

The Gauntlet



For teens by teens



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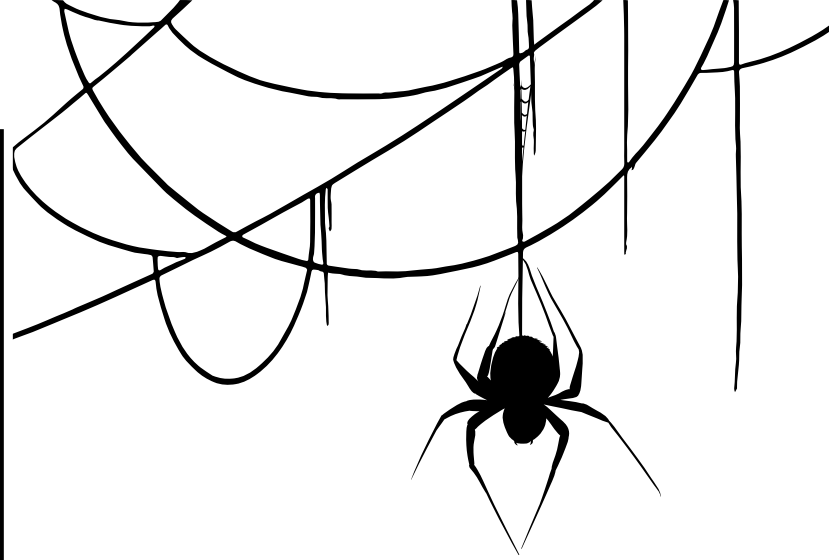
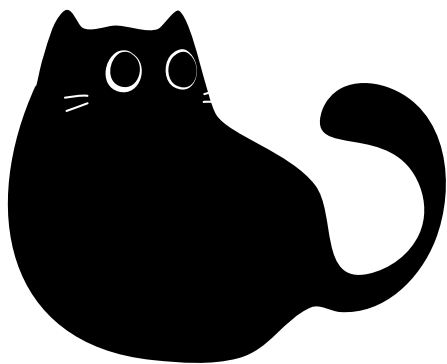
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Poem *By: Zachary Ramirez*

My daily life

Every day I wake up,
I try not to wonder.

The blinding lights of the morning always have an
offset,

But I never wonder.

The possibilities of the days that go by are endless,
. Yet I still do not wonder.

The repetitive counter of times I fail adds up in my
infinite thoughts,
I never wonder.

The sights, the faults, the scenes, the dreams, the
cries, the lies, the skies always come back.

