

The Guardian

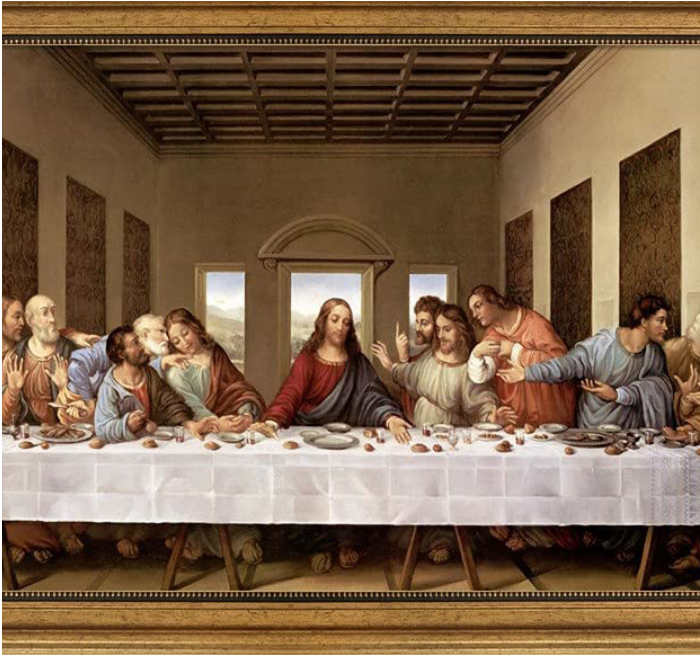


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The True Meaning of Thanksgiving



The Last Supper was very similar to modern Thanksgiving celebrations in the sense that Jesus and His Apostle gathered around the table and offered thanks to each other.

By Michael D'Eletto '22

Thanksgiving this year falls on Thursday, November 25th. After almost two challenging years of the pandemic, now seems like an ideal opportunity to take some time to think about the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

As we join together with friends and families at tables overflowing with food and the noise of football playing in the background, it can be easy to look past the meaning of the holiday. We shouldn't let those things overshadow this Thanksgiving as a day for gratitude. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

With all the difficulties people have faced these past 20 months, being able to spend time with family is absolutely a reason to celebrate and be thankful. When we stop to give thanks, as many of us do before beginning our Thanksgiving feasts, it is a way of opening ourselves and acknowledging how much our families, teachers, coaches, and faith help us every day. Thanksgiving should also be a reminder for us to show our thankfulness through action by helping others.

Historically, Thanksgiving is a day to praise and thank God

for his blessings, and that is no accident. As G.K. Chesterton, a famous English writer and theologian, once said, "the worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank."

Thanksgiving has never been just a speed bump between Halloween and Christmas. Traditionally, it is regarded as a national day to repent for our shortcomings over the year, as well as a day of joy and celebration with family.

Thanksgiving dates all the way back to the time of Jesus, when pausing before a celebratory gathering to give thanks for our blessings was nothing new. This can be seen through the Last Supper, when Jesus and His Apostles gathered around the table to give thanks and praise for what they had. "Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied" (Matthew 15:36-37).

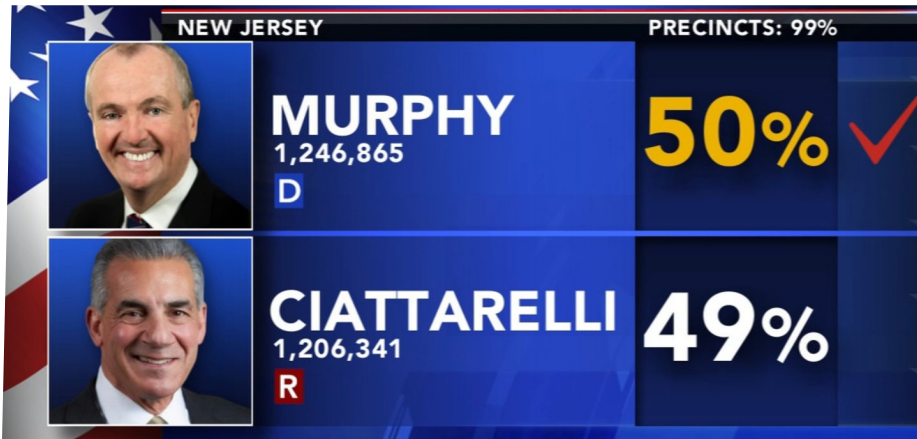
Even though you should enjoy the football and basketball games, the good food, and the time with loved ones, don't let Thanksgiving end without spending a little time thinking about the holiday's true meaning. This year, when sitting at the dinner table and saying what you are thankful for, surprise those around you by telling them the things you are really thankful for and expressing your gratitude with those around you.



The cornucopia has always been a staple feature of Thanksgiving that symbolizes a bountiful and abundant harvest.

