



SAINTS SCENE

SAINTS FOOTBALL CHAMPS!
Playoff Photos Next Issue



LEADERSHIP. St. Augustine High School has added four new members to its Board of Directors: (L-R) Troy Gorostiza '93, Chris Wahl, Patty Bribiesca, Fr. Max Villeneuve. The four join current Board members: Joseph Brannigan, Richard Hardick, James Zehentbauer, Anne Caya, James Dixon, Dan Morrin, Derek McMahon, David Canedo, Edwin Hearn, Gary Sanders, John Keller and Barnaby Johns.

The Gift of Education Nurturing Future Leaders



Principal James Horne

As we wrap up the semester and head toward Christmas it's natural and appropriate to reflect on the invaluable gift we are providing them: a Catholic education.

The **"Saint Experience"** is much more than a series of classes and exams; it is a transformative experience that equips our boys with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of life. Here are a few reasons why a Catholic Augustinian education is a gift beyond measure:

Empowering Critical Thinking: Education fosters the development of critical thinking skills, enabling our boys to analyze situations, make informed decisions, and approach challenges with a problem-solving mindset. In a world that constantly evolves, these skills are indispensable.

Continued on page 19

The Road Together Ex-Firefighter Steve 'Smitty' Smith ('66) Calls Saints His Oasis

By Edwin Hearn, Principal
St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

There is an alumnus from the class of 1966, that attends most weekly student masses in the gymnasium. He sits on the balcony

with the parents, other alumni, and friends of St. Augustine. His eyes are engaging

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Christmas Prayer

By Fr. John Sanders, OSA
Principal at Saints 1988-2000

Father, we thank You for bringing us together to celebrate the birth of Your son, Jesus.

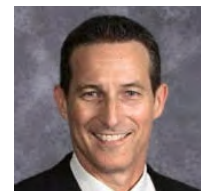
Blessed are those who have followed the Christmas star and live in Your light.

Guide those who still seek that light and yearn to know You.

Continued on page 10

Intersession, Here We Come!

By Greg Hecht
Assistant Principal/Academics



Mr. Gregory Hecht

Intersession is a unique term of study designed to provide our students the chance to enrich their Saints

Experience and their college prep curriculum by engaging in a variety of interest-based courses.

Our desire to help students develop a

Continued on page 14

Prefect Prevost Perfect



Cardinal Prevost gave a speech to Pope Francis on behalf of the other Cardinals-Elect at the beginning of the ceremony. After a reading from the Acts of the Apostles and a homily by Pope Francis, he and the other Cardinals-Elect made a profession of faith and oath of fidelity.

Following this, they each received their biretta, ring, and titular Roman church. For his titular church, Cardinal Prevost was named Cardinal-Deacon of the Church of St. Monica.

Congratulations, Cardinal Prevost! We will keep you in our prayers, and we thank you for serving our worldwide Church in this new role!

