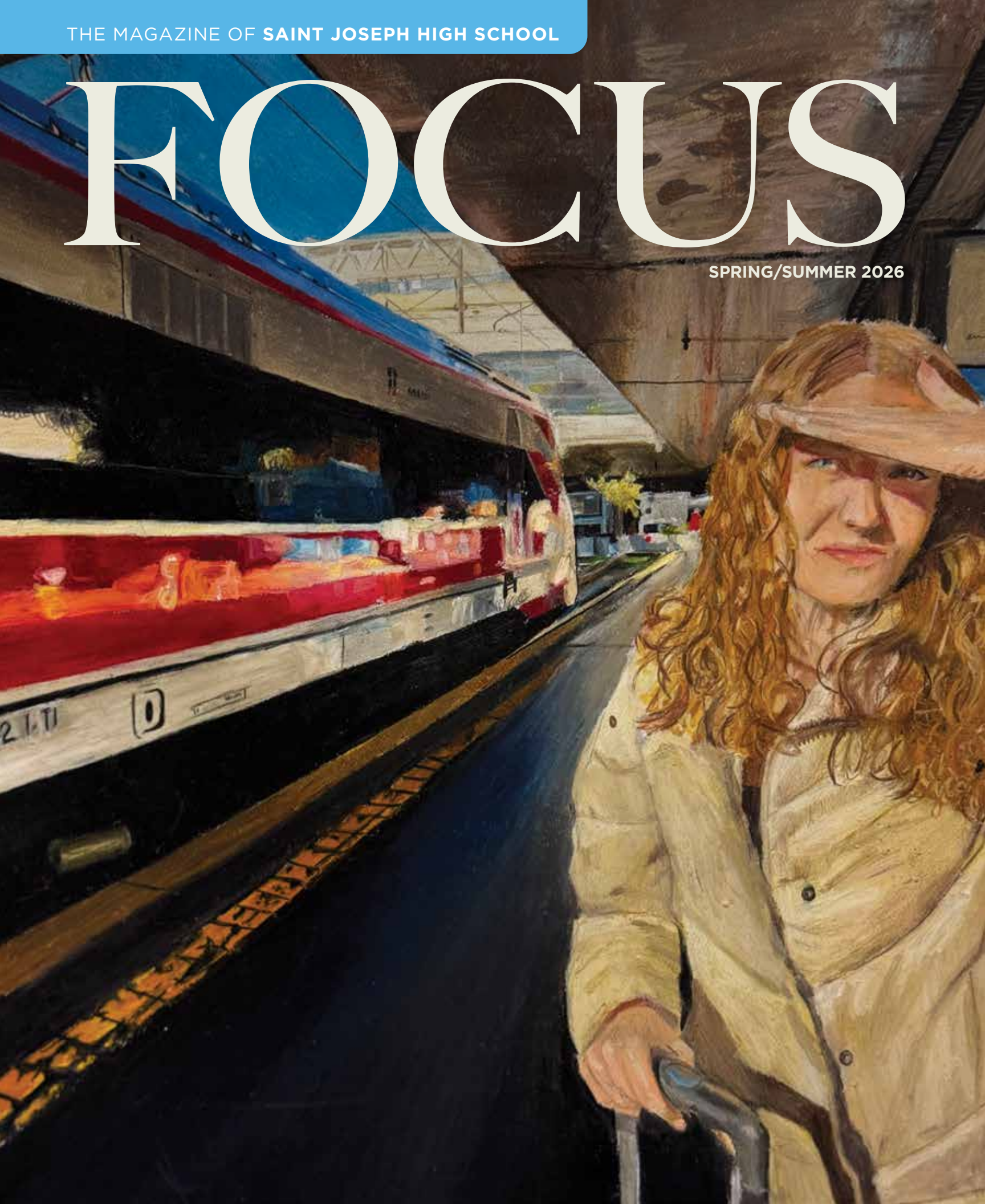


THE MAGAZINE OF SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

FOCUS

SPRING/SUMMER 2026



Dear Parents, Alumni, and Friends,

Greetings! As another school year comes to a close, my heart is once again filled with gratitude for all that God provides and for the joy I experience as a member of the Saint Joe community.

This school year was marked by tremendous success. Following a year of full enrollment, we look forward to welcoming another outstanding freshman class this fall. We celebrated nine students being recognized as National Merit Scholars or Commended Scholars, an incredible two Lilly Scholars, and 115 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Our Euro Challenge team placed third in the nation, while our Mock Trial and FBLA teams proudly represented Saint Joe at the state level.

Athletics remain a vibrant part of student life, with approximately 65% of our student body participating in sports and the addition of girls flag football this year. Our teams achieved remarkable success, including state finals appearances by both the girls and boys golf teams and several track and field athletes and one cross-country runner. Boys and girls tennis, boys lacrosse, and football all advanced to the semi-state level.

On a personal note, I experienced the joy of watching my youngest son, Zachary '22, graduate from the University of Notre Dame. A computer engineering major, he is heading to Albany, New York, to begin his career with IBM. With our oldest son, Marty '18, now in graduate school at the University of North Carolina, Kathy and I have officially become empty nesters. We are excited for this new chapter in our lives and grateful that both of our sons are thriving.

Saint Joe is also entering a new phase as we begin exploring our first capital campaign since the opening of our new school in 2012. As the needs of our students continue to evolve, we are evaluating opportunities to strengthen our athletic facilities, extracurricular programs, academic offerings, and student support services. By investing strategically in our campus, programs, and people, we aim to ensure that Saint Joe continues to thrive and fulfill its mission for generations to come.

I want to thank our alumni and parents for their continued support, as well as our faculty, staff, and coaches for their dedication throughout the year. God has blessed our school community in countless ways, and I am deeply grateful for the love, generosity, and grace that surround us each day.

God Bless and Go Huskies!


John Kennedy
Principal



MISSION

Saint Joseph High School is a Catholic secondary school dedicated to transforming students in heart and mind, preparing them to serve God, the Church, and the world.

ADMINISTRATION

John Kennedy
Principal

Stephen Anthony
Director of Athletics

Christine Baglow
Director of Pastoral Ministry

Brooke Kostielney
Director of Mission Advancement

Corey Luczynski
Assistant Principal of Student Life

Kevin Mackey
Director of Facilities

Emma Shakour
Assistant Principal for
Academic Administration

Pat Stockrahm
Director of Finance and
Business Operations

Dana Strabavy
Director of Counseling

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ON THE COVER

"All Aboard"
by Izzy Frabutt '26, oil pastel on paper

"My piece explores the expectations and emotions that arise during the moments of waiting in our lives, as we anticipate what lies ahead."

