has many upsides, especially when compared to the paper version. As previously mentioned, the test will be about an hour shorter. This is because there will be less time wasted on transitions and instructions, and the questions in general will not be as lengthy.



In the reading sections, instead of long, grueling passages with seemingly infinite questions, the passages will be shorter and only have one question attached. In the math section, the word problems will be more concise and easier to understand, and there will no longer be a "No Calculator" section.

In addition to shorter questions, students will have more time to answer each question. The new format will also reduce the chances of students sharing answers due to everyone receiving a unique test. Finally, the test scores will

be delivered much faster, taking only a few days instead of weeks.

Along with the digital SAT, the College Board also revealed the arrival of two new AP classes, the first new courses since 2014. The first of the two, AP Precalculus, will be released in the 2023-2024 school year. AP Precalculus will be the fourth AP math class, joining AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC.

This class is designed to help prepare students for college-level math classes. Given that precalculus is not

typically considered a college level course, some schools will not give college credit for AP Precalculus. However, AP Precalculus can be useful for students who hope to take calculus in high school or college, especially for those planning to enter STEM fields.

The other AP class, AP African American Studies, was piloted this school year in about 60 schools, and it will be officially launched in 2024. This course arose in response to critics who argued that AP classes focus too much on Euro-centric history. AP African American Studies will examine the contributions that Africans have made to the United States, from the slavery economy to musical influence to the significance of Marvel's *Black Panther* and much more. This course will show that African American history is not limited to slavery and the civil rights movement.

These new changes show that the College Board is able to adapt to the growing role of technology in education, much to the dismay of high-school students. Hopefully, these changes happen to benefit high-schoolers just as much as they do the College Board. For now, all we can do is hope that the College Board doesn't decide to pull off any new tricks.

## MURAL

*continued from page 1*

**TA:** *Did something in particular spark your interest in the project?*

**Oueijan:** My dad was Greek Orthodox, and my mom was Catholic, and I was raised in a Catholic school, but I had never seen this particular icon before. Honestly, I wasn't that excited about it in the beginning, so I did some research into the story behind it. As I began learning more about the story of the "Our Mother of Good Counsel" icon, I started to get chills, and I became very excited to start the project.

As I said in my speech, I believe in miracles, and this was a beautiful story to learn about. Since then, I was so excited to open my studio and look at Jesus and Mary's faces all day long.

**TA:** *You said in your speech it took you eight months to complete the piece. What made the project so time consuming?*

**Oueijan:** Mosaic is a beautiful medium where the viewer can look and look and never get bored. It can also be meditative; all the sparkle and shine that comes from each little glass can change with different lighting or angles. All these little tesserae (the little pieces of glass) take time to cut and shape. The planning, the methods, the choice of colors, the andamento (the flow and direction of the tesserae), the casting, and the grouting and sealing are also time consuming.

**TA:** *Were you only concerned with being faithful to the original, or did you also give your mural its own character?*

**Oueijan:** When it comes to writing icons, I, like many other iconographers, feel it's best to be faithful. While writing the icon, we should tell the story the way it is. However, no matter how much you try to stay true to the original, your hands often add a personal touch.

I tried my best to pick colors that are similar to the original, but the col-

ors I used were also a reflection of my own taste. Each person can see different shades or degradation of colors. The andamento also gave me the freedom to play with the tesserae and create a flow that is different from a painting.

**TA:** *You talked about using the Byzantine indirect method to complete the mural. Can you tell us a little bit about how that works?*

**Oueijan:** When I went to Greece to learn about mosaic art, most of the studios there were teaching the Byzantine indirect technique. It is a very old technique, from the Byzantine period, but I made it more practical by using more advanced and modern materials.

I start with the canvas, where I paint my design backwards. I then adhere the glass face down on the canvas using temporary glue. When complete, I cast the mosaic by applying mortar over the glass and adding a backing. I use a hammer on a piece of wood to fuse the mortar with

both the glass and backing, allowing the mortar to get in between each bit of glass.

After about a day of curing, I flip over the mosaic to reveal the correct side. I wet the canvas and peel it off, so that it's just the mortar and glass left. Then, I just have to clean, grout, and seal the mural.

Since I have to work in reverse, on a mirror image, it can be difficult to match the colors if the glass or marble has a different color on the back side. It might sound a little complicated, but this technique makes the mosaic one complete block, so it can become a forever piece.

All my outdoor pieces are done with this technique, and you won't have to worry about losing any tesserae with time. A video may be more helpful to understand this process. I try to share videos on social media of my work in progress to help my students and those curious about my art. You can check them out on my Instagram or Facebook @carolechoucairouejian.

## Chaplain's Corner

*Don't give up on politics*



Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA  
COLUMNIST

Politics can be exasperating. We become frustrated with elected officials and political parties who time and again disappoint or fall due to scandal. We would be tempted to question whether it is even worth voting or participating at all in any political movements or endeavors.

