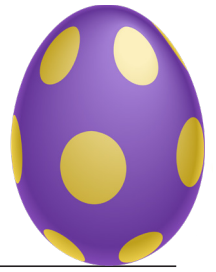


The Guardian



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Saint Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, NJ

Thursday, April 14th, 2022

The True Importance of the Easter Season



On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, commemorating the saving of our sins and His offer of salvation to us.

By Ryan Tobin '22

Palm Sunday has officially kicked off Holy Week this year, in which people come together to celebrate the religious importance of Easter. Contrary to popular opinion, Easter isn't just about a mystical bunny and gift-filled eggs. Easter is known, in the Catholic Church, as the day Jesus rose from the dead, "the Third Day" after His death. The Holy Week before Easter consists of Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

All of these dates have major significance in the death and Resurrection of Christ. Many people recognize Easter as a celebration within the Catholic Church, but they often don't know what the week preceding it means. As the week officially starts today, here's what you need to know.

Palm Sunday celebrates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem. At this time, Jesus was greeted by the public's waving of palm branches. This day symbolizes the entrance of Jesus into our souls and reminds us to both welcome Him into our hearts and to follow Him willingly.

Holy Wednesday is known as the day of the betrayal. On this day, Judas Iscariot, the Apostle who betrayed Jesus, was arranging the arrest of Jesus with the Sanhedrin.

Maundy Thursday, which kicks off the Catholic season of Triduum (three days), commemorates the washing of the feet, as well as Jesus' last meal in the form of the Last Supper. At the meal, Jesus revealed that He knew one of His Apostles would betray Him, and He told Peter that he would deny Him three times.

On Good Friday, the second day of the Triduum, we remember Jesus' Passion and crucifixion. Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, as Judas kissed Him on the cheek and turned Him over to the Roman authorities. From the time of His arrest to His death, Christ was flogged, wore a crown of thorns, was heckled by the public, and was forced to carry the heavy cross He would be crucified on. On Good Friday, Christians fast all day, while some also attend a Mass or prayer service.

The Triduum of Holy Week ends on Holy Saturday, the day when Jesus rested in His tomb. On this day, Christians attend a late night two-part Easter Church service.

On the third day, Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. The guard who was in charge of watching Christ's tomb never saw Him escape. However, when he checked the tomb, which was both open and empty. After Jesus rose, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene. He also appeared to all the disciples on the mountain of Galilee. Easter, as well as the week preceding it, are very important because they fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, depicted the revelation of God's plan for salvation through Jesus' sacrifice to save us. Along with Jesus died the negativity of death, and rose the hope of salvation.

People celebrate Easter in many different ways, the most common being going to Easter Sunday Mass. Others decorate, hide, and search for Easter eggs as they get involved in the more colorful aspect of the holiday. However you celebrate the holiest day of the year, one thing is for sure - it is most certainly a celebration. So this Wednesday, as we depart from school, remember the significance of the next five days and celebrate them wholeheartedly.

Feature

60 Years, 60 Things About St. Joe's



The first turf field was installed at SJR in 2003 as part of the Profiles in Excellence Capital Campaign.

By Barry Donnelly '71

31. On April 12, 1992, John Flaherty '85 made his major league debut with the Boston Red Sox. He would play 1,047 MLB games in his 13-year career.

32. In 1996, Tim Morabito became the first SJR grad to play in the NFL. The defensive tackle played 55 games over five seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals and the Carolina Panthers.

33. In 1999, SJR captured the first of seven consecutive Group 3 state football titles in an unprecedented "seven-peat."

34. In 2002, Michael Riccardi '02 tossed his perfect 300 game in the B.C.C.A. championship, the first Bergen County bowler ever to do so; freshman Michael Dulisse also threw a 300 game in December 1987 and was named "Athlete of the Week."

35. In 2003, the "Profiles in Excellence" capital campaign began. The \$3.5 million it raised provided for the installation of the turf field, the construction of the field-house, and the renovation of the second floor chemistry lab and Inserra Theater.

36. In 2004, Vincent Ciurciu '98 became the first Green Knight to play in the Super Bowl. Ciurciu's Carolina Panthers ultimately dropped a 32-29 game to the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

37. In 2005, the SJR performing arts program was select-

ed to pilot the first ever high school performance of the Tony-winning musical Miss Saigon. The production led to the "high school edition" of the show that is now performed nationally.

