



SAINTS SCENE

Back-to-Back CIF Champions



FROM ZEROES TO HEROES.
Saints Varsity Football didn't win a game (nada) during the regular season BUT they won four straight games in the CIF San Diego Section Playoffs. CIF Championship game score: Saints 13, San Pasqual High 7. *Team photo: Mr. James Horne.*

Continued on page 4

Augustinian Heritage

The Concept of Coach

Transforming Boys to Men Via Unchanging Core Values

By Edwin Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

Stability in today's world is fleeting, change marches on. Remaining with what is known is always more comfortable, and many schools find change difficult. Saints, however, has been an outlier. While organized around the unchanging core values of Unity, Truth, and Love, Saints has set itself on a course of constant reinvention, becoming a learning community in continuous motion. This dynamism and energy are evident daily in the work of the school.

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Friendship is a Gift

Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

Friendship is a great gift, and a truly supportive friend is a rare treasure. In boys schools where boys are

not competing with one another for the attention of girls, strong bonds of friendship grow and thrive. Many of the friendships the boys at Saints develop will indeed last a lifetime and what they learn about being a good and reliable friend will enrich their lives.

Continued on page 11

70-YEAR-OLD TURKEY TROT PHOTO DISCOVERED See Page 20

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From the faculty and staff at Saints



Nativity scene illustration in pencil by Saintsman Isaiah Raban ('27).



Electing Frosh Officers by Lottery is Working



NEW FROSH LEADERSHIP. Frosh Class Officers: Front row, L-R: Julius Gorou; Daniel Horne; Steven Haskett; Henry Pryzbylski; and Ronin Rush. Frosh Pit Leaders: Rear row, L-R: Erik Hayes; Anthony Moyad; Jesus Alonso Zaragoza; Micah Ee; and Jack Coyle.

For the past couple of years, Saints Freshman student leaders (President, et al) are selected by lottery. Checking in on how this election concept is working at our Nutmeg Street campus, Saints Scene asked Mr. Gary Osberg, ASB Moderator for an update:

Here's what Dr. GO, who is also Professor of the Pit; Chancellor of Hype and Yearbook Advisor, had to say:

"...Back in 2020, I read an article now it is a short video (<https://hundred.org/en/innovations/student-government-lotteries>) on how using a lottery system as a way to select student leaders can increase participation in student leadership.

The lottery removes one of the biggest barriers to leadership participation (anxiety over a speech and campaign) and

eliminates some of the discipline issues we had with Frosh elections in previous years. Additionally, in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, the years before the lottery we had maybe 14 applicants for Frosh Leadership positions. Since the Lottery has been applied, we've consistently had 25+ with a new record of 41 applicants this year."

Recently, Saints ASB welcomed the Class of 2028 leaders "elected" via the Freshmen Lottery. Forty-one Saints ninth-graders applied for leadership, then participated in interviews. Results are in. Ten Freshmen were selected for available positions. All students who completed the process but weren't selected can elect to become a Freshman Ambassador.

Back-to-Back CIF Champions



How the Saints Varsity Football Team went from a winless regular season to being CIF champs—again. Beat San Pasqual High 13-7 for CIF Title.

In a melodramatic ending that went down to the fewest seconds of the game, St. Augustine High's amazing unsung 2024 Varsity Football team earned its second straight CIF football title. Leading 13-0 at halftime, Saints held on for a 13-7 victory thanks to first half heroics by the offense and final quarter defensive grit.

Player of the championship game, Senior Matthew Horne caught five big yardage passes (105 yards) thrown by Junior QB Vincent Smith. Horne's heroics paved the way for Frosh kicker Callen Moore to boot two field goals and Soph running back Pai Polamalu to score on a four yard TD waltz thanks to a dominating Saints offensive line. Horne was named MVP for the game.

Yes, Saints Football walked off the field at Southwestern College as champs by winning four straight games in the CIF San Diego Section Division III Playoffs. But the title game isn't the complete story. Saints entire 2024 season is the front page news.

The 2024 season began with a Saints varsity team coming off a 2023 championship season but facing a challenging offseason. The team experienced significant changes, with many players graduating and others transferring to different schools.

Adding to the mix, 2024 marked the debut of Ron Caragher as head coach.



CHAMPIONS.

Saints Head coach Ron Caragher (left) holds the gold with the school's Athletic Director Matt Linville after clinching the DIII title.

