



SAINTS SCENE

SPECIAL EDITION

SPECIAL INTERSESSION EDITION

See Page 6

Intercession 2025

Where Curiosity Becomes Passion

By James Horne
Principal, Editor of *Saints Scene*



Principal James Horne

Let's face it—how often do you hear a student beg for more calculus? Rarely, if ever. But give them a chance to dive into

something extraordinary—something that sparks their imagination—and you'll see a whole new side of learning while enriching their Saints Experience and their college prep curriculum. That's exactly what Saints has done for a decade with our groundbreaking Intercession program.

While many schools are caught up in the high-stakes race for Ivy League acceptance, choosing AP courses and traditional academic tracks, Saints boldly steps outside the box. Our educational philosophy embraces the idea that learning isn't just about grades and GPAs; it's about igniting passions and opening doors to new experiences.

In a world where arts, music, and electives often take a back seat to budget cuts,



PERFECT TIMING. Saintsmen who signed up for the school's Intercession community service trip to Guatemala climbed Mt. Atitlan at sunrise to witness the recent eruption of Mt. Fuego (see smoke in distance). Saintsmen (Left to Right): Marcelo Salazar, Joseph Walker, Sebastian Gutierrez, Andres Salazar, Matt Gosling, Noah Westfall, Antonio Tomayo, Dominic Perry, and Erik Johanson.

Saints has been a beacon of creativity and innovation. We've designed a semester of study that not only enriches the Saints Experience but also celebrates the boundless curiosity of our students.

From *Film Production and Robotics* to *Sailing, Cycling*, and even *Geocaching*, our Intercession courses are where education meets adventure. These aren't the kind of classes you'd find on a standard college-

prep checklist, but they're exactly the kind that make our students' eyes light up.

Why? Because these courses connect with the heart of what it means to be a high school boy—exploring the world, discovering new skills, and cultivating a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime.

Continued on page 11

Helicopter Parenting Does Not Guarantee Student Success

By Edwin Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

From the time of St. Monica and well before, mothers to varying degrees have worried about their sons and protecting and promoting them. A case can be made that Monica, Augustine's mother, was the helicopter mom of her generation.

She battled for her son, constantly pointed out the right course for his life, and pleaded for him to become a Christian. As Augustine experienced adolescence it was obvious from his famous autobiography, the Confessions, that he continually pushed his mother away. He was moving towards adulthood and wanted nothing more than independence from Monica. Their relationship was fraught with the chaos of an over-protective mother.

Without stating the obvious, a mother always plays a significant role in the full development of her son. The question of when an over-anxious mother begins to have negative effects on her son is readily seen when moms intercede in situations that their son can handle. Mothers in the best case love their sons and provide direction.

In the worst case, a mother's love smothers her son's good development of interpersonal skills and how to navigate in the professional world. A lack of interpersonal skills creates a dependent young man. If mom is battling for him all through his life, how does he develop the skills to fend for himself? Simply put, he does not.

During the fall, Assistant Principal/Student Services John O'Beirne speaks to the parents about stepping back and allowing their sons to begin the process of learning how to navigate their world.

The time for more independence begins freshman year.

For 102 years, Saints has been a school that accepts boys and graduates men who will change the world. This tagline exists because it represents the tried-and-true process that develops self-confidence in young men. The passage of boys to manhood requires struggle and in some cases failure. These lessons stay with us for a lifetime and in most cases can only be learned

through experience. Without failure, we never go through the pain and discomfort of discovering our way forward.

Change for all of us is difficult. We want to keep the world as it has been and yet we live in a world that is in constant change. Being adaptable, inquisitive, and solving problems allows the boy to explore his world in his unique manner. Repeating failed behavior brings more failed behavior. Boys need to learn how to navigate their world to find a path that brings them success. This requires parents to step back.

The hyper-competitive world our boys are entering seems daunting. We might even feel there is a narrowing door by which young men will have to pass through to find success. Entrance into the right university becomes a fleeting notion.

There might be a family college tradition in a highly selective university. Once this becomes the goal the pressure ratchets up and the burden becomes great. Receiving a "B" is the death knell. In some instances, mothers or fathers will insult teachers, phone the Assistant Principal for Academics to vilify the teacher, and lobby for a grade change. Frequently, they will tell the assistant principal their son worked so hard and should receive an "A."

This frenzy and condescending attitude only creates bad feelings. Unless a grading mistake has been made by the teacher, the student is the responsible agent. In some cases, a "B" grade is considered a failure.

Phoning the Assistant Principal for Academics to berate the teacher and not investigating their son's achievement is the wrong focus. Funny, I was happy when I received a "B" grade. It is an above-average grade and is a college-recommended grade given by the teacher and suggests the student has achieved a high level of mastery.