38. In 2006, SJR's production of Curtains was named "Best High School Musical" by the Metropolitan High School Theater Award program.

39. In 2008, the St. Joe's production of West Side Story was named one of five "High School Show-Dtoppers" by the USA Today's Weekend magazine.

40. That same year, SJR introduced its spring play with The Crucible, which earned a "Best Classical Drama" award from the Montclair State Theater Award program.

41. In 2009, SJR was featured on FOX Five's Good Morning New York program. The performing arts program appeared again later that year to promote a new season of FOX's American Idol.

42. On April 1, 2010, SJR took on Delbarton in the Frozen Flashback hockey game. Twenty-two years later, the two teams "played" the 1988 state championship game that got canceled because of a measles epidemic. Delbarton won 3-2, and the sold out event raised some \$200,000 for cancer research.

43. In 2010, Devin McCourty '05 was selected in the first round of the NFL draft by the New England Patriots. He has gone on to win three Super Bowl rings, one with his brother, Jason '05, in 2018.

44. On May 31, 2011, Governor Chris Christie flew in on a helicopter to check out the baseball game between SJR and Delbarton (his son played for the Green Wave).

45. During the summer of 2011, SJR transformed the school's library into a new Media Center and installed hundreds of solar panels on the school's roof.

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

The Guardian Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Nicholas Steinhauser

Managing Editors: Shane Brennan, Saul Garcia, Jaden Hernandez, Aidan Woods

Entertainment Editor: Ashton Samson

Sports Editors: Timothy Doherty, Rob Egan, Jake Persaud

Photographers: Tanner Kurtz, Luis Saenz

Staff Writers: Thomas Brennan, TJ Carvelli, Michael D'Eletto, Michael Mainelli, Conor Mahoney, Ryan Tobin

Moderator: Mr. FitzSimons

Feature

60 Years, 60 Things About St. Joe's



St. Joe's held a carnival fundraiser in 1995.

46. From 2011 to 2018, SJR completed more than \$3,000,000 in renovations to its science labs, gymnasium, locker rooms, wrestling room, football field, and rehearsal stage.

47. In October 2011, the "Fifty Golden Moments in SJR Sports" were announced to coincide with SJR's 50th Anniversary. The 1969 track team's accomplishments were chosen as the top ranked "moment."

48. In December 2011, the performing arts program hosted its "Fiftieth Anniversary Alumni Concert," featuring a host of alumni performers from SJR's theater program.

49. In May of 2012, SJR celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with a Mass and reception celebrated by Superintendent of Schools, Monsignor Kevin Hanbury.

50. On October 27, 2012, St. Joe's celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a Gala at the Pearl River Hilton. The following day, Hurricane Sandy struck, closing school for a week.

51. In the 2013 Major League Baseball draft, Rob Kaminsky '13 was selected in the first round by the St. Louis Cardinals.

52. In June of 2013, SJR's class valedictorian was James Leonard, who scored a 2390 out of 2400 on the SATs and was an AP Scholar, Scholar of the Year, Presidential Scholar,

and National Merit finalist. His brothers, Chris ('07) and Joseph ('12), were also SJR Valedictorians, AP Scholars, Scholars of the Year, and National Merit Finalists before him.

53. In 2015, Nick Berninger was named "Best Actor in a Lead Role" by the Papermill Playhouse Rising Star Awards for his role as "Chris" in Miss Saigon.

54. In 2016, Tom LaStella '07 was part of the Chicago Cubs team that won its first World Series.

55. In 2016, the SJR chorus performed at Carnegie Hall with the Cross Border Irish Orchestra.

56. In 2021, Patrick Kivlehan '08 became the first and only SJR athlete to take home an Olympic medal when the United States baseball team captured a silver medal in the "2020" Olympic games (delayed because of the Covid 19 pandemic) in Tokyo.

57. West Side Story is the most popular show in the history of the SJR theater program, having been performed four times on the SJR stage. Cabaret has been done three times.

58. Fifteen SJR graduates have played at least one regular season game in a professional athletic league (MLB, NFL, NHL or MLS).