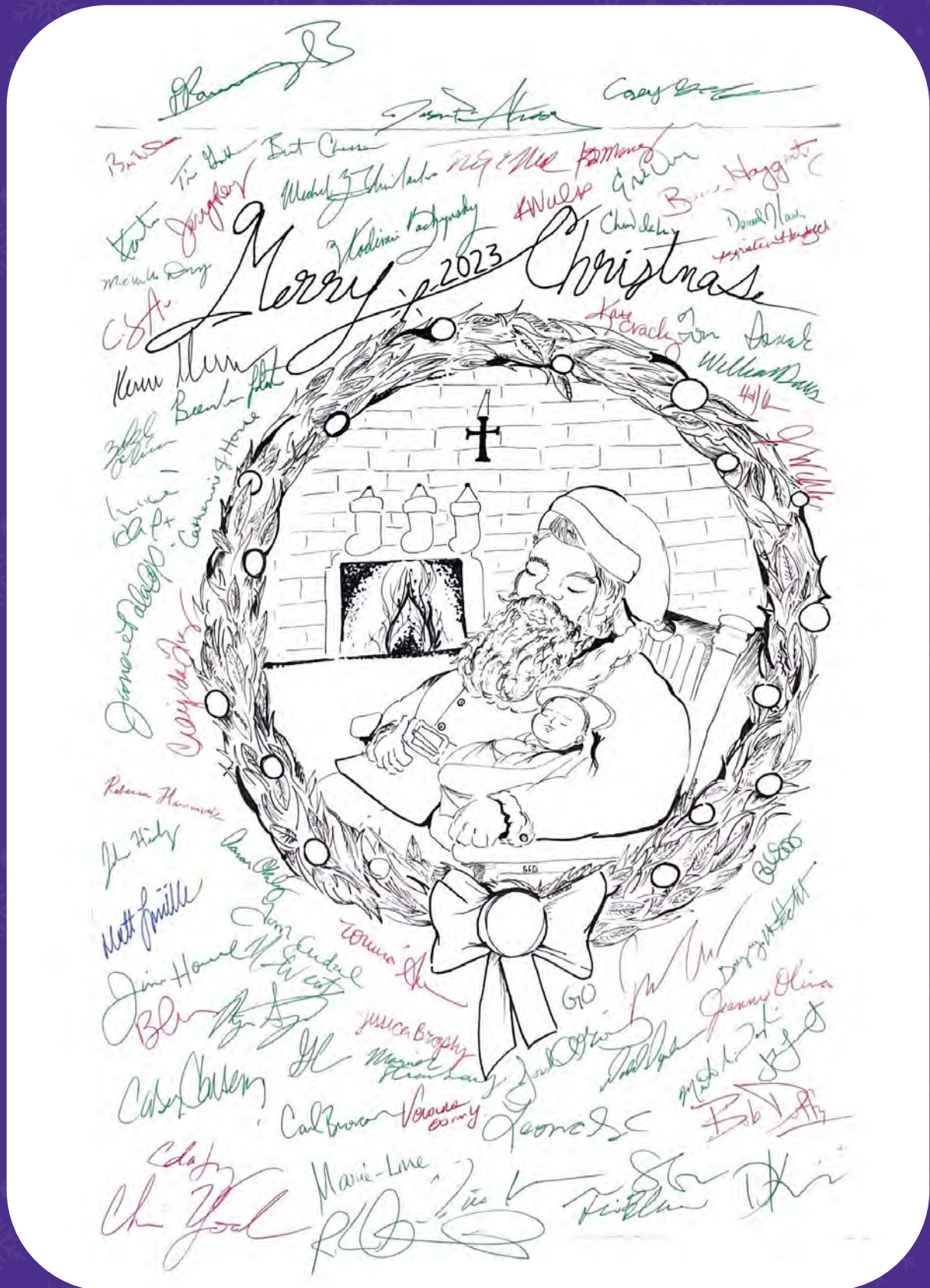
VATICAN. Recently, in St. Peter's Square, Archbishop Robert F. Prevost, OSA, Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, was officially created a Cardinal along with 20 others from around the world.



St. Peter's Square

A Joyful and Blessed Christmas

from all of us at Saints



Defending CIF Open Division Soccer Champs Ready for New Season



Photography by Walter Johnston, Saints Dad.



Coming off of last year's Western League title (5th in a row) and CIF Open Division Championship (8th CIF title overall), the Saints Varsity Soccer team is prepping for the upcoming season.

With 13 seniors graduating from last year's championship squad, the team will be relying on the leadership of four-year lettermen Iain Wagner and goalie Owen Johnston. Iain was the Western League player of the year, first team All County and will be attending the University of San Diego next fall.

Senior Alonso Somohano has been working hard to rehab and recover from an ACL injury he suffered last April. We look forward to his return to the field and the impact and experience he brings to the central midfield.

