

# MEGA PHOTO

Cathedral High School  
Volume 99 Issue 5



5225 East 56th Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46226



# MEGAPHONE

DECEMBER 11, 2019 VOLUME 99 ISSUE 5

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# Lumberjack Club

*Breakfast food lovers unite — Lumberjack Club may be the perfect student group for you. On a budget of about \$15, students can spend time with their with their Cathedral family.* BY NIC NAPIER

Lincoln Square, a Cathedral favorite, is the location of the Lumberjack Club meetings.



**D**O YOU like indulging in some delicious pancakes? Do you wish that somehow there was a group of people that got together just to eat mouth-watering breakfast food while enjoying each other's company?

You're in luck, because Lumberjack Club may be the perfect student group for you.

In an email, club presidents and seniors Marcelle Blanchet, Kate Morris and Kaleb Wasmuth announced that Lumberjack Club, dedicated to eating breakfast food with peers, was back in business. All those involved in the club take time out of their schedules to eat at Lincoln Square, a familiar landmark just down the street from campus.

Blanchet says the club is "about getting the Cathedral family together at Lincoln Square on certain late start days and having breakfast together."

When the club meets at Lincoln Square, Blanchet said there are usually around 12 to 15 people who show up. She added that most of the people who attend are not just from one grade.

Lincoln Square was the chosen destination for the club because it is an easy commute for hungry teenagers early in the morning. Usually when you think of Lumberjack Club, Lincoln Square comes to mind, says Blanchet.

Lumberjack Club had taken a break for a year after the departure of Dr. Thomas Greer, who served as the club moderator. Blanchet and the other senior presidents took notice that the club had died out and wanted to make a change.

"Kaleb, Kate and I actually were thinking about joining the club and then realized it wasn't a thing, so then we were like we still want it to be one," Blanchet said.

If you are interested in joining, Blanchet encourages you because "it's an extra thing outside of school where you can actually talk to people before the school day and it's more bonding time with others and (you) get to know other people."

The club only has one more meeting before the end of the semester

during finals week on Dec. 18

Wasmuth wrote in an email that \$15 should suffice any desire you may have in terms of ordering food off the menu. He reminds anyone who joins to always be respectful toward the staff at Lincoln Square.

Make sure to RSVP if you are interested in attending.

As Blanchet noted, "It's all about family." So, don't be afraid to come out and enjoy delicious food.

Senior Mary White will most likely be there as she says chocolate chip pancakes are her favorite item on the menu.



# Social media

*Webmaster, Mr. Tyler McClure '08, and Director of Marketing, Mrs. Grace Trahan\_Rodecap, elaborate on marketing techniques that the school uses.*

BY SALLY BRADSHAW

With almost the entire world online today, school marketing and other information have to be online as well, and this school makes a concerted effort to communicate in a variety of ways.

Webmaster Mr. Tyler McClure '08 said, "We want to be able to tell a story about what Cathedral is." As webmaster, McClure works to maintain the school website, as well as the social media platforms the school uses to attract prospective parents and students and to communicate to current students and parents as well as alumni.

Using social media to appeal to students is a must now that so much of the world is online, and the school uses Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. McClure said the school now has a TikTok account as well, but, "We aren't sure best how to use it yet." Instagram is the easiest for the school to manage, because it consists mainly of pictures and quick captions. Facebook, on the other hand, has more "likes" because the age group for Facebook is more for alumni and parents.

McClure also manages the school website, which has undergone major remodeling, resulting in the display to be brighter and cleaner so that it "pops." The videos on the home page were taken by professionals, which contributes to the new, fresh look, he said.

McClure noted that one of the goals of the website redesign was to make it easier to navigate. Therefore, specific portals – for parents, students, alumni and faculty/staff – were streamlined with clearer menus.

Marketing has also been influenced by the use of social media and the new website. Director of marketing Mrs. Grace Trahan-Rodecap

said, "Cathedral has two primary sources of revenue: admissions and advancement." She works closely with the admissions team, but said that the website is the school's primary marketing method.

The school uses many forms of marketing, such as yard signs, billboards, direct mail, radio, cable advertising and social media. However, Rodecap said, "As much as we try to be strategic with how and where we place our ads, what helps us the most (is) word of mouth." Rodecap noted that there is Parent Ambassador group that helps tell the story of the school, and most of their communication takes place on a personal level, either one-to-one or in small groups.

Marketing can even be done inside the school, such as on the walls on the first floor of Kelly Hall between the front entrance and the nurse's office. When the alumni return, "their eyes light up," Rodecap said. There is a display of the history of the school's history and excellence, and it helps to excite parents and students at the prospect of enrolling, she said.

Diversity is one of the most emphasized Holy Cross core values, and admissions and the various forms of communication reinforce that. Rodecap, who worked for 18 years as a reporter and anchor for Channel 6, said, "We take a diverse group of students, and meet them where they are. We meet all of those kids where they are, and get them ready for college and for life, and eventually for Heaven."

Rodecap said she enjoys working on the Hill and seeing kids "blossoming." Those students include her own son, Nicholas, who is a sophomore. She said she loves telling the story of the school, and encourages others to do the same.

## THE MEGAPHONE

The Student News Site of Cathedral High School | Indianapolis, Indiana

December 10 **Day 2 (8:50 Start) | During flex: Chess open gym in Baker board room | American Sign Language Club in 4302 at 3:15 p.m.**

NEWS   SPORTS   OPINION   FACE OFF   FEATURE   STAFF   VIDEO   ARTS AND CULTURE   PRINT

### News



#### Educators' Mass to take place Dec. 10

Ashlynn Bakemeyer, Reporter

December 9, 2019 • No Comments

Director of campus ministry Mrs. Charlene Witka said she believes the educators' Mass is necessary for the faculty. Witka said, "We think it's important because first of all, we're a Catholic school. We also feel it..."