News

NJ Governor Election Results in Close Outcome



The New Jersey gubernatorial election results were extremely close, with Democrat Phil Murphy barely claiming the victory.

By Jaden Hernandez '22

On November 12th, 2021, the New Jersey gubernatorial (governor) race concluded through the concession of Republican candidate Jack Ciattarelli to the incumbent Democratic candidate Phil Murphy.

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic began, politics has invaded every facet of American life. There have been debates, both personal and constitutional, about science and education. For science, the debates have been about vaccines, but more specifically the COVID-19 vaccines and mandates surrounding them. For education, the debates have been about in-person learning vs. virtual learning, along with mask mandates.

Vaccines have become a contentious topic over the past two years. Back in 2020, Operation Warp Speed was enacted by former President Donald Trump. Its purpose was to “warp speed” and produce a safe, effective, and viable COVID-19 vaccine through a public-private sector partnership. The government partnered with pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna to make a vaccine, which was completed in December 2020. Under President Biden, marketing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine has increased dramatically. Liberal people have echoed Biden’s call, while conservative people have generally refuted the idea of getting or being forced to get the vaccine.

The issue is that scientifically, the arguments made are either that the vaccines are safe and effective, or the vaccines are rushed and cause more harm than good. This is the crux that centers the problem of a vaccine mandate, whether it be in schools, businesses, or in general. Some people have declined to get the vaccine in fear of the potential side dangerous effects. Constitutionally, vaccine mandates have been argued to be either completely legal, or illegal. Cur-

rently, many universities have vaccine mandates, with some businesses and cities. Federally, a vaccine mandate has been put on halt by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. This federal mandate would require businesses with more than 100 employees to be vaccinated, or deal with regular testing. These ideals are a big portion of the identities of these two candidates; Phil Murphy symbolizes a continuation of current policies, vaccine mandates, and mask mandates; Jack Ciattarelli symbolizes a break of current policies, with the right to choose whether

er you want to get the vaccine, and whether you want to wear a mask to your school, job, or business.

As for the two types of learning in schools, there has been some agreement between Democrats and Republicans. Phil Murphy outlawed full-time virtual learning, meaning that schools cannot have students sit on Zoom or Google Meet for eight hours a day, five days a week. This used to be a contentious point during the 2020-2021 school year in America because students across the country were not getting the education they needed. Now, both parties believe that in-person learning is what is best for students right now. So, the difference between these two candidates was their view of mask mandates.

In the end, this race was much closer than expected, with Phil Murphy squeaking by with a 74,000 vote lead ten days after the election. This narrow victory, in conjunction with Republican Glenn Youngkin winning the Virginia gubernatorial race, spells gloom and doom for Democrats in the 2022 midterms. New Jersey and Virginia are two states that, in this current day and age, should be Democratic locks, but these gubernatorial outcomes prove that the political climate of this country is shifting again.

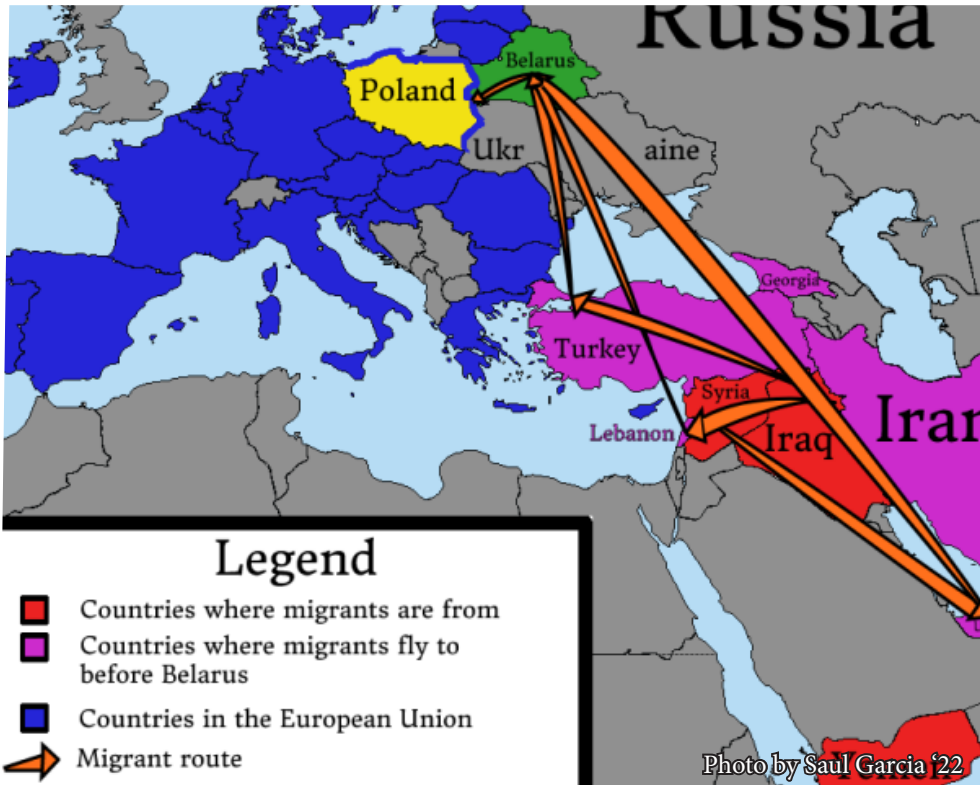
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News