59. There have been 75 SJR Athletes of the Week over the past 60 years. 24 have been football players, 16 have played baseball, 12 were wrestlers, and the rest were from a variety of programs.

60. In June 2022, SJR will celebrate the graduation of its 8,000th student.



Mr. Richard Shust presents Brother Peter Russell with a gift on the occasion of Brother's retirement in 1993. The two men are, perhaps, the most iconic figures in school history.



News

Ketanji Brown Jackson Makes Waves as Potential New Supreme Court Justice



Ketanji Brown Jackson could potentially be a new member of SCOTUS in the coming months.

By Jaden Hernandez '22

On February 25th, 2022, Ketanji Brown Jackson was nominated to become the 116th Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) by President Joe Biden. Jackson would be replacing now-retired Justice Stephen Breyer. The makeup of the court would still be 6-3 in favor of the conservative justices, because Jackson, a liberal judge, would fill the vacancy created by Justice Breyer, who is also a liberal judge.

Jackson was born in Washington, D.C., but she grew up in Miami, Florida. Both of her parents were teachers in the Miami-Dade Public School System. Eventually, they became powerful figures within the school system, and her father attended law school.

Jackson distinctly remembers the moment when her interest in law began: she was in preschool, and her father was in law school. In this time period, Jackson remembers the times when her father was doing his law homework, including reading cases & having answers for Socratic questioning. While he did this, she was doing her preschool homework, such as coloring books.

In high school, Jackson was adamant about wanting to attend Harvard and getting into Harvard Law School. Her guidance counselor thought that Harvard was a reach for her, and told her to not set her sights that high. In response, she not only got admitted into Harvard, but graduated *magna cum laude*, which means that she received high academic recognition. She also got admitted into Harvard

Law School, was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and graduated *cum laude* again.

Jackson started her professional career by working in the U.S. Sentencing Commission, which was where Justice Breyer, her apprentice, also started. In 2009, she was nominated by President Barack Obama to become the Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. In 2012, Jackson was nominated again by President Obama to become a district court judge for the U.S. District Court for D.C. In 2021, she was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. by President Biden. Throughout her career, she was also Justice Breyer's law clerk, which allowed her to more closely understand the role of a SCOTUS justice.

During March 2022, Ketanji Brown Jackson underwent questioning by the Senate in order to discern if she is qualified to sit on the Supreme Court. The questioning is also intended to convince senators to vote for or deny her confirmation based on the information procured.

Within the final week of March, Conservative Senator Susan Collins from Maine decided that she would vote for the confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson. This is momentous because if the confirmation vote were to be split along party lines (50-50), Senator Collins's decision would make it 51-49. If this were to happen, Jackson would become the 116th Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and the first African American woman to serve on the high court.

I do not see an issue with nominating Jackson to the high court. If a person is qualified to do something, they should have a fair chance to get the job. If Ketanji Brown Jackson objectively has the poise, experience, and skills to handle the job as a Supreme Court justice, she should get it, regardless of her political views.



If Jackson gets chosen, she will become the 116th Associate Justice of SCOTUS.

News

Saul's Corner - The Venezuela and Colombia Crisis



Nicolás Maduro, the President of Venezuela, has caused many problems for the Venezuelans and Colombians.

By Saul Garcia '22

Since the second half of 2021, Venezuela has suffered from political and economic instability. Since the President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, proposed the 2017 Venezuelan Constituent Assembly, he has been labeled as a dictator in the free world with strong sanctions held against his country.

Since 2017, over 90% of Venezuelan households have been under the poverty line, with a third of the population food either insecure or malnourished. Under the President's leadership, thousands of extrajudicial executions were carried out, and some speculate them to be state instruments of repression. Maduro has established new policies that have led to the worst humanitarian crisis in the Americas.

Venezuela has a rivalry with its neighboring country, Colombia. In 2015 and 2016, Maduro deported thousands of Colombians back to their native country. He also closed the border for most vehicles traveling between Colombia and Venezuela in 2015, closed it for virtually all vehicles in 2018, and finally reopened it in October 2021 after local persuasion.

During this period, armed Venezuelan dissidents trained in Colombia failed to overthrow the Maduro administration under leadership from a private American company, Silvercorp USA. The Venezuelan government blamed the Drug Enforcement Administration, which charged Maduro

for narco-terrorism in the United States and the Colombian government for supporting the dissidents. The United States has supported some of these humanitarian convoys en route to Venezuela, but most were blocked during the border closure.