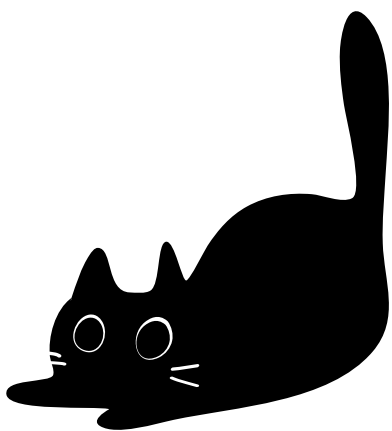
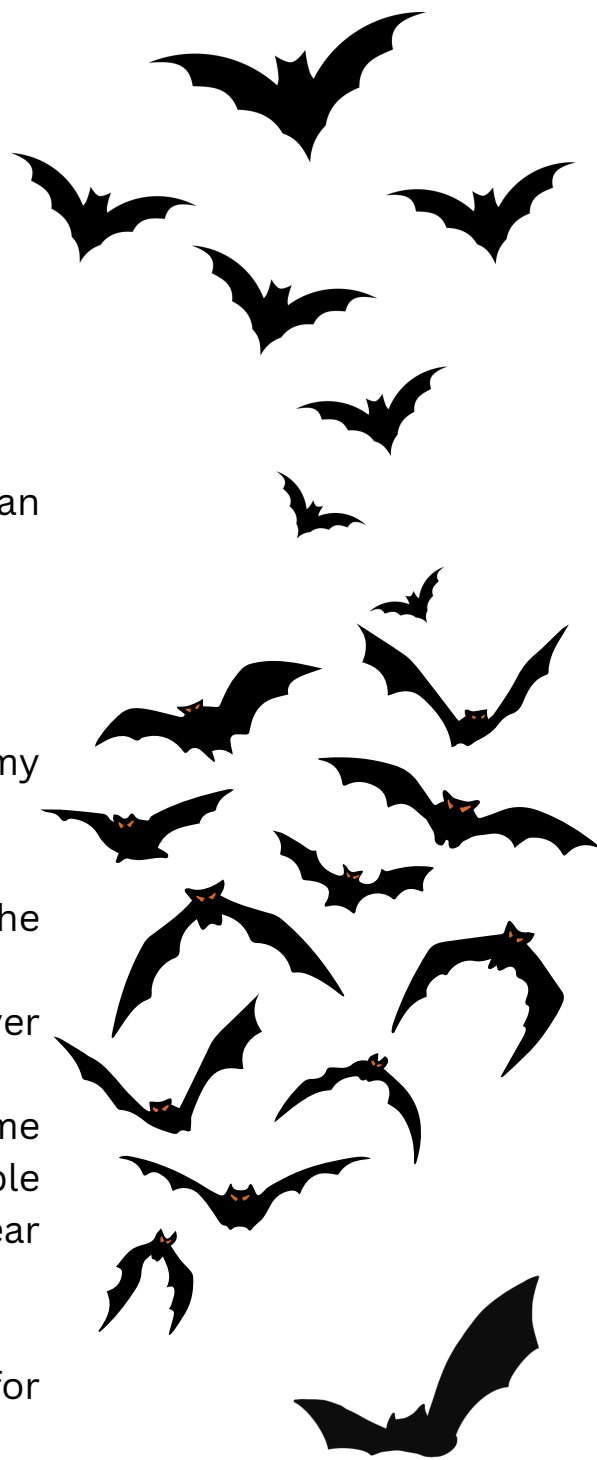
But it always comes back to a thought that never
wonders.

The thought of the world crashing lingers from time
to time, faster than an explosion, an unimaginable
fear that has the capabilities only a tumor could bear
returns,

But I never wonder.

Whenever I return to my house and finally relax for
the night, I go to sleep,

And then I wonder.



The meaning behind this is that I'm always thinking about things in the past that haunt me. Throughout the day they never come to mind. The evil in the world is always kept away in my brain. The world is a very unexpected place filled with lies and truths. It feels like a balance beam every time my day starts.

Spiritual Corner

By: Michelle Crockford

Spiritual Corner - Month of the Holy Rosary



Mary tells us that whoever prays the rosary everyday is guaranteed heaven because the Rosary is a meditation on Jesus's life. Every mystery is an important message from Jesus for us to ponder. And, on pondering Jesus's life, we cannot help but improve.

For this month of October, I would like to challenge you to pray the rosary, either by yourself, or with your family or friends. There is also a Holy Cross rosary club that takes place outside at the Grotto everyday after school. Anyone is free to join, even for just one day. And I pray that through the intersection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and her Son, Jesus Christ, you may experience all of its blessings.

The month of October is devoted to the Holy Rosary. There are 59 beads on a rosary; each bead represents a prayer. There are 53 Hail Mary beads and 6 beads for the Our Fathers and Glory Bes, In fact, the word "bead" derives from "bede" in Old English, meaning "prayer".

The rosary was first presented to St. Dominic through a vision of Mary in which she offered the beads to the Saint and told him, "Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?"

Strong words. But the rosary IS a weapon. It is a weapon against evil and a powerful tool of Mary's intercession. Devils hate the rosary because they hate Mary foremost because Mary is the one that crushes the serpent's head. The humblest of God's creations which brought about Jesus the Messiah and Savior of the world. Simply put, Satan would rather have been defeated by God because of his pride. But that's not how God works.

"The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times." - St. Padre Pio



Feast days

By: Michelle Crockford

Feast day: October 1st

St. Therese of Lisieux, or the Little Flower, is a popular yet unique saint. She became a Carmelite nun in 1888 at the age of 15. She remained in her cloister for ten years then died when she was 24 without having gone on any missions, founded anything, or done any remarkable works. She was known best for her “Little Way” stating that in her knowing that she could accomplish anything for herself, she would cry out to God for help like a child and depend on Him. St. Therese is the patron saint of florists, missions, loss of parents, the sick, and priests.

Check out St. Therese of Lisieux's book, *A Story of A Soul*.