FOCUS

SPRING / SUMMER 2026



6

DISCOVERING THEIR GIFTS

Art teacher Jen Firestone inspires students to find their creative voice, build confidence, and embrace their unique gifts.

BUILDING MORE THAN ATHLETES

Director of Performance Scott Pherson is transforming Saint Joe Athletics by developing stronger athletes, confident leaders, and a culture built on accountability, resilience, and excellence.



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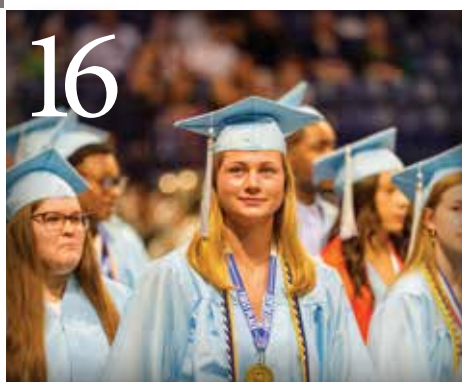
13

MARIO MARTINEZ- JIMENEZ '26

... shares how resilience, faith, and the support of the Saint Joe community helped him overcome leukemia and embrace life with gratitude.

COMMENCEMENT

Saint Joseph High School Class of 2026 celebrates graduation day, marking the end of their journey at Saint Joe and the beginning of what's next.



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9

REYNA SANTOS MARTINEZ '26

... receives the Bishop Rhoades Scholarship, honoring her faith, perseverance, and commitment to serving others as she prepares for her next chapter.

Also INSIDE

- 4 Community Awards
- 5 Academic Awards
- 8 Spiritual Life at Saint Joe
- 12 Spring Musical
- 14 Baccalaureate Mass
- 18 Art & Writing Awards
- 16 Spring Sports
- 18 Alumni Highlights
- 19 In Memoriam

Community Award Winners

January



Alex Choinacky



Timothy Freel



Chad Gish
Test Coordinator and
Data Specialist

February



Peyton Fedore



Vivian Glavich



Kambria Martin



Nicola Matty
Theology Teacher

March



Peter George Baglow



Maya Matthews



Rachel Potter
Administrative Assistant to the
Principal and HR Specialist

Each month Saint Joseph High School honors members of the senior class and one faculty or staff member with a Community Award. The individuals recognized during the 2026 Spring semester for their notable contributions to the school community are listed here.

April



Naylea Davila-Cruz



Jackson Troester



Bryant Strickland
Security Officer

May



Alexandra Brooks



Nicole Byrne



Cesar Robles



Dan Fealy
Theology Teacher

Academic & Service Awards



**Class of 2026
Valedictorian**
Declan Gallagher



**Class of 2026
Salutatorian**
Joey Harshman

ACADEMIC AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Thomas Gerencher Scholarship

Peter George Baglow '26

Reed A. Oei Award and Scholarship

Andy Sorg '26

Justin Wozny Family Scholarship

Kambria Martin '26

Bishop Rhoades Scholarship

Reyna Santos-Martinez '26

Eli Lilly Endowment Scholarship

Joey Harshman '26

Cesar Robles '26

Ahmad Qasem

No Greater Love Award

Michelle Carter '26

Discover Our Gifts Award

Mario Martinez-Jimenez '26

Principal's Award

Mae Sollmann '26

National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Joey Harshman '26

Jack Erdman '26

National Merit Commended Scholars

Sarah Anatolios '26

Anna Pruitt '26

Marco Bajuyo '26

Andy Sorg '26

Declan Gallagher '26

Zach Thain '26

David Polaniecki '26

Indiana Academic All-Star

Declan Gallagher '26

Rising Star of Indiana

Rebecca Anatolios '27

Catherine Lutz '27

Beatrix McClarren '27

John Morin '27



SAINT JOE SCHOLARS

The 2026 Saint Joe scholars are pictured with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Sarah Amat, Sarah Anatolios, Peter George Baglow, Marco Bajuyo, Margaret Berrettini, Eleanor Bullock, Nicole Byrne, Alexandra Choinacky, John Clairmont, Caden Clifford, Olivia Couture, Naylea Davila-Cruz, Peter Dolezal, James Eder, Jack Erdman, Murphy Farrell, Izzy Frabutt, Declan Gallagher, Charles Grewe, Josiah Gustine, Tate Guyton, Joseph Harshman, Charles Helm, Brody Hill, Joseph Kloska, Allison Legault, Lauren Legault, Viet Luu, Mary Maher, Maya Matthews, Lila Mayfield, MaryClaire McCourt, Nicholas Neilson, Bryan Onofre Vivar, Tuli Patel, David Polaniecki, Anna Pruitt, Austin Ratigan, Cesar Robles, Mairin Rumely, Sydney Schmeltz, Grace Shaul, Jacob Snyder, Mae Sollmann, Andrew Sorg, Nicholas Speybroeck, Zachary Thain, Jackson Troester, Leah Uebelhor, Dorothy Weber-Hess, Esther Weber, Kiley Weinberg, Landon Zalas, Colin Zwiller

AIDAN SHORT SERVICE AWARDS (40 hours)

January

Naylea Davila-Cruz
Izzy Frabutt
Emily Patterson
Harper Schmitt
Alice Stockwell

February

John Betz
James Criniti
Nicole Encarnicion
Davila-Cruz
Azucena Galicia
Quinn Hedges
Isabella Lutz
Catherine Lutz
Yaretzi Ortiz
Mia Nicole Trerotola

March

Ta'Nya Ford
Lauren Hickey
Sofia Lantigua
Cheyenne Lisenko
Oliver Mitros
Madison Parker
Alexandra Porter
Julia Santos-Kladis
Conor Harold Sullivan
Kiley Weinberg

April

William Criniti
Adelaide Dees
Allyson Fraker
Austin Leyba
Ethan Miller

Kellsie Sparke
Emily Thain
Julie Adele Walatka

May

Rebecca Anatolios
Theodore Christensen
Abigail Marie Dhoore
Samantha Edwards
Taylor Flynn
Cannon Glaub
Olivia Heckel
Ella Hirsch
Mary Frances Jacobs
Hiltn Ladyga
Matthew Lamphier
Natalia Lantigua
Patrick Letherman