OFFENSE. Team leader Senior Iain Wagner takes the field this season as Western League Player of the Year and First Team All County.

DEPTH. Senior Alonso Somohano has been working hard to rehab and recover from an ACL injury he suffered last April.



As always, the Saintsmen will play an extremely challenging schedule. They open the season with games against Scripps Ranch and Loyola. The Saintsmen will play against the top teams in San Diego in the North County Elite Tournament over the first two weeks of December.

They will head up to Chapman University at the end of December for the SoCal College Showcase to play Orange Lutheran, Servite and Cathedral (LA). This level of competition will be excellent preparation for league play in January. The boys will be working hard to compete for another Western League and CIF Title.



DEFENSE. Returning Senior Owen Johnston is a stalwart in the goal.

ANNUAL
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

DEC 7^{THU}
6:30PM

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JAZZ COMBO
CONCERT BAND

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MUSIC.TICKETLEAP.COM/SAINTSBANDCHRISTMAS23/](https://www.sahs-instrumental-music.ticketleap.com/saintsbandchristmas23/)

THIS CONCERT IS FREE, BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!



AROUND CAMPUS



FOODIES. Senior Saintsmen paused for a photo while gathering donations for the recent Halloween Food drive to support the San Diego Food Bank. (L-R) Thomas Banzhoff, Griffin Cappiello, Dan Feiner (leader/organizer), Leo Graves, Thomas Dean Fuller, Eric Rodriguez and Drew Patterson.



INTENT. Saints hosted its first signing day opportunity for four senior athletes. On hand to sign letters of intent to their respective colleges or universities were (L-R) Iain Wagner (USD, Soccer), Justin Heffler (Saint Mary's College, Baseball), Gus Velez (USD, Soccer) and Lolo Rudolph (CSU Fullerton, Basketball).



SEA LION ROARS. After Saints Alum Jakob Christian ('21) graduated he headed off to college at Point Loma Nazarene, where as a PLNU Sophomore made history as the first West Region baseball player to ever be named Division 2 CCA Ron Lenz National Player of the Year. Broke the PLNU and PacWest conference records for single-season home runs (28). The 6-4 first baseman/outfielder broke the single-season program record for RBIs. The right hander hit a HR in 8-straight games, one game shy of all-time NCAA record. Played and started in 52 games as a sophomore. Led the country in home runs per game and finished second in total home runs.





AROUND CAMPUS

Homecoming Royalty



WAY TO GO. This year Senior Saintsman Jesse Jaquish added his name to a long list of Alums, who have been elected Homecoming King by the student body. Posing at this year's annual Homecoming game are Jesse with his parents Jennifer and Alan Jaquish.



PROUD PILOTS. Kiana Evens, a Senior at Academy of Our Lady of Peace was named 2023 Homecoming Queen. She is seen here with her parents Randy and Shaneese Evens and sister, Amaya.





ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL

AROUND CAMPUS



HB2U 66-ERS. It's a subtle nuance but one we've noticed over the years when the Saints Brotherhood celebrates class reunions. Here the theme happens to be the brilliant purple and gold colored school caps. Plus, a tasty cake to remind those attending they are 75 years old. But who needs an occasion to have a party? They're Saintsmen and any excuse will do.

AROUND CAMPUS



Beyond the Classroom

A Comparative Religions field trip to Hsi Fang Buddhist Temple

By Mr. Steve Bier, Saints Religion Studies—As part of our learning for Comparative Religions we visited the Hsi Fang Temple, a Buddhist temple in North Park.

Ven. Zhiching, a monk at the temple, gave us a wonderful tour and explained many facets of Buddhism to us. Included in the tour was a pamphlet that was very informative on various aspects of the Buddhist altar at the temple. Our guide gave us thorough but basic instructions on how to meditate at a basic level.

The experience of meditating was serene and relaxed, helping us focus on our breathing and calm our body. After the tour the guide gave us a coin that had an inscription of Buddha. Overall, the experience was great, the learning and the tour complimented our current study of Buddhism.