Saul's Corner - Poland's Border Crisis



The refugees went to Belarus specifically because they thought it would be easy to sneak from there into Poland and live in the European Union (EU), but reality has proven otherwise. Hundreds have spent weeks camping in forests with freezing temperatures to get into the country. They had violent confrontations with both Polish and Belorussian authorities. Some were physically assaulted by Belorussian border guards to illegally enter Poland. At the border, clashes between Polish border control and migrants involved Polish police spraying migrants with water cannons, foreigners throwing rocks and firecrackers at them, both sides using tear gas, and occasional gunfire. So far, two border camps were cleared by Belarus, and the migrants have been taken to a warehouse less than a quarter of a mile from the border, where they are provided medical treatment and one free meal per day.

This is a visual map of the Poland border, showing the routes that the migrants took to Belarus and other nations.

By Saul Garcia '22

Since July 2021, thousands of migrants from the Middle East have entered Belarus, a country in Europe, and tried to illegally pass through the Polish border in hopes of attaining a better life. They have been stopped by the Polish border police, and several instances of violence between the migrants and border control have occurred. Now, many of these refugees remain in Belarus and try to take any chance they have to sneak into the country. Several migrants have died trying to cross the border, and many more have been injured.

The majority of these refugees come from the war-torn countries of Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. They have witnessed the destruction of their hometowns and hope they can have a new life in the European Union. These migrants go to tourist agencies, which collaborate with human smugglers to get tourist visas from the embassy of Belarus to fly to the country. They travel to other countries first, such as Turkey, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates, before flying to Belarus. Belavia, the Belorussian state airline, and several other airlines collaborate with human smugglers to make profit. The average cost to smuggle an Iraqi citizen to Belarus in early November was \$17,500. The European Union responded by threatening to revoke overflight and landing rights of these airlines. Several airlines and governments have either restricted or banned travel to Belarus for people from Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

Only a small number of migrants have been able to successfully cross the border, usually at night through woodland areas. They are supported undercover by non-governmental organizations. Currently, three people are under arrest for helping the refugees illegally cross the border, and eleven of these refugees have died. Migrants found in Poland are pushed back to Belarus, despite this being against EU law, but the EU is not punishing Poland for the way it is handling the crisis. Iraq offered to repatriate its citizens in Belarus, but the majority refused. The Polish government and European Union accuse Belarus and its authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko for using the migrants as political weapons. Leaders in Europe believe he made the entrance through Poland appealing to migrants. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki called this the "greatest attempt to destabilize Europe" since the Cold War. Lukashenko denies inviting the refugees to his country, but stated it's "absolutely possible" that people in his government did.

Belarus and its greatest ally, Russia, decried Poland's actions to refuse accepting the migrants. Lukashenko offered to hold a meeting to discuss the crisis with EU leaders, but they declined because they do not recognize him as the President of Belarus after the controversial 2020 election. Poland expects this situation to last for months. According to a poll by IBRiS (a Polish polling site), more than half of the Poles think that the illegal pushback is the correct way to handle the crisis, but more than 60% of them think that migrants should be able to apply for asylum. Many fear that this crisis could start civil conflict with Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltic countries against Russia and Belarus.

New Teacher

SJR's New Algebra Teacher: Mrs. DiMeglio

By Nicholas Steinhauser '22

This year, St. Joe's welcomes its new freshman Algebra teacher, Mrs. Daniela DiMeglio. She was hired due to the large number of freshmen who enrolled this year, and she is excited to be teaching at SJR. Here is an interview asking her about her educational background and time at SJR so far.

What is your personal and educational background?

I received my Bachelors of Science in Mathematics Education from Wagner College in Staten Island, New York, in 2015. In 2016, I then earned my Masters of Arts in Mathematics Education from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York.

What is your professional background and work experience?

I worked in the New York City Public School Systems for four years teaching mathematics. During my time living in Brooklyn, I also worked at Huntington Learning Center tutoring students in mathematics.

What brought you to St. Joe's?

I came to St. Joe's and became an Algebra teacher mostly



Photo by Barry Donnelly '21

Mrs. DiMeglio (left) was recently inducted into SJR's UNICO Chapter for people of Italian heritage.

because of the united community here, and the ability to share my talents in teaching mathematics with my students.