Helen Logue
Mario Martinez-
Jimenez
MaryClaire McCourt
Anastasia Nolan
Mia Penn
Gianna Polito-Parker
Jose Rodriguez-Coria
Megan Sullivan
Seamus Sullivan
Ellie Potthoff-Barber
Payton Wulf

MOTHER TERESA AWARD (80 hours)

Lia Bajuyo
awarded 2-18-26

Clara Hosle
awarded 3-19-26

Kevin Clawson
awarded 5-1-26

Sierra Johnson
awarded 5-1-26

Helen Logue
awarded 5-1-26

Harper Schmitt
awarded 5-1-26

Alice Stockwell
awarded 5-13-26

Julia Santos-Kladis
awarded 5-26-26

Discovering Their Gifts

BY SAINT JOE ADVANCEMENT

**How Jen Firestone
Inspires Creativity,
Confidence,
and Connection
at Saint Joe**



*Oil paintings
pictured above
by Jen Firestone*

For 13 years, **Jen Firestone** has helped students at Saint Joseph High School discover more than artistic talent. Through creativity, mentorship, and a classroom rooted in compassion and encouragement, Firestone has helped students find their voices, build confidence, and embrace the gifts that make them unique.

This year marked a historic moment for Saint Joe's Art Department at the Scholastic Art Awards. Firestone and her students earned the highest scores in the regional competition, which includes Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan, a personal best during her time at Saint Joe.

The honors included numerous Gold Keys, Silver Keys, and Honorable Mentions, along with several prestigious recognitions. Students Alex Choinacky '26 and Avia Firestone '26 received American Vision Awards, while Dominick Saratore '26 earned a Gold Portfolio Award. Choinacky also received a National Gold Medal, and Izzy Frabutt '26 was honored with the Community Choice Award.

Firestone credits much of the students' success to the culture within Saint Joe's Art Department. During her third year teaching, she introduced the AP Art program, which has helped students develop exceptional portfolios and a clear artistic voice. Across all of her classes, students are encouraged to experiment with different mediums and create meaningful work that reflects their identities, experiences, and perspectives.

"We welcome experimentation and understand that failure is often where the most meaningful learning takes place," Firestone said.

She believes students thrive when they feel safe, supported, and free from judgment. Whether a student enters her classroom with years of artistic experience or none at all, Firestone focuses on helping them grow with confidence.

One recent example came from a senior who enrolled in Painting I during her final semester at Saint Joe. According to Firestone, the student quickly discovered a natural artistic talent and flourished in the class, later expressing regret that she had not taken art courses sooner.

"Sometimes students just need the opportunity and encouragement to

“We welcome experimentation and understand that failure is often where the most meaningful learning takes place”

– JEN FIRESTONE

discover abilities they never realized they had,” Firestone said.

That environment has left a lasting impact on many students, including Charlie Helm ‘26.

“Ms. Firestone has created a classroom where everyone is valued and can find what they are passionate about with immense support,” Helm said. “This kind of environment has allowed me to explore not only different mediums, but myself, having a huge impact on both my work and my character.”

While the awards and achievements are significant, Firestone says the relationships she builds with students are the most rewarding part of teaching. She strives to create a sense of family within her classroom, a place where students feel seen, valued, and supported.

That impact extends far beyond graduation. Recently, two former Saint Joe painting students now attending University of Notre Dame sent her a photo standing in front of Michelangelo’s David in Florence, Italy, a moment Firestone described as deeply meaningful.

This spring, Firestone received another special honor when she was selected as Saint Joe’s graduation speaker for the Class of 2026.

“This means the world to me,” she said. “It tells me that the students trust me, value me, and know that I genuinely care about them.”

Emma Shakour says Firestone’s



AP Art students visit the Scholastic Art Award showcase.

impact reaches far beyond the art room.

“Jen teaches with clarity, compassion, and a genuine care for students and their well-being,” Shakour said.

“She creates an environment where students

feel seen and important, which is why they continue taking her classes year after year. Her leadership and passion also extend beyond the classroom, including helping lead one of the most successful Thanksgiving Food Drives Saint Joe has had. Jen’s selection as this year’s graduation speaker reflects the meaningful connections she has built with the senior class.”

As seniors prepare to leave Saint Joe, Firestone hopes they carry with them lessons rooted not only in creativity, but in faith and compassion.

“I hope every student leaves Saint Joe knowing they were seen, valued, and loved here,” Firestone said. “I hope they strive to live their lives in a Christ-like way; showing kindness, empathy, and compassion toward others without judgment. There is so much to learn when we open our minds and hearts to people who may be different from us. Those human connections are what truly matter.”



At the South Bend Museum of Arts’s Scholastic Art Showcase, four senior students were recognized for their outstanding achievements, shown L to R:

Alex Choinacky

American Vision award

Izzy Frabutt

Community Choice Award

Avia Firestone

American Vision award

Dom Saratore

Gold Key for his portfolio

Bishop's VISIT

On Thursday, March 19, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined the Saint Joe community for our All-School Mass celebrating the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. The day was marked by a spirit of faith and unity, highlighted by the Sacramental Rites received by Tegegn Drake, Josiah Gustine, Tommy Hanson, Becca Norwood, Mary Frances Wright, and Peter Wright. Bishop Rhoades also visited with students, including a stop in Mrs. Abby Fink's '10 classroom, this year's Christ the Teacher Award recipient. He also spent time with our Peer Ministry student leaders, offering encouragement and spiritual support in their leadership and service.



LENTEN *Lock-in*



19 students and 9 faculty/staff members came together this spring for Saint Joe's first-ever Lenten Lock-In. This optional overnight retreat at Saint Joe centered on a powerful question: "Who would you die for?" Throughout the night, students reflected on how each of us is uniquely called by God to love and serve others with selflessness and purpose. A balance of fun, reverence, and reflection, the retreat was a joyful and meaningful experience that brought students and faculty together in a beautiful way.



Reyna Santos Martinez

Receives Bishop Rhoades Scholarship

BY SAINT JOE ADVANCEMENT

For Saint Joseph High School senior **Reyna Santos Martinez '26**, receiving the Bishop Rhoades Scholarship was more than an academic achievement, it was a deeply personal moment rooted in faith, perseverance, family, and purpose.