It is important to first remember that human beings are communitarian creatures. Communities and relationships necessarily need healthy boundaries, and so rules are formed to set expectations, reward praiseworthy behavior, and punish bad behavior.

The mess of politics reflects that human beings are messy. Yet human beings being messy does not mean that humans are inherently bad or that we are incapable of doing good. Politics can kill in two ways: over-politicization and apathy. The one we are more familiar with in our society is over-politicization. Everything becomes cutthroat and divisive, and no peace or escape can be found

from it. The other extreme, though, is to exist without politics. A lack of politics indicates a total lack of care and is a state of total apathy. A lack of politics is a state of resignation as one waits to die.

In the Augustinian Order we have elections for superiors, and the Order, just like society, can fall into either of the extremes I mentioned above. Provinces have been ruptured through radical division, and provinces have died due to a resigned apathy.

While we might be tempted to grow despondent at the state of political affairs, it is important to always remember that just because everything is not right, it does not mean that we cannot work to try and make it right. To borrow from St. Augustine, the City of Man here on earth will always be prone to weakness and failure. Importantly, however, this also implicitly points us to the fact that the ideal is real.

While the fullness of the ideal will only be fully experienced in heaven, we are called to seek it out as faithful citizens through the art of politics.

## SPORTS

*continued from page 1*

able to secure enough points for a victory.

However, the times these runners achieved show nothing of how close this race truly was.

"There's no telling how a race will end, no matter the time gap," Mr. Segura, the assistant coach of the team, said. "I didn't realize we had won until they officially announced it to us." Due to some technical difficulties with the race equipment and cameras, the time for the results was delayed, which only added to the suspense that the team was feeling.

Reflecting on the year, Mr. Segura said, "It's one of the great beauties of the sport. Anyone can make varsity or JV if they have a burning passion to run and a good work ethic, even if they haven't run cross country before."

### Football

In the final game of the regular season, Saints took on Cathedral in the Holy Bowl. After Cathedral took an early lead, the Saints offense rose to the occasion to keep the game close, and the score was 14-14 at the half. The third quarter also ended tied at 21-21, as the Saints Nation flag waved over The Pit.

Going into the fourth quarter tied was nerve-racking to the last minute. When

we tied Cathedral in the third quarter, purple smoke and the Saints Nation flag went up in the air as we sniffed a ray of hope.

Sadly, luck was not on our side in the fourth quarter, and we ended up losing 27-41. Regardless, it was a great performance by all of our varsity football athletes who played their hearts out.

With the regular season over, it was now time for playoffs. Saints entered the D1 playoffs as the 9 seed, facing the 8 seed Eastlake in the first round.

Starting with the ball on the first drive, the team scored a touchdown and gained an early lead. The Saints defense played a lockdown first half, entering halftime up 10-0.

Entering the fourth quarter with only a 13-6 lead, Freshman Parker Johnson made a huge fourth down sack to thwart Eastlake's hopes of a touchdown. Then, on Eastlake's final drive of the game, Johnson intercepted a deep pass off the head of the Eastlake receiver, and the offense took a knee to win the game.

It was the football team's first playoff win since 2018. Saints hopes to continue their playoff run against Mission Hills in the second round.

*Disclaimer: This information is accurate as of 11/10.*



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# Biblical Soccer According to the Book of Griffin



**By Griffin Cappiello ('24)**  
MANAGING EDITOR

As avid readers of *The Augustinian* may recall, last year I coached the teachers of St. Augustine High School to an undefeated season on the gridiron. Yes, I know we didn't play any games – the teachers from the school up north claimed they were “too busy,” but I think they were just scared of Oz. But technically speaking, 0-0 is still undefeated.

With the FIFA World Cup fast approaching, I, Coach Cappiello, have decided to once again demonstrate my coaching prowess, this time, on the soccer pitch. However, my squad of teachers deserves some rest from all the hard work I've put them through over the past year, so I will be selecting my lineup from an entirely new, yet equally skilled, pool of players: characters from the Bible.

Before all the complaining starts, allow me to clarify one thing. I'm not going to be putting Jesus on the team. If you seriously thought that a devoted coach such as myself would take the easy way out, then you thought wrong. It isn't that Jesus is a bad player – in reality, he's a superstar. But just imagine the unnecessary publicity that would come with having him on a team. The locker room doesn't need that sort of unnecessary distraction. He and I have talked it out, and he's open to taking on more of an athletic trainer role, which probably suits his skill set a little better.

With that said, here is the greatest soccer team of all time.

**Goalkeeper: Samson** - Everyone knows that all goalkeepers are slightly insane, and Samson is no different. I mean, the guy killed an entire Philistine army with just the jawbone of a donkey. This is the psycho that we want between the posts. Plus, worst case scenario, he'll just bring down the whole goal on top of himself instead of conceding.