Coach Caragher, a former Division I college football coach, took over a Saints program rich in tradition, integrity, intelligence, enthusiasm, and resilience but low on competitive experience. For Caragher, who had previously led programs at the University of San Diego and San Jose State, this was his first foray into high school coaching.

From the start of summer practices, it became clear that the team faced an uphill battle. With so many experienced players gone, the roster was dominated by freshmen and underclassmen. Senior players with substantial varsity

experience were a rarity, as rare as snow on Nutmeg Street.

To make matters more challenging, Saints were competing in one of the top CIF divisions in the county, setting the stage for what would be a difficult Division I season. Losses began to pile up, and skepticism grew louder.

"We lost our homecoming game, got beat in the Holy Bowl by Cathedral, and were defeated by teams we hadn't lost to in decades," said Saints President Ed Hearn. "But no one panicked, and no one quit. The players who left us last year weren't part of this team anymore."



BIG CROWD. Saints faithful jammed their side of the field at Southwestern College stadium to witness the amazing finish of a remarkable championship season.

Athletic Director Matt Linville after the game accepted the CIF trophy with Coach Caragher. Both coaches hugged to the roar of the Saints Faithful.

AD Linville added, “We knew this was going to be a tough and challenging season, but we also knew with the new playoff format that if we could just stay healthy, we’d have a chance in the post-season.

“The defense played lights out for the past four games and a lot of kids stepped up their efforts. I’m so proud of the players and coaches. This is fantastic and something they will never forget. They will always be bonded together by this playoff run. This is part of what the brotherhood is all about,” said Coach Linville.

Coach Caragher understood the cyclical nature of sports—what happens with player turnover in college can also happen at the high school level. “One year, you can be on top of the world; the next, you’re rebuilding. Sure, we wish we’d had a better regular-season record, but the playoffs are a brand-new season. After all the lessons and tough losses to go 4-0 in the playoffs and bring home the championship trophy? We’ll take that any day.” Coach Caragher assembled a talented staff of experienced leaders, including former college and professional players who brought their expertise to the coaching ranks. “Our players responded well to the lessons they were taught and translated them into success on the field,” said Caragher.

One of many standout figures on the coaching staff is volunteer coach and NFL Hall of Famer Troy Polamalu, who is also a Saints parent. His son, Pai Polamalu, plays on both offense and defense and scored the decisive touchdown in Saints’ 10-6 playoff win over Holtville High and the 13-6 win over San Pasqual High.

Principal James Horne echoed this sentiment. “Traditionally, Saints Varsity Football often starts slow, building momentum as the season progresses. While we weren’t winning early on, it didn’t mean the team wasn’t learning. We show up every day to improve, and that’s what matters. Watch out for Saints Football next year.”

Turn the page for more football coverage!

Road to CIF Championship

Photo Essay of St. Augustine High's Division III Playoff Football Games | By Mr. William Hill, Photographer and Saints Parent

This season's path to the CIF Championship covered a lot of ground as Saints played prep teams from La Jolla, Escondido, Holtville (Imperial County) and nearby San Diego High. The team led by Coach Ron Caragher went undefeated in the playoffs with a 4-0 record.



SENIOR running back **Caelyb Aguirre** turns on the jets as he sweeps around the edge against Holtville High on a chilly desert night in early CIF Playoff action.



WORDS OF WISDOM. Saints Head Football Coach Ron Caragher delivers an inspiring postgame speech after a commanding shutout victory over La Jolla Country Day High in the CIF playoff opener.

FRESHMAN **Callen Moore**, a prolific kicker with a knack for clutch field goals and extra points, proved to be one of the team's top scorers. Special recognition also goes to **Senior holder Stephen Cota**, whose steady hands ensured precision on every kick.



JUNIOR quarterback **Vincent Smith** launches a deep pass in the championship game against San Pasqual High, igniting a crucial drive toward yet another CIF Championship. *(Photo courtesy of the Union-Tribune and photographer Meg McLaughlin.)*



SOPHOMORE **Pai Polamalu** surges through a gaping hole in the Holtville defense, thanks to dominant blocking by **Junior linemen Benson Brock (#77) and Marcel Sandoval (#72).**

VERSATILE standout **Charlie Berkley**, a senior dynamo on both offense and defense, showcased his speed and athleticism throughout the playoffs. *(Pictured here against La Jolla Country Day High.)*





SENIOR Sammy Ayana, named the CIF Sportsmanship Award winner after the championship game against San Pasqual, exemplified grace both on and off the field. But don't let his sportsmanship fool you—Ayana was a relentless defender and a slot receiver, ripping off critical gains when the team needed him most.