Feast day: October 2nd

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.” (Matt. 18: 10) We all have a special friend given to us at birth, our Guardian Angels. They are made particular by God to protect and advise us from both physical and spiritual harm. Your Guardian Angel is the coolest, super hero you could have watching over you.

Any angel is too complicated to try and summarize in a few sentences; please research further with this book, *Angels (and Demons): What do we Really Know About Them?* by Dr. Peter Kreeft, a credible and easy-to-read Catholic Theologian. Or please visit: www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints/guardian-angels-817 for EWTN's article on Guardian Angels.

St. Therese of Lisieux



Feast of the Guardian Angels



Feast day: October 5th

St. Faustina Kowalska was chosen by Jesus to be His Prophet of Mercy. She is most well known for the Divine Mercy painting that she oversaw the making of after seeing visions of Jesus. St. Faustina is the patron saint of mercy.

Check out St. Faustina's diary for her spiritual writings

St. Faustina



Feast day: October 12th

Blessed Carlo Acutis is the first millennial saint. He was born in 1991, May 3rd and died in 2006 of Leukemia. He was 15. Carlo loved to play video games and was a normal everyday kid, however he had a deep devotion to Our Lord and the Holy Eucharist. He is most famous for his website of all the Eucharistic miracles that he finished shortly before his death. As he suffered from Leukemia, he traveled to different shrines and holy places to pray. Carlo is the patron of youth and computer programmers.

Bl. Carlo Acutis



Check out Bl. Carlo Acutis' website at <http://www.miracolieucaistici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

Feast day: October 22nd

St. Pope John Paul II is one of the better known saints. His original name was Karol J. Wojtyla and he lived in Poland during the Nazi occupation. He lost his mother, father, and elder brother, and sister all before he was twenty. However he is now one of the most influential saints of this generation. He wrote several books including: *Redemptor Hominis*, *Letter to artists*, *Letter to Families*, and more.

October 22nd: St. Pope John Paul II



For more information on St. Pope John Paul II, I recommend checking out his books which can easily be found at a local bookstore, library, or Amazon.

Spiritual Reflection *By: John Acosta*

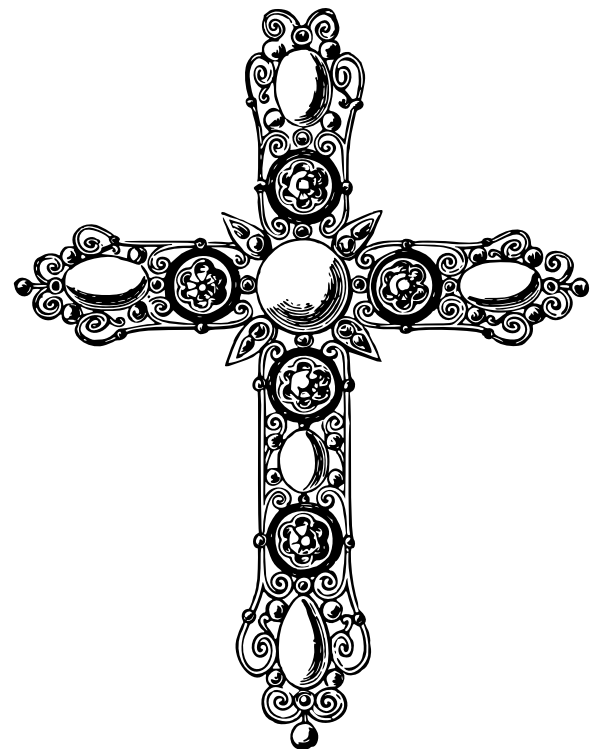


“If God sends you many sufferings, it is a sign that He has great plans for you and certainly wants to make you a saint.” - St. Ignatius of Loyola

Many times in my life, I wondered why certain things just had to happen to me. I would ask, "Why me, God?" The challenges I am faced with really discourage me sometimes, and I wonder why some things just don't get better.

But one thing I have realized is that even in my suffering, I always turned to God and trusted Him. And He always provided. When I came across this quote, I knew God was speaking to me. Hearing His voice through St. Ignatius of Loyola's changed my perspective. Now, I thank the Lord for all the suffering He allows me to endure, because it's not to hurt me, but to make me better and to help me grow. God doesn't want to punish us, He just wants the best for us as any father does.