**Left Back: John the Evangelist** - Remember the Gospel of John? You know, that one you talked about in Mr. Vignol's class? At the end of the book, the Apostles are told that Jesus' body is no longer in the tomb. John and Peter

race to the tomb, and if you recall, John gets there first. This was an obvious demonstration of the pace on the outside that John brings to the table. Jesus also trusted John with taking care of his mother, Mary, after his crucifixion, so if Jesus can trust him, surely I can, too.

**Center Back: Abraham** - Ok, I'll admit, this one was fairly obvious. The first patriarch of the Hebrew people was an incredible leader, so he'll be our team captain. And if you remember, God told him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and Abraham was just about to do it before God stopped him. He clearly listens to his coaching staff, which is what we want from a captain.

**Center Back: Isaac** - Again, another one that was fairly obvious. You're going to want good chemistry between your center backs, and a father/son duo will give you just that. Will there be some tension from the aforementioned son sacrificing incident? Yeah, probably. But they can work out their issues on the field. It'll probably be cheaper than therapy.

**Right Back: John the Baptist** - Honestly, the only reason I went with John the Baptist is because he's just so weird. I mean, come on, who's going to want to try to get past a guy wearing camel's skin that eats locusts? That alone will be enough to stop the opposing team from coming down our left flank.

**Center Defensive Midfield: Simon Peter** - I know I've worn this joke into the ground, but he is the Rock of the Church. Imagine, if you will, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. Then, add even more muscle. There you go. That's our CDM. Nobody's getting past him.

**Right Center Midfield: Judas Iscariot** - Ok, before you start yelling at me, hear me out on this one. Yes, I understand that he was the guy that sold Jesus out. But it was only for thirty silver coins. Think about that for a second. Thirty silver coins for the life of the Son of God. This guy either was a terrible negotiator or his agent was a massive failure. When it comes time for contract negotiations, we're going to want a guy

that's reliable that we can sign for a low cost, and, well, Judas just might be that guy.

**Center Midfield: Daniel** - They threw Daniel into one lion's den, so guess what? We're going to do it again. Only metaphorically this time. He can act as a creative leader in the midfield, inspiring those around him to not succumb to the flames and get out alive.

**Left Wing: Moses** - Moses spent forty years in the desert leading a bunch of grumbling Israelites the whole time. He's practically immune to any sort of trash talk. His performance on the pitch is essentially a Ten Commandments on how to play on the wing, as he penetrates the defense just like he parted the Red Sea.

**Right Wing: Paul** - The guy would not stop running around and delivering those letters. I mean, come on. How did he not get tired? He literally got put in prison, got out, and then kept on running. This is the kind of energy I want on my team. This is the kind of can-do attitude that will make the team a success. This is exactly what I want from a winger.

**Striker: Goliath** - He's literally a giant. With that kind of aerial threat, he'll be scoring goals non-stop. Like literally. They will not be able to stop him. I checked the Laws of the Game. Throwing rocks at people is a red card for violent conduct.

**Substitute 1: Lazarus** - Let's review the facts, shall we? Lazarus was dead. Then he wasn't. That's a pretty big comeback. I like the vitality, I like the eagerness to get back in the action, and honestly, I just like the guy. Lazarus is the ultimate comeback player. With a little help from the medical staff, he'll be up and ready to go whenever his name is called.

**Substitute 2: Job** - Poor Job had to deal with a lot in his lifetime. Basically everything he ever owned was taken away from him. His own children were killed. But have you ever noticed how his wife was there the whole time? Kind of makes you wonder how bad she

was, since he still had to put up with her. In any case, Job is a tough guy that can get through a lot. Late in the game, that kind of mental fortitude will come in handy.

**Substitute 3: Timothy** - Now for those of you who say that Timothy is basically the same as Paul, you're not wrong. They're very similar players. In fact, when I was choosing my starting lineup, it came pretty close between these two. In the end, I went with the more experienced Paul, but don't worry, Timothy will almost certainly come off the bench to change the game.

**Substitute 4: Pharaoh** - Let's say you're the ruler of a mighty empire. Obviously you're going to want to put the interests of your people first. So if some crazy bearded guy with a stick comes walking into your palace and tells you to release all your slaves, you're probably not going to want to listen to him. But if he comes back and places a bunch of plagues on your people, maybe you should hear him out. Pharaoh is not that guy. He stood his ground and refused to back down – until his son got killed. A solid defensive presence – and a slight touch of insanity – will prove to be a useful substitute to slow down the game if we're ahead late.

**Substitute 5: The Prodigal Son's Brother** - I know what you're thinking. “This guy was only mentioned once in the entire Bible, how does he make the cut for the team?” I understand where you're coming from, but hear me out. He's the ultimate revenge player. He never once got what he wanted. He's gonna be hungry – literally, because his dad sacrificed the fattened calf for his brother – and he's going to want to make an impact. Just you wait, he's going to be our team's Super Sub.

