

The Guardian

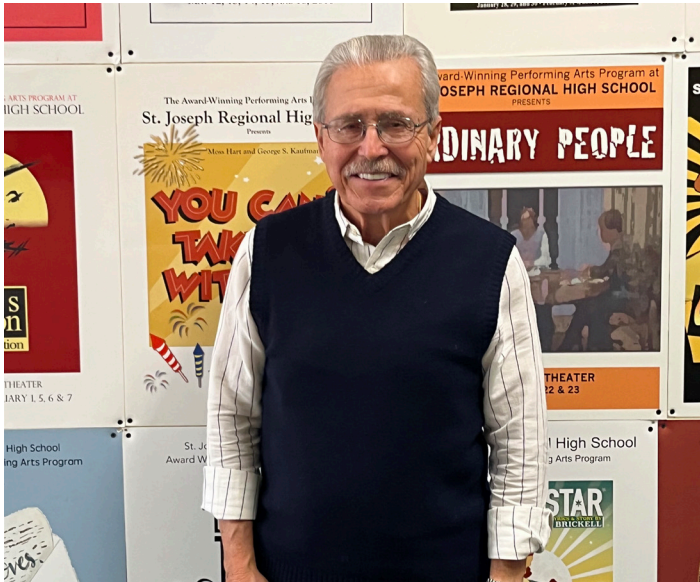


Vol. 60 Issue 2

Saint Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, NJ

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

John Asselta-First of Three Generations at SJR



Mr. John Asselta surrounded by posters of past plays.

By Nicholas Pantano '25

How do you feel about your son and now your grandson being a part of the Saint Joe's community?

It's kind of surreal. I can remember back in the late 80's bringing my son Ryan here as a freshman. I was not associated until his sophomore year, when I became involved with the theater program and for three years that was really cool. Then my second son Jamie came, and after both sons graduated it was just me. Two years ago, Ryan got the job as the Director of Admissions and Marketing and it was really exciting to see my son rise to such a position and be respected by other people.

But when my grandson Michael started here, it took it to a whole new level and it has been great for me to observe him really integrating himself into the Saint Joe's community right away. He seems to be hanging with friends. I see him talking at the lunch table. I saw him on the community weekend and that got me really excited to see he's made that transition. To see him do that, to see Ryan be respected, and to see me still be here, the three of us, it's such a big part of the Asselta family. It's just surreal.

I know you've been a part of the Saint Joe's community for such a long time. You have such a history here, so what do you think is the greatest lesson you've learned from the community?

I think one of the lessons I've learned as part of the attributes of Saint Joe's is that they offer so many opportunities for kids which give young men the ability to grow, to learn and to experience new things. Seeing my grandson working out on Tuesdays and Thursdays, trying out for basketball, and for the school musical, and playing golf here is a wonderful opportunity. Saint Joe's provides all of these opportunities for young men to succeed and engage in activities that they maybe wouldn't have done before. Here they can do it. Here they can grow, and that is one of the big things I've taken out of the community.

I know you've done a lot of theater work here. What do you say are some of your favorite shows here?

Yes, thirty one years of theater work here at Saint Joe's. And I'm looking at that wall, seeing all of the shows I've done. I really don't have one favorite show, but a few favorites. I'd say my top five would include *Bright Star*. I had always wanted to do *Something Rotten* and finally got a chance. *Miss Saigon*-I've done it twice-we were the world premiere of *Miss Saigon* and it blew people away. Then, I would have to say *Les Miserables*. I've done this twice also. It's such a groundbreaking play and we blew people away. The fifth one in that group would be *West Side Story*. It has always been one of my favorite shows and we have put on such good productions of it.

Is there anything else you would like to say?

The SJR community is a big part of my family. In summary, I'm not sure I'd be here this year if Michael wasn't attending, as my career is winding down and I have been thinking about how to create an exit strategy. Part of the reason I'll be staying around for a while is having the knowledge that Michael is here and that I can experience his high school years while continuing to be a part of this school for the foreseeable future.



Student Life

Ryan Asselta-Second of Three Generations at SJR



Ryan Asselta '94, Director of Admissions and Marketing.
By Nicholas Pantano '25

Ryan Asselta '94, an alumnus and current staff member who represents the second generation of Asseltas. Let's chat with him about his memories at SJR and what it has been like to return here as Director of Admissions and Marketing.

Mr. Asselta, how do you feel about your son and your father both being at Saint Joe's, whether it be as staff, or as a student?

Well, it's unique. When I was a student here at Saint Joe's, I used to get a ride with my dad to school every day. He worked across the street at KPMG and then he started directing the musicals. He wasn't here during the day, but we did travel to school together. And now, almost 28 years later, my son Michael is here as a ninth grader and I get to drive him to school every day with me. Of course I see him in the hallways. I see my dad in the building as well. To be honest, it's kind of surreal seeing all three of us here at the same time. It's a gift. I'm blessed to spend this time together, especially these four years with Michael now that he's here.