The Bishop Rhoades Scholarship provides a first-year student with full tuition support as they begin their college journey, making it one of the most meaningful honors awarded in the Diocese. When Reyna learned she had received the scholarship, she was overwhelmed with emotion.

"I felt excitement, happiness, and tears of joy all at once," Reyna shared. "Knowing I had done something to make my mother and father proud meant everything to me."

As a first-generation Latina, Reyna sees the scholarship as a reflection of her parents' sacrifices and unwavering support. She credits her family and the Saint Joe community for helping her grow academically, personally, and spiritually throughout her four years.

Inspired by Saint Joe's animating principle, "God calls, we answer," Reyna says the school helped her discover her calling and become more confident in using her voice. She especially credits teachers Mrs. Walsh, Mr. Kostielney, and

Mr. Hettel for encouraging her, supporting her faith, and helping shape the person she is today.

One of the most impactful parts of Reyna's high school journey has been her service with the Christ Child Society. After being asked to translate for Spanish-speaking families, Reyna saw firsthand the comfort that came from simply helping others feel understood.

"Seeing families go from worry to relief because someone could communicate with them changed my life," she said.

Her faith has also played a central role in her journey. Inspired by Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati and strengthened through her time at Saint Joe, Reyna hopes to dedicate her future to serving others and teaching about Christ.

After graduation, Reyna plans to attend Holy Cross College, where she will major in Theology with hopes of eventually becoming a high school theology teacher.

One of Reyna's favorite Saint Joe memories was speaking at the Right to Life rally during her junior year. Though nervous, she stepped outside her comfort zone and discovered the power of using her voice to speak for others.

"Never be afraid to be you," Reyna said. "Always do what helps you become the best version of yourself."



Reyna Santos Martinez celebrates receiving the Bishop Rhoades Scholarship alongside her family and a Holy Cross College representative.



Building More Than

BY SAINT JOE ADVANCEMENT

ATHLETES



The Impact of Scott Pherson at Saint Joseph High School

In just one year as Saint Joseph High School's Director of Performance, **Scott Pherson** has transformed far more than the weight room. He has helped establish a culture centered on accountability, excellence, and personal growth while creating a program that is impacting hundreds of student-athletes across every sport.

Pherson's philosophy extends well beyond lifting weights and improving athletic performance. His approach is rooted in the values of discipline, respect, love, family, growth, work ethic, and celebration.

"We aren't just trying to build stronger athletes," Pherson said. "We are building more resilient, movement-efficient human beings. Everything we do is designed to transfer directly to competition while helping our athletes stay healthy and available to perform."

Since arriving at Saint Joe, Pherson has worked to establish a unified high-performance standard throughout

the athletic department. What was once simply a weight room has evolved into a centralized hub where athletes from every program train together, encourage one another, and pursue excellence under a shared vision.

"The biggest shift has been creating an environment where every sport can utilize the room to get better, support one another, and compete under one collective standard," he said.

The results have been evident across Saint Joe Athletics. From postseason success to championship runs, Pherson's influence has reached every corner of the program.

Director of Athletics Stephen Anthony has seen that impact firsthand. "Scott Pherson has made an incredible impact at Saint Joseph High School," Anthony said. "As the new Director of Performance, Coach Pherson has elevated the commitment of our student-athletes and the culture of our Athletics Department. The success of our sports

teams, in particular the success of our Football program advancing to the Semi-State Championship game, is a direct result of Coach Pherson and his collaboration with our football staff. The energy,

expertise, and performance support that Coach Pherson brings to Saint Joe adds value to Huskies Athletics and the experience of all of our student-athletes on a daily basis.”

While athletic success is important, Pherson believes the greatest benefits of strength and conditioning happen beyond the scoreboard. “The physical transformation is easy to see,” he said. “The mental transformation is what stays with them for life.”

One of his favorite traditions is the player-led prayer and breakdown at the conclusion of every training session. Those moments, he says, help student-athletes develop leadership skills, confidence, discipline, and a team-first mentality that extends beyond sports.

Principal John Kennedy believes the program’s reach is particularly significant because of the number of students it serves. “Scott offers a program that benefits student-athletes and that they want to take part in,” Kennedy said. “With about 64% of our students participating in athletics, approximately 590 students this year, Scott’s impact is huge. He may work with more students than anyone else in the school. He is developing their strength, power, and speed, but also helping them learn to push themselves and compete at a high level.”

Pherson’s training model combines a strong athletic foundation with sport-specific application. While all



Players and coaches celebrate Regional Championship win after defeating Hobart 10-7

athletes develop strength, mobility, and power, workouts are tailored to meet the unique demands of each sport and position. This approach allows athletes from

multiple programs to train together while still receiving individualized instruction. Equally important to Pherson is the culture created within the Performance Center.

“A great weight room culture is loud, positive, and entirely selfless,” he said. “The last person finishing a sprint should receive the same encouragement as the top performer in the school.”

That atmosphere has fueled tremendous growth in participation. Programs that once had only a handful of athletes training regularly now fill the room with energy and enthusiasm. Whether it is football, softball, baseball, basketball, or any other sport, Pherson has watched student-athletes embrace the process and take ownership of their development.

Looking ahead, he believes the future is incredibly bright. “In just one year, we’ve laid a phenomenal foundation,” Pherson said. “Now the goal is to continue raising the standard, expanding opportunities, and reaching even more student-athletes. We’ve shown what we can build in a short amount of time, and we’re truly just getting started.”

For Saint Joseph Athletics, the impact of Scott Pherson is measured not only in championships, personal records, or victories, but in the confidence, character, and leadership being developed every day inside the Performance Center.

“The physical transformation is easy to see. The mental transformation is what stays with them for life.”

– SCOTT PHERSON





This year's production of *The Addams Family* was a true celebration of the Saint Joseph High School Theatre Program. With 106 students involved both onstage and behind the scenes, the production showcased the dedication, creativity, and collaboration that define our theatre family. Across our public performances, we welcomed more than 1,000 audience members, in addition to a packed partner-school performance. Much like the Addamses themselves, the Saint Joe Theatre program thrives on passion, individuality, and a shared love of storytelling. Thank you for supporting our students and helping bring this delightfully chaotic and heartfelt story to life.

— A.J. Reynolds, Director

Mario Martinez-Jimenez

A Journey of Strength, Gratitude, and Perseverance

BY SAINT JOE ADVANCEMENT

When **Mario Martinez-Jimenez '26** was diagnosed with leukemia during his sophomore year at Saint Joseph High School, his first reaction was not what most people would expect.