NEXT MONTH: *Saints students will visit a Hindu Temple.*



(Left to Right, Ryan Vu, Landon Banks, Mitchel Sanford, and Jesse Jaquish).

Christmas Prayer

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Watch over our loved ones who are not with us today especially those who have returned to Your home in peace.

Keep us mindful of those who have lost the joy of celebrating this day, those who have no food or shelter.

Bless this meal we are about to eat and remind us that the greatest gifts given to us are faith in You and the gift of family.

All of us ask, in joyful gratitude, to know Jesus and Your Holy Spirit who watches over us.



AROUND CAMPUS



BOO-WHO?

Sometimes we wish *Saints Scene* were a daily newspaper instead of a San Diego Press Club award winning community newsletter so we could be more timely with the news.

For example, our Halloween campus activities don't often see publication until December-even if we rush. That's the reality of a monthly publication and its advance deadlines.

Enough whining. And as the old saying goes better late than never.

So, here's *Saints Scene's* coverage of the Saints Faculty Halloween Costume Day. This year's theme (mainly) was "dress up like Ken and Barbie" thanks to the popularity of last summer's film blockbuster "Barbie."



CREATIVITY SHINES. Saints own Mrs. Zorinna Aceron (admissions) and Mr. Andy Pruter (social studies) wowed in the competition in their bespoke Ken and Barbie doll box outfits. Pretty snazzy.



FACULTY FESTIVE. It was Ken and Barbie Day on campus a.k.a. Faculty and Administrative staff's Halloween costume day 2023. This year's costumes are prize-winning. Batman in the back row didn't get the memo. No prize for you.



STUDENT FUN. Here's Saintsman Isaiah Hasten ('24) in costume as the late, great artist/TV personality Bob Ross.



Photography by Saints Dad William Hill

Saints Football: Road to Playoffs*



Scenes from 2023 Varsity Holy Bowl Win



PICTURE PERFECT. The scoreboard says it all. Coach Ron Gladnick’s Saints Varsity wins the U.S. Marine Corp.’s annual Great American Rivalry Series in a hard-earned thriller over Cathedral 27-21 at their house!



GOING DOWN. Dons runner disappears under a defensive avalanche of led by #52 Asofa Lauifi and #56 Jonathan Chavez.



STEAM ROLLED. This photo will never get old. That’s Honor Fa’alave-Johnson straight arming a would-be tackler into a pretzel after Saints offensive line opened a huge hole for the Freshman running machine.



SENIOR POWER. That’s wide receiver Isaiah Hasten surrounded fellow Senior teammates after earning his Player of the Game trophy for the Great American Rivalry Series. Back Row (L-R) Tyler Schweer, Rem Tully, Parker Patterson, Cole Lambeth, and Owen Johnston; Front (L-R): Cole Sinclair, Kieran Hodson, Brady Klem, Isaiah Hasten, Landen Kassab, Zac Horne.



PURPLE & GOLD RUSH. The current season started off a bit slow, but this 2023 edition of Saints Varsity Football team finished the season strong to earn a spot in the division 1 CIF playoffs.



SEE YOU LATER. RB Parker Johnson put Cathedral in his rear-view mirror capping off a sensational season and joining in on a Holy Bowl victory as a Freshman. Versus the Dons, he rushed for 67 yards with 2 touchdowns in 7 carries. Pictured here is his 53 yard TD run.



THE WAVE. Saints offensive line swamps Cathedral defenders allowing Senior RB Parker Patterson to dive in for a touchdown.



LOUDER AND PROUDER. Saints award winning The Pit cheering section roaring their approval of the game clinching score.



EL CAPITANS. Game Captains (left to right) Isaiah Hasten, Kieran Hodson, Brady Klem, Jacob Valdez.



STRONG ARM. Saints dominating quarterback Brady Palmer led Saints Varsity to the Division 1 playoffs in his Sophomore year.