What do you enjoy most about being a math teacher?

I mostly enjoy helping students understand and learn math. I love creating fun and engaging lessons and connecting it to the real world. My favorite part of teaching has been getting to know the new students. The most fulfilling part of teaching math is seeing a student's face light up when a new concept is understood.

What has your experience at St. Joe's been like so far?

My experience so far at St. Joe's has been awesome. Everyone has been very welcoming and respectful to me. I am so happy to be part of this community.

What hobbies and activities do you enjoy outside of school?

I personally love swimming, cooking, and baking. I also love traveling to different places.

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

I would like to leave my students with memorable lessons that push them to their full potential in math for the future. My goal is for students to gain more confidence in learning and practicing math.



Photo from SJR Website

This is a photo of Mrs. DiMeglio, SJR's new freshman Algebra teacher.

Entertainment

The Many Saints of Newark is a Disappointment

By Ashton Samson '23

I never thought I would wake up one morning to find myself writing anything critical whatsoever about David Chase's work, but it turns out I was wrong. *The Many Saints of Newark* is a disappointing spin-off to Chase's original tv phenomenon, *The Sopranos*. I will be discussing five reasons why this movie didn't succeed.

I. Doesn't Fulfill the Supposed Point of the Film

The Many Saints of Newark doesn't feel like it was written by the creator of *The Sopranos*. As the summary on HBO Max about the film states, "Anthony Soprano is growing up under the influence of his uncle Dickie Moltisanti, the man who will help make the impressionable teen into the all-powerful mob boss we'll later come to know: Tony Soprano." From what I saw, there is little to no evidence of this story being developed in the movie. Tony and Dickie are only in a few scenes together and none of them convey that Dickie is teaching Tony the ways of the mob.

There are no reasons given as to why Tony has taken such a liking to Dickie, which is an aspect that should have been explained. Of course, we know from *The Sopranos* that Johnny Boy, Tony's father, was abusive and largely absent as a dad, but this film does nothing to show that. Before you know it, Johnny Boy is whisked off to jail, and Tony becomes obsessed with Dickie. This occurs without showing the characteristics in Johnny that would make Tony yearn for a father figure.

II. Slow Buildup to Nothing

The Sopranos was never a fast-paced show, but that was alright because there was so much life and purpose to each scene that it was barely noticeable. *The Many Saints of Newark*, however, is slow moving with no reward at the end of a sluggish scene. No payoff occurs, with no moment of understanding that the scene was a gradual buildup to something momentous.

III. Juggles too Many Unnecessary Characters / Storylines

Every character and storyline on *The Sopranos* brought something to the themes expressed. There are too many characters to count in this film, however, who served no purpose to the story. Specifically, too much time was spent on Dickie's goomah, who was even killed near the end of the movie without providing any real importance to the story. Too many other characters and story arcs pervade the film that really shouldn't have been focused on much because they do nothing to focus the story or move an important plot forward. The two characters we should really be spend-

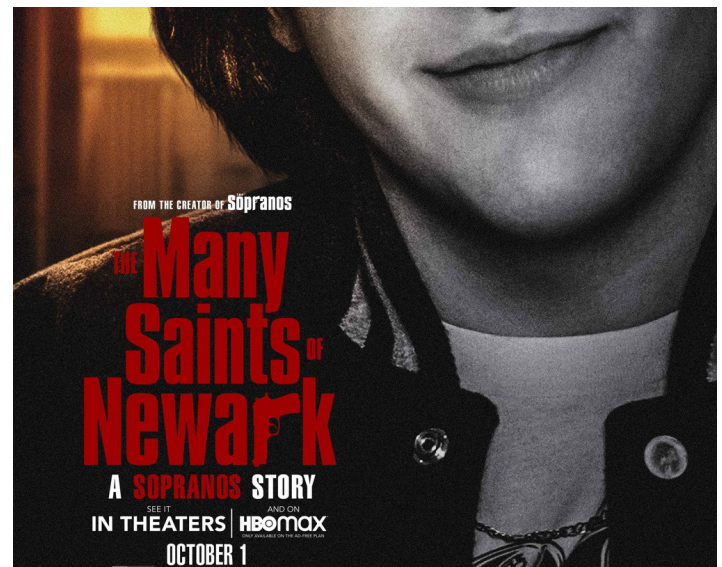
ing time with are Dickie and Tony. However, it takes a long time for teenage Tony to get introduced to Dickie and even longer for them to meet one on one. With the Dickie and Tony duo largely absent, what we are left with are a series of confounding, boring, and repetitive interactions.