KICKING GAME ON POINT: In the high-stakes CIF playoffs, special teams often decide the outcome. **Freshman kicker Callen Moore, Senior holder Stephen Cota, blocker Wilford Anderson, and snapper Thomas Moore** worked seamlessly, ensuring flawless execution under pressure.

WIDE OPEN. Sophomore Pai Polamalu made a game changing romp into the endzone against San Pasqual in the first half of the Championship game.



SENIOR Aaron Morgan proved to be a two-way powerhouse, contributing both offensively and defensively. Against San Diego High, he showcased his versatility by scoring on offense and intercepting passes to stifle the opposing attack.



MVP IN ACTION. Player of the Game, **Matthew Horne**, made an incredible play with a 21-yard catch from **QB Vincent Smith**, aided by a crucial lead block from **Pai Polamalu**. However, officials ruled Horne stepped out of bounds just shy of the end zone.

CAPTAINS. Proudly representing the team for the coin flip to start the San Pasqual game are left to right: **Seniors Charlie Berkley, Caelyb Aguirre, Malosi Luli and Sammy Ayana.** (Killian McGinnis #17 is in the background ready to go).



November to Remember

Saints Championship Playoff Highlights



FIRST VICTORY

Nov. 8 at Mesa College

Because Saints played a strong schedule during the regular season it was awarded a slot as a #7 seed in the San Diego CIF Division III playoffs. Taking advantage of being in the post season, Saints shut out La Jolla Country Day High Torreys 16-0.

Highlight players: Soph. Pai Polamalu (TD); Sr. Charlie Berkley (TD) and Callen Moore (FG).



DEFENSE IN THE DESERT

Nov. 15 at Holtville, CA

Saints showing a strong defensive and running game recorded a stunning 10-6 victory over the previously unbeaten #2 seed Holtville High Vikings. The second game of the San Diego section CIF Division III was played in Imperial County. Highlight players: Soph. Matt Weinpel (2 Int); Soph. RB/QB/DB Pai Polamalu (TD on a QB sneak and Int.); Sr.; Caelyb Aguirre (RB big yards gained); Frosh kicker Callen Moore (FG). Overall total defense effort earned this win.

COME FROM BEHIND

Nov. 22 at Balboa Stadium
Saints 3rd victory in the four game San Diego CIF Division III playoffs became a microcosm of the entire 2024 season. By coming from behind to post a 20-16 victory over #3 San Diego High (8-6), Saints started slow but came back with a roar. Highlight players: Soph. Pai Polamalu (2 int); Jr. Vincent Smith (QB), Sr. Charlie Berkley (TD), Sr. Aaron Morgan (Int. TD) and Frosh kicker Callen Moore (2 FG).



Senior Aaron Morgan’s “pick six” interception puts Saints ahead for good.



MVP. Senior Matthew Horne had five receptions from QB Vincent Smith for 105 yards. Photo courtesy Union Tribune’s Meg McLaughlin.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP VIBE

Nov. 30 at Southwestern College

Bottom line: Saints were the shock of high school football in 2024. No other Catholic High School in the San Diego CIF section won a football championship at any level in 2024.

No other San Diego area high school football program in recent memory came from 0-10 regular season record to winning a CIF division championship. Saints did!

Saints earned its title success by cashing in its chips garnered from a proud athletic tradition; supportive administration, loyal alumni led Saints Community, patient and experienced coaching staff; and finally plain old-fashioned no-quit Mid-City grit. The Saints Community couldn’t be prouder of its varsity legionnaires for its D-III trophy and maybe a new feisty nickname: The Shockers. **Highlight players:** MVP Matthew Horne 5 catches for 105 total yards gained; Frosh Callen Moore 2 FG, 1 PAT; Pai Polamalu TD rushing TD and the entire Saints Defensive team.