I encourage everybody to endure the challenges God has allowed you to face, they are blessings in disguise. We will never know why God allows certain things to happen, because He is God and we are simply human beings and our ways are not His. The challenges we face make us stronger, not weaker. Nothing worthwhile ever came easy. If you are a follower of Christ, your life will be filled with challenges and sufferings, and we will wonder why. It's because God has big plans for us. I encourage everyone to be thankful for their trials in life, for they are granted to you for a reason. God bless you all and never give up!

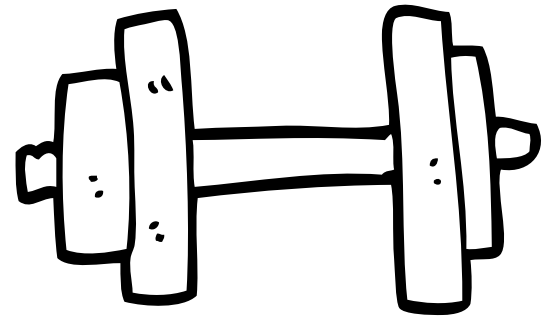


Trying New Things

By: Taylor Tuttle

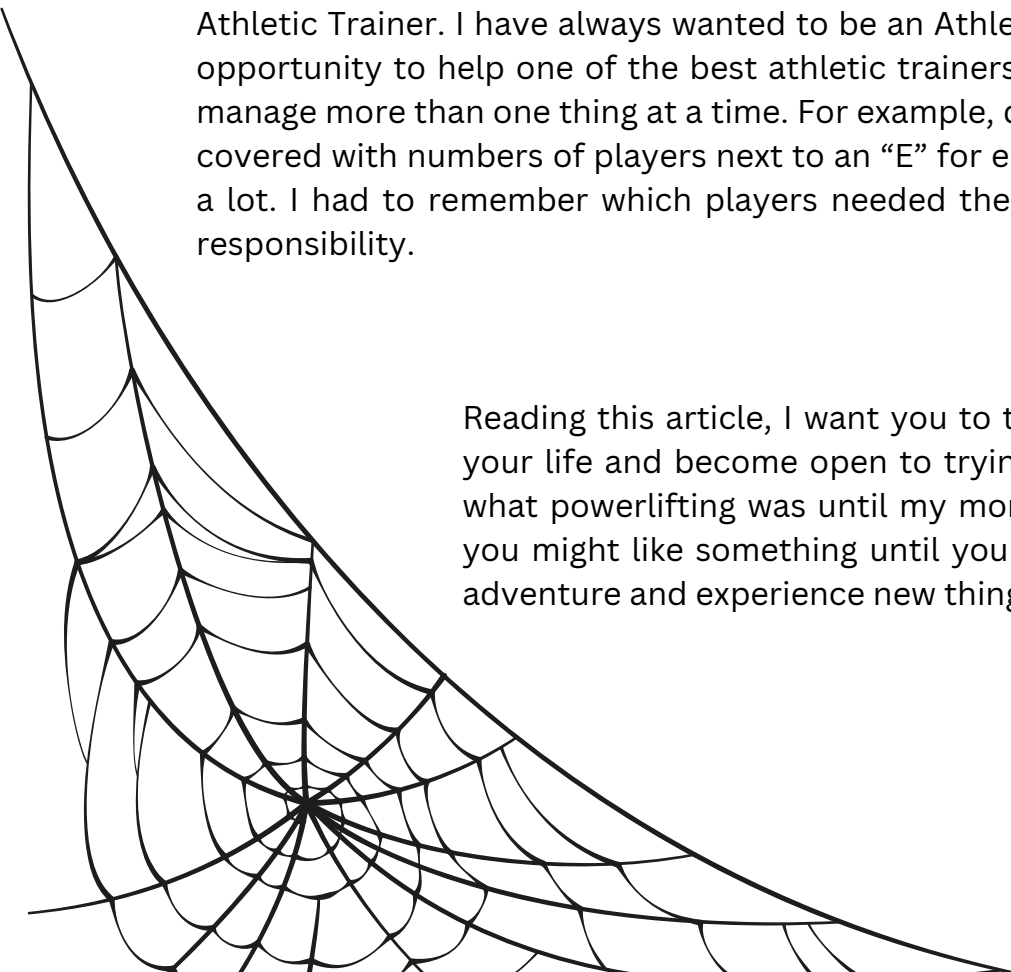
When I thought of this title, I was confused. How could I try new things? I thought back to my freshman year. When I got to high school I was just a little freshman, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. There was so much going on. My freshman year I played volleyball, but having played volleyball all throughout middle school, I thought I knew the sport. But I didn't know how much more challenging high school volleyball would be. Reminding you, I'm just a small freshman trying to be something I'm not.