Since it was difficult to cross the Venezuelan-Colombian border, many migrants relied on gangs and militias through "trochas," which are informal crossings mostly leading to the Colombian border city of Cúcuta. Colombia's only rebel group, the National Liberation Army (2500 active members), and dissidents from the demobilized Armed Forces of Colombia (5000 of the 18,000 former members remain armed) work on both sides of the border.

There is plenty of crossfire between criminal gangs and armed groups for drug trafficking routes and illegal mining. Illegal mining (mostly alluvial gold production) brings environmental damage to Colombia's biodiversity because deposits leave mercury and toxins that make the water not potable. Colombia is still the world's greatest producer of cocaine, with Venezuela being the largest distributor to Europe. Colombian President Iván Duque and Maduro accuse each other of supporting drug trafficking in their countries.

Families crossing the Colombian-Venezuela border occasionally get stuck in the violence, even after Colombia sent 14,000 soldiers to the border once it reopened. In January, a truce ended between the National Liberation Army and the Joint Eastern Command. Due to this, 3300 Venezuelan civilians were abducted/assassinated, and 3800 Colombian civilians were displaced in the past two months. Members involved in the fighting typically call civilians by name, arrive at their homes, and tie them up to traffic or kill them. Venezuela claims that it is trying to stop human trafficking in the bordering state of Apure.

In the past several years, more than 5.6 million Venezuelans migrated to Colombia in "one of the largest external displacement crises in the world," according to the United Nations. Colombia has granted temporary legal status for Venezuelans to work there. Other Venezuelans cross Colombia and travel through Central America to arrive in the United States.

Many Venezuelans who illegally arrive in the United States take flights to Mexico, and then cross the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. In response to this, Mexico tightened its Venezuelan visa requirements. Last December, the U.S. Customs and Border Control encountered 13,000 single Venezuelan adults (24,819 Venezuelans altogether). Those who have been arrested for illegal immigration are sent to Colombia if they previously settled there. Many fled Venezuela in hopes of a better life away from the crisis.

Senior Service Day



SJR's Senior Service Day took place on March 17th.

Counter-Clockwise from top right;

(From left to right) Kai Alberto '22, Emmanuel Bernard '22, Alexander Calandrillo '22, Emanuel Meade '22, and Van Ting '22 working for Habitat for Humanity in Morris County;

SJR seniors posing in front of the Community Food Bank in Hillside, where they performed their service;

A group of seniors went to help Deacon Joseph Sisco and his wife at St. Peter's in Bellville;

Ryan Asselta '94 and a group of seniors performed their service at Camp Acorn in Allendale;

Angel Colon '22 playing catch with an individual at Camp Acorn.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



Junior Service Day



SJR's First Junior Service Day took place on March 22nd.

Clockwise from top left;

Dylan Nazario '23 and Deacon Joseph Sisco posing together while cleaning the establishment;

The juniors were tasked with preparing these boxes for shipment;

A worker at the community food bank showing the juniors how to help out;

A group of juniors posing together to celebrate their hard work on this service trip;

Once the work was completed, the Community Food Bank had ordered piles of boxes ready for shipment.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



SJR Baseball - Florida Trip



The SJR baseball team played in a Florida tournament from March 18th to March 22nd.

Counter-Clockwise from top right;

Chad Falcon '23 smiling in the Florida sunshine;

Julian Rondon '23 pitching a ball on the mound;

Felix Gonzalez '23 blocking the plate for a fine out;