The poster features a dark purple background with a pattern of white snowflakes and musical notes. At the bottom, there are stylized white hills and green Christmas trees. The text is centered and reads:

Annual
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

**Tuesday, December 12
6:30pm**

**Raymond Center for the
Performing Arts**

Friendship is a Gift

Continued from page 1

Reflecting on our annual theme, Be Kind, it is important to see the choice of good friends and the formation of trusting and caring relationships among young men as an attainment of our goal. Making friends is an achievement. And as a boy travels the adolescent road to manhood, finding relationships that offer positive affirmation is a blessing that can strengthen his Catholic/Christian formation. Here at Saints those relationships are found in the classroom, on the field, at the lunch table, on the court, in the lab, on retreats, in carpools and beyond.

In this Christmas season be mindful that the greatest “gifts” we receive are the people that surround us. These gifts of friendship deepen the “Saints Experience” and help bring to the forefront the Christ that resides in each of us. As such, we should encourage Saintsmen to be a gift to one another and to live joyfully among each other by developing the qualities of love, loyalty, trust, dependability, laughter and compassion.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Education,



James W. Horne

Principal



**Halo Joe's
Holiday Sale**

**Enjoy 20% off
Nov 19 – Dec 12
Store Hours
T/Th 730-830am
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SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025



2025 Augustinian Achievement Award Ceremony



AROUND CAMPUS



MR. MUSTACHE. Nov 14 was faculty member Mr. Tom Cudal's birthday and the entire Junior class arrived that morning wearing mustaches for Homeroom assembly. Imitation we are told is the sincerest form of flattery ... Happy Birthday Mr. Cudal!



HOMECOMING ROYALTY. This year's Homecoming King and Queen are Academy of Our Lady of Peace Senior Hannah Abbouna and Saintsman Senior Gregory Leong. The King and Queen are pictured in the Orca Stadium at Seaworld. The Homecoming dance this year began with a private Orca show for the 1,244 students who attended this year.



AROUND CAMPUS

Saints Honors its Veterans

The Saints community has a proud tradition of its alums going on to serve their nation in uniform. Many go on to attend service academies or enlist once out of school. From WWII to the present day, countless Loyal Sons have answered the call and bravely joined our Armed Forces.

Whether it be the Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard, you can trust and believe that a Saintsman is keeping careful watch over this country. This past Veteran's Day, The St. Augustine Alumni Association in collaboration with the ASB, honored over 60 alumni Veterans with care packages, thanking them for their service. It is with resounding honor that we say thank you Saintsmen.



David Canedo ('63) Army



Joel Ruiz ('90) Marine Corps



Mark Johnson ('83) Navy



Robert Linseth ('61) Air Force

Wrestling Schedule 2024-25

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



AROUND CAMPUS

Where Are They Now?

Nathaniel Kotnik ('23) settled into college life at Georgia Tech by receiving only one B and the rest A's for his Freshman year. In addition to academics, he was immersed in the US Air Force ROTC Program, which is another major learning experience. He soon found that what he learned in the ROTC program complimented his academic performance as he received compliments from his professors for his presentation skills. (Note: He first learned presentation skills at Saints!). Nathaniel is active in the Catholic Freshman Community, helping out in some capacity almost every Mass, i.e. lector, usher, Eucharistic Minister.



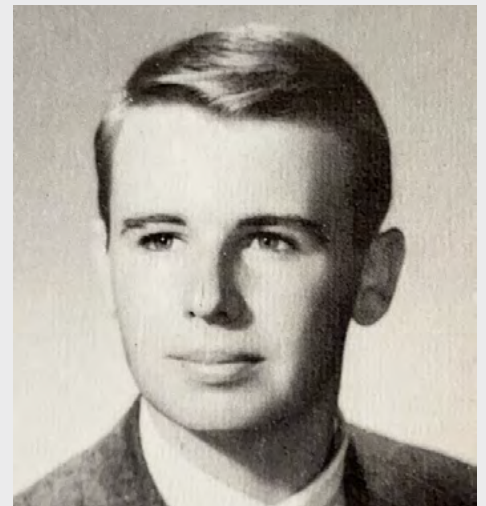
Nathaniel in US Airforce Uniform at Georgia Tech.



Nathaniel after his first Solo Flight July 2024, about to receive his Private Pilot's License. He is completing his flight training in Anchorage, Alaska.

Full Saints Podcast with Leo Sullivan '63

Augustinian Achievement Award winner Leo Sullivan (Sullivan Lawyers) joined the Full Saints Podcast for Episode 3. Leo talked about his time at Saints, where he was student body president, alumnus of the year and how much the campus and life in America in general has changed. He discussed his military service and his time in Vietnam with the First Cavalry Division (Bronze Star and Air Medal) as well as his career as a lawyer and longtime board member for Saints.