Although "Bs" might not get the boy into his dream school, there are many outstanding colleges and universities that will prepare him for his future. Once out of college and graduate school, many other factors lead to success. It is these other factors that enhance the full development of the young man. Leading an

Continued on page 11



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The Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following listed Saintsmen, who have earned a grade point average of 3.60 or higher during the Fall/Winter semester 2024. Roster compiled by Mrs. Jeannie Oliwa, School Registrar.

SENIORS

Class of 2025

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

GPA of 4.0 or better

Sean Abrom
Emilio Aizpuru
Owen Arnaudy
Samuel Ayana
Stephen Berggren
Christopher Black
Derek Borja
Nathan Brosnan
Adan Cardona
Kapono Carriedo
Nakanelua
Carlos Castan Rico
Miguel Chaquica
Jonathan Chavez
Joshua Chu
Levi Clair
Alexander Clem
Pablo Cosio
Jonah De Perro
Nicholas Dolin
Alexander DuBreuil
William Fitzpatrick
Milan Flores
Dash Frazee
Trent Gorsich
Mason Gossage
Andrés Graniello Mogollón
Reid Guhse
Marcelo Hank Canavati
Matthew Horne
Michael Ivanjack
Ramy Jaibaji
Jorge Jimenez
Tanner Kamencik
Nicholas Kiesel
Maxwell Leadley
Gregory Leong

Michael Luzi
Shane Miranda
Ezekiel Musni-Davis
Luke O'Leary
Jon-Matthew Oliveros
Joshua Padilla
Jackson Pawl
Evan Pérez
Ryan Popkins
Johnathan Putrus
Achai Reddy
Ryan Sablan
Alexander Samo
Simon Sanders
Joseph Sbuttoni
Braeden Steele
James Steiner
Owen Sullivan
Trent Torres
Diego Turner
Liam Veeramallu
Jonah Villafaña
Kelvin Vu
Edward Wakefield
Luke Weinpel
Parker Wickstrand
Ian Woods
Lucas Younes
Enrique Zamudio

FIRST HONORS

GPA OF 3.60 TO 3.99

Jacques Allende
Riley Anderson
Wilford Anderson
Dominic Bartel
Andres Behar
Charles Berkley
Cameron Bonanno
Anthony Bravence
Jude Matthew Corpus
Stephen Cota
Carlos Delgado

Nicolas DeSouza
Raphael Dunne
Gabriel Estrada
Luke Friesenhahn
Emilio Gallego
Luke Graulich
Elias Guerrero
Javier Guillot Reyes Retana
Jacob Herrmann
Noah Huring
Mason Higgins
Jacob Kajmowicz
Alexander Kemp
Drake Konja
Teo Konyon
Juan Marco Kruer
Preston Robert Lavarez
Henry Lenore
Christopher Lindgren
Nicholas Lupinacci
Alfonso Macandog
Nicolas Martin Ruvalcaba
Mario Martinez Cota
Killian McGinnis
Geno McKenna
Matteo Minford
Thomas Moore
Aaron Morgan
Michael Morton
Marco Mouritzen
Declan Mullins
Elias O'Hollaren
John Parada
Henry Payne
Emiliano Postlethwaite
Santiago Postlethwaite
Diego Ruiz
Emiliano Serrano
Aaron Simmons
Clayton Staylor
Dillon Tar
Anthony Tompkins
Juan Pablo Torres Molina
Jacob Valdez

Carson Van Nort
Kendrick Vazquez Diaz
Wyatt Weldon

JUNIORS

Class of 2026

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

GPA of 4.0 or better

Gebreegzibher Amare
Callum Arnaudy
Antonio Atallah
Cruz Badillo
John Banzhof
Henry Barwick
Tom Battaglia
Kristofer Bautista
Benjamin Bayless
Brock Benson
Turner Bronson
Nathan Bui
George Burrell
James Burrell
John Cook
Matthew Cramp
Dominic Cresto
Ruben Pablo Curiel Romero
Kekoa da Luz
Payton Del Toro
Santiago Diaz
Joshua Garcia Pederson
Jamison Gerding
Diego Rodolfo
Gonzalez Tapia
Mateo Ibs
Gonzalez Tapia
Jameson Grohman
Alberto Guerrero
Jonathan Haskett
Alan Hernandez
Michael Hoag
Liam Hodson