It's really nice that you got to be so close to your father..

I used to play basketball, so he used to come down and watch the games. And now having Michael here, hopefully I will be able to do the same things while he's here too.

Aside from your family life and sports, what was your Saint Joe's experience like?

It was great. I met my best friends here. These are the guys that were in my wedding party as groomsmen. We still keep in touch to this day. I was in the class of 1994, but twenty-eight years later, we still text each other every day, that group of Saint Joe's guys. Similar to other Saint Joe's guys, I formed a bond with my classmates, with my teammates, and we still have lasting connections. Like I said, I played baseball, basketball and I was in the performing arts doing musicals. I tried to get involved in many things but overall, it was four great years of my life that I look back on fondly.

I know you said that you were a reporter, but now are in charge of Admissions and Marketing here. I just want to know if you planned to do this, or if your life story just took you this way?

My life story just brought me back to Saint Joe's. After college, I got into the world of media and became a sportscaster and was on television for 20 years. We had different television stations around the country. That was the career path I took. Saint Joe's helped me on that journey by being an athlete here and being in the performing arts. I was confident and comfortable to speak in front of many people, and to perform under pressure really prepared me to be on television.

I made a career path off of that. My life path brought me back to Saint Joe's. It was a good place to be. It was home. I do a lot of talking to families. I'm "selling the school" so to speak. It's easy to do that when you are passionate about what you are talking about. Saint Joe's has played a great part in my life and for me to share that with other people is truly a gift.

Please email letters to the Editor to sjrguardian@sjrnj.org

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Student Life

Michael Asselta-The Newest Asselta at SJR



Michael Asselta '26, a third generation Asselta at SJR.

By Nicholas Pantano '25

Okay so Michael, how do you feel about having your father and grandfather with you at the school as you go through your high school years?

I think it's pretty cool to have that support in the school from my grandfather and my father. To be able to go to somebody every day, who is always here when I am here is pretty cool. To have that with me for the next four years is really comforting.

What activities are you involved in? What type of stuff do you do after the school day?

I play high level golf, and hopefully I will be able to play on the basketball team. Right now I am doing basketball training. I am an ambassador and I am golfing pretty heavily right now.

What academic subjects are you interested in?

I like history, History is pretty fun this year. I like reading in English class. Italian, it's a new language for me and it's pretty fun to learn new languages. I like Italian.

So do you think that if/when you have kids, would you want them to come to Saint Joe's, to continue your family's legacy at the school?

Definitely. Yeah, this is a great place. I think when I have kids, and if we are still up here in New Jersey, I'll send them here.

So what is a lesson that you've learned from being a part of the Saint Joe's community? I know you haven't been here long as a student, but have you learned anything important from your time here or from stories that your father has told you from his personal experiences?

What I've seen so far is just that everything is just so close knit. The community is just amazing. To be here, to already find the brotherhood, when I've been here for pretty much a month is pretty cool.

Do you have any career aspirations? Anything you think you want to do when you get older?

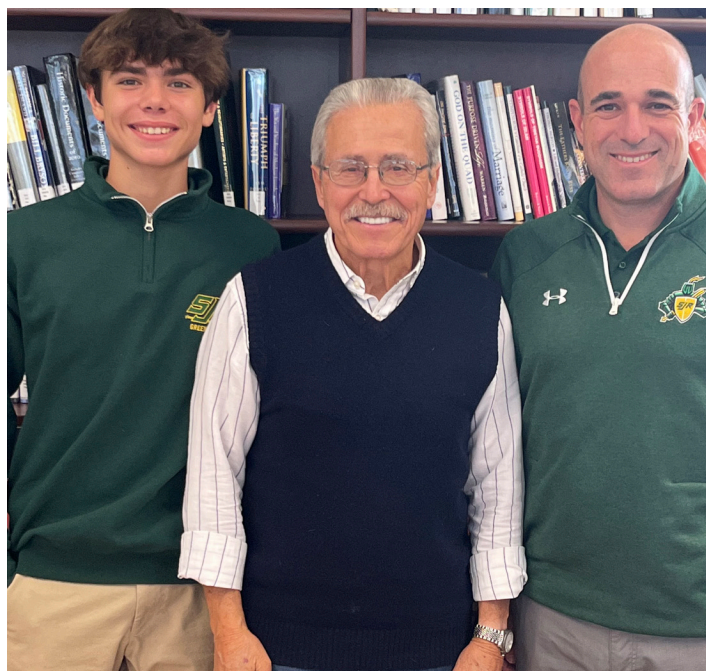
I think I would like to go pro for golf. If that doesn't work, I'd really like to teach golf to younger kids, to keep the game alive through the younger generations.

You're right it is nice to have something that you are so passionate about. I know that your grandfather is the head of the performing arts program here. Do you think that you would be a part of the theater program here at Saint Joe's?