Episodes are available on the Saints News Network:
<https://www.youtube.com/@SaintsASB>



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The Concept of Coach

Continued from page 1

As St. Augustine sought the ultimate meaning in his life, he discovered God's profound love for each of us in our uniqueness. We, too, find this creative energy in our core values—through a community working in love, we experience the depths of His love, quietly encouraging us to engage more sensitively with our students, parents, and alumni.

We clearly see that each young man's education begins at home and continues in the strong relationships he forges with his teachers and coaches. Our boys enter Saints as boys and graduate as men. Saints is a transformative place that initiates a journey, helping parents nurture their sons into young adults who know their way. Students thrive when the schools they attend encounter them with the powerful combination of love and respect.

More than fifteen years ago, through the work of the International Boys School Coalition (IBSC) a network of over 300 all-boys schools financed studies that focused on the value of teacher/student relationships and found that where they were strong, boys excelled, boys thrive in a joyful environment, and when they are challenged with strong mentors, they shine.

From a freshman's first days at Saints, he senses something different. He discovers teachers who understand him and engage with him as a peer. He hears teachers refer to one another as "coach," suggesting a philosophy of teaching not from the front of the class but from the side—a posture that aligns with encouraging and working alongside each young man as an equal. Teachers ensure their students know that they, as individuals, are more important than the curriculum. Interestingly, this relationship's strength also elevates learning and achievement to the highest order.

During this semester, which is just ending, I reached out to every freshman parent and the parents of transfer students. While these calls contain a fundraising component, their main purpose is to check in with parents and hear their observations on their sons' first months at Saints. This question has the potential to "open a can of worms," but it is also a query that can lead to significant school improvements.

This year's parents, as a group, collectively report that their sons are happy and enjoying their Saints Experience. They appreciate their teachers and coaches, are making new friends, and are becoming involved in the life of Saints. A key response I heard repeatedly was, "My son seems different in his approach to school. He is taking ownership of his learning, preparing the night before for classes, and adjusting to the greater challenges at Saints." While this speaks well of his developing accountability, it reflects an ongoing process of maturation that will help him find personal and academic success.

Saints Welcomes ASEA & SAVI Conferences to Campus

By Edwin Hearn, President, Saints

Recently, Saints hosted the Augustinian Secondary Education Association (ASEA) and the Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI) for the ten Augustinian schools in North America. The Heads of School from these Augustinian schools met for two and a half days, sharing the good news of their schools, their development, and how we might begin exporting the "St. Augustine factor" to other Catholic schools. We collectively believe that our core values of Unity, Truth, and Love hold great meaning for the world. One former Augustinian school in Pennsylvania, now a diocesan school, asked the ASEA to consider their membership into the group. The Head of School deeply appreciated the value of returning to the Augustinian family.



TEACHERS AS COACHES. From a freshman's first days at Saints, he senses something different. He discovers teachers who understand him and engage with him as a peer. He hears teachers refer to one another as "coach," suggesting a philosophy of teaching not from the front of the class but from the side—a posture that aligns with encouraging and working alongside each young man as an equal. Teachers ensure their students know that they, as individuals, are more important than the curriculum. Interestingly, this relationship's strength also elevates learning and achievement to the highest order. *File Photo: Assistant Principal Mr. Michael Haupt addresses a new class of Freshman as to what to expect in the four years ahead.*

As the ASEA meetings concluded, SAVI began its weekend retreat, with six or seven students from each of the ten Augustinian schools in attendance. At this retreat, students from various schools had the opportunity to learn more about St. Augustine, the core values, and the broader impact of an Augustinian education. By the closing ceremony and final Mass, it was evident that the students had made new friends and were eager to bring the gift of St. Augustine’s teachings back to their school communities.



AUGUSTINE SCHOOL LEADERS CONVENE. The heads of school from the 10 Augustinian Schools in North America gathered for an annual in-person meeting in San Diego. Among those attending were [Front row, L-R]: Ed Hearn – President St. Augustine HS; Fr. Phillip Cook – Head of School Cascia Hall; Chrissy Leonard – Admin. Asst. Malvern Prep.; Carloyn Balzano – Principal Austin Catholic; Sr. Paskazia – Campus Ministry Austin Prep.; Ron Algeo – Asst Head of School Malvern Prep.; Paul Houston – Principal Providence Catholic; Fr. John Merkellis - President Providence Catholic and Fr. Max Villeneuve – Chaplain St. Augustine High School, San Diego.