CATCHING FIRE. One of Senior Isaiah Hasten's catches, a spot-on pass from Soph QB Brady Palmer. Hasten ended Dons game with 129 total yards receiving. Since the Dons game Saints has topped Mira Mesa 37-10 and La Costa Canyon 32-17.



KICKS! A valuable part of a super season involves the solid play of its special team players. Here Junior holder Sam Ayana tees up a Saints field goal try for kicker Declan Mullins.



SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONORS. Each year the United States Marines and the Great American Rivalry series honor student athletes with the highest academic GPA from the teams playing in the games they sponsor. This year Senior Zac Horne, whose GPA is 4.1, was recognized as the Rivalry Series Scholar Athlete and he received a scholarship. Pictured here with Zac are (l-r) Daniel Horne ('28), Cathy Horne, U.S. Marines representative and Jim Horne.

** Due to the holidays, Saints Scene coverage of the Division 1 Final game will appear next month.*

Intercession, Here We Come!

Continued from page 1

passion for learning can sometimes be difficult to accomplish in traditional college prep classes. Providing students the opportunity to investigate studies in areas that interest them sparks a curiosity and inquisitiveness that naturally stimulates their desire to learn new things. Offering courses like Christian service in a cultural context, marine biology, architecture, robotics, aquatic sports, cooking, and a host of internship opportunities, will give the students new and unique opportunities to discover a passion and/or skill set that they may embrace well beyond high school.

The Intercession term for the 2023-2024 school year begins on January 3, 2024, and ends on January 30, 2024. Martin Luther King Day will be observed on January 15, 2024.

All Intercession courses are a significant part of the graduation requirements for St. Augustine High School. Regular attendance during Intercession is also necessary for a meaningful learning experience. Since Intercession courses are compacted semester courses, students should not miss more than two days of Intercession. Please note, if a student is absent three (3) days

from an Intercession course, he may be denied credit in that class thus affecting his graduation credits required for the St. Augustine High School diploma.

Every Wednesday during Intercession, school begins with Mass followed by the courses in which students are enrolled. Please note that "Tie Day" attire will be observed on all Mass days. For those students enrolled in courses that take place on campus, each school day will take place from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Those students enrolled in courses that take place off campus should consult with their faculty supervisor to verify daily start and finish times.

During Intercession, every course which includes those taught on campus, as well as those that take place off campus, (i.e., sports/athletics, internships, and travel courses) will follow ALL regular school policies with respect to grades, attendance, standards of dress, and student discipline. If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding Intercession, please e-mail Mr. Hecht at ghecht@sahs.org.

2024 Augustinian Achievement Award Ceremony

Saturday, January 20, 2024

5:00 pm – Cocktail Hour in the DanVera Lobby of St. Augustine Commons

6:00 pm – Dinner in Fr. John Sanders, O.S.A. Gymnasium · 7:00 pm – Presentation of Awards

2024 Award Recipients:



Fr. Barry Martinson, S.J.
1963



Larry Manzer
1953



Hal Rover
1952



Thomas Whelan
1957

Steering Committee: Mr. Mark Johnson, '83 (Chair), Tom Cudal, '72, Troy Gorostiza, '93, Tom Doyle '01, Mike Kennedy, '75, Dan Morrin, '77, George Rios, '05, Laura Walsh, (Former APA President), Justin Williams, '92

Tickets: \$200 per person • Tables: \$1,800 (table of 10)

To register visit sahs.org and click on the Augustinian Achievement Award logo
or contact Casey Callery - ccallery@sahs.org (619) 764 - 5541

Cocktail Attire



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Ex-Firefighter Steve Smith ('66)

Continued from page 1

and there is always a quick smile when he sees the boys.