#### Daily schedules for Dec. 11-Dec. 13

Megaphone Staff

December 9, 2019 • No Comments

### Sports



Athletic schedule: Week of Dec. 2

December 11, 2019

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# SPEAK UP REACH OUT

BY TOBY BRADSHAW

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 | MEGAPHONE

High school is difficult, not only academically but also mentally and emotionally. However, many students struggling with something, whether it is depression, drinking, drugs, smoking, abusive behaviors or illegal activities. School counselor Mrs. Gretchen Watko '00 hopes to help anyone who is struggling with the creation of the Speak Up...Reach Out App.

According to Watko, she “advocates for the well-being of students, listens to students’ concerns and help them problem solve when they are faced with issues such as bullying, low self-esteem, poor academic performance (and) relationship conflicts.”

For this reason, Watko helped create the Speak Up...Reach Out app. According to Watko, “The app is intended to empower students to have the competency to see and the courage to act. We want students to be empowered to ask for help, no matter what the reason is for needing help.” Watko continues, “The app can be used to report concerns about theft, vandalism, threats of violence, self-harm, suicide, drug/alcohol use or any other concern not mentioned.”

According to Watko, “We are blessed at Cathedral to have caring, supportive teachers, counselors and mental health professionals, administrators, campus ministry staff and Nurse Jennings-Sood and Officer Tabby. Students can speak with any of these individuals at anytime.” Watko continues, “However, sometimes it is hard to bring concerns to an adult and sometimes concerns pop up after school hours when there is not an opportunity to speak with Cathedral adult.”

The app is not anonymous, but it is confidential. Watko said, “The student who submits a report will not have their name shared outside of those handling the situation.” Watko continues, “If making a report regarding concerns for another student, their name will never be shared unless the student has given permission to share his/her name.”

If fact, there will be no legal repercussions for those involved if something is reported through the app. Watko said, “We want to encourage students to speak up anytime they are worried about themselves or a friend without any fear of getting in trouble. The goal is to empower students to ask for help. In return, the school will work with the student to make sure they get help.”

“Cathedral students are called to be one family and help each other in times of need,” said Watko. She believes that students shouldn’t be afraid to report unhealthy behavior of other students. Watko said, “This confidential reporting app allows students to help be a transformative force for their peers.” Watko continues, “By empowering students to care for their classmates as their own family, the students will be making adults aware of those who need extra support or positive interventions.”

This has been active since Oct. 14. Since then, Watko said, “About 10 reports made through the Speak Up...Reach Out app.” This is exactly what Watko was hoping for. Watko said, “Any time a students speaks up and asks for help, that is something to celebrate.”

With this app, students are able to take one step closer to living out all of the Holy Cross core values by having the competence to see and the courage to act.

# New counselor

*Cathedral will welcome a new counselor on Jan. 6. Mrs. Beth Brandes will replace Mr. Terry Knaus, who has recently accepted a new job at a national independent college counseling organization.*

BY KATIE DARRAGH

Mrs. Beth Brandes will join the counseling department on Jan. 6 as a counselor.

This change comes after Mr. Terry Knaus announced his resignation this past October. In an email to the school, Knaus wrote, "I've accepted a position with a national independent college counseling organization and will serve as its executive director. It's an exciting opportunity for me professionally and one that I couldn't pass up."

Until his final day on Nov. 1 Knaus worked hard meeting with students, writing recommendation letters, sending out transcripts, and helping however he could with college searches.

Mr. Duane Emery (A-E) and Ms. Kathy Pivonka (F-G) split Knaus's students once he left and will continue doing so throughout the rest of first semester until Brandes can step in.

When asked how she feels about transitioning from Guerin to Cathedral in the middle of the school year, Brandes said, "It's a step I look forward to taking. Coming from a Catholic school setting will definitely make this transition easier. Additionally, I know there are many great students, families, faculty and staff members at Cathedral that will make this next professional step extremely rewarding."

Currently she is at Guerin Catholic where she is in her third year as director of guidance and college counseling and has been a part of the department there since 2006. Brandes attended St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana where she earned her bachelors degree in education, and Butler University, where she earned her masters degree in school counseling.

## Birthday signs

*Birthday signs are seen on The Hill throughout the year — a well loved tradition that junior Maura Flood '21 explains as "a nice surprise."*

BY TOBY BRADSAHW

No matter what day of the week or the cycle it is, one thing is a constant: homework.

But birthday signs are also a consistent presence at on campus and are enjoyed more than homework. Although many people give these signs on the Hill a glance every so often, dreading (or maybe really hoping) if their parents decide to buy them one, these signs are actually quite popular.

"We supply too many yard cards to Cathedral to even count, on average three to five per week," according to Mrs. Bev Newman, wife of the owner of Yard Greetings, one of the the companies that puts up birthday signs. Newman said, "We purchased our company in 2000 from a friend (and) we are a small, family owned business."

However, Yard Greetings doesn't only supply signs to Cathedral, but also "Southport, Lawrence North, Perry Meridian, Mount Vernon, Roncalli and many more," according to Newman. Yard Greetings is also not limited to birthday signs; they also provide signs for "anniversaries, birth announcements, military, yard sales, Homeowner Association meetings, businesses and great many of them for graduations," Newman said.

According to Emery, in an email to the school, "(Brandes) brings a wealth of experience and expertise in counseling students relative in college and academic career and social/emotional wellness."

Likewise, she is a member of a wealth of committees all over Indiana including NCAA National High School Advisory Committee and Westfield Wellbeing Coalition Committee. With the NCAA she has assisted various Indianapolis-area high schools and club sports teams with the NCAA eligibility clearinghouse process, and as a member of the Westfield Wellbeing Coalition Committee she has helped bring together various community members to create social-emotional awareness, advocacy and access for all age groups in Westfield.