Yeah, my grandpa runs the shows here, but I've been coming to the shows since I was like 4 so I finally got the chance to be on the performing side, rather than just watching it.

Well thank you very much.

Thank you.



Three generations of the Asselta family.

Student Life

SJR Pond Dedication



Student volunteers, donors and other contributors to the pond restoration join Mrs. Cavera in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

By Ashton Samson '23

On Saturday, September 24, Science Department Chair Mrs. Joanne Cavera invited members of the SJR Ecology Club, SJR alumni, parents, faculty members and administrators to a ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of the new outdoor habitat and classroom.

The morning commenced with the lively and joyful SJR Chorus singing in front of the new pond that is home to turtles and frogs alike and alongside an array of native plants that Mrs. Cavera painstakingly selected. The habitat was then blessed by Brother Christopher Hall and as the heartwarming ceremony progressed, parents, faculty members and students all joined in listening to a euphoric and grateful Mrs. Cavera. She thanked the members of the Ecology Club and the landscape designers for their efforts as well as the donors without whom the restoration would not have been possible.

Mrs. Cavera concluded her speech by expressing that above all, this space is of the utmost importance to her for two principal reasons. One is that this was a dream that Mrs. Cavera formulated in her mind sixteen years ago, which has finally materialized. This alone was cause for celebration. Additionally, the finished product achieves several important educational aspects of the science department. The pond and carefully selected plant-life gives the turtles and frogs a native habitat, which provides an opportunity for students to observe the local ecosystem. Mrs. Cavera, who is a longtime

bird watcher, was ecstatic to include a bird feeder in the habitat, another observable, measureable aspect to be discussed throughout the multitude of classes offered by the science department at SJR.

An appreciation for nature and the opportunity for outdoor educational experiences are additional benefits of the updated habitat, which now includes tables and seats for students. In particular, the teachers in the science department can take the opportunity to incorporate their lessons into the living, observable environment, which is what the habitat offers. There is no better way to learn concepts in science, which are often difficult to grasp, than having a hands-on experience.

After Mrs. Cavera's speech came to a close, she proceeded to cut the ribbon surrounded by members of the SJR community. Refreshments and food were served as the guests mingled with one another.

It is the intention of Mrs. Cavera and the members of the Ecology Club that this space be utilized by all teachers, not just those in the science department, throughout the school day. The chance for an English teacher to take their students outside to study a foundational work of literature or poetry can be cause for much inspiration. Even a Social Studies or Theology lecture outdoors can be uplifting and open new avenues for learning. It certainly will be exciting to see which teachers choose to take advantage of SJR's new teaching space!



The SJR Chorus performing before the ribbon cutting.

Student Life

Eucharistic Ministers Installed During First Mass



Daniel Brennan '23, Jeffrey Guneratne '23 and Timothy Doherty '23, the new Eucharistic Ministers.

By Dylan Bellofatto '23

On Friday, September 23, the entire SJR community gathered together to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit and bless the start of a new school year. During the Mass, three members of the senior class were installed as Eucharistic Ministers and the officers of the Student Council were formally acknowledged in their roles.

Father Johan Betancourt came to celebrate Mass and to ask for the Holy Spirit's blessing upon the school's newest student leaders and Eucharistic Ministers.

Seniors Jeffrey Guneratne, Timothy Doherty and Daniel Brennan, were confirmed before the entire student body in the role of Eucharistic Minister.

After Communion, the Executive officers of the Student Council, President Fintan Henry, Vice-President Alex Pavic, Secretary Jeffrey Guneratne, and Treasurer Tim Doherty, were formally installed in their offices, as were the class officers of the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

Student council representatives were elected in the spring to lead the school, and are entrusted to be a bridge between the students and the administration,

representing the student body as a whole.

Mr. Kintish, who co-moderates student government with Mr. Winston, called forth this newly inaugurated Executive Committee. After reading the responsibilities of the council, Mr. Kintish then turned the spotlight over to Mr. Bruno. Standing before the committee, Mr. Bruno told them, "You have been elected to serve Saint Joseph Regional High School by the vote of the student body and the endorsement of your Student Council peer. This is a position of special leadership within our school. Do you promise to faithfully fulfill the work of the position to which you have been elected?" The committee unanimously concurred.

Theology Department Chairman, and Director of the Eucharistic Minister program, Mr. Joel Peters summarized the importance of celebrating this mass: "Today we celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of our school year. In this liturgy we pray for the whole school. We will be asking for the Holy Spirit's anointing and guidance upon our studies, our friendships, our activities, and upon everything that is part of school life."

The mass concluded with the notion that we are preparing future generations of SJR to become the Vir Fidelis.



The Executive Committee, Timothy Doherty '23, Fintan Henry '23, Alex Pavic '23 and Jeffrey Guneratne '23.