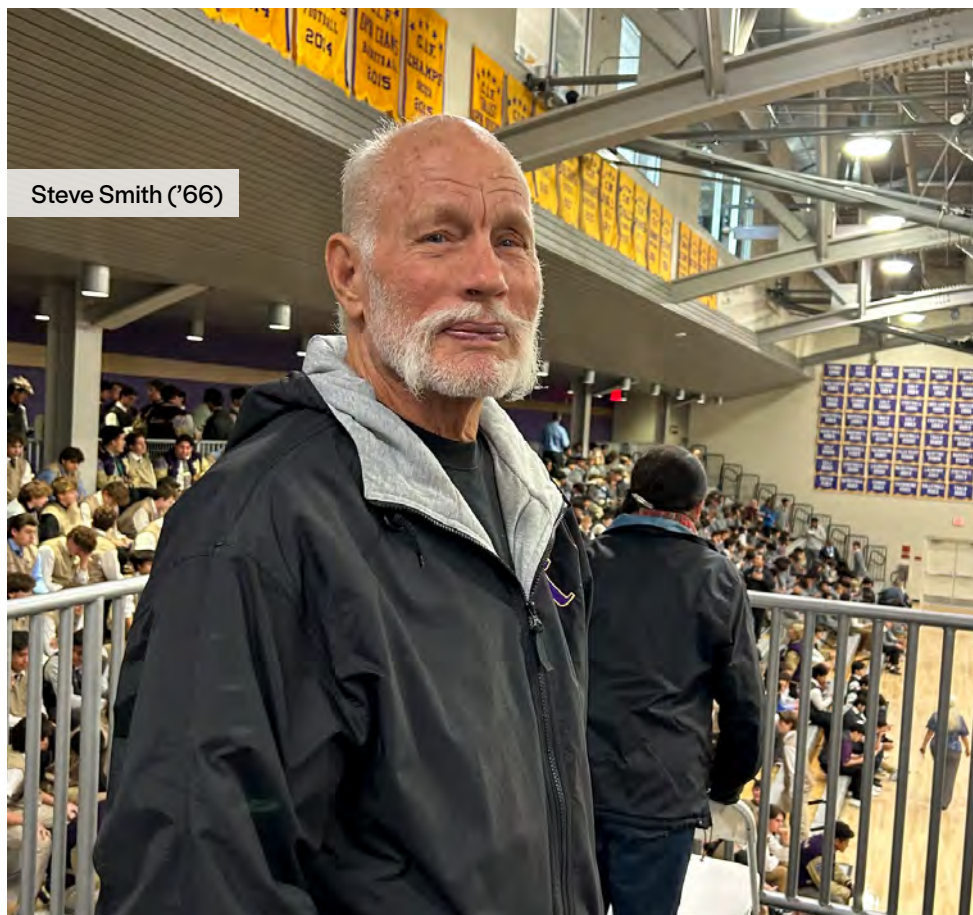
As a Saintsman (now a retired San Diego fireman), who never left the neighborhood, he is on campus almost daily. He calls St. Augustine his oasis, his "...little heaven—my cielito lindo."

He dresses simply in old Saints sweatshirts and sneakers and is quiet by nature, but as he gets to know a person, he warms up and has much to say.

The other days of the week he attends mass in Austin Chapel at 7 am. After mass, he wanders over to Halo Joe's to hang out until school begins. Sometimes he interacts with the boys and many times he simply observes their energy and happiness to see one another as a new day begins on campus. It takes him back to his days at Saints and he remembers his time during the late 1960's, a decade when the world seemed in upheaval every day.

Once school begins, he leaves campus for a walk back to his residence on McKinley Street. Early afternoon he runs errands. Afterward, he finds a parking spot on Palm Street and comes back to campus for an hour to see how the football team is preparing for its next game—a perfect day!