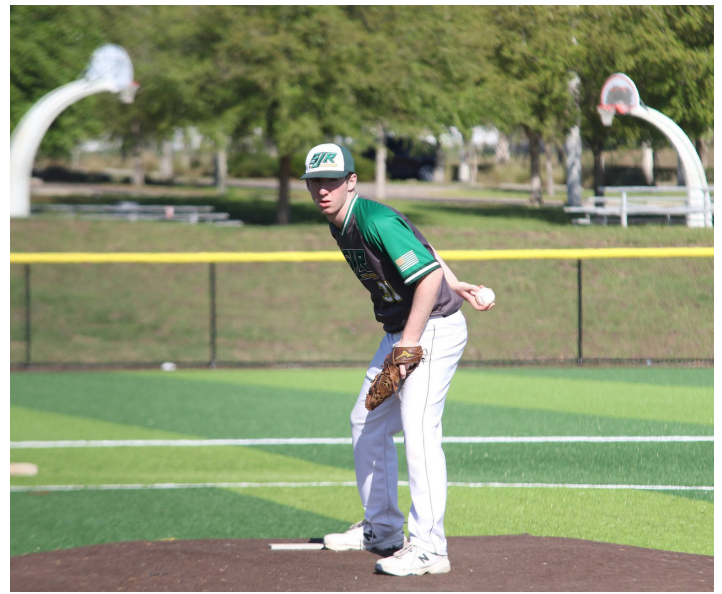
Jake Merz '24 trying to make contact with the ball;

Jack Smiechowski '22 swinging for the ball on the plate.

All photos by Karyn Ochiuzzo



SJR Baseball - Florida Trip



The SJR baseball team played in a Florida tournament from March 18th to March 22nd.

Clockwise from top left;

Jack Smiechowski ready to face the competition in Florida;

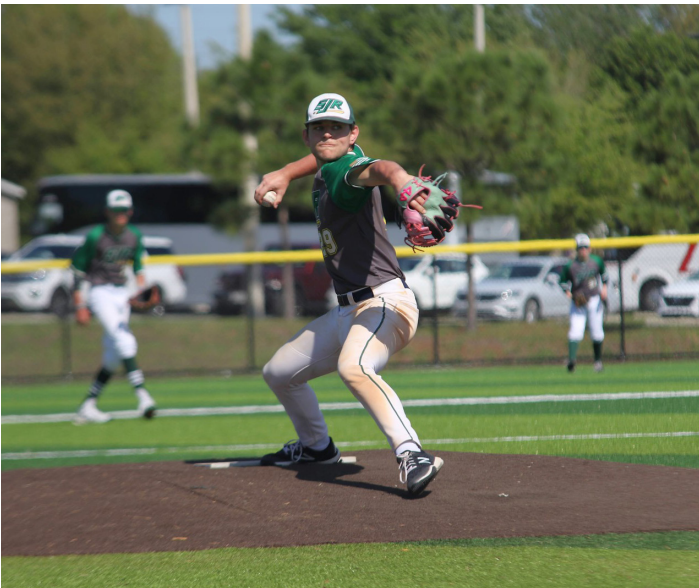
Michael Mainelli '24 ready to throw the ball down the plate;

Felix Gonzalez and Ryan Foody '23 talking strategies on the mound;

Luca Manganelli '24 throwing a pitch on the mound;

Members of the baseball team eating together in Florida.

All photos by Karyn Ochiuzzo



Student Life

Juniors Given Opportunity to Give Back in the New Junior Service Day!



Photo by Barry Donnelly '71

throughout the Junior Service Day. The Community Food Bank staff member who led the project asked them to think about what their lives would be like if they were on the "other side" of the boxes.

It helped the Green Knights realize how fortunate they truly are, and they realized how they should continue giving back to those in need.

They were also able to appreciate the amount of work that the Community Food Bank employees do.

The Green Knights got down and dirty preparing boxes for the homeless, providing them with a great experience about what it means to be men of service.

By Timothy Doherty '23

On March 22, 2022, a group of twenty-eight juniors from St. Joe's participated in a junior service trip to the Community Food Bank in Hillside, New Jersey. The students were accompanied by Deacon Joseph Sisco, Mr. Bruno, and Mr. Odierno, who helped them with providing the food bank with water. The Green Knights folded boxes, packed up gallons of bottles of water, and then weighed and marked the boxes, which each weighed between 43 and 50 pounds.

When all of the work was completed, 336 boxes and roughly 15,000 pounds of water were packed and ready to be shipped out. Deacon Joe commented on the hard work from the juniors, "I have never been so proud of a group of volunteers like I was at the Community Food Bank."

The SJR students learned many important lessons

Everyone was tired after two hours of work, but the Community Food Bank employees do that every single day, for several hours. The Junior Service Day was an eye-opening experience for everyone involved, and the juniors are excited to perform more service in the future.