After volleyball, my mom introduced me to powerlifting, powerlifting is a sport that I really wasn't expecting to join. I actually liked it, also throughout volleyball and powerlifting I had to manage my grades, which was challenging because I haven't had that responsibility before.



Now that I'm a sophomore I've matured more, I have tried new things like becoming an Athletic Trainer. I have always wanted to be an Athletic Trainer. This year I have had the opportunity to help one of the best athletic trainers I have ever met. She taught me to manage more than one thing at a time. For example, during a game I would have my hand covered with numbers of players next to an "E" for electrolytes because the boys cramp a lot. I had to remember which players needed the electrolytes, and that was a lot of responsibility.

Reading this article, I want you to think about what you can change in your life and become open to trying new things like me. I had no idea what powerlifting was until my mom mentioned it, so you never know you might like something until you try it. I encourage you to go on an adventure and experience new things.



Senior Spotlight

MIKAYLA ARCE



NICKNAMES: MIK, KAY,

COLLEGE ACCEPTIONS: ST.MARYS , OLLU , UIW

FUTURE ASPIRATION: SPEECH THERAPIST

By: Leena Garcia

Senior Spotlight is a segment where we highlight a specific seniors per month. This was made so you can meet your upperclassmen and create a personal connection to them even if you may have never talked to before. We want to give recognition to our students for their character and we believe they can offer us wisdom



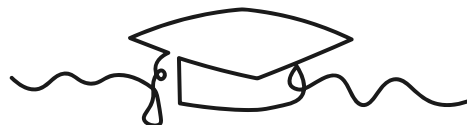
If you are interested in being the next seniors please talk to Mr. Flores for an interview.

Class of 2024

Mikayla Arce is known as a very dedicated athlete and a major impact at our Holy Cross. Playing select softball her whole life, her presence as an softball player has really impacted our school leading to 2x state championships. But her contributions are not simply athletic, let us tell you about it. Mikayla has been involved in student council, NHS, basketball, volleyball, and softball throughout her 6 years at Holy Cross.

She is disciplined and determined to make this school and her community a better place. When we asked Mikayla "What pieces of advice do you wish to give to our underclassmen", She replied "I hope our future students change the way people view our school, I want students to see our school the same way they see a bigger school because we have the same things to offer." I felt like this was something I was obligated to mention due to the importance of the message. Mikayla recognizes how involving yourself in our school will give you a new-found appreciation for it. It's so simple to complain about what we don't have but she finds a way to change this mindset and create an impact at our school regardless of our "limitations". She is also described by her friends as a very loyal person and is someone you always find yourself laughing around although she is not very extroverted. I've known Mikayla for almost my whole my life, and i've watched her grow up. She has matured so much within her 6 years at HC. All this growth and majority has helped her start her journey into adulthood. Seeing this makes me so happy for her, but honestly the times I enjoy the most with her are when we are giggling and making endless jokes like we would as little kids. Most of the time I don't even remember what we are talking about but you can't replicate our times of genuine laughter and bonding.

To conclude, She is a very disciplined athlete and her athletic strengths have really changed our women sports program. She also is an extremely loyal friend and her presence will be missed as she graduates this year. Her participation in the community has truly stood out and Holy Cross is better because of it.