Mass



SJR's Mass of the Holy Spirit

Counter Clockwise from top right (All pictures right to left)

Representatives of SJR's student government are installed during the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Father Johan Betancourt blesses the Eucharistic Ministers.

Daniel Brennan '23 and Timothy Doherty '23 celebrating their new titles as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Dylan Nazario '23 receives communion from newly-installed Eucharistic Minister Timothy Doherty '23.

Vincent Giuliano '24 receives communion from newly-installed Eucharistic Minister Daniel Brennan '23.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



Mass



Clockwise from top left (All pictures left to right)

Daniel Brennan '23 and Timothy Doherty '23 distributing communion during the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Newly-installed members of SJR's Student Government.

Timothy O'Sullivan '24 leads the procession during the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

RJ Buscher '24 delivers a reading during the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

A moment of reflection during the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



SJR Beefsteak



Counter-clockwise from top right (All photos from right to left).

A group of SJR students warming up by the fire pit.

Zeppoles and funnel cakes being served as dessert.

The crowd mixing and mingling as they celebrate this year's Beefsteak.

Parents, alumni and faculty participate in the Corn-hole Tournament.

Dylan Gutowski '25, Brandon Karwoski '25 and Alex Amato '25 enjoy a Friday night out at the Beefsteak.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



SJR Beefsteak



Clockwise from top left (All photos left to right).

Ford Lightning for a Weekend-auction prize, courtesy of Mahwah Ford.

Families enjoying the evening.

Andrew Oddi and Kayla Perez holding on to raffle tickets.”

Gary Rasputini and Scott Kerr join forces for the Corn-hole Tournament.

The Class of 1986 poses for a photo.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



Entertainment

Halloween Ends Review: A Rewarding Conclusion



By Ashton Samson '23

The first thought I had as I left the theaters viewing Laurie Strode and Michael Myers' denouement was "Did I just watch a different film from the thousands of people who despised *Halloween Ends*? Perhaps the theater I went to showed me the wrong movie. In all sincerity, I can't comprehend the blatant abhorrence for the movie by the many people who call this one of the worst films they've seen. It upsets me that the film is receiving such negative reviews because it is less likely that with such fervent negativity, future filmmakers and studios will be willing to indulge in telling stories that diverge from the expectations of their fans. *Halloween Ends* is a satisfying conclusion to the *Halloween* franchise because it succeeds in doing what every sequel or reboot should strive to do—pay homage to the original in fun, intriguing ways, while very much telling its own unique story, without being excessive in either aspect.

The film has plentiful homages to *Halloween* (1978), both direct callbacks and a repetition of story structure, character development and general tone. When it comes to direct callbacks, it's worth noting that none of them feel out of place or unnecessary within the larger context of the story. For one, Laurie Strode wears the same outfit in the final act of *Halloween Ends* that she did in the original film. Additionally, John Carpenter's classic *The Thing* plays on TV (the 1951 film *The Thing from Another World* plays in *Halloween* '78). Another detail is that Laurie and Michael's final fight is

in many ways a repeat of their original third act fight, from the needle that Michael uses to stab Laurie (it is Laurie who stabs Michael with one in the original), to the way Laurie sits taking a breath, falsely thinking that Myers is dead. These callbacks are a playful, welcome nod to the original, that are plausible and do not negatively impact the plot. In other words, it's a perfect execution of paying homage to the first film.

Regarding the story structure, character development and general tone, *Halloween Ends* feels the closest to *Halloween* (1978) out of all the sequels in the series. Many forget that before its last act, the first film is largely a character drama with only hints of slasher horror. It revels in the everyday lives of the teens and adults of Haddonfield and their interactions with each other. The script is imbued with genuine, realistic depictions of human behavior and this is one way that *Halloween Ends* also succeeds. Some may call it unnecessary filler, but I beg to differ. A predictably reliable Jamie Lee Curtis turns in my favorite personal performance of Laurie Strode, other than in the original. As she decorates her house for Halloween, hangs with Lyndsey Wallace and runs errands with joy and happiness, Laurie seems back to her old self, in a good way. The other characters such as Allyson and Frank, feel like real humans again, after several installments where, through a combination of clunky dialogue and unrealistic interactions, they appeared like caricatures. So the characters feel real again, the structure of the story, part character-based drama, part slasher horror is a return to the simple, yet effective structure of John Carpenter's classic and the tone feels like it's back to the basics.

That leads us to the unique qualities of the film, the element that has caused such division amongst fans. As someone who was growing exhausted by the monotony of sequel after sequel of Laurie versus Michael slasher movies, I found myself pleasantly surprised by the change of pace. No spoilers, but the film doesn't attempt to repeat what came before it and I was impressed by the boldness of that decision, as well as the genuine execution.

Did the general audience really want another straight slasher film? I honestly can't pinpoint what they expected. I'm here to support this wonderful movie that does everything it can to be a solid send off to this iconic saga.