Brandes said, "Truly, I am energized and excited about joining the Cathedral school team as a member of the college counseling department and getting to know the many wonderful students, families, faculty and staff associated with such a strong school legacy."

In order to allow students and families to get to know her, the counseling department will host a "Meet Mrs. Brandes" event from 7 to 9 a.m. on Dec. 11 in the counseling center in Kelly Hall. There is no RSVP necessary. The counseling department hopes students will take this opportunity to meet her.



**Mrs. Beth Brandes**  
School Counselor

These signs stay up for two to three days, but according to Newman, "we are always willing to extend that at the customer's request." Although you can request if for longer, junior Maura Flood argues that this might not be for the best. According to Flood, "It was for sure a nice surprise coming up the Hill and seeing it, but (my sign) was up for multiple days, so after a while it was a tad bit embarrassing."

However, Flood agrees that the experience overall was a good one. According to Flood, "It impacted my day because lots of random people who saw the sign came up and told me happy birthday."

Junior Lauren Dubbink also had a similar experience with the signs. She said, "(The signs) made me feel good because people said happy birthday to me."

Yard Greetings doesn't pay the school any money to put signs up on the Hill, according to Newman. She said, "We also donate to Cathedral's Shamrauction every year."

The student body is widely divided about wanting birthday signs. However, it is always a pleasant surprise to have people remember your birthday, and having a sign helps.

# Christmas Concert

*As the Christmas season begins, the multiple choirs plan to put on a performance on the big stage. On Dec. 12, the Christmas concert will take a soulful approach to the holiday season.*

BY WHITLEY WALTON

As the Christmas season begins, the multiple choirs plan to put on a performance on the big stage. Taking place in the auditorium on Dec. 12, the choirs' Christmas concert will take a soulful approach to the holiday season.

Choir director Mrs. Marian Bender said, "It's actually very exciting because we have a chamber orchestra that will be accompanying many of the pieces. For our chamber orchestra, we are featuring some of our Cathedral students who are in band."

Combined, the choirs will sing the opening and closing pieces and perform separately their own sets in-between. Irish Adrenaline Show Choir, Concert Choir, Gospel Choir and Irish Guys with Ties will all be a part of the performance.

Junior Brooklynn Thorpe has been a member of the Irish Adrenaline Show Choir for two years now and has said that she has high expectations for the Christmas concert. Thorpe said, "It should be really fun. We're showing off some of our new Christmas songs and sets and singing fun, uplifting songs." Thorpe said she is looking forward to showing the audience a Christmas song and dance that she thinks will be "pretty cute."

"It is going to be a magical experience for everyone," Bender said. "It will put you in the Christmas spirit for sure."

While Show Choir will be focused on a "Soulful Christmas" theme, there is plenty in store to see regarding the other choirs. "You just never know, there's a surprise around every corner," Bender said. "It's definitely not to be missed." The concert starts at 7 p.m. and is free to attend.

Another festive event coming up is the choir's annual fundraiser for Breakfast with Santa will take place on Dec. 14 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Activities include enjoying breakfast with St. Nick, making cookies, participating in a painting class and hearing all of the choirs sing. Bender commented that it's "just a really fun, festive experience." Tickets can be bought online at [www.gocathedral.com](http://www.gocathedral.com).

While the Christmas concert is a fun event for the audience, Thorpe wants artists to get the same treatment as athletes. "Make sure we start showing the support we do to our sports teams that we do to our arts," Thorpe said. "We put in just as much work, if not more, as sports teams. We go to competitions and we sing our hearts out for people, and yet our school doesn't give us any recognition, so sometimes it feels like all our efforts are for nought."

Bender agreed that she would like to see a big turnout for the concert. "The choir program is up and coming and doing some really cool things," Bender said. "People should come out to support their friends. They won't be disappointed and will leave in the Christmas spirit."

# Learning Resource Center

*Mrs. Sheila Roberts, director of the Learning Resource Center, spends a great deal of time completing the required federal and state paperwork, but when she isn't, she is helping over 10% of the student body.*

BY MADISON SPIEGEL

Mrs. Sheila Roberts, who is in her second year serving as the director of the Learning Resources Center, spends a great deal of time completing required state and federal paperwork, but when she isn't, she's helping more than 10% of the student body.

Roberts' job involves her meeting with students who have a 504 plan, which ensures that students with disabilities receive the accommodations necessary for their academic success.

A 504 plan is for someone who has been diagnosed with a psychological, medical or learning disabilities. She said the majority of the students she help struggle with ADHD and anxiety or math disabilities. She also helps upperclassmen with SAT and ACT accommodations.

Every week Roberts checks in with counselors to see if any students need additional assistance. She said that it is important to note that students in the Learning Resource Center are different from those enrolled in the language support program, which helps individuals with challenges such as dyslexia.

Another part of her job includes working with Indianapolis Public Schools. She helps students who come from public schools with their

transition to this school. Since Cathedral is located in the IPS district, any student here is considered an IPS student for testing purposes. If the district that student comes from notices that an individual might need accommodations but the student has never been evaluated, the district can test them. Roberts makes sure that the students are being advocated for so that they can get the accommodations that they need.

Roberts directs the Learning Resource Center, which is located in Loretto Hall on the first floor, Room 2216. It is for all students to visit when they need any help. There are always teachers available to assist you in writing an essay or completing your math problems. She wants it to be clear that all students, not just those with accommodations, can go to the Learning Resource Center because everyone needs help sometimes. "Anybody can come to the Learning Resource Center," Roberts said. "It's not just for kids with accommodations."