Senior Spotlight

JESSE MARTINEZ



NICKNAMES: JESS

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: OLLU, MARY HARDIN BAYLOR, ST. MARY'S, AND UIW

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS : A FILM AND TELEVISION DIRECTOR

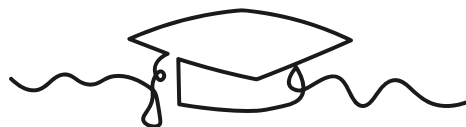


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Jesse Martinez is an ambitious student that dedicates himself to all that he does. He is a very active student at Holy Cross, as he is the film manager for football games, in Varsity Soccer, a Eucharistic Minister, and a treasurer to the student council. He partakes in every school event that is hosted and set up by the student council. He works in silence and without much recognition, as does much of the rest of the student council. Without student council and all that they do for the school, many of the amenities we take for granted would not be possible. Jesse is the film director for our football team, a very important job that seems to be very overlooked. He is very talented at what he does and takes his responsibility very seriously. Thanks to Jesse and his team, we are provided with quality pictures and footage of all that transpires throughout the football season.

Jesse is a tremendous leader as both the film manager and in the student council. He has grown into a great person and a great leader. He took chances and explored as much as he could in high school, and throughout these different experiences he gained new knowledge that he can use for the rest of his life. He explored different aspects of himself, and because of it, he is now more versatile and skillful at several different things. Something I would also love to point out about Jesse is his assertive nature. I found it so very important that our students stand on their beliefs and are proud about them. Jesse is a perfect demonstration of this. He uses his positions of leadership to improve our school and use his voice. This is an example I hope all our future students decide to follow.

The people he met here have also changed his perspective and outlook on life. His best friend Duncan Cook, and his entire friend group has truly helped him become who he is today. Through his friendships, his school spirit and confidence grew. Through his friends, he wasn't concerned with what people thought or said to him. Because of all he has experienced throughout high school, Jesse would love to remind Holy Cross to take chances and that it's okay to be afraid as long as you grow and attempt to overcome that fear. He encourages you to keep your school spirit and build upon what he and the rest of the student council has left us.



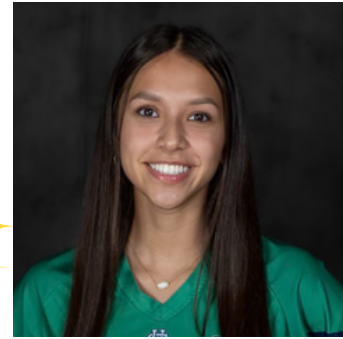
Senior Spotlight

GIANNA FELAN

NICKNAMED : G,GRIMACE

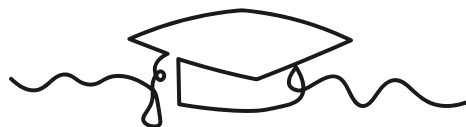
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: OLLU, UIW,ST.MARYS,MARY HARDIN BAYLOR

FUTURE ASPIRATION: DENTIST



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Gianna Felan is a senior here at Holy Cross and has been with us for 4 years. She is very active at our school, as a volleyball captain, student council parliamentarian and a key soccer player. Something that stuck out to me when interviewing Gianna is that when I asked her how she as an individual impacted Holy Cross she told me she didnt know how to answer, and suggested I should do it for her. Now I feel as if I know Gianna on a personal level and she is one of the most humble people I've ever met. She is very much a reserved and reflective leader. She does all the right things not for flashiness or for praise, but simply because she has integrity. This is an infrequent but vital quality for people today. Many people choose to do what is right for personal gain, but not Gianna. She works in silence and I believe her humility has truly shown when I gave her an opportunity to boast about herself, she chose not to. Despite all the commitment and sacrifice she just keeps moving forward, and this is very admirable. When asked "How does being a Holy Cross student impact your life", Gianna said "Being a Holy Cross student has impacted my life by strengthening my faith and becoming more outgoing. It has allowed me to grow as a spiritual individual and a devoted student leader." This goes to show that through her natural leadership qualities and determination has impacted her life through Holy Cross. I think it is important that you understand, it is not just the school itself that changes our students, it's the student's ability to accept change and the ability to grow. She truly is a person with awareness and the willingness to make herself better everyday. On top of all the very disciplined qualities, she is also just a genuinely thoughtful person. I once remember talking to Gianna about wanting to have a profession in psychology. Now everytime she comes back from her psychology courses she brings me back information and resources I would be interested in. It takes a thoughtful person to remember something that I mentioned to her and constantly find ways to help me pursue that dream. This is a perfect example of a leader and a person thoughtful enough to help others reach their goals.