"At first, I was happy because it meant a break from my normal routine with schoolwork," Mario recalled with a laugh. "But then I realized I wouldn't be able to see or talk to my friends as often, and that was the hardest part."

While many would feel overwhelmed by fear, Mario approached his diagnosis differently. He never worried about the illness itself, but he understood his life was about to change dramatically. Before cancer, he spent much of his free time in the gym and enjoyed a busy routine. Treatment forced him to put many of those activities on hold.

The hardest part of his journey was not chemotherapy, but the isolation. "I wasn't scared of dying," Mario said. "I was scared of being alone." Being away from friends and family was one of his greatest challenges. At times, he worried people had forgotten him. In reality, the opposite was true. Friends, classmates, and the Saint Joe community continuously prayed for him, supported his family, and helped raise funds during a difficult time.

Throughout treatment, Mario became known for his positivity and gratitude. "I always treated cancer like a really long-lasting cold," he said. "My parents and

doctors kept reassuring me that I would get better." That mindset, along with the support of his family, friends, and community, helped him push through months of treatment and recovery.

Even while battling leukemia, Mario remained determined to graduate with his classmates. He worked hard to keep up academically despite the exhaustion that often followed treatments.

Today, Mario reflects on his experience as one that transformed his perspective on life. "It made me appreciate life more and value quality time with the people I love," he said. "Life is too short to be controlled by fear. You have to take risks and take your shot."

His resilience and positive attitude recently earned him the Discover Our Gifts Award. Upon receiving the honor, Mario was met with a tearful standing ovation from a gym filled with his peers and their families.

Most importantly, Mario wants people to know how much Saint Joe meant to him during one of the most difficult periods of his life. "Saint Joe became part of my family," he said. "They never let me go. They supported me and my family, helped me succeed academically, and made sure I never felt out of place. For that, I will always be grateful."



A well-deserved moment of recognition! Congratulations to Mario Martinez-Jimenez '26 on receiving the "Discover Our Gifts" award.

Built on Faith: A Li



The Class of 2026 gathered one final time in prayer for the **Baccalaureate Mass** at Saint Pius X Catholic Church. Surrounded by family, faculty/staff, and friends, our seniors reflected on their journey and the foundation of faith that will guide them into the next chapter of their life.



ght for the **Future**



Congrats to the Class of 2026 COMMENCE

On Sunday, May 31, the 73rd graduating class of Saint Joseph High School came together at Purcell Pavilion at the University of Notre Dame for Commencement. This year's faculty speaker was Art teacher Ms. Jen Firestone.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
JEN FIRESTONE

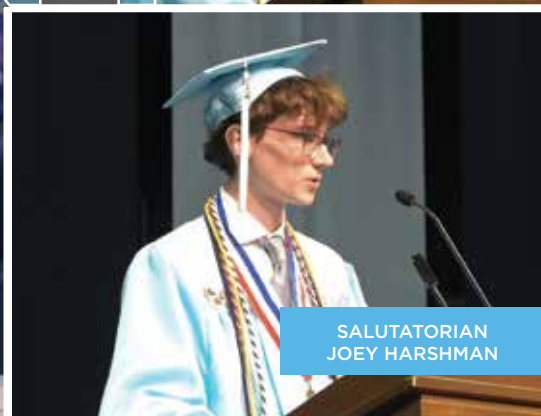
CLASS OF 2026 FAST FACTS

221	# of Graduates	1078	Average SAT score
3.45	Average GPA	60	National Honor Society Members
78	GPA ≥ 3.75	2	National Merit Scholarship Finalists
+29	GPA ≥ 3.50	7	National Merit Scholarship Winner
+35	GPA ≥ 3.25	675	AP Classes taken over four years

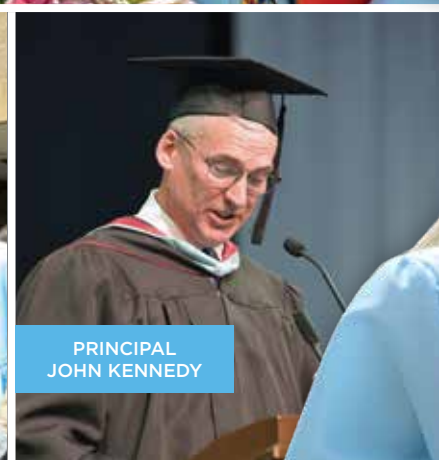
MENT



VALEDICTORIAN
DECLAN GALLAGHER



SALUTATORIAN
JOEY HARSHMAN



PRINCIPAL
JOHN KENNEDY



Art & Writing Scholarships

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards celebrate student works judged based on originality, technical skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision.

115

Scholastic Art Awards

115 total Art Awards

- 29 Gold Keys
- 37 Silver Keys
- 49 Honorable Mentions

KJ Avery (*Silver, Honorable Mention*)

Lia Bajuyo (*Gold x2, Silver x2, Honorable Mention x5*)

Mia Berrettini (*Honorable Mention x2*)

Molly Bigelow (*Honorable Mention x2*)

Olivia Burgun (*Silver*)



Alex Choinacky (*National Gold Key, Gold x4, Silver, Honorable Mention x2*)

Max Dallavis (*Gold, Silver*)

Naylea Davila-Cruz (*Silver, Honorable Mention*)

Alex Deitering (*Gold x2, Silver x3, Honorable Mention x3*)

Jessica Deitering (*Gold*)

Mia Dimino (*Honorable Mention*)

Pidge Dimino (*Honorable Mention*)

Jack Erdman (*Gold, Silver x4, Honorable Mention x3*)

Bella Esquibel (*Honorable Mention*)

Peyton Fedore (*Silver*)

Avia Firestone (*Gold x2, Silver, Honorable Mention*)

Izzy Frabutt (*Gold x3, Silver, Honorable Mention x3*)

Liliana Galicia (*Gold*)

Cami Garrage (*Honorable Mention*)

Lillian Gasko (*Honorable Mention*)

Mary Glenn (*Silver x2*)

Anthony Gubi (*Honorable Mention*)

Jaylin Halley (*Silver*)

Joey Harshman (*Gold, Honorable Mention*)

Charles Helm (*Gold x2, Honorable Mention*)