Roberts said her favorite part of the job is knowing that she is helping students and making them be the best student they can be. She said it is especially rewarding when she hears from a student who has overcome a challenge, such as struggling on math tests, or who is being successful in a more advanced class.



# The American Experience

*At the beginning of the second quarter, three students from Guatemala took their first steps in the United States. Spending eight weeks here, they are learning about American culture and school.*

BY ASHLYNN BAKEMEYER

At the beginning of the second quarter, three students from Guatemala took their first steps in the United States.

This is the first time that freshmen Alejandra Bonilla and Daniel Arevalo, along with junior Sebastian Coronado, have participated in this exchange program. They were introduced to the process through other students at their school. Coronado said, “My friends told me how great the program was and I already knew people who were in it.” All three of the students are from Guatemala City. Bonilla attends Valle Verde School, Coronado attends Ameritec and Arevalo is enrolled in El Roble. They will spend a total of eight weeks in the United States.

Bonilla said one of the hardest aspects of transitioning to the United States was leaving behind her family and friends. Bonilla said, “I’m not used to a lot of things. I get homesick.”

While it is fall in the United States, it is summer break in Guatemala, so Coronado said, “It is hard to come to school.”

The students agreed that the transfer into the American culture has been troublesome at times with the different customs. Arevalo said, “In Guatemala every time you meet you hug and kiss but it’s different here.”

Bonilla said another difference involves the number of students attending this school compared to their school at home. Bonilla said that the size of her school in Guatemala is smaller and it is hard to adjust to the larger campus here. Another trial the students have to face is the alternating schedules. Arevalo said that they don’t change classes nearly as much in Guatemala.

Learning and keeping up with the English language has been strenuous as well. Bonilla said, “Sometimes it’s really hard when they talk in Spanglish.” Coronado added that when people are really close to each other, like friends or siblings, it is especially hard because they talk fast.

Although the switch to the American culture has proved difficult at times for the students, Coronado said, “I feel comfortable here.”

Bonilla added, “Cathedral is a very good school and I have had a very good experience.” Arevalo said, “I am excited to see the lifestyle of the people.” The students agreed that they were ready to learn more about the American culture.

**Guatemalan exchange students Daniel Arevalo (left), Sebastian Coronado (middle) and Alejandra Bonilla (right).**



# Airpods



*The iconic AirPods receive major updates after three years. The updates include noise cancellation, sound improvements and a new design, but are all of these updates worth asking for them as a Christmas gift?*

**Price:**  
**\$249**

**Release Date:**  
**Oct. 30**



# Airpods Pro

*Are they actually pro?*

BY ETHAN MARASCO



At the end of October, Apple released a new upgrade to the AirPods line: AirPods Pro. Many upgrades came with these new accessories, but are they actually “pro,” and are they worth the Christmas gift?

If sound quality is the biggest deal to you, there are plenty of better headphones and earbuds out there, but the AirPods Pro sound extremely good compared to the first- and second-generation AirPods. Apple hasn’t just improved the sound quality – they also included upgrades in active noise-cancelling technology.

The most obvious change with the AirPods Pro is the updated design, which has interchangeable silicone tips. Although the original style will be missed, the ability to customize the fit of the earbuds allows for the AirPods Pro to be more comfortable and fall out less. Another design change is the splash resistant feature, meaning you can use them in the rain or get them wet without submerging them, and they will be fine.

A cool feature of the noise-cancellation is transparency mode, which uses built-in microphones to transition between cancelling all outside noise and being able to listen to everything around you. These are some of the best noise cancelling wireless earbuds on the market.

## Pros

- ▶ **Great fit with the different size options**
- ▶ **Improved sound**
- ▶ **Noise cancelling is great**
- ▶ **They don’t fall out**
- ▶ **Wireless charging case**
- ▶ **Splash and sweatproof**

## Cons

- ▶ **Expensive**
- ▶ **The new charger is Lightning to USB C**
- ▶ **Design looks dumb**

The battery life is basically the same as the past two generations: with Noise Cancellation or Transparency turned on, the earbuds will last 4.5 hours. A fully charged case will recharge the AirPods Pro, so you can get up to 24 hours of more listening. The case is compatible with wireless charging pads and comes with the AirPods Pro.

If you already own AirPods, you may notice that they don’t block out much sound. By using the silicone tips on the AirPods Pro, less than one-third of the sound pressure reaches your eardrums, so you can turn down your music and it will still sound better than anything AirPods could play. The AirPods Pro also automatically equalize music based on the shape of your ear.

If you don’t have AirPods yet, the AirPods Pro are definitely the right purchase. They sound much better than the first- and second-generation ones, and they have way more features. They might be \$50 more than the second-generation, but you get a lot for that extra money. If you’re looking to upgrade your listening experience and have a lot of cool extra features, the AirPods Pro might be the perfect Christmas gift for you.

# M

**MORNING MASS** is offered every day at 7:15 in the chapel. This opportunity gives students who want to strengthen their faith a nice way to start their morning.

Senior Katie Rushka has taken advantage of this opportunity, as she has attended morning Mass every day since freshman year.

Rushka said that her older brother, Mike Rushka '16, attended morning Mass frequently during his time here and she has been inspired to follow in his footsteps. "Faith has always been a conversation topic at our house. It's acceptable to talk about the Church, what you disagree with or what you're struggling with. It's helped me determine where I stand and where I want to go with my faith and with God," said Rushka.

A powerful family faith background and a culture of open discussion at home helps Rushka grow in her faith as she attends Mass every morning.

During the Mass, the quiet atmosphere lets Rushka "find solace in the chapel," she said. Rushka often reads in the mornings and has been able to better appreciate her faith in the intimate setting. There are often about five to 10 people, including fellow senior Natalie Schorr, social studies teacher Mr. Mark Matthews, Principal Mr. Dave Worland and theology teacher Miss Katie Klee. Rushka said, "It's nice to know that you have people to talk about your faith and that you have a community in general."