Photo by Barry Donnelly '71

The juniors had a great time offering service at the Community Food Bank to those in need.

Entertainment

March Madness Recap: A Year to Remember



Coach Mike Krzyzewski, coach of the Duke University basketball team for 41 years, sadly retired after this year's March Madness.

By Aidan Woods '22

March Madness this year was one to remember. St. Peter's University made a run that will go down in basketball history. Coach Mike Krzyzewski finished his last March Madness season. Four iconic teams made it to the Final Four. March Madness this year had millions of viewers, with many iconic events that kept people attracted.

St. Peter's University, a private New Jersey university that was the 15th seed in the March Madness Bracket, won the hearts of so many people across the United States. Their run began with a win against one of the title favorites, University of Kentucky. Kentucky was one of the best teams in the nation for the regular basketball season, and all of the fans were stunned to see them lose to St. Peter's. Doug Edert is an outstanding three point shooter who became a hero among Americans because of his mustache. Although he played for the St. Peter's peacocks this season, he recently transferred to play for the Bryant Bulldogs next year.

Next up for St. Peter's were the Murray State Roadrunners. Murray State University had only lost two games in the regular season and were big time favorites against St. Peter's. The St. Peter's Peacocks had no fear of Murray State and went in with the same mentality they had against Kentucky.

The Peacocks shocked the world again and became the third 15th seed to make it to the Sweet Sixteen in tournament history.

Their next opponents were the Purdue Boilermakers, led by future NBA guard Jaden Ivey. Once again, the Peacocks were the underdogs and played terrific defense, shocking the world again with another triumphant win.

With this victory, the Peacocks made history as the only 15th seed to make it to the Elite Eight. This was due to both the spectacular coaching by Shaheen Holloway and the incredible determination from the players. Their run unfortunately ended in the Elite Eight, when they lost to the North Carolina Tar Heels.

This March Madness also marked the final season of Coach Mike Krzyzewski, who coached at Duke University for 41 years. At one point, he tried to recruit Michael Jordan to attend Duke, but he chose the North Carolina Tar Heels instead. Krzyzewski had a legendary career at Duke, becoming the most successful basketball coach of all time with over 1,200 wins. He won five National Championships in his tenure at Duke, but unfortunately couldn't secure another one in his final season as head coach.

Duke played University of North Carolina (UNC), their longtime rival in arguably the biggest rivalry in sports. It was a tight game throughout, but North Carolina was just able to squeak their way into the National Championship game over Duke.

The Final Four is when the intensity of March Madness is at its highest. The Final Four this year (Duke, UNC, University of Kansas, and Villanova University), usually make it this far. This was also the first time Duke and UNC had ever played against each other in the history of March Madness, and the game did not disappoint. On the other hand, the game between Villanova and Kansas wasn't as close, since Villanova was never able to recover from a ten-point deficit at the beginning.

The matchup for the championship game was UNC vs. Kansas. First year head coach of UNC Hubert Davis was not expected to lead his team to the National Championship, but he defied the odds. Bill Self was in his nineteenth year as the head coach of Kansas and is also in the Hall of Fame. The championship was a spectacular game as Kansas beat UNC, overcoming a 15-point halftime deficit.

March Madness certainly did not disappoint this year in terms of excitement and upsets, and millions of people are already looking forward to next year's college basketball season!

Entertainment

A Lover of Film Decodes the Worst Moments of the Oscars



Will Smith slapping Chris Rock became a highlight at this year's Oscars, but for the wrong reasons.

By Ashton Samson '23

Before disaster struck the 94th Oscars ceremony on March 27th, things seemed to be going well. Ariana Debose won a well-deserved Best Supporting Actress award for her show stopping performance as Anita in Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*. Debose delivered a sincere speech about the importance of minority representation with eloquence and articulation, impressive for a young actress who had never won an Oscar before.

Other highlights scattered throughout included Jane Campion's Best Director win for *The Power of the Dog*; she is only the third woman after Kathryn Bigelow for *The Hurt Locker* and Chloe Zhao for *Nomadland* to win an Oscar for directing. Billie Eilish won for Best Song, which was well-deserved.