IV. A Series of Character Interactions That Don't Add up to a Cohesive Story

A large percentage of *The Many Saints of Newark* consists of rehashes of stories told by characters on *The Sopranos*. Examples of stories told on the show that are seen here include the time Johnny Boy shot through Livia's beehive hairdo (as told in "Sopranos Home Movies"), and the carnival bust that was already in part captured in "Down Neck." These references in the film are recreated in a half-fast manner that doesn't connect to a larger story. They are there solely for the fan's amusement and don't have any necessary meaning to the film.

V. Great Actors are Given Terrible Dialogue

Arguably one of the most disappointing aspects of this film is that the cast was robbed. They worked with a script that features stilted, one-dimensional characters and awful dialogue. Still, some of the actors give truly exceptional performances. The standouts for me are Vera Farmiga as Livia, John Magaro as Silvio and Michael Gandolfini as Tony. They each mastered the mannerisms and defining characteristics of the people we would come to know. Unfortunately, their hard work and dedication is simply not enough to overshadow the many problems with the movie.



The Many Saints of Newark is a disappointing spin-off to the *Sopranos*, created by David Chase.

Feature

Third Annual Beefsteak Brings SJR Together

By Thomas Brennan '24

On Friday, October 1st, 382 members of the Saint Joe's community came together to raise money for the upcoming year at the Third Annual Beefsteak. The money raised at this event supported eight SJR programs: football, soccer, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, wrestling, and performing arts. On that evening, the community raised a total of \$59,684 that will go towards these programs.

The St. Joe's president, Mr. Kevin McNulty, commented on the event: "This year, we had our third and highly successful Beefsteak. This was originally conceived as a 'fundraiser' to support the extracurricular activities at St. Joe's and ease the burden of fundraising by small groups and teams. At the same time, it has been an incredible community building event. People from all different segments of the community come together, play together, and support each other. The Parent's Guild has been instrumental in its success, but so too has been the assistance from all the sports teams and theater arts families. We have consistently hit our fundraising targets and had a blast while doing so. I personally am looking forward to next fall!"

Mrs. Sharon Kozuch, the SJR athletic and attendance administrator, shared, "the Fall Outdoor Beefsteak is by far my favorite SJR fundraiser. With the crisp autumn air and one of America's favorite games (corn-hole), we have created the most fun-filled fundraiser. The casual and friendly atmosphere brings parents and supporters of all sports and



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

This is one of the gift baskets offered at the beefsteak, with a celebratory SJR scarecrow.

activities together for a great night of competition, fun, and support for SJR athletics, activities, and arts."

At the beefsteak, there was a 50-50 raffle and prize wheel, in which people bought tickets for gift bags and baskets that they could potentially win. There was also a live auction that included prizes, such as a stay at a beach house for a week, signed NFL jerseys, and a car for a weekend. One of the most competitive events that raised money was the Cornhole tournament, for participants arrived early just to practice for it.

Mrs. Kozuch said, "beefsteak is a "Northeast" thing. Beefsteak banquets originated in New York City in the mid-1800s as celebratory meals. The meal would generally be set up by an organization wishing to raise money. Nightingale's is the premier provider of beefsteak in the St. Joe's area." At the beefsteak, steak sandwiches, french fries, ice-cream, and fresh zeppoles were served by Nightingale's, a catering service that supports St. Joe's. The delicious food was among the biggest conversation topics of the night. Throughout the evening, a previous SJR alumni, Frankie Guanci '20, came and served as the DJ for the night.

All in all, the beefsteak was a successful event that brought the St. Joe's community together to have fun and support the SJR programs for the upcoming year. Parents, alumni, faculty, and staff alike enjoyed the event, for they saw it as a great opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new ones, while also helping the future of the Green Knights.



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

Mr. FitzSimons (left) and Mr. Aguero (right) after Mr. Aguero won a basket from a raffle.

Student Life

Encounter Retreat was Reflective and Fun

By Aidan Woods '22

From November 11th to November 14th, several St. Joe's student leaders attended the Encounter Christ Leadership Retreat at Esopus, the Marist Retreat Center that SJR students visit often. The seniors who participated included Shane Brennan, Adrian Cedeno, Peter Edmonds, Logan Muniz, Daniel Rappa, Nicholas Steinhauser, David Tellado, James Titolo, and Aidan Woods. Mr. Roger Kintish, an English teacher at SJR, attended the retreat as the supervisor to these students, with the help of Brother John Dunning, a former guidance counselor at St. Joe's. The goal of the Encounter Retreat was for students to leave Esopus with a better relationship with God through activities, discussions, and most importantly prayer, and to truly encounter Christ in their lives.

From my personal experience, the Encounter Retreat was my most enjoyable experience at Esopus. Out of the seven times that I have gone to Esopus, I can safely say that I had the best time at this most recent outing. My favorite part of this retreat was meeting many students from other Marist schools like St. Joe's. There were a total of about 50 students that came from schools like Saint Joe's, Roselle Catholic High School, Mount Saint Michael Academy, Central Catholic High School, Monsignor Pace High School and Archbishop Molloy High School.