Entertainment

Cyberpunk Edgerunners Review



By Dylan Nazario '23

Some video games that come out in today's world have too much excitement built up behind them, so much so that fans are disappointed on release. CD Projekt red's *Cyberpunk 2077* is the perfect example of a glitch filled, overhyped, gem of a game that had its beauty overshadowed by hate and negative press. Nearly 2 years after its release in 2020, *Cyberpunk* has made an unexpected comeback due to CD Projekt Red's (CDPR) new Netflix anime taking place in the *Cyberpunk* world. Since the release of *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners*, *Cyberpunk 2077* has seen a huge spike in active players, with the player sentiment seeming to shift from overwhelmingly negative to more positive or mixed reviews almost overnight. With *Edgerunners* having been out for a few weeks now, it's safe to say that *Cyberpunk* is being revived. The question becomes: How did *Edgerunners* save the *Cyberpunk* franchise?

Due to the overwhelming negative public opinion on social media when it was first released, and because of its game breaking glitches, many people didn't get to try out *Cyberpunk 2077* for themselves. This meant that all of the love and passion put into this game was never felt or experienced. This is where *Edgerunners* comes in. *Edgerunners* has allowed many people who disliked the game or never played it to experience the

world in Night City (the game's setting), filled with bright neon lights, dirty, unsafe streets filled with crime and poverty and the elite upper class versus the poor majority. Watching *Edgerunners* lets you feel what it's like to live in Night City. The anime is able to tell an amazingly emotional story in this dark and interesting world that many players of *Cyberpunk 2077* simply wrote off as bad and a disaster.

The anime has seen considerable praise and is able to stand on its own alongside the game as a marvel in storytelling. The anime follows David Martinez, a latino street kid living in Night City with his mother. Though struggling to make ends meet, David goes to a top notch high school academy at which he feels out of place due to his economic status as compared to other kids. He has no cybernetics installed and is fully human which puts him at a disadvantage in life. In a car ride home after getting in a fight with a student at the academy, David and his mother get caught in between a gang shootout.

Mrs. Martinez dies as she gets caught in the crossfire, leaving David alone in the world. Having no money to pay for rent or the already expensive school, David gets picked up by a Gang of Netrunners(Cybernetic Night City Criminals) who quickly become his new family.

The story continues on, but one thing is certain: from episode 1, *Edgerunners* has a very interesting and driven main character with a very interesting story. This is what defines the anime as viewers don't need to be familiar with the game to hop into the anime. The anime is based off and inspired by the game however they tell two very different stories. Because the anime has no stigma around it unlike the game it is able to instantly grab audiences of all types.

Cyberpunk Edgerunners is a great anime. The flashy artistic style and mature tones allow it to hold nothing back. Covering at times dark topics and having realistic concepts that could happen in the future allow this show to truly captivate audiences with its ideas. The very atmosphere that the show and game take place in are literally a character in of itself. The characters of *Edgerunners* are all well written within backstories and goals of their own while all being tied back to one another. *Edgerunners* is a testament to second chances, the cyberpunk franchise was considered dead and is now more alive than ever.

New Faculty Members

Danielle Nathan Makes Her SJR Debut



Mrs. Nathan in her classroom grading lab reports.

By Cathal Donohoe '26

The beginning of the school year is that time of year when most students are filled with nerves and excitement about the upcoming school year. The same rings true for the many new faculty members that joined the St. Joseph Regional High School family this year. Mrs. Danielle Nathan is one of these teachers. Mrs. Nathan has come to SJR to teach in the science department. Mrs. Nathan brings with her an enthusiastic and warm learning environment.

What is your previous teaching experience?

I have been a teacher for five years. I taught at a co-ed High School in The Bronx, and I taught all branches of science.

Who and what inspired you to become a teacher?

I wanted to help students that I saw myself in. As a student I looked up to teachers who made a warm environment. My first grade teacher is the reason I teach. She created a warm and welcoming environment for all levels of learners.

What are you most excited about as you begin teaching at St Joe's?

I am most excited to teach about ecology. I want to see the interaction between students and nature. I also have heard about how good the St Joe's students were and how well mannered they are.

What are your goals for St Joe's this year?

My goal at St Joseph this year is to encourage and cultivate a community where the boys can love science as well as to succeed in the course itself and to take away any negative conversations that come with the subject. I'd like the boys to be confident in their work and their abilities.

If you could supervise an after school program what would it be?

I would supervise basketball. I played basketball my whole life. I have coached in the past and it's a passion of mine that I feel is very important to me.

Very early in your teaching career the Covid pandemic hit. How did it shift your view of teaching?

It required me to use a bit more patience and grace when it comes to assisting students that are probably struggling with more than just the school work. There are many things that came up whether it was personal or academics, that required a lot more understanding and assistance on my behalf.

What do you think can be done to encourage more women to enter the STEAM career fields?