Perhaps the most crowd-pleasing moments of the evening were the reunions of John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, and Uma Thurman for the 28th Anniversary of *Pulp Fiction*, and Francis Ford Coppola, Al Pacino and Robert De Niro for the 50th Anniversary of *The Godfather*. These events captured genuine celebrations of the industry's best films and an appropriate awarding of Oscars. However, this aspect of the Academy Awards is unfortunately becoming less important to a portion of society that finds time spent on the hosts, poor jokes, unnecessary skits, and physical altercations more entertaining.

In analyzing Oscar ceremonies from their inception in 1929

to the early 2000s, it seems that dispensable and humorless hosts have only recently become a popular facet of the Oscars. I am unsure of why anyone considered it a good idea to waste valuable time on comedic acts, when the focus should be on lengthier acceptance speeches. During this year's ceremony, the three hosts seemed to be a nuisance more than ever before. Perhaps this is because it is the first time in three years that there has been a host.

I personally believe that the 91th, 92nd, and 93rd Oscars ran more smoothly without the inclusion of hosts, but it was instead decided to have three this year. The time spent on the hosts is especially ironic considering the moronic decision to film mercilessly short acceptance speeches for categories in an attempt to shorten the show when, in reality, the ceremony ended up being one of the longest ever.

Aside from some decent jokes, the coronavirus-centric humor was inappropriate and insensitive; a virus that has killed millions of people and caused exceptional suffering should not be the center of jokes. A skit related to the pandemic that revolved around patting down men for COVID-19 was bizarre, especially considering that if women were being felt up by men, pandemonium would break loose. Watching longer speeches, as well as highlights from past films, would have been a much better use of time, bringing the ceremony back to what it is always supposed to represent.

Will Smith assaulting Chris Rock was the most reckless and childish behavior to have ever occurred at the Oscars. Both Rock's entirely uncalled-for joke and Smith's violent response point to the hypocrisy that exists even in Hollywood. The Academy Awards have historically been a beacon of love and inclusivity; for a crude joke to be told about someone's wife and for violence to ensue would always be contrary to the purpose of the Oscars, especially since this year's ceremony was titled "Movie Lovers Unite." This was anything but a representation of unity.

For many years, I was foolish in assuming that the film industry was populated by genuine filmmakers and must be immune to people who go against its clearly defined principles. This event shows that I was wrong. Additionally, the Academy's decision not to remove Smith or cut Rock's speech reflect a lack of judgment. Even more appalling was watching the audience members give Smith a standing ovation for the Best Actor award for *King Richard*. Witnessing the "movie lovers," who represent unity and love, supporting a man who was, at that moment, the opposite of all they have worked so hard to symbolize was deeply unsettling. The world of Hollywood will never be the same again.

Sports

SJR Baseball Team Starts Season Off Strong



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

The players and coaches of the baseball team were treated with a luxurious dinner at Florida.

By Michael Mainelli '24

The Saint Joseph Regional Baseball Team is coming off of one of the best baseball seasons in New Jersey History. After starting out with a 20-0 record, the team finished 27-2 last year and won the league, the county, and the state championships. It was the first team to win the triple crown in New Jersey in over 15 years. Despite losing nineteen seniors from the 2022 season, the SJR baseball team is hoping to repeat its success from last year.

This year's team will be led by a group of both new and familiar faces. A returning player to the team is Angel Colon '22, who served a pivotal role in last year's triple crown by hitting a 0.300 average in the season. Another returning starter is Nick Martinez '23, the former Florida International University commit who led the team in RBIs last year, with 36. Casey Knuckles '22 and Shane Comer '22 were both consistent

on the mound last year, and they hope to perform even better this year with more important roles.

This year's new faces consist of students who spent last year on the JV team and those who transferred from other schools. Chad Falcon '23, a Don Bosco transfer, is going to be a large factor both in the batter's box and on the mound. Jeffrey Germosen '24 is a sophomore transfer from North Rockland High School and will be a two-way player for the team, like Falcon.

Felix Gonzalez '23, who will be an important catcher for the season, and Matt Fernandez

'22, who will be playing in the outfield, both spent last year on the JV team. However, this year, they are track for greater success for their first varsity season.

The SJR baseball team has started the year off with a 4-0 record and have shown no signs of slowing down. Good luck to the team for the rest of the season!



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

The SJR varsity baseball team traveled to Florida for a tournament and posed for a team photo.