This was the first time that I had gone to Esopus with students from other schools, and through all of the activi-



Photo by Brother Brian

This is a necklace with the symbol of the Marist Brothers on it. Each of the St. Joe's students who attended the Encounter Retreat got this necklace.

ties that we participated in, many students developed close relationships with each other. This sense of bonding felt incredible, with many people feeling as if they had known each other for years.

The Encounter Retreat started on Thursday (November 11th) night with ice breakers, and all of the students were divided into nine small groups, where they were assigned a young adult leader and an adult supervisor. The young adult leaders were volunteers who have been active in Esopus events before and were also past alumni from the schools that were represented at the retreat.

Many of the young leaders gave inspiring talks about their relationships with God, for they serve as great examples of how to effectively lead a life of service. Once a talk was completed by a young leader, the nine small groups were instructed to reflect together upon what they just heard. Since the groups spent a lot of time together after these talks, bonds grew among the students in each group.

The entire purpose of the Encounter Retreat was to grow closer to God, and as a participant at the retreat, I believe that my relationship with Him was indeed made stronger. Through the talks and prayers that we experienced together, many of us were enlightened internally and developed a better understanding of how our relationships with God should grow. Singing and dancing also took place every day, which helped the everyone at the retreat come together for the same purpose: to come closer to God.

The Encounter Retreat was one of the greatest weekends of my life, and I would recommend that all SJR seniors attend this retreat, for there won't be many more opportunities to return to Esopus before high school graduation.



Photo by Brother Brian

(From left to right) Logan Muniz, Daniel Rappa, James Titolo, Shane Brennan, Adrian Cedeno, Peter Edmonds, Nicholas Steinhauser, David Tellado, Aidan Woods, Luis Saenz, Brother John, and (in the bottom middle) Mr. Kintish posing for a SJR photo at the retreat.

Encounter Christ Leadership Retreat



The Encounter Retreat for SJR campus ministry leaders took place from November 11th to November 14th.

Counter-Clockwise from top right (All Pictures R-L);

Aidan Woods '22 and James Titolo '22 with their student leader group;

Shane Brennan '22 and Nicholas Steinhauser '22 with their student leader groups;

(From left to right) David Tellado '22, Aidan Woods '22, Shane Brennan, James Titolo, and Nicholas Steinhauser hanging out together;

Nicholas Steinhauser sitting with students from Molloy High School;

Group photo featuring everyone from the Encounter Retreat.

All photos by Brother Bob



November 2021 Covenant House Sleep Out



The Covenant House Sleep Out for the 2021-2022 school year took place on November 9th.

Clockwise from top left (All Pictures L-R);

These students formed their own hideout that they slept in for the night;

(From left to right) Jeffrey Guneratne '23, Anthony Koleser '24 and Dean Muniz '25 ready to sleep in their cardboard boxes;

SJR freshman are excited to be sleeping out for the night;

Mr. Asselta and Mr. Becker posing with a bunch of students who slept out;

Group photo featuring everyone who participated in the Sleep Out.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



Student Life

Annual Sleep Out at SJR is a Success



St. Joe's students posing with their new Sleep Out attire.

Photo by Barry Donnelly '71

By Nicholas Steinhauser '22

On Tuesday, November 9th, St. Joe's held its Annual Sleep Out for the Covenant House, an organization aimed at offering homeless teens a place to live and giving them the opportunity to put their lives on track. Managed by Mr. John Asselta (head of the SJR theater program) and Mr. Scott Becker (SJR's new campus minister), the Sleep Out served as an opportunity for the Green Knights to learn about the difficulties of homeless teens and to act on this issue by sleeping out themselves.

At this event, students were given a cardboard box that they used as their only shelter when sleeping outside, and this allowed the Green Knights to truly realize how difficult being homeless must be. In order to participate in the Sleep Out, students must have raised at least \$300 for the Covenant House prior to sleeping out. With huge donations from many people, the Sleep Out this year was a huge success for everyone involved. About 80 students participated in the event, and they raised over \$50,000 for the Covenant House in total.

The Sleep Out started at 9:00 on that Tuesday night, with SJR students signing in for the event and placing their sleeping bags and other belongings in the cafeteria. The first major event of the night came after all of the students were directed into the Inserra Theater. There, they watched a video detailing the experiences of many homeless teenagers who came to the Covenant House. The Green Knights also heard from two Covenant House teenagers, Kyrie and Chris, in person, as they explained why they came to Covenant House and what their lives are like now.

After spending years of uncertainty in homelessness, Kyrie eventually came to Covenant House and now has made a better life for herself in college. Chris had multiple experi-

ences in shelter homes before, but when he came to the Covenant House, he was able to put his life back on track and now knows what to do for his career. After Kyrie and Chris shared their experiences, the Saint Joe's students broke up into groups to talk individually with them and got to learn more about them personally.