Senior Spotlight

EMMA GARCIA

NICKNAMED: EM, EMIZER

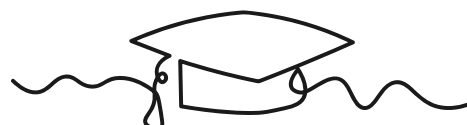
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: ST. MARYS, OLLU, UIW

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS: UNDECIDED



Class
of
2024

Emma Garcia is a senior here at Holy Cross who has been with us since 6th grade. She participates in volleyball, basketball, is a 2x softball state champion and is Holy Cross StuCo President. When I asked Emma what impact she has made at HC she explained to me her whole journey to become the Student Body President and her impact in our women sports program. I would love to begin to explain some of the accomplishments of Emma. From being an all-state softball player, 2nd team all-district volleyball, and 2nd team all-district basketball player, her athletic presence truly is a big one. Now I'm not sure if any of you know, but Emma is my sister, and I've seen her grow throughout the years. I've seen her through all her successes and failures. I find that all her athletic honors are amazing but they will never amount to the significance of her growth in character and her defiance to the limitations set onto her. For reference, Emma has never been loud, attention-attracting, extroverted or a confident public speaker. She even told me "If I told my 2nd grade self that I'd run for president and make speeches in front of the school, I would have probably cried on the spot." She also has a learning disability called dyslexia, this made her constantly bullied and mocked throughout her school years. I remember the first time she decided she would not let her lifetime fear of public speaking stop her from going for what she wanted. She was talking about the changes that should be made to our school, speaking about the culture, ideas for events and just talking about her general experience at this highschool. Then she finally said jokingly "Maybe I should just run". This idea struck her in her bones, I remember saying "Dude, you actually should, I mean why couldn't you?" This whole mindset of "Why not me?" stuck with her. Later that month she would win the run for president. Everyday I see new growth from her, I see her conquering the fear of public speaking, leading her peers, planning pep-rallies, organizing school functions, and having a forceful presence at our school. From being a timid 2nd-grader who was bullied for her reading, to an influential, resilient senior president that would read speeches to the whole school. The only way to this path was overcoming her fears and breaking the doubts that many people in her life had engraved into her. I'm endlessly proud of her. I'm so happy I got to tell you this story, and I'm glad I got the chance to offer more vulnerability and frankness of our STUCO president's story. Finally, Emma leaves you with this message "Never ever count yourself out, Never let other people define you"



Senior Spotlight

REBEKAH HERNANDEZ

NICKNAMED: BEKA, BEK

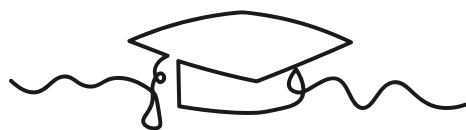
FUTURE ASPIRATIONS: ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: ST. MARYS, UIW, TEXAS A&M, OLLU



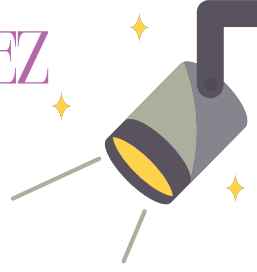
Class of 2024

Rebekah Hernandez, more commonly known as Beka, participates in basketball as a captain, campus ministry and is a student ambassador. When Beka was asked “How does being a Holy Cross student impact your life?” She replied with “Being a Holy Cross student impacts my life because I wouldn’t get the same friendships and family I have here at any other school.” I found this especially true because of the type of friend Beka is. She is the type of person that changes the environment around her. My sister Emma told me a story about her and Beka: Emma was so nervous before her first speech as president, and the first person to comfort her was Beka. She explained that Beka told her to say a prayer and that she would also pray with her, and she felt so relieved. Beka always finds a way to uplift those around her and make people feel at home. Ever since I met Beka she has been nothing but selfless and caring to those around her. She is truly a person that makes everyone around her better, especially on the court during basketball. She uses this role to be a leader and to motivate her team to push past their limits. Her selflessness has impacted their team chemistry and they are predicted to have a successful season this year. Finally, I would like to mention that Beka is extremely devoted to her faith. Faith like hers is hard to come across in teens today. She has a dedication to follow God and actively chooses to be a person of faith but also a loving person. Beka has been on many services trips and is very active in her church. I will never forget how Beka would invite my sister and I to church and retreats. I believe true friendships encourage you to do what is right, and she constantly guides me through my journey with Christ. I'm so happy I was able to talk to Beka. She has forever impacted several lives at HC and I hope to give her the recognition she deserves.