In particular, Rushka said she enjoys Fr. Keith Hosey's Masses. "I distinctly remember one of his homilies about the centurion who said the words that we say before the Eucharist. And really, I just enjoy listening to his insights and teachings on the readings at Mass."

Rushka said that there have been times that she's gotten stressed, but time spent at the chapel in the morning provides a period of restful focus on God. She added that her daily attendance has "definitely helped me realize God is more of my friend than an authority figure." Rushka said that she's grown in her faith and that if she feels as if she's falling off the path, Mass helps reorient her.

Daily Mass is "a great way to start your morning even if it's once a week or once a month," said Rushka. "(It) brings peace to the chaotic life of high school, and all are welcome."

## Morning Mass

BY ANDREW DE LAS ALAS



# Father Jeff Godecker

*Known as the priest who celebrates all-school Masses as well as three Masses each week in the chapel, Fr. Jeff Godecker is a relatively new face to the school.*

BY ETHAN ECKHART

Known as the priest who celebrates all-school Masses as well as three Masses each week in the chapel, Fr. Jeff Godecker is a relatively new face to the school.

But to the Church and his various flocks over the years, not so much. Fr. Godecker recently celebrated his 50th year in the priesthood. Talented and wise, Fr. Godecker looked back on his five decades of service as well as his commitment to Cathedral High School.

As time moves forward, everything develops and evolves. Fr. Godecker notes that many things have changed, but a lot has stayed the same as well.

The same tasks that were performed by priests 50 years are still carried out today, but with some differences. Another change involves how priests are viewed, Fr. Godecker said, largely as a result of the sex abuse scandals. However, everyone should remember to give priests the respect they deserve because a handful of priests should not define an entire group.

Fr. Godecker said the future of the priesthood is also a concern. One of the main differences today is that there are many fewer priests than there used to be. Fr. Godecker said, "When I was ordained in 1969, there were probably 160 to 170 priests for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and now there are less than 100 active priests." This causes more stress for all of the active priests, because a smaller number of individuals must carry out the same number, or in some cases a greater number of tasks, including the Sacraments.

Fr. Godecker has a long history that goes along with his priesthood.

He started teaching at Roncalli High School where he points out that students were quite a bit different back then. He said, "You guys are much busier now. You guys are way too busy."

After five years at Roncalli, he spent another five years teaching at Schulte High School in Terre Haute, the alma mater of Sr. Mary Ann Stewart. Father has also served at two parishes, including St. Andrews and Immaculate Heart of Mary. He has served in campus ministry offices at both Butler University and IUPUI.

Finally, he became a member of the Irish family at Cathedral High school.

Of all the places he has served, he said his favorite is IUPUI. Fr. Godecker said, "IUPUI was a small community, mostly (graduate) students, but it was a very nice relaxed community."

Fr. Godecker said he enjoys the youthful energy at this school. When he first celebrated Mass in the gymnasium, he said he was proud of the liturgy, adding, "It just had a really good feel to it here."

Based on the reaction of students to Fr. Godecker, greeting him in the hallways and talking to him after Mass, than feeling seems to be mutual.

Outside of his many duties as a priest, Fr. Godecker said he enjoys reading, traveling, listening to music and attending small parties. He said he takes pride in his commitment to the Church and his 50-year career, which continues.

## Senior Athlete Profiles

### Nyah Conway

With senior Nyah Conway as a key player as a forward and team captain, the women's basketball season is off to a good start.

Conway has played basketball and run track for all four years. Sports have always been a part of Conway's life as she has been playing basketball since she was 5 and began running track in fifth grade.

Although Conway is not planning on continuing to play basketball and run track competitively in college, she said she does intend to take part in intramural sports and recreational exercise in college.

Conway is decorated in track, as she is a three-time City high jump champion and a runner-up in the 100-meter hurdles last year.

Conway said she is most excited and looking forward to her Senior Night with her and her friends, along with finding out where everyone is going to college.

Along with basketball and track, Conway is also involved as the co-president of the International Food Club, member of National Honor Society and Spanish Club, and a participant on the Peru mission trip and India Immersion trip.

### Elliott Rodgers

The defending State championship wrestling team had multiple individual State champions in their respective weights last year and brought home the team championship as well. This year the boys look to repeat their success for the third year in a row.

In particular senior Elliott Rodgers is looking to repeat as a State champion. Rodgers was the State champion of the 152 weight class last year and is looking to win in the 160 weight class this year. Rodgers has experienced success in his high school career, placing fourth in State as a freshman and runner-up as a sophomore. This success has drawn interest from Division I colleges, as he has offers from Central Michigan, Purdue and Marian University.

Rodgers began wrestling in the fourth grade and has dominated g mats ever since. Along with wrestling, Rodgers involved in theater and the Latin Dance team.

# Q

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# A

BY CALEB LAND

Mr. John O'Hara '02 recently has been new head coach for both the men's and women's track and field teams. Coach O'Hara answered a reporter's questions about his new role. This is an edited version of his responses.

Q: What are you most excited about regarding this new coaching position?

A: I've been coaching many on the women's team for about four years now. I'm just excited to continue to do that with our staff.

Q: What are both your immediate and long-range goals for the teams?

A: Immediate goals are continue to grow our numbers. We usually have over 100 athletes between the men's and women's team. I would love to see that grow more. We would like to keep winning City titles on both sides and advance as many athletes as we can in the tourney.

Q: What is your background as a high school and/or college athlete? How will you apply that experience to your coaching?

A: I played football and ran track at Cathedral High School. I think learning from my coaches in high school and my fellow coaches over the past 13 years has helped me immensely.