I think just giving them a chance. I feel that there are a lot of women that probably want to join STEAM careers, but because of the limited opportunities that are present, it makes it hard for them to apply, or even receive the job offers. I think creating workshops or showing women that they can thrive in the STEAM environment will bring a lot more women to the field.



Mrs. Nathan lecturing during class.

New Faculty Members

Elizabeth Evans Makes Her SJR Debut



Mrs. Evans in her classroom.

By Ashton Samson '23

What is your personal and educational background?

I have been in Catholic education forever. I attended Saint Catherine's, Paramus Catholic and Fordham College. In another lifetime, I worked on Wall Street. Then I went home to raise a family. Then, I became a teacher.

What is your professional background?

I have been teaching for almost twenty years. Before Saint Joes, I taught at an all-girls school, but I raised boys and everyone here assured me that I was ready for an all-boys environment.

What brought you to Saint Joes?

I actually have quite a few connections here. Mr. Oddi was at Fordham when I was there, Mrs. Buckley was in my class at Paramus Catholic, Mr. Peters is the pastoral associate at my church. In general, it was time for a change and what better place to do it than at a school where there are so many familiar and friendly faces throughout the day.

What have you enjoyed most about being an English teacher?

English is a class where you get to be right most of the time. If you can offer an insight with evidence to back it up, then you can be right. The fact that I never saw it before doesn't mean it isn't there or isn't right.

What has your experience been like at Saint Joes so far?

It's a very welcoming environment.

What hobbies/activities do you enjoy most outside of school?

I love spending time with my husband and son, as well as my extended family. I'm a Mets fan. Of course I love to read and I'm also a passionate movie buff.

What is your goal for the duration of this school year?

I told my class when they started in September that my goal was to make them hate English less. I can't guarantee it's going to be their favorite class, but I want them to loathe it less.



Mrs. Evans talking with Ryan McCabe 26.

New Faculty Members

Eilish Lally Makes Her SJR Debut



Ms. Lally in her classroom.

By Ryan McCabe '26

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

My favorite thing about teaching is that everyday is a new experience. It is not a repetitive job, new experiences occur and new opportunities arrive each day.

What experience do you have in teaching?

I have taught elementary school and middle school. I have taught the Irish army, I have taught in Ireland, Austria, England, and I have spent the last 20 years in the United States, the last 15 of them teaching high school. I believe that travel is the best education, so I traveled around trying to learn as much as possible.

Where did you attend High School?

I attended a school in Ireland.

And where did you go to college after that?

I also was in Ireland, I attended a university.

What did you major in?

At the university I majored in History, Geography, and Anthropology.

How did you get into teaching?

I initially was not planning to be a teacher, but when I left

college there were not many jobs in the path I was planning. I then got a job teaching high school students and I found out that I enjoyed it.

What is your favorite kind of History to teach?

I love teaching World History and Geography. Both are very important and interesting. That is what I am currently teaching.

So you've spent a long time teaching. What is the most important lesson that you've learned?

The students teach you something. All students are different, different in size, ability, attitude, yet they all teach something.

What extracurricular activities did you do as a student?

During high school, I played camogie. It is an Irish sport almost like lacrosse and hockey combined. I also did volunteer work with special needs children. This taught me a lot about teaching.

What is your overall goal for this year?

I would like my kids to leave with more knowledge than they came with. I would also love to have a nice living environment for my students to learn and have fun in.

Do you have any kids?

No, I do not have any children.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

I love to run. I often go on runs. I have run half marathons. I love meeting up with friends as much as possible, and like I said before, travel is the best education. Therefore, I love to travel.



Ms. Lally engages the class in a history lesson.

Sports

SJR Soccer Makes Final Push for League Title, State Playoffs



The SJR Soccer team celebrating after their victory against DePaul Catholic.

By Timothy Doherty '23

The varsity soccer team is looking to make one last push for the Big North United title, with the final three league games coming up in the following week. The Green Knights currently sit at 3-2 in their division, which is good for the second most wins in conference, trailing only rival Bergen Catholic. Their remaining games are against Paramus Catholic, Don Bosco, and the Crusaders.

This is a great opportunity for the Green Knights to close out the league year strong, and give themselves the chance to do something that hasn't been accomplished for over thirty years: winning the league title.

SJR's most recent league game, a 3-2 win over DePaul Catholic, proved to be the most exciting game of the season so far and completed a season sweep of the Spartans. Scoring came in bunches early on as goals by Dan Brennan '23 and Rocky Russo '23 put the Green Knights up 2-0 only ten minutes into the game.

However, DePaul answered with goals off a penalty

and free kick to even things up at 2-2 heading into halftime. The second half saw the two teams go back and forth for the first thirty minutes, with neither being able to produce a goal.

With about ten minutes left on the clock, the Green Knights made a strong push forward led by Russo and Nico Quintero '25 that led to Tim Doherty '23 putting the ball in the back of the net. The goal gave SJR a 3-2 lead, one that they would not relinquish the rest of the way.