Known as "The Stick" back in the day, Steve Smith, or Smitty as he is now known has been at home at Saints for a lifetime. As a kid, he bonded with Saint Patrick's from the beginning. Smitty always felt an affection for his teachers and the nuns who were his teachers. He smiled and stated, "I walked with the students going to McKinley School and then just kept on walking on my way to Saint Patrick's." From there, it was natural that I attended Saints. He has strong feelings of friendship with the Augustinians since his school days.



Steve Smith ('66)

When "The Stick" entered Saints as a freshman, he was very small and was in awe of the football players who were twice his size. He paused and with a sly smile said, "Dance lessons" were as close to sports as I got during my four years at Saints. I still can't dance but I did become a fan of Saints athletics."

According to Smitty, "the dances were what set Saints apart back in his day." It was just a short two-hour dance after the games, but the student body looked forward to them. Smitty and his friends never paid to get into the dances. They begged the bands to allow them to bring their equipment into the old gymnasium for the dance. As part of the crew, they were free.

To relive the excitement of sneaking into the dances, Smitty recently made a successful attempt to sneak into a basketball game. He noticed the pep band used the elevator to move their instruments to the basketball court level before games. The next game he waited patiently for Miss Au to lead her troops down the elevator. As the band got on the elevator, Smitty stepped on with them. By the time the elevator arrived on ground level, he had some instruments in his hands and passed by the security guard undetected. It was a rush for sure that took him back to his high school days.

As a young boy, Smitty took to surfing and to this day still gets in the water. Many surfers from his era felt he was one of the best surfers in San Diego. When asked about that tribute, Smitty smiled and said, "Well, yes, I had a style in the way I rode the waves." In those years the worst days were days when the surf was flat.

Continued on next page

The iconic film “Endless Summer” previewed two weeks after he graduated from Saints. The movie captured him. His life became an adventure filled with friends and surfing. He still goes to Mexico and sees the vans full of young people continuing to live the adventure.

Steve was a San Diego fireman from 1969 until 2003. For 34 years he along with many other Saintsmen, worked in the city to ensure the safety of others. If there was a prank, Smitty was in on it. He was the guy who would microwave broccoli at the station that disgusted the entire station. It was all done in fun.

During his years as a student “...there was a large group of us. We knew who we were—The Brotherhood. A purple yearbook acknowledged the brotherhood on the cover. It was very special to me.”

When PSA 182 crashed in North Park in 1978, Smitty was the first firefighter to arrive at the scene of the crash. He was riding his bike home from the station from

his shift change when he witnessed a small Cessna colliding with a passenger jet. Sadly all aboard both planes were lost.

During Student Mass, Smitty thrives on the energy he sees and feels on those Wednesdays. During the Peace of Christ, he sees young men reaching out to their friends for a hug and watches boys move all around the gym saying hello to each other. It brings him back to his time in the old gym. He calls it “the beautiful confusion. Sometimes I close my eyes and can feel the way it feels to be a Saintsmen. We are all part of the fabric of the place.”

Last year after the student mass, Gary Osberg was attempting to motivate the boys to support the Augustinian Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. In his grand attempt to get their attention, Osberg threw out a once-in-a-lifetime challenge to the students. He told them

if they raised \$50,000 Saints faculty member and alum Tom Cudal (’72) would shave his mustache and cut his hair in a crew cut style. With the surprise on Cudal’s face, it seems Osberg made the challenge without Cudal’s approval. Of course, no one in the gymnasium thought \$50,000 was even possible.

After the challenge was made Smitty ran to his credit union and had a check cut for that amount. On the very same day, he found Cudal grading papers in his classroom and presented him with the check. A bargain was struck, Smitty allowed the mustache to stay, but Cudal’s hair became a crew cut. The next week when it was announced, the boys were deliriously happy.

After Sunday Mass at the Saints Chapel, one witnesses Smitty sitting in Vasey Patio just taking it in and trying to imagine all the young men and teachers who have passed through this space during his lifetime. Smitty admitted that it is during this time, I am one of the boys. I am probably trying to escape old age, but the boys make me feel so welcome.”