Luke Huelskamp
Peter Jordan
Ezra LaCoursiere
Jose Martinez-Robles
Ryan Mary
Nathan McDonald
Aidan McKerring
Kenneth Michalowski
Benjamin Nault
Garrett Nering
Liam Olds
Carson Prahil
Marcelo Rodriguez
Gonzalez
Diego Rosas-Luken
Carlos Rubio-Lopez
Michael Ruiz
Julius Salem
Benet Salmon
Kieron Scanlan
Maximilian Schwarz
Connor Stowell
Peter Thorne
Lorenzo Toma
Patrick Ward
Gianni Yousif

FIRST HONORS

GPA OF 3.60 TO 3.99

Dylan Alkatib
Kurt Ambrosius
Julius Audish
Jaden Bailes
Emilio Barreto
Mason Bautista
Kirin Beckhaus
Nicholas Boeh
Julian Bustos
Parker Cresswell
William da Luz
Alec Daniels
Juan Francisco De La Lama
Anthony Di Giovanni

Xavier Escobar
Santiago Garay Escobedo
Matthew Gosling
Lincoln Grogan
Cruz Antonio Guevara
Peter Hanna
Maurice Howard
Padraig Jensen
Carter Jones
Karl Laffaye
Austin Lambeth
Florencio Ledesma
Archie Lee
Devin Manns
Leif McCloskey
Fintan McMahon
Ian McMahon
Patrick McNamara
Guillermo Morales
Simon Moss
Damian Navarro-Anderson
Luke Parker
Alexander Paz y Puente
Rodolfo Perez-Velazquez
y Almada
Charles Platt
Diego Reyes
Joshua Ryan
David Sabaga
Aram Salum
Fernando Santillana De Soto
Kyle Shaeffer
Cristiano Shores
Hudson Taylor
Carlos Villarreal
Matthew Wampach
Julian Warter
Jacob Washington

SOPHOMORES

Class of 2027

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

GPA of 4.0 or better

Blake Abbo
Alexander Abbouna
Augustin Attar
Caleb Bailey
Benito Bayona
Grayson Bell

Cooper Brosnan
David Cancel
Victor Castan
Iason Chang
Teddy Kimo Crisostomo
Jack Crowley
Roberto Datiles Jr.
Cole Dolin
Yabet Gebrelu
Michael Gomez
Charles Gorman
Joseph Gormly
Gannon Hayes
Miles Hess
Declan Higgins
Forrest Higgins
Tim Huschke
Diego Izidoro
Erik Johanson
William Kennedy
Ian Kunde
Lorenzo Leal
Bryson Morris
Angel Munoz
Nathaniel Murphy
Gabriel Myers
Nikola Pandza
Dominic Perry
Paisios Polamalu
Charles Pruter
Rommel Quintana
Justyn Rademaker
Luke Rhea
Sebastian Rodriguez
Landon Salem
Brandon Salmu
Andrew Samarkos
Nicholas Sanchez
Lorenzo Simon
Noah Steele
Griffin Steiner
Johnny Vattuone
Elijah Villafaña
Joseph Walker
Cullen Watts
Noah Westfall
Bennett Wilson
Oliver Winn
Jack Wisniew
James Zumwalt
Alexander
Zwolinski

FIRST HONORS

GPA OF 3.60 TO 3.99

Nicholas Asker
Spencer Austin
Anthony Berardino
Kenan Bier
José Pablo Carrillo Aguilar
Vincenzo Cirino
Moises Diaz
Max Escalante
Santiago Escotet
Edgar Esquivel
Lazlo Garcia
Michael Gonzales
Jacob Hanna
David Hernandez
Christian Ho
Noah Keeton
Calahan Kirsner
Rodrigo Lavat
Guillermo MacFarland
Owen Marcinkowski
Joaquin Moore
Jonathan Morrill
Justin Murigu
Maximo Piancone
Jose Manuel Prado
Gonzalez
Mauricio Razo
Nolan Reyes
Chase James Riley
Emiliano Rodriguez
Joaquin Rogerio
Jacob Ruiz
Thomas Schliem
Ridley Sherman
Rory Sullivan
Matteo Toriello
Giovanni Troisi
Jesse Trujillo
Mario Vitale
William Caleb Wagner