[Back row, L-R]: James Horne – Principal St. Augustine High; Todd Goldsmith – Principal Lower School Cascia Hall; Josh Blazak – Principal St. Rita; Shawn Gammill – Principal Upper School Cascia Hall; Roger Carter – advancement Cascia Hall; Joe Anlauf – President Austin Catholic; Msgr. John Kasza – Austin Catholic Board Chair; Deacon John Donahue – President St. Rita and Fr. Barney Johns – Provincial of the Augustinians in the West.

ASEA Member Schools

Villanova Prep	Ojai, CA
St. Augustine HS	San Diego, CA
Cascia Hall	Tulsa, OK
Providence Catholic	Joliet, IL
St. Rita High School	Chicago, IL
Austin Catholic,	Chestefield, MI
Malvern Prep	Malvern, PA
St. Augustine Prep	Richland, NJ
Austin Prep	Reading, MA
Villanova College	King City, Ontario, Canada



SAVI SAINTSMAN. St. Augustine High students, who attended the recent Student Augustinian Values Institute conference [SAVI] included from L-R Oliver Winn, Enzo Simon, Ian Kunde, Roberto Datiles Jr., Tim Huschke, Owen Marcinkowski, and Andrew Samarkos (all sophomores).

THE
Saint Augustine High School
YEARBOOK

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3/01/2025

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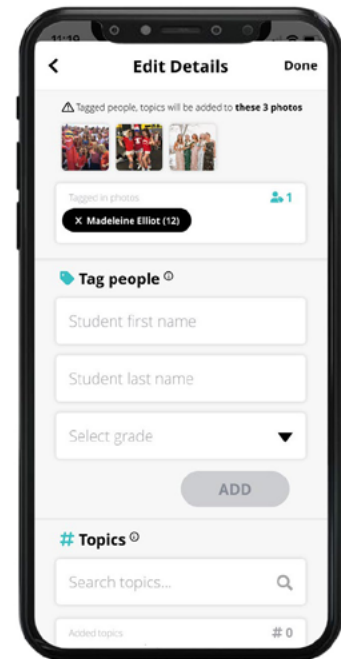
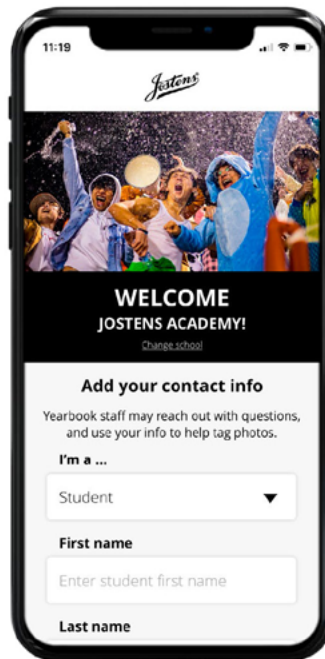
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2

Upload your favorite photos from the year.

3

Tag students for the yearbook staff.



UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS TODAY

Use Fast Tag to tag multiple photos with the same students and topics all at once. Then tell the story of your photos with captions and more.



Student Intersession Preview Day
Thursday, December 5th
7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.



On this special day, students will report at 7:45 a.m., on campus, to their Intersession course classroom.

Instructors will review course details, expectations, and facilitate the completion of any necessary paperwork (if applicable).

As this will be the *ONLY* day of its kind in advance of the start of Intersession, it is imperative that students are in attendance and on time to their designated course location on campus.

We look forward to another remarkable Intersession come January!



**St. Augustine High School
Youth Football Developmental Camp**



**When: Saturday, Dec. 21, 8:30-11:30am
(Registration/check-in begins at 7:30am).**

Where: St. Augustine High School Football Field

What: Learn and Develop proper Football skills and fundamentals via teaching and coaching of proper technique from the Saints FB staff.

Who: Youth ages 8-14.

Registration fee is \$20 and includes a camp T-shirt!