Elizabeth Helm (*Silver x2, Honorable Mention*)

Rayna Hodowaniec (*Honorable Mention*)

Connor Kintzele (*Honorable Mention*)

Ivey Lawler (*Silver*)

Patrick Letherman (*Silver*)

Rebecca Lizarraga (*Honorable Mention x2*)

MaryClaire McCourt (*Honorable Mention x2*)

Julia Morris (*Honorable Mention*)

Frida Murillo-Montes (*Honorable Mention*)

Joseph Neeser (*Gold*)

Caitlyn Pingel (*Gold, Silver*)

Cici Remley (*Silver*)

Jocelyn Romero (*Gold*)

Julian Sanchez-Murillo (*Gold, Silver, Honorable Mention x2*)

Dominick Saratore (*Gold, Silver, Honorable Mention x4*)

Alexander Slagh (*Gold*)

Kaleb Smith (*Gold*)

Paulina Walters (*Silver, Honorable Mention*)

Lilah Welch (*Gold x2, Silver x4*)

Landon Zalas (*Honorable Mention x2*)

21

Scholastic Writing Awards

21 total Writing Awards

- 2 Gold Keys
- 8 Silver Keys
- 11 Honorable Mentions

Rebecca Anatolios (*Honorable Mention*)

Isabel Appleton (*Silver*)

Sarah Conlon (*Honorable Mention*)

Adelaide Dees (*Silver*)

Mia Dimino (*Honorable Mention*)

Pidge Dimino (*Honorable Mention*)

Kamsi Diru (*Honorable Mention*)

Olivia Heckel (*Honorable Mention*)

Stephan Honnon (*Silver*)

Maggie Jenkins (*Gold*)

Joseph Neeser (*Silver*)

Anastasia Nolan (*Honorable Mention*)



Tulsi Patel (*National Gold Key, Gold, Silver*)

Rylan Rockwell (*Honorable Mention*)

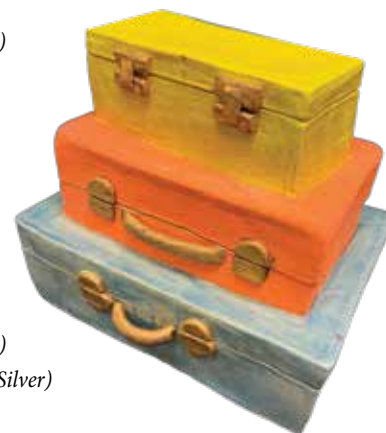
Genesis Ruiz (*Silver*)

Declan Schmiedeler (*Honorable Mention*)

Rachel Slott (*Silver x2*)

Isabella Thomas (*Honorable Mention*)

Anapaula Valecillos (*Honorable Mention*)



"Happy Traveler,"
Ivey Lawler, '28,
ceramic sculpture, Silver



= National Gold Key winners

stic Awards

136
Total Awards



"Grapes," Lilah Welch, '28,
oil pastel, Silver



"Glimpse of Hope," Caitlyn Pingel, '28, colored pencil, Gold



"Queens of the Culture," Joey Harshman, '26, oil pastel
and ink, Gold

"Through the Leaves," Lia Bajuyo, '27,
photography, Gold



"Between the Chimes," Izzy Frabutt, '26,
colored pencil, Silver



"Chinatown," Mary Glenn, '27, oil pastel, Silver



"A Rainbow
After Rain,"
Pidge Dimino, '26,
colored pencil,
Honorable Mention

"Path to Light," Molly Bigelow, '27, photography, Honorable Mention



Spring Sports Summary

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

Baseball

Record: 16-10-1 (8-4 Conference)
First Team All-NIC: James Criniti, Brayden Dhoore
Second Team All-NIC: Jacob Snyder, Will Sollmann
Honorable Mention Team All-NIC: Jack Matthew
Academic All-NIC: Josiah Gustine, Jacob Snyder, Ethan Valpatic
Academic All-State: Josiah Gustine, Jacob Snyder

Boys Volleyball

Record: 10-14 (2-3 Conference)
First Team All-NIC: Easton Eycleshymer, Colin Penn
Second Team All-NIC: Noah Dobski
Second Team All-Region: Noah Dobski, Colin Penn
IBVCA Academic All-State: Bryan Onofre-Vivar, Brody Uelk

Softball

Record: 19-10 (7-5 Conference)
First Team All-NIC: Bella Esquibel, Kiley Weinberg
Second Team All-NIC: Bailey Ball, Payton Wulf
Honorable Mention Team NIC: Amirah Heather, Kate Marie Kozel, Mary Stack
Second Team All-State: Kiley Weinberg
Honorable Mention Team All-State: Bailey Ball, Bella Esquibel, Kate Marie Kozel
Academic All-NIC: Mary Stack, Kiley Weinberg
Academic All-State: Kiley Weinberg

Girls Track & Field

Chris Nicolini Invite Champions, 3rd Place South Bend City Meet, 4th Place NIC & Sectional
Sectional Champion:
Long Jump: Lydia Goodsell
Regional Champion:
Long Jump: Lydia Goodsell
Regional Qualifiers:
100 M Dash: Lydia Goodsell
400 M Dash: Emily Keegan
1600 M Run: Izzy Frabutt
1600 M Relay: Izzy Frabutt, Lydia Goodsell, Ella Lutz, Emily Keegan
3200 M Relay: Rebecca Anatolios, Izzy Frabutt, Ella Lutz, Ella Trenerry
State Finalist:
Lydia Goodsell - Long Jump
1st Team All-State/State Meet Medalist:
Lydia Goodsell - Long Jump 19' 1.5"
Indiana All-Star: Lydia Goodsell
School Record set in 2026:
Lydia Goodsell - High Jump 19' 1.5"
First Team All-NIC:
Long Jump: Lydia Goodsell
Second Team All-NIC:
3200 M Relay: Rebecca Anatolios, Izzy Frabutt, Ella Lutz, Ella Trenerry
1600 M Run: Izzy Frabutt
200 M Hurdles: Lydia Goodsell
300 M Hurdles: Ella Lutz
Academic All-NIC: Izzy Frabutt, Ella Trenerry
Academic All-State: Rebecca Anatolios, Izzy Frabutt, Jessa Howard, Bea McClarren