Along with the final league games, the Green Knights are looking ahead to the state playoffs. Every game remaining can have an impact on the seeding of SJR in the difficult North Jersey, Non-Public A state bracket. The road ahead does not get any easier for the Green Knights, but they are certainly up for the challenge.



Tim Doherty '23 celebrates with Nico Quintero '25 and Louis Baldanza '23 after scoring a goal.



Sports

Offense and Defense Shine at MetLife



Mekhi Rossignol '25 scored two touchdown passes giving SJR a 13 point lead.

By Jake Persaud '23

The Green Knights headed to the Meadowlands Friday evening to face off against the Donovan Catholic Griffins in the Zone6ix High School Football Classic at MetLife Stadium. The first of two games, SJR entered the stadium ready to dominate, and that's what they did. St. Joe's took down Donovan Catholic 41-13 and went home with a 3-3 record.

Kickoff was at 5:30 PM. Donovan Catholic received the ball first. The scoring of the game began when quarterback Joey Gaston '25 threw the ball to wide receiver Mekhi Rossignol '25 for a 38-yard touchdown pass. With a successful PAT by kicker Marcos Ruiz '23, the Green Knights led 7-0 at the end of the first quarter. Gaston '25 threw the ball to Rossignol '25 again for a 40-yard touchdown pass. Although Ruiz's '23 PAT attempt was unsuccessful, SJR led 13-0.

Instead of Rossignol '25, Gaston '25 threw the ball to Jovon Williams '25 for a 54-yard touchdown pass. After a successful PAT by Ruiz '23, SJR led 20-0. Defensive back Makhi Jones '25 then blocked a punt return and scored a touchdown. With another successful PAT by Ruiz '23, St. Joe's led 27-0 at the half. In the third quarter, running back Yasin Willis '24 played defense for a bit and was able to score a 61-yard interception run. After a successful PAT by Ruiz '23, SJR led 34-0 at the end of the third quarter. To begin the fourth quar-

ter, Donovan Catholic running back Najee Calhoun ran for a 4-yard rushing touchdown. After a successful PAT by kicker Dante Priolo, SJR had a 34-7 lead. The score increased when John Forster '25 received the ball during kickoff and returned it for an 87-yard kickoff return. With another successful PAT by Ruiz '23, St. Joe's led 41-7. Towards the end of the fourth quarter, Calhoun ran for a 1-yard rushing touchdown. After a failed two-point attempt, the Green Knights won 41-13.

Gaston '25 had 146 passing yards, 3 touchdown passes, and 8 completions on 17 attempts, as well as 67 rushing yards on 8 carries. Terrance Sumter '24 recorded 1 rushing yard on 2 carries, as well as 3 receiving yards on 1 reception. Wide receiver Nathan Bailey '26 ran for 11 rushing yards on 1 carry, along with 7 receiving yards on 2 receptions. Willis '24 ran for 23 rushing yards on 5 carries and had 1 interception and an interception touchdown. Running back Alex Pavic '23 ran for 1 rushing yards on 1 carry. Running back Luke Tucci '23 ran for 3 rushing yards on 2 carries. Forster '25 ran for 47 rushing yards on 5 carries, 87 kick return yards and a kick return touchdown on 1 kick return. Rossignol '25 had 78 receiving yards and 2 touchdown receptions on 2 carries. Defensive end Jimmy Mullen '23 had 2.5 sacks, 3 tackles for loss, and 5 tackles. Linebacker Stanley Labady '23 recorded 1 sack. Ruiz '23 had 5 PATs made on 5 PAT attempts.

In total St. Joe's had 146 passing yards, 3 touchdown passes, and 8 completions on 17 attempts, 153 rushing yards on 24 carries, 146 receiving yards and 3 touchdown receptions on 8 receptions, 3.5 sacks, 3 tackles for loss, 5 total tackles, 1 interception, 1 interception touchdown, 87 kick return yards and 1 kick return touchdown on 1 kick return, and 5 PATs made on 5 PAT attempts.



Jahmir Joseph '25 tackles Zach La Barca.

Sports

Oradell Rivals Defeat SJR



The Green Knights at the start of the heated game against Bergen Catholic.

By Jake Persaud '23

The Green Knights took the field and faced the Bergen Catholic Crusaders in Montvale this Saturday. Being one of the biggest rivalries in North Jersey football and part of the Great American Rivalry Series, St. Joe's was packed with fans of both teams and had a large media presence broadcasting the game. Unfortunately, SJR didn't beat the top team in the state and fell 31-21 to the Crusaders, putting them back under .500 on the season.