Contact Info: Coach Caragher (rcaragher@sahs.org)

Turkey Trot Results Are In

Watch the Video of the 2024 Race

After a throat scratching rendition of the National Anthem was sung by student body runners—the 70th annual Turkey Trot race was literally afoot. Launched like a mass escape of flamingo’s from the nearby San Diego Zoo, it was indeed a magnificent sight as a sea of pink clad students, faculty, alumnus and neighborhood kids charged from campus south along Bancroft Street. Purple fog and a blaring horn at the start was too much for one Frosh runner, who face planted himself onto Nutmeg Street narrowly missing a trampled extinction.

This year a pace car, reportedly missing from an El Cajon Blvd. used car lot, led the way for this year’s throng of 000 runners. The tightly bunched pack thinned out as only the fittest of the fit conquered the east slope of Juniper Street canyon. From there the elite runners of all ages took over while the hoi polloi, led by Mr. Tom Isaak, slip slid away to the rear of the pack.

Race organizers, including faculty Mr. John O’Beirne and Mr. Aaron Okuley, warned racers not to lag behind because City street sweepers were in the ‘hood as Tuesday was their regular curb side collection day. No runners were swept away.



TURKEY TROT @ 70. Saints Scene published its annual Turkey Trot race article a couple of years ago and no one then knew what year the Thanksgiving tradition started. After a bit of research, some bright person recently checked through Saints yearbooks only to discover the school's First Annual Turkey Trot was in 1954. Ergo, any reader recognizing the person holding the then live turkey first prize please contact Alum Director Mr. Billy Morstad on campus. Fast forward seven decades and we have an image of the race from 2024.



Winners, Winners, Pot Pie Dinners

Unearthed from library archives, a page from the Class of 1954 yearbook revealed several historic facts from three score and ten years ago. The original Turkey Trot race was held the day before Thanksgiving, which was November 24, 1954. Back in the day the 50 total runners were split among Varsity and Amateur division (most likely track or cross country runners vs. the regular student body members).

The best time of the day didn't go to the top time. Instead, it went to Joe Del Villar, who won the Amateur Division with a time of 9 minutes, 45 seconds. Saintsman Del Villar won a live turkey. Second place went to Horace Webster. He was awarded a Mallard duck with a time of 9:50. Third place went to Ernest Teer, who ran himself into a chicken with a time of 10:10.

The event's best time overall went to Varsity division runner Jack Ratelle (9:15) in a photo finish with second finisher John Atzet (9:15.1). Third place went to Sam Galasso (9.16). Young Mr. Ratelle won the race as a sophomore and went on to earn a law degree from USD and became a law professor.



FASTEST OF THE FAST. Here are the four fastest Turkey Trot runners across the finish line. (L-R) Junior Div. Champion Callum Arnaudy came in 4th overall; Senior Ramy Jaibaji crossed the finish line 3rd overall while Owen Arnaudy, ('25) was Turkey Trot all divisions winner. Trent Torres, a 2nd place winner overall also finished second in the Senior division.

MOST RECENT (2024) TURKEY TROT WINNERS

1st place	Category	Time
Kevin Pryzbylski	Alumnus	14:42
Nicholas Pradel	Faculty	13.45
Sawyer Granados	Kid	16.18
Tom Metibet	Freshman	11.49
Victor Castan	Sophomore	11.53
Callum Arnaudy	Junior	10:35
Owen Arnaudy	Senior	10.09

[Overall champion]



Times were faster back in the day, but in all fairness the course was shorter measuring 1.7 miles in 1954 vs. 1.9 miles 2024. And times remain unofficial because in 1954 results were measured by the sun dial in Vasey Plaza. Recent times were kept by Theology teacher Mr. Aaron Okuley, who based his timing's purely on faith. So there you have it, the 70th annual Turkey Trot is now history (where it belongs).



Christmas Prayer

By Fr. John Sanders, O.S.A.

Father, we thank You for bringing us together to celebrate the birth of Your Son. Blessed are those who have followed the Christmas star and live in Your light.