Boys Track & Field

Chris Nicolini Invite Champions, Hobart Little 5 Relay Champions, South Bend City Meet Champions, NIC and Sectional Runner-Up, 5th Place at Regional
Sectional Champions:
Pole Vault: Matt Champlin
110 M High Hurdles: Will Elick
300 M Hurdles: Will Elick
Regional Qualifiers:
1600 M Relay: Le'Bralyn Booker, Will Elick, Ethan Miller, Gonzalo Serrano
3200 M Relay: Nick Baxter, Max Elick, Sam Mark, Gonzalo Serrano
400 M Dash: Ethan Miller
1600 M Run: Max Elick
Braylen White: High Jump
Regional Champion:
300 M Hurdles: Will Elick
State Finalists:
Pole Vault: Matt Champlin
Long Jump: Will Elick
110 M High Hurdles: Will Elick
300 M Hurdles: Will Elick
400 M Relay: Josue Lopez, Maddon Martin, Antwone Ross, Braylen White
Indiana All-Star: Will Elick
School Records set in 2026:
Matt Champlin - Pole Vault 15' 3"
Will Elick - 110 M High Hurdles 14.39
Will Elick - 300 M Hurdles 37.71
Richard Halliburton - 200 M Dash 22.1
Braylen White - High Jump 6' 5"
First Team All-NIC:
300 M Hurdles: Matt Elick
Pole Vault: Matt Champlin
Second Team All-NIC:
1600 M Relay: Le'Bralyn Booker, Will Elick, Ethan Miller, Gonzalo Serrano
Discus: Brody Hill
High Jump: Braylin White
Honorable Mention Team All-NIC:
400 M Relay: Josue Lopez, Maddon Martin, Antwone Ross, Braylen White
3200 M Relay: Nick Baxter, Max Elick, Sam Mark, Gonzalo Serrano
800 M Run: Gonzalo Serrano
3200 M Run: Max Elick
First Team All-State: Will Elick - 300 M Hurdles - 38.6
NIC Meet High Scorer: Will Elick
NIC Coach of the Year: Mike McCarthy
Academic All-NIC: Marco Bajuyo, Caden Clifford, Alex Deitering, Max Elick, Brody Hill, Llyton Kempf, Evan LaCourt, Viet Luu, Andrew Neeser
Academic All-State: Marco Bajuyo, Nick Baxter, Caden Clifford, Alex Deitering, Conor Gallagher, Brody Hill



Girls Tennis

Record: 18-5 (6-1 Conference)
Sectional Champions
Regional Champions
Semi-State Finalist
First Team All-NIC: Coco Burfien, Maya Ewing, Maggie Jenkins, Libby Yergler
Second Team All-NIC: Sofia Fargier, Ella Michaels, Mia Penn
All-District: Coco Burfien, Maya Ewing, Maggie Jenkins, Libby Yergler
First Team All-State: Libby Yergler
Honorable Mention All-State: Coco Burfien, Maya Ewing & Maggie Jenkins
Academic All-NIC: Mairin Rumely
Academic All-State: Coco Burfien, Maya Ewing, Sofia Fargier, Ella Michaels, Maggie Jenkins, Delia Kennedy, Libby Yergler

Boys Boys Golf

Record: 11-2 (6-1 Conference)
Sectional Champions
3rd Place Regionals
State Qualifier
Second Team All-NIC: Tate Guyton, Joe Kloska, Zach Matthys
Honorable Mention Team All-NIC: Levi Gustine
Academic All-NIC: James Eder, Dylan Farrell, Sam Frick, Max Germann, Tate Guyton, Jayden Jones, Joe Kloska

Boys Lacrosse

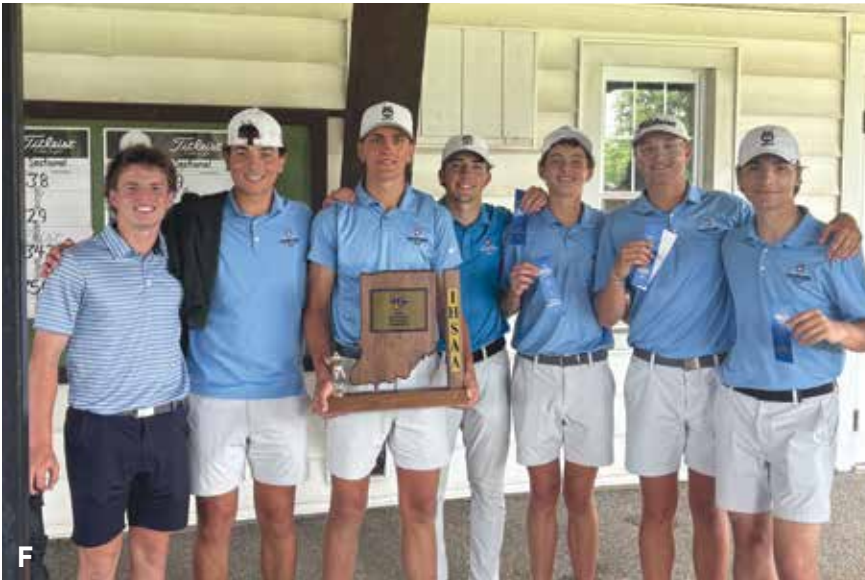
Record: 12-4
Lost in Semi-Finals
All-NILC First Team: Finn Anderson, Jack Keegan
All-NILC Second Team: Nik Gerard, Mason Kazmierzak, Austin Ratigan, Luca Saratore
All-NILC Honorable Mention: Nick Berrettini, Max Custer, Connor Kintzele, Jack Troester, Michael Varda
All-Class: Finn Anderson, Max Custer, Mason Kazmierzak, Jack Keegan

Girls Lacrosse

Record: 10 - 4
First Team All-State: Peyton Hopkins, Mary Maher
All-State Honorable Mention: Maya Matthews, Ashley Mereness
All-Sectional: Alex Choinacky, Murphy Farrell, Peyton Hopkins, Mary Maher, Maya Matthews, Ashley Mereness
All-Academic: Ella Balint, Alex Choinacky, Lauren Duba, Murphy Farrell, Peyton Forsyth, Lauren Hickey, Sophia Kintz, Mary Maher, Maya Matthews, MaryClaire McCourt, Ashley Mereness, Julia Napier, Emily Patterson, Sydney Schmeltz, Grace Shaul, Leighton Stanley

Jack Keegan '26 stays poised and ready to orchestrate an offensive attack.