Q: Have any of the freshmen, sophomores or juniors on the team communicated with you about this coaching change? What has been their reaction?

A: I have had a few reach out to me with some basic questions, but the reaction has been positive.

Q: What is your role at Cathedral other than serving as a head coach? How will you balance your coaching and teaching duties?

A: I also teach IB and AP Psychology. Having a balance is very

important to me. Luckily we have an amazing support system here at Cathedral.

Q: Have you received any guidance or input from the previous head coach of the women's track team? If so, what? How will you apply that input to your coaching?

A: Coach Doc and I have always had a good rapport. I know I will rely on him this season and beyond.

Q: With a different coach comes changes. What will be one or two of those changes the athletes on your team will notice right away?

A: We will have some shuffling of roles amongst the staff. We are trying to put our athletes in the best position possible, and I think we have a bright future for all. There will be some changes to the uniform in order to have the men's and women's teams be more consistent.

Q: What is it like to know that you will coach a team on which you participated as a member of the Cathedral High School Class of 2002?

A: I had such a positive experience running track at Cathedral, and I am hoping to create the same environment for our athletes as well.

Mrs. Shelbi Smeathers recently has been new head coach for the women's cross-country team, a team with the reputation of having a huge turnout and outstanding runners. Coach Smeathers answered a reporter's questions about her new role.

Q: What are you most excited about regarding this new coaching position?

A: I am excited to be working with girls to help each runner achieve her best performance. Cross-country is unique because we can celebrate the successes of individuals as well as the whole team's effort.

Q: What are both your immediate and long-range goals for the team?

A: I am hopeful to get our practices more organized and then also to see our girls make a great run toward the state meet next tournament season.

Q: What is your background as a high school and/or college athlete? How will you apply that experience to your coaching?

A: I ran in high school for Center Grove and then I competed (Division I) for Butler University. While at Butler I was an individual conference champion and was a member of two teams which competed in the NCAA championships. We finished third in the nation as a team my senior year. I plan to apply my experiences as an athlete who competed at the highest collegiate level toward creating an effective training program for young women in sport.

Q: What is your role at Cathedral other than serving as a head coach? How will you balance your coaching and administrative duties?

A: I am also the director for STEAM at Cathedral, which currently means I am learning about how we can integrate our science, technology, engineering, arts and math classes together.

Q: Have you received any guidance or input from the previous head coach? If so, what? How will you apply that input to your coaching?

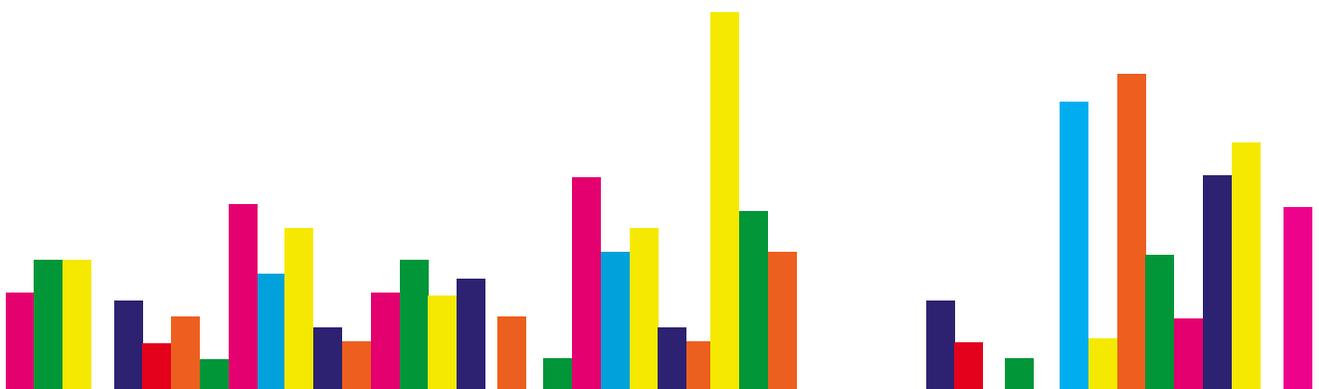
A: I am excited that Coach (Mr. Mark) Doctor will continue to be helping the team this next year.

Q: With a different coach comes changes. What will be one or two of those changes the girls on your team will notice right away?

A: Our practice structure will be changing a little bit, and we will have a different plan for cross-country camp this year.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share?

A: Cross-country is a fun, inclusive sport for young women of all ability levels. I hope any young woman who has a desire to be physically active and participate in a sport with friends feels comfortable joining our team.





# Freshman Finals

BY JAMESON BROWNE

**W**ITH finals quickly approaching, freshmen will begin the process of studying and completing their first week of exams during high school.

And they have numerous resources to provide sage advice for doing well on their first high school finals: Their teachers (review those study guides), their counselors, perhaps an older brother or sister, maybe even St. Joseph of Cupertino, the patron saint of students studying for an exam.

Those resources include every member of the Class of 2022, because one year ago, they were taking high school exams for the first time, too.

Sophomore Jeffery Utzinger says the most important thing that helped him do well his first time was beginning his studies in advance. “I started reviewing for finals a couple of weeks early last year because I knew it would be a lot of information to cram if I started just a few days before,” he said.

Utzinger advises freshmen to use all of their past notes as well as any review materials their teachers handed out. “Working on the study guides was important, but I went through my folders and looked over my past work as well. That information was sometimes even more helpful to study,” he said.

While studying is the most important tasks, Utzinger says that a sane bedtime helped him prepare his mind even more. “Going to bed early every night during finals week really helped me feel more alert and relaxed when I was taking the tests,” he said.

In addition to sleep a healthy breakfast is always a necessity for Utzinger. “I would not be able to take those long tests concentrating on something else like an empty stomach. A big breakfast always helped me be completely focused on the work in front of me,” he said.