FRESHMEN

Class of 2028

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

GPA of 4.0 or better

Daniel Amare
Alfred Atallah
James Botz
Dominic Burgos
Philip Cesena
Mason Choi
Nils Clark
Miguel Covarrubias
Jack Coyle
Gavin da Luz
Louis Dalton
Luke Deorsola
Phillip Di Giovanni
Micah Ee
Luciano Fiorentini
Sean Fitzpatrick
Xavier Flippin
Juan Camilo Gallego
Owen Garcia
Kade Gibbons
Jeronimo Gomez-Ibarra
Julius Gorou
Peter Graves
Evan Greene
Jake Henrick
Hugo Hunt Amézquita
Marco Kalil
Evan Kliber
Michael Ladisa
NathanielLee
Bosco Lujan
Asher McDonald
Callen Moore
Anthony Moyad
Colt Neubrand
Luke Penick
Paul Putris
Caleb Raagas
Nicolas Ramirez
John Robinson
Carlos Emilio Ruiz
Plascencia
Devon Samo
Marco Santillan Quintanilla
Alvin Shao

Landon Smith
Andrew Vela
Brandon Williams
Juan Pablo Zaragoza

FIRST HONORS

GPA OF 3.60 TO 3.99

Pablo Emilio Alonzo
Geren Anderson
Henry Baez
Jack Bergener
Kairen Blue
Daniel Bojorquez-Chaidez
Carlos Bon
Paolo Capua
Matias Cardenas-Luque
Rafael Carrillo
Ayven Desai
Devon Ferreyra-MacPete
Nicholas Goode
Tanner Graulich
Lucas Hanna
Steven Haskett
William Samuel Holcomb
Nathan Jacobs
David Jacobsen
Conner Jarvis
Dylan Jensen
David Jimenez
Dylan Laffaye
Juan Letayf Lazo de la Vega
Sebastian Lutteroth
Angel Jesus
Marquez Pulido
Rodrigo Martinez
Nolan Mathy
Leo Moss
Joseph Quinn
Olympio Salgado
Ismael Servin
Gavin Shaw
Saul Smith
Nolan Stempel
Rodrigo Tessada-Arnaiz
Lucius Thomas
Thatcher Thomas
Kayden Zimmerman

Special Intercession Edition



ACTION. Saints film students (left to right) Kenneth Michalowski, Charles Platt, Leo Mangine and Pablo Romero record a final scene on Vasey Patio for their intercession project.



BUILDING BUILDINGS. Carson Van Nort interning with Rudolph and Sletten, a firm building new classrooms and a planetarium at Southwestern College.



RUNOFF EXPLAINED. Marine Bio students were hosted by the Walter Munk Foundation graduate student Ian Campbell who explained water runoff and how it affects the shores from Mt. Soledad.



PERFECT TIMING. Saintsmen who signed up for the school's Intercession community service trip to Guatemala climbed Mt. Atitlan at sunrise to witness the recent eruption of Mt. Fuego (see smoke in distance). Saintsmen (Left to Right): Marcelo Salazar, Joseph Walker, Sebastian Gutierrez, Andres Salazar, Matt Gosling, Noah Westfall, Antonio Tomayo, Dominic Perry, and Erik Johanson.



CLIPPED. Carlos Delgado demonstrates how to cut hair during his non-internship speech class.



SAILING CLASS. Learning to sail on Catamarans and Quest boats.



MASS ON GRASS. Aquatic sports hosted Mass on the Grass along Mission Bay with Fr. Barney.



MEATBALLS. Seated, Left to right: Gavin Lowe, Kioshi Hina, Jaicob Peterson and Liam Olds take turns preparing meatballs for their Intercession cooking class. That's classmate Ben Bayless looking on.



FOOD CHAIN. Teo Konyon at his internship with KCW Custom Processing.



ROOFTOPPERS. Leisure sports students playing pickleball atop St. Augustine Commons.



IT'S CALLED PRACTICE. Sailors in aquatic sports tip a catamaran on Mission Bay.



INTO ER. Josh Chu at his Falck internship.



FIT & FAMOUS. Tanner Kamencik (center) poses with NFL icon Drew Brees (left) and Ryan Rogers of Ryan Rogers Fitness.



DOC TO BE. Jose Velasco Celaya and Dr. Michael Solis DC at Solis Chiropractic Clinic, Mission Valley.



Ernie Gutierrez (seated) with Chula Vista Councilman Mike Inzunza ('91) right and Chief of Staff Frank Mercado ('98) left.



QUESTER. Max Vitale skippers a Quest (sailboat) with Saints sailing coach and faculty member Mr. Eric Dent ('90).



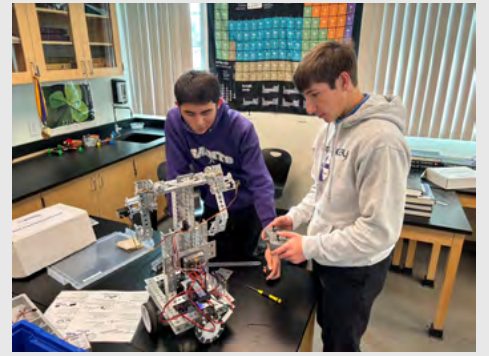
REALLY LOW TIDE. Marine biology students are tide pooling north of Scripps Pier in La Jolla on rare negative tide. Saintsmen were accompanied by a grad student to help identify sea creatures they encountered.