Once Kyrie and Chris left, the students were offered a meal that consisted of sandwiches, chips, and water. After this,

they took their sleeping bags and boxes and were ready to sleep outside for the night. The students gathered all around the courtyard and created their own hideouts or forts using all of their boxes.

Once everyone got their sleeping areas situated, they were ready to sleep outside and live the life of a homeless teenager for one night. The lights went out at around 12:00 AM, and the students went to sleep. Throughout the morning, it seemed to get colder, as many of the students woke up colder than they were when they fell asleep. At around 6:30, everyone was woken up, the St. Joe's food service provided the Green Knights who slept out with breakfast.

Given the attendance of the Sleep Out and the amount of money that was raised for the Covenant House, this event was definitely a huge success.



Photo by Barry Donnelly '71

(From left to right) Marc Manfredonia, Nino DeMarco. Nicholas Steinhauser, Daniel Rappa, and Michael Donohue were given Covenant House hats in recognition for their four years of sleeping out.

Sports

National Signing Day Has SJR Lacrosse and Baseball Players Commit to Colleges



Angel Colon '22 and his family celebrating his commitment to Coppin State University.

By Conor Mahoney '22

Wednesday, November 10th, was a special afternoon for a group of Green Knight athletes. On this day, St. Joe's lacrosse and baseball team members signed their National Letters of Intent (NIL's) to play for their future colleges. The SJR lacrosse team, coached by Dan Daponte, had five of their senior members sign their NIL's to continue their playing career at the next level. The Green Knights baseball team, led by Coach Mark Cieslak, had three members of the team sign their NIL's to continue their athletic careers in college.

The lacrosse team had their five commits sign to different colleges. Captain Jared Zevzavadjian (Salve Regina University), Captain Nico Kross (Wagner College), Captain Owen Finetto (Providence College), Marc Manfredonia (University of Mary Washington), and Michael D'Eletto (Kenyon College) all pledged their intent to their respective schools on the nation's National Signing Day. "It was a great day to see some of my SJR brothers achieve their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers in college," said Zevzavadjian. "This is what the brotherhood is all about. Seeing your brothers reach their goals is a great feeling and experience to be a part of."

Coach Daponte was eager to support his players: "Signing Day is always one of my favorite days of the year. It is a combination of years and years of work by players and their families. I always think of players committing to play in college as a true family achievement. Think about all the weekends that parents drove to tournaments, stayed in hotels, and sacrificed their time for their kids. It is a huge

achievement for players to be able to play at the next level, and it truly shows how much hard work pays off. It's an honor to be on stage with those young men."

The SJR baseball team was headlined by three commitments: Angel Colon to Coppin State University, Stephen Carozza to UMass Dartmouth, and Matt Fernandez to Roger Williams University.

Coach Cieslak had something to say about each of his three players. Regarding Carozza, the coach said "Stephen is an ultimate team leader, always putting the team first by being the first guy on the field and the last guy off. I wish I had ten Stephens on the team. He represents what the baseball community should look like. He is the face of the St Joe's baseball program and will surely be missed." On Matt Fernandez, he said "when I first met Matt, it was at SJR baseball camp. He caught my eye when he hit several home runs as a 7th grader. He's a hard worker and doesn't believe in the word "can't"."

On Angel Colon, he said "I've known Angel since he was 12 years old, as he has grown up on the SJR baseball field. He is not only a good player, but an even more passionate one. His work ethic and spirit for the game is in his blood. He is a tremendous teammate who strives to make others around him better." "Signing Day was exactly how I imagined it would be when I was younger," said Colon. "I grew up watching St. Joe's produce such great athletes. I felt nothing but excitement and joy for my family, myself, and my brothers when I also signed. It was a great day for us, and we earned it with all the sacrifices we made to put ourselves in this position."



The new SJR senior commits (from top left to right, top to bottom): Michael D'Eletto, Marc Manfredonia, Angel Colon, Matt Fernandez, Stephen Carozza, Jared Zevzavadjian, Owen Finetto, and Nico Kross.

Sports

Loss Eliminates SJR from Playoffs



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

The Green Knights salute to the American National Anthem before the game starts.

By Jake Persaud '23

The Green Knights took the field on Sunday, November 14th, to face off against the Don Bosco Preparatory Ironmen at Tony Karcich Field. This game was part of the NJSIAA Tournament, Non-Public, Group A Quarterfinal Round. Although they defeated the Ironmen on October 23rd on home turf, the Green Knights were unable to repeat this and lost 31-7, ending the season with a 6-4 record.

The game was originally scheduled for Saturday at 1:00 PM, but due to heavy rain and thunderstorm warnings, the game was postponed to Sunday at 1:00 PM. The theme of this game was a black out, with shirts being sold on prior Thursday and Friday with the words "Beat Bosco" on them.