His first high school semester exams did not seem to be as tough as Utzinger originally thought it might be. “I was pretty nervous about taking finals for the first time but once they started it kind of just seemed like any other test just longer. I would advise freshmen that it is OK to be nervous as long as you are prepared,” he said.

All of these strategies allowed for a successful first couple of finals weeks for Utzinger. He said, “I always try to remember to stay relaxed and focused on the work at hand. There will always be stress that comes with such a big week, but the best thing to do is always stay calm.”

The holidays are approaching and families are starting to come together to celebrate. Educators shared their versions of Christmas with their families.

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR MRS. SHANNON (FARRELL) FOX '80**

“We are big on the three gifts from Santa as baby Jesus received from the three kings. We gave them as parents a gift that they want, a gift that is needed, a book and an ornament. More than the gifts, it’s about being together. Several of our kids do not want our traditions to change, which is becoming harder since they are starting to marry.

“We always go to Mass on Christmas Eve followed by a big family dinner. Christmas morning everyone opens gifts (and we have) a traditional breakfast. Christmas evening we open our home to family and friends that may not have anyone to celebrate with for a traditional Christmas dinner.”

Fox said she and her family have been upholding these traditions for more than 25 years, since their children were toddlers. She said, “It helps us prioritize what Christmas is all about Jesus’s birthday and being with friends and family.”

**SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AND CO-DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES MR. MARK MATTHEWS**

“When my children were younger we all went to the children’s Mass together on Christmas Eve and then came home to exchange presents and have a traditional Christmas meal. Now that they are older we go to midnight Mass together,” he said. Matthews said that the tradition started when his older kids were young and they just kept the tradition going. He said, “We’ve had the tradition for about 30 years. My children love all kinds of traditions. It takes almost a week to decorate our house for the Christmas season. We started out with one Christmas tree, but my wife loves it so much we have six trees now.”

**ENGLISH TEACHER MRS. NANCY WHEELER**

“We go to ‘Yuletide’ and have every year for at least the last 25 years. My husband loves the whole show, and I love the tap dancing Santas. Our children were not given a choice. After we had attended five years in a row, it became the tradition, so now, as a mother, it’s one of the few requirements I make of my children, who are now adults, and we work around their schedule for the show time,” Wheeler said.

Another tradition she and her family carry out involves her sisters and their husbands coming to Wheeler’s house for Christmas Day. “One lives in Colorado, one in Arizona and one in Chicago. We would go to Manchester, where my mother was in a nursing home, and have Christmas usually in January, usually on Martin Luther King’s birthday. The tradition would include a skit that we all have to do. One year, it was doing scenes from ‘White Christmas,’ with my husband as Bing Crosby singing ‘Sisters, Sisters.’”



# Christmas Tr

*We interviewed teachers and asked them how they celebrate Christmas and what their favorite gift was.*

BY AVA AMOS

Thinking back on your childhood, what was your favorite Christmas gift? Why? How old were you when you received the gift?

**THEOLOGY TEACHER MRS. KATIE LEWIS**

“My favorite Christmas gift was an American Girl doll. I received Samantha when I was about 8 years old and I played with her all the time. I’ve even given her to my children and they now get to play with that toy that I got many, many years ago.”

**COUNSELING DIRECTOR MR. DUANE EMERY**

“The one I remember getting the most was when my brother and I got a video game system together called Atari; it was the popular video game system at the time. We never expected we would get one because we were very poor and there was a note on the tree that sent us on this scavenger hunt to find it. I was probably 8 or 9 years old.”

**SPANISH TEACHER MRS. ROSE EGAN**

“My favorite gift as a child was the year we got a dog. My parents wrapped the box while we were waiting in the car for church and when we came home the box was moving around. I was probably 10 or 12.”

**SPANISH TEACHER MRS. KIM JAMELL**

“I was 9 or 10 years old when I got a Barbie Dream Boat. I played with it constantly, every day. I mean I can picture the table where Barbie and Ken ate lunch right now. It was awesome. There was a show called ‘Love Boat’ on TV then that we all watched every Saturday night. So I could be Julie the cruise director. I found it in my mom’s closet before Christmas so that was kind of a bummer. I learned to not want to know surprises ever again.”

**ENGLISH TEACHER MRS. LISA BLAMEY**

“My favorite gift I got as a child for Christmas were the Barbie heads that sat on the table and I could do all of their hair. In my opinion, that was better than a Barbie.”

**THEOLOGY TEACHER MR. MATTHEW CANNADAY**

“I was 6 and I remember waking up at like 3 or 4 in the morning. I walked into the living room and there is the detailed toy of the Deep Space 9 station from ‘Star Trek.’ And I sat there and was like if I push the buttons it will make noise, so I can’t do that, but I can at least look at it. So I went on to the couch and fell asleep and I woke up the next morning and was like, yes, now I can play with it.”



# EDITORIAL

## The Impeachment Inquiry

As the country prepares for the upcoming presidential election in fewer than 11 months, the Trump administration is once again trying to protect itself from its own self-destruction. President Donald Trump, unsurprisingly, is facing what could be his final straw as the House of Representatives is in the progress debating whether or not it should draft articles of impeachment.

Allegedly, in an effort to abuse his presidential powers, Trump threatened to withhold foreign military aid from Ukraine, pressuring its president, Volodymyr Zelensky to dig up dirt on former Vice President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden. The evidence is certainly stacked against Trump this time, as many credible witnesses have come forward during the Impeachment Inquiry to testify about Trump's wrongdoings.

*USA Today* writes that “the summary of the (phone) call shows Trump asking Zelensky to begin investigating Biden and his son, Hunter, who sat on the board of Ukrainian gas company Burisma while his father was part of the Obama administration.”