FINDER. Max Segrist locates an allusive geocache in nearby North Park. Geocaching is an outdoor recreation activity using GPS to play a form of hide and seek.





ROBO CLASS. Robotics class display their competition soccer machines.



ROBO PAIR. Ian McMahon (left) and Ezra Lacoursiere test the functionality of their recently created robot.



BIG HIT. Careers in Sports Intercession Class gather in Padres home dugout as part of popular Petco Stadium tour.



RACQUETEERS. Saints partners with LA Fitness locations in town to provide racquetball instruction and competition. Class members pose with instructor Saints coach Mr. Andy Pruter.



ACE. Josh Ryan ('26) celebrates his hole-in-one at the 10th hole at Colina del Sol links during his recent internship golf class.

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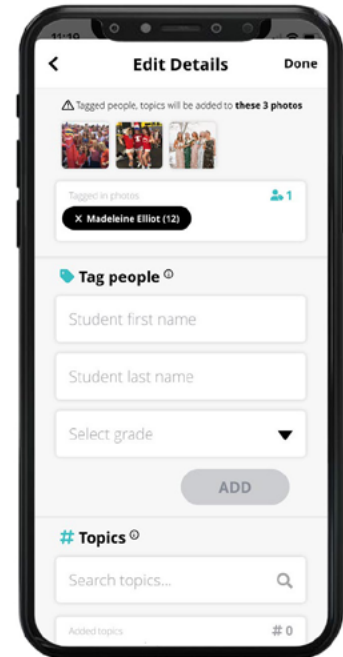
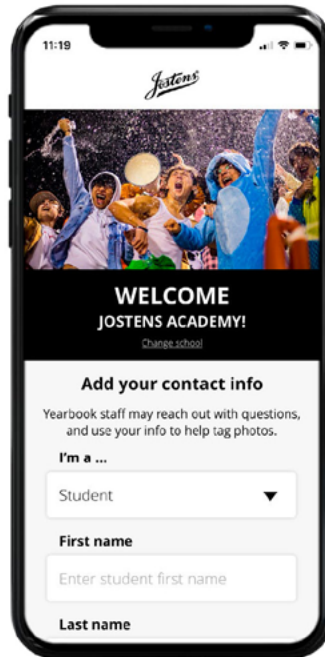
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Intercession 2025

Continued from page 1

Every year, as we prepare for Intercession, our campus buzzes with excitement. Faculty and staff take on the challenge of designing courses that link curriculum to real-world interests, and the results are nothing short of spectacular. Guest speakers, internship partners, and an army of dedicated parents all come together to make this one-of-a-kind semester a resounding success.

Intercession is more than a semester; it's a celebration of curiosity, creativity, and connection. It's a reminder that education isn't just about where you're going—it's about the journey along the way.

Thank you to everyone who makes this incredible program possible. Here's to another year of inspiring young minds and redefining what it means to love learning!

James Howe



Helicopter Parenting Does Not Guarantee Student Success

Continued from page 2

activity, running for a school office, serving as a Loyal Son or in campus ministry, participating in a sport, or learning to play a musical instrument and playing in a music group all add up to a young man's growing sense of self-confidence.

An overly concerned parent is indirectly communicating to their son that he cannot achieve success by himself. He needs her to succeed and this eventually becomes a disaster. Fear is not the guiding principle for success. Self-confident energy is the key ingredient for leadership. It is a leader that succeeds. It is never the short term that supports success, it is the long game.

An education is certainly about grades, but a real education is so much more. It is also learning about one's strengths and weaknesses, contemplating the big ideas, and attempting to

make rational sense of the world. Saints is about helping our young men enhance their strengths and develop their weaknesses into strengths. This requires human beings that know how to socially navigate their world.

Moms, the next time you are in a full panic take a deep breath and encourage your son to talk to his teacher, counselor, or the Assistant Principal for Academics instead of doing this for him. Guide him as he navigates his world. Sometimes he must learn and face tough lessons. It is what one's son does next that is important.

Working hard does not guarantee success. Working smarter is on the other side of working hard. Hard work is to be applauded but learning through life experience is better.



SAVE THE DATE

33RD ANNUAL

Grandparents Day



MARCH 21, 2025

9:30 am Coffee, Reception, Campus Tours

11:15 am MASS

ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL



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. Barnaby Johns, OSA, 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.