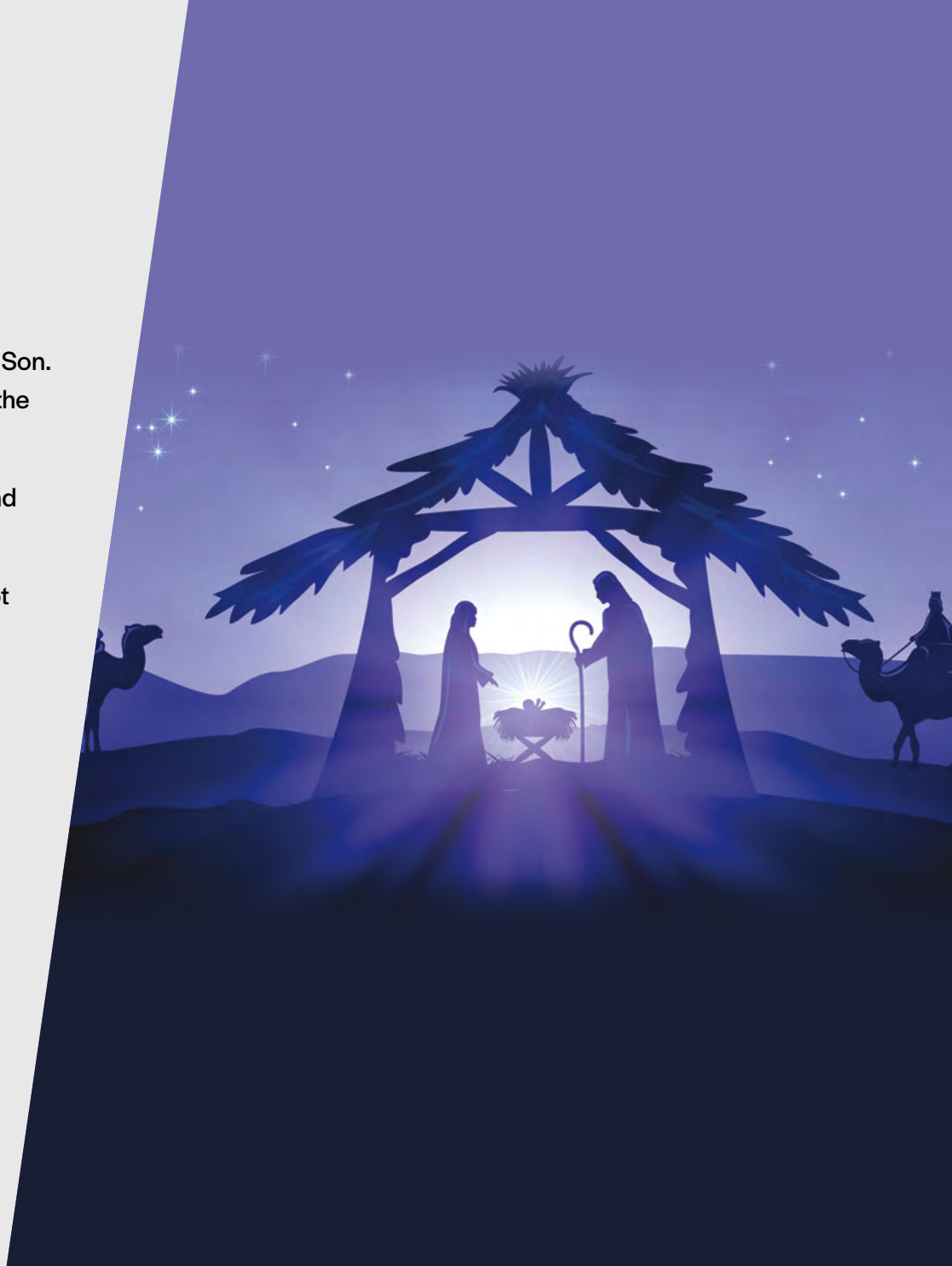
Guide those who still seek that light and yearn to know You.

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.

Amen



SAINTS SCENE

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

Publisher: Edwin J. Hearn, Jr. Saints President

Editor-in-Chief: James Horne, Saints Principal

Senior Advisor: Fr. Barney Johns, O.S.A. Augustinian Provincial

Senior Editor: Kevin DeRieux, Finances & Facilities Director

Senior Editor: Gregory Hecht, Assistant Principal for Academics

Saints Scene Coordinator: Thomas Shess, Alum Parent ('05): Thomas.Shess@gmail.com

Art Director: Kristin Hardy, OLP ('05), Kristin Hardy Design: kristinhardydesign.com

Circulation Director: Casey Callery, Director of Community Relations and Special Events

Editor Emeritus: John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55)

Staff Photographer: Bill Hill, Saints Parent



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.