Kickoff was at 1:00 PM. The scoring began when quarterback Dominic Campanile threw the ball to Quincy Porter for a 22-yard touchdown pass. After a successful PAT by kicker Guytano Bartolomeo, the Crusaders led 7-0. The Crusaders struck again when running back Saeed St. Fleur ran for a 5-yard rushing touchdown. After Bartolomeo's successful PAT, SJR trailed 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Green Knights began the scoring in the second quarter when quarterback Joey Gaston '25 threw the ball to John Forster '25 for a 57-yard touchdown pass. After a successful PAT by kicker Marcos Ruiz '23, St. Joe's was down 14-7. Unfortunately, Bergen Catholic was able to score again when Campanile passed the ball to tight end and fullback Jack Comeau for a 6-yard touchdown pass. With another successful PAT by Bartolomeo, the Crusaders led 21-7. Bergen Catholic in-

creased their lead when Bartolomeo kicked the ball for a 24-yard field goal, making the score 24-7. Their lead went up once again when Campanile threw the ball to wide receiver Christian Carti for a 5-yard touchdown pass. With another successful PAT by Bartolomeo, the Crusaders led 31-7. SJR tightened the gap a bit when Gaston '25 ran the ball for a 4-yard rushing touchdown. After a successful PAT by Ruiz '23, St. Joe's trailed 31-14 at the half. After no score change in the third quarter, the fourth quarter contained one score change when Gaston '25 passed the ball to wide receiver Donovan McKoy '23 for a 14-yard touchdown pass. After a successful PAT by Ruiz '23, SJR tightened the gap a bit. Unfortunately, with no more score changes in the game, the Crusaders ran away with a 31-21 win, leaving the Green Knights with a 3-4 record on the season.

Gaston '25 recorded 248 passing yards, 2 touchdown passes, 3 interceptions, and 9 completions on 20 attempts, as well as 14 rushing yards and 1 rushing touchdown on 7 carries. Yasin Willis '24 had 43 rushing yards on 15 carries. Running back Luke Tucci '23 had 1 rushing yard on 2 carries and 18 kick return yards on 1 kick return. Forster '25 recorded 6 rushing yards on 3 carries, and 75 receiving yards as well as 1 touchdown reception on 3 receptions. Wide receiver Mekhi Rossignol '25 recorded 77 receiving yards on 2 receptions. McKoy '23 recorded 14 receiving yards and 1 touchdown reception on 1 reception. Jovon Williams '25 had 76 receiving yards on 2 receptions. Wide receiver Nathan Bailey '26 had 6 receiving yards on 1 reception. Linebacker Cooper Kurtz '23 recorded 1 fumble recovery. Defensive end Jimmy Mullen '23 had 1 sack. Defensive back Makhi Jones '25 had 1 forced fumble and 5 punt return yards on 1 punt return. Ruiz '23 had 3 PATs made on 3 PAT attempts.

In total the team had 11 first downs, 248 passing yards, 2 touchdown passes, 3 interceptions, and 9 completions on 20 attempts, 64 rushing yards and 1 rushing touchdown on 27 carries, 248 receiving yards and 2 touchdown receptions on 9 receptions, 1 sack, 1 forced fumble, 1 fumble recovery, 5 punt return yards on 1 punt return, 18 kickoff return yards on 1 kickoff, 3 PATs made on 3 PAT attempts, 120 punting yards on 4 punts, 2 fumbles and 1 fumble lost.

The Green Knights will head to West Orange, NJ to play the Seton Hall Prep Pirates. The last time both teams played each other was on October 10, 2020 at SJR when St. Joe's won 49-21 over the Pirates.



Sports

SJR Competes in the Big North Championship Meet



Jeffrey Guteratne '23 participating in the championship meet.

By Fintan Henry '23

The Green Knights had a big training gap between their league meet on September 13th and their Big North Championship Meet on September 29.

While Coach DeVito has been satisfied with the previous performances of the runners early in the season, he knew that they had not reached their full potential. He hoped to see a majority of the team members shave off time in their next race.

The Green Knights took on two weeks of tough training in preparation for the Big North Championship meet with this goal in mind.

By focusing on speed work, as well as endurance-based workouts, the team was able to prepare for the season's biggest competition against the four other schools in the conference: Bergen Catholic, Don Bosco, DePaul, Paramus Catholic.

As September 29th rolled around, it became apparent that it would be one of the best days to participate in the outdoor running. The weather was the perfect temperature to compete in. Going into the race, the hope was to

edge out the bottom two schools to make it into the top 3 of the league.

The Green Knights brought their "A game" that Thursday and almost every runner beat their previous record best. Particularly strong performances came from Alex Naddeo who beat his previous time by two minutes and Jack Laux, who finished just over the 21 minute mark. On the freshman level, Darren Coyle led the pack for the Green Knights, finishing the 2900 meter course in just under 10 minutes.

This was a spectacular jump for the individual members of the team to all achieve their personal best records.

Although the runners did well personally, unfortunately SJR came up short in the league standings. The Green Knights are looking to top their previous records at the Bergen County Group Championship on October 15. They have a similar gap between their last and next race where they will be training hard in the following weeks.



The Green Knights training for their championship meet.