Although there is a considerable amount of evidence pointing to the fact that Trump broke the law, Republicans within the House are struggling to accept these clear facts. Many of them have attempted to denounce the credibility of several of the witnesses who have testified despite that fact that some of these witnesses are career government officials.

At this point, with the amount of Republicans saying that no one is to be trusted, the reality in Washington is that evidence doesn't seem to matter anymore. If you can lie your way out of a situation by bypassing the truth, directing people's attention elsewhere, you somehow have found yourself a formidable platform to stand on.

The current belief is that Trump will be impeached, but he will not be removed from office. (Students who paid attention in history class know that to impeach means to charge with an offense; the Senate then conducts a trial and votes whether or not to remove the president, something that never has happened.) There are a majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives, which

will most likely lead to his impeachment; however, if it reaches the trial in the Senate, it is unlikely the Republican majority will vote to remove Trump from office, despite the evidence presented.

*USA Today* adds that “Other witnesses, such as former National Security Council official Fiona Hill, have since testified to what she and others referred to as dual policy objectives — so-called ‘regular’ and ‘irregular’ diplomacy channels — where some officials were ‘involved in national security foreign policy’ with Ukraine while others, allegedly led by (Rudolph) Giuliani, were involved in a ‘domestic political errand,’ according to Hill.

Although the amount of information can be confusing and at times overwhelming, it is critical that you recognize the significance of this period of our lives. Regardless of whether or not you believe Trump should be impeached, this is a historical moment in the history of our country. This is only the third time the House of Representatives has officially moved to impeach a sitting president.

CNN writes, “It's clear that the Democrats who control the House believe they have the votes to impeach President Donald Trump. He'd be only the third president in history to suffer that indignity after Bill Clinton in 1998 and Andrew Johnson in 1868. Richard Nixon resigned rather than be impeached in 1974, but he did so only when Republican senators made clear they'd also vote to remove him from office. Trump faces no such insurrection yet.”

What is occurring in Washington is not something one sees every day. We are living through a trial that may never again happen within our lifetimes and an event about which you will tell your children and grandchildren.

It is true, we are living in a divided age. You are either red or blue, for Trump or against him, excited about the Trump era or missing the tenure of Barack Obama. No matter your stance, it must be remembered that we are going to keep fighting. We are going to battle for the truth because that is what matters in the country. It is time we remember that we are always attempting to move toward truth, not away from it.

# FACE OFF

## FRIDAY THE 13TH: IS IT SERIOUS?

### YES: SOPHOMORE ASHLYNN BAKEMEYER

Friday the 13th is notorious for its superstitious activity every year, and for good reason. There is good reason not to be overly excited for what could happen on the Friday before finals week.

For decades, people have brought up Friday the 13th to be a day that terrible things happen. Throughout history there have been countless disasters all over planet Earth. From freak plane crashes in the Andes, a rapper's murder, to stock market crashes, Friday the 13th never fails to bring something disastrously crazy into the world.

All of the fear and anxiety leading up to the day add to the superstitious belief. The stories of the infamous day have been passed down through the years. Although I am not necessarily a superstitious person, when Friday the 13th comes around I can't help myself from thinking something bad is going to happen.

On Oct. 13, 1972, Uruguayan Flight 571 hit a mountain and crashed into the Andes. Only 16 of the 45 people on the plane survived. This wasn't even the only plane crash on Oct. 13, 1972. Also on that Friday the 13th, Russian Aeroflot Flight 217 crashed and killed 174 people.

Another event on Friday the 13th was the murder of rapper Tupac. His murder remains classified as one of the most famous unsolved cases.

Yet another disaster on Friday the 13th was a mini-crash in the stock market on Oct. 13, 1989. Because the past events of Friday the 13th have been so constant in their tragic nature, I can't see past the possibility that history could repeat itself.

Hearing stories about the history of Friday the 13th makes it extremely hard to not be superstitious of the day. The coincidence that so many terrible things happen on Friday the 13th is too great to avoid superstitions.

While I'm not one of the people who lock themselves in their house from midnight until 11:59 p.m. on Friday the 13th, I am still superstitious of the day. Whether or not you have similar feelings about Friday the 13th, there is no way to avoid the fact that so many negative events have happened on that day.

From everything that has happened in the past and all of the build-up to the day, it is hard to not be worried about what could happen on Friday the 13th.

### NO: JUNIOR EMMA KRESS

This Friday is Friday the 13th. There is a lot of superstition surrounding Friday the 13th, as it is generally considered unlucky. Historically, people have always been afraid of the number 13, and it has even been associated with the devil, along with the number 666. There are some buildings with no thirteenth floor and there was even a horror movie made about the day.

Although there are countless harrowing tales about Friday the 13th, these old beliefs have no backing in science. People who are superstitious of the day are often quick to recite bad events that have happened on different Friday the 13ths. However, there is no evidence linking the events to the day. Much of the misfortune that occurs on Friday the 13th is often due to people's superstitious views of it, as their fear often opens up opportunities for unlucky events to occur.

Superstitions are simply coping mechanisms and security blankets for those of us who are uncomfortable living with the unknown and inexplicable. Rather than relying on worldly and often illogical explanations for the things I cannot understand, I attempt to understand nature through science and reason. In today's modern and technologically advanced world, society should not have to turn to baseless beliefs such as superstition as a means of explaining the more difficult questions they face in life.

Growing up, superstitions seemed to be everywhere. I always used to question why I was told to do these strange things to prevent bad luck, as they never made any sense to me. It bothered me even more that no one had a good explanation for them. Now, I know that is because there is no good explanation for them.

Many superstitions just come from old traditions that have been passed down over time and become a part of culture. However, most superstitions are just unnecessary. Personally, I have never broken my mother's back from stepping on a crack in the sidewalk.



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