Kickoff began right on time, but the first quarter was completely scoreless. The scoring began during the second quarter, when Ironmen running back Ronnie Heath ran for a 2-yard rushing touchdown. After a successful PAT by kicker Jack Donnelly, SJR trailed 7-0. Later in the quarter, Heath scored again when he ran for a 31-yard rushing touchdown. With another successful PAT by Donnelly, Don Bosco led 14-0 at the half.

During the third quarter, St. Joe's attempted to get back into the game when quarterback Luke Henrich '23 threw the ball to wide receiver Donovan McKoy '23 for a 70-yard receiving touchdown. After a successful PAT by kicker Marcos Ruiz '23, SJR trailed 14-7. Unfortunately, that was the only time the Green Knights scored. Things would only get worse when Heath ran for a 38-yard rushing touchdown

and Donnelly kicked another successful PAT, causing the Ironmen to lead 21-7. Heath continued to attack the defense and again ran for an 11-yard rushing touchdown. With Donnelly also kicking a successful PAT again, Don Bosco led 28-7.

The scoring ended when Donnelly kicked a 20-yard field goal, giving the Ironmen a 31-7 lead at the end of the third quarter. With a scoreless fourth quarter, the Green Knights season ended disappointment.

Henrich had 148 passing yards, 1 passing touchdown, 1 interception, and 8 completions on 17 attempts, along with 0 rushing yards on 7 carries. Running back Devin Miller-Singh '22 had 25 rushing yards on 5 carries. Running back Yasin Willis '24 recorded 76 rushing yards on 14 carries, along with 8 receiving yards on 1 reception.

Running back Luke Tucci '23 had 0 rushing yards on 2 carries. McKoy had 84 receiving yards and 1 receiving touchdown on 3 receptions. Wide receiver Kenyon Massey '24 had 48 receiving yards on 3 receptions. Jaden Wimberly '22 had 8 receiving yards on 1 reception, and Ruiz had 1 PAT made on 1 PAT attempt.

The Green Knights will be looking to build on the success of this year onto next season. With seniors like Bergen Catholic quarterback Steve Angeli and running back Ryan Butler heading to college, SJR will look to take advantage of the opportunities to contest for a championship.

However, with schools like Don Bosco, Seton Hall Prep, and St. Peter's Prep improving their football teams, it will be a tough next year for the St. Joe's football program. Despite this, the Green Knights are eager to prepare and meet expectations for next season.



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

Jack Smiechowski '22 catching a punt from the Don Bosco Preparatory Ironmen.

Sports

SJR Basketball Team is Eager to Get Back on the Court



The St. Joe's basketball team hopes to win another Jamboree after doing so in 2020.

By Timothy Doherty '23

SJR basketball is finally back! After facing two quarantines due to COVID-19 and only playing five games last season, the Green Knights are anxious to get back on the court for the 2021-2022 season.

“Last season was rough on so many levels,” said Head Coach Michael Doherty. “After enduring such a shortened season last year, the coaches and players are definitely looking forward to a return to more normalcy and competition in a full slate of games.”

Once again, St. Joe's will have a very challenging schedule and will open its season campaign on the road for the first two games, facing two of Passaic County's top teams in Wayne Valley (December 17th) and Paterson Eastside (December 21st).

The Green Knights will play their first home games over the Christmas holidays during the SJR Holiday Classic, and they will take on Ridgewood (December 28th) and Dwight-Englewood (December 29th).

SJR will also compete in several area showcase events during the course of the season, including the New Jersey Legacy sponsored “New Year's Jump Off” on January 2nd, when the Green Knights take on Columbia High School. Of

course, the bulk of the schedule will revolve around the Big North United League schedule and the games against SJR rivals Bergen Catholic, Don Bosco, Paramus Catholic, and DePaul.

Since the coronavirus led to the cancellation of last year's Bergen County Jamboree, the Green Knights enter the 2021-22 season as the defending Bergen County Champions (by virtue of SJR's 67-61 win over Bergen Catholic in the 2020 Jamboree final), which is something that the team is eager to maintain.

“We are proud of the success of the 2020 Green Knights, and we certainly hope to hold up to the standard that has been set by them and all past SJR basketball teams by qualifying for and making deep runs in both the Bergen County and state tournaments this season,” noted Doherty.

There will be a lot of new faces on the court after the loss of seven seniors from last year, including Danny Lans (1st Team All-North Jersey), Brian Brennan (2nd Team All-League), and James Morrison (Hon. Ment. All-League).

Returning starter and 2nd Team All-League performer, Donovan McKoy, will lead the charge this season. The versatile McKoy can play all five positions on the floor and will be counted on to be “the glue” that holds things together as numerous Green Knights compete for playing time, especially early on in the season. Let the games begin!