A. A.J. LaSane '27 makes spectacular defensive play from shortstop for the Huskies. **B.** Bailey Ball '28, Bella Esquibel '27, Mary Stack '26, and Kiley Weinberg '26 stay focused before taking the field. **C.** Matt Champlin '27 clears the bar and breaks another Saint Joe pole vault school record. **D.** Brody Uelk '27 rises above the net to hammer down a ferocious spike. **E.** Lydia Goodsell '27 soars effortlessly through the air in the long jump. **F.** Boys Golf proudly hoists its hard-earned Sectional Championship trophy. **G.** Mary Maher '26 fiercely cradles the ball while driving past a defender. **H.** Coco Burfien '27 triumphantly hoists Sectional Championship trophy above her head.

Leading the pack to VICTORY!

ALUMNI *Highlights*

BY SAINT JOE ADVANCEMENT

The Class of '63 Stays Connected

Since celebrating their 50th reunion in 2013, members of the Saint Joe Class of 1963 have gathered monthly for lunch to stay connected and maintain lifelong friendships. The tradition, started by Marilyn Piecuch-Rajski, brings together local alumni and occasional out-of-town classmates. Additional gatherings have included winter lunches in Florida and summer get-

togethers in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Following Marilyn's passing in 2022, Joe Bogucki assumed leadership of the group, continuing this cherished 13-year tradition.



Father Greenan Sullivan '15 Ordained to the Priesthood

Father **Greenan Sullivan '15** was ordained this June to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, marking the culmination of years of prayer, discernment, and formation. After his time at

Saint Joe, Sullivan continued his education and basketball career at Ave Maria University before entering seminary. Throughout his vocational journey, he has found purpose in the sense of service and community within parishes. Saint Joe proudly celebrates Father Sullivan's ordination and joins the diocesan community in praying for his ministry as a priest.



John Zack '82 Honored with Notre Dame Presidential Catholic Mission Award

John Zack '82

has received the 2026 Presidential Catholic Mission Award from the University of Notre Dame, recognizing staff members who exemplify and advance the University's Catholic mission. A

member of the Office of Campus Ministry for nearly 40 years, Zack serves as University Sacristan, overseeing liturgical operations at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and supporting major campus worship celebrations. Notre Dame praised his leadership, dedication, and lasting impact on the spiritual life of the University community.



Abby Fink '10 Honored with Christ the Teacher Award

Congratulations to **Abby Fink '10**, honored at the You Can Lend A Hand Luncheon as the Christ the Teacher Award winner! This prestigious recognition celebrates her outstanding excellence in the classroom and unwavering dedication to Catholic education. By embodying Christ's love, humility, and faith, Abby truly reflects the mission and values of Saint Joe. We are incredibly grateful for her impactful service to our students and proud to celebrate this well-deserved honor!

Want to stay connected with fellow Saint Joe grads?

Email Alumni Coordinator Henry Chandler at hchandler@saintjoehigh.com to sign up for the monthly Alumni Soundings newsletter, bi-annual Focus Magazine and other communications from Saint Joe.

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy, we say goodbye to alumni, faculty, and staff who have passed.

Class of 1944

Geraldine Lash Brittsan

Class of 1947

Patricia Clark
Carol Guendling Dillon
John Rybicki
Rosemary Kazmierzak Taylor

Class of 1948

Mary Ann Scherger Fairlie

Class of 1949

Marie Dlugosz Zack

Class of 1950

Donald Walter

Class of 1951

Irene Trippel DeVliegher

Class of 1952

Kathleen Billisitz Hoppe

Class of 1954

Frank Nemeth
Leona Rybicki

Class of 1955

Walter Kwiatek
Teresa Nutting Marcy

Class of 1956

Kathryn Wroblewski Clay
Mary Lou Beyer Pairitz

Class of 1957

Julianne Keresztes Flowers
Cyril Rose
Patrick Vertesich

Class of 1958

Carolyn Bujeker Chrzan
Catherine O'Connor Gregg
Paul Mennucci

Class of 1959

Richard Ryan
Ralph Szymanski

Class of 1960

Lillian VanDamme Beres
Kathleen Nowak Bondy
Anita Sharpe Butler
Stephen Culliton
Ervin Klebosits
Susanne Turniock Pare
George Vargo
Helen Lavallee Zagrzejewski

Class of 1961

Joseph Lorenc Jr.
Judy Bolka Nowicki

Class of 1962

George Vogler

Class of 1963

Norma Swiatowy Berry
Albert Brasseur

Class of 1963 (continued)

Anne Guentert Cassler
Judith Kimbel Reed
Barbara Turnock Slabaugh

Class of 1964

Wayne Ewbank
Richard Falvey

Class of 1965

Rebecca Golubski Bahu
David Smith

Class of 1966

Walter Trzop

Class of 1967

Kathleen Ginter

Class of 1968

Gary Whitfield

Class of 1969

Marcia Batcho Justic

Class of 1970

David Strebinger

Class of 1971

Paul Gyori
Anne Hyduk
Gregory Labis
Brian Torzewski
Diane Danowski McGuire

Class of 1972

Deborah Mayfield

Class of 1974

Kathleen Domnanovich Cook
Michael O'Bryan

Class of 1976

Timothy McKenny
William Pinter
Rene Van de Wiele

Class of 1980

Michael Roemer

Class of 1981

Jacqueline Taghon McDonnell

Class of 1982

Joseph Kennedy

Class of 1983

John Bhisitkul
Kathleen Tufts Castillo
Philip Trent

Faculty/Staff

Mary Lou Derwent
Sally Hendricks
Reverend Father Paul McCarthy
Brother John McMuldren, C.S.C.
Brother Carlos Parrilla, C.S.C.
Rev. Wilfred Raymond, C.S.C.
Gwen Stines

*May they now rejoice in the presence of God,
whose love they reflected in our community.*



If you know of a classmate's passing, please share the information with Alumni Coordinator Henry Chandler at hchandler@saintjoehigh.com.



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Euro Challenge Team Ranks 3RD IN THE NATION

Congratulations to our Euro Challenge team on placing 3rd in the Nation in New York City! They presented on Lithuania's response to demographic shifts in an aging population. Congratulations to Charlotte Borger '28, Isabella Lutz '28, Kate Marie Kozel '28, Julie Chismar, Phil DePauw '88, Lorelei Gibbs '28, Delia Kennedy '28, and Luke Kocovski '28 for representing Saint Joe with excellence.