AUDITIONS AHEAD FOR SPRING MUSICAL

Coming Soon!

Acting Auditions and Tech Crew Interviews
for the Saints Drama 2023-2024 Spring Musical.

Auditions will be held the week of January 29, 2024
Crew Interviews will be held the week of February 12, 2024

The Spring Musical dates and times are:

April 19, 25, 26, 27 @ 7pm

April 20 @ 2pm

in the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts

For more information:

Please join the Saints Drama Announcements list
by scanning the QR code.



Nurturing Future Leaders

Continued from page 1

Building Resilience: High school is a journey filled with ups and downs, successes, and setbacks. Each experience, whether in the classroom, on the stage or on the sports field, contributes to the development of resilience. This resilience will serve them well in the face of life's inevitable uncertainties.

Cultivating a Lifelong Love for Learning: Beyond textbooks and exams, education introduces our boys to the joy of learning. It instills curiosity and a hunger for knowledge that will stay with them throughout their lives. This love for learning becomes a lifelong asset, driving personal and professional growth.

Fostering Social and Emotional Intelligence: School is not just about academic achievements; it's a microcosm of society. Interacting with peers, navigating relationships, and understanding different perspectives contribute to the development of social and emotional intelligence. These skills are fundamental for building meaningful connections in adulthood and pave the way to becoming a Christian Gentleman.

Preparing for a Dynamic Future: The world our boys will step into is dynamic and ever-changing. Education equips them with the skills and adaptability needed to thrive in various environments. It prepares them for the workforce, where problem-solving, collaboration, and innovation are highly valued.

In essence, the gift of education is an investment in our boys' future as confident, compassionate, and capable individuals. Let's continue to support and encourage them on this journey, recognizing that the gift of a Saints education will extend far beyond the classroom.



James W. Home

BIG DECEMBER SALE!

Gift Giving Ideas for the Holidays

Mark your calendar for Halo Joe's traditional spirit wear sale. Between December 1–13, Halo Joe will take 20 percent off of all items in the campus store.

Shop is open December 5, 6, 12, 13 on campus.

Tues./Thurs.
7:30 am to 8:30 am (Dec. 5, 7 & 12)

Wed. 1:30 to 3:00 pm (Dec. 6 & 13)



The Dark Side of Energy Drinks

Their Impact on the Body!



Coach Mike Sweat

By Coach Mike Sweat
Saints Director of Strength and Conditioning
Chair of Physical Education Department

Did You Know...

- Energy drinks contain varying amounts of caffeine, amounts of more or less than what is listed on the can, may contain a combination of caffeine + stimulants.
- While most cases involving older adults were due to excess intakes, in cases involving teens, adverse effects occurred in as little as 1 can/bottle.

A Recent Study:

This review analyzed 96 different studies to summarize the adverse effects of energy drink consumption and found negative effects on both acute and chronic consumption.

*Average age = 27 years old (Range: 8-62 years old)



Pathological Effects of Energy Drink Consumption:

Cardiovascular

Occurred in 47% of cases

- Arrhythmias
- Sudden death
- Cardiac arrests
- Cardiomyopathy
- Hypertension
- Syncope (fainting)

Neurological

Occurred in 25% of cases

- Reduced sleep/insomnia
- Anxiety
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Manic psychosis

Gastrointestinal

Occurred in 14% of cases

- Pancreatitis
- Atrophic gastritis
- Hepatitis

Renal

Occurred in 8% of cases

- Hyponatremia
- Rhabdomyolysis
- Acute kidney injury

*Eat nutrition

SAINTS SCENE

Your Award-Winning* monthly report on the St. Augustine High School Experience

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Correction Policy: While every effort is made to be accurate, we occasionally err. We do apologize to those impacted and kindly ask that you notify Saints Coordinator: Thomas.Shess@gmail.com for any corrections.

*Awards: Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.



Mission of St. Augustine High School – Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth and love.