Senior Spotlight

DOMINIC HERNANDEZ



NICKNAMES: DOM

COLLEGE ACCEPTIONS: UNIVERSITY OF INCARNATE WORD

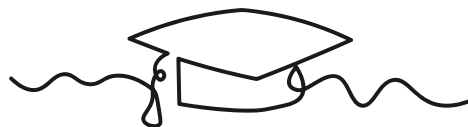
FUTURE ASPIRATION: PHYSICAL THERAPIST

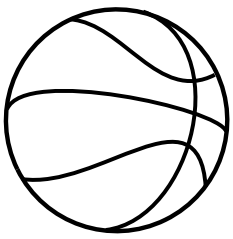
Class of 2024

Dominic is a determined and disciplined young man. He will do whatever it takes to accomplish his goals. If he wants something done he will do whatever it takes to get there. I can not claim to know Dominic that well, but through observation, this I can tell you: He is a leader who will raise everyone up, not bring them down, he is a great basketball player, and he is a kind person to all. I simply know Dominic through basketball. If I had not played basketball, I would have no affiliation with him. This would be a missed opportunity. To simply be given the opportunity to play with him as a teammate is a great honor. He is talented, a great teammate, and compassionate. When I asked for his help with my basketball skills, without a second thought he said yes. It wasn't even a question to him, it was simply who he was. This may not be surprising to you, but to me, I was astounded by his answer. Not because of who he was, but because he didn't know me. Not very often do people take the time to help and benefit people that they don't know. His empathy and compassion towards his teammates (and everyone else) is extraordinary, qualities that are often overlooked and under appreciated.

Dominic Hernandez is proud to be Vice President in student council, in Varsity basketball, and varsity track member. He organizes many school events around the school through the student council. He plays basketball and plans to continue playing in college. He is also an ambassador of Holy Cross. This job consists of demonstrating our school to visitors. He was a part of this when Holy Cross Principals from around the country came to visit our school a couple weeks ago. Through being involved in basketball and student council, he has grown into a tremendous leader that is always trying to stay positive regardless of the situation. Some of his favorite people have been through Holy Cross, including his basketball coaches (Coach Hammond, Coach Nick, and Coach Nick), Mr. Forman, and Mikayla have all truly helped him find himself as an athlete, as a man of God and as the young adult he is becoming. Dominic tore his ACL twice within the past year, but through his resilience and careful recovery process he was able to bounce back on the court. His mentality and work effort are what truly describe Dominic.

He has truly found a wonderful community through Holy Cross, and prays for the continuation of such a strong and united school after he leaves. Dominic Hernandez would like to leave you all with one final message: Live moment by moment. Don't reminisce about the past or worry about the future too much, live in the moment, because these last four years of high school go by much too fast.





SPORTS

By: Nicholas Orozco



Varsity Volleyball



Volleyball continues their season with 16 wins and 13 losses. They have been doing a great job so far and we can not wait to see how they conclude this year's volleyball season! Volleyball has drastically improved over the course of their season, these Varsity athletes have been working hard to accomplish their goals. As the season continues, so do practices. Practices are every day after school for a few hours, with practices consisting of conditioning, fundamentals, and different aspects of volleyball that contribute to their great season.

Varsity Volleyball had their Senior Night on October 12 and there was a plethora of people there in support of our Seniors. There were several people in attendance that night wanting to witness our Volleyball Senior Night. Our Seniors included Gianna Felan, Emma Garcia, Mikayla Arce, Alyssa Fernandez, and Angie Medrano. Our Seniors made their grand entrance as they tore through their introductory sign. They made their special appearance with a sign that designated who they were and where they stood. A brief and heartening letter was read on behalf of their parents to each Senior. Each Senior was given a sash which they wore for the duration of their Senior Night. After the personal message, a touching video was played with pictures of each Senior as a child to the young adults they have become. It was a truly emotional night with heart-warming messages and nostalgic videos on display for everyone to behold. A momentous occasion that our Seniors will take with them for the rest of their lives. If there was any way to say goodbye to our Seniors, this was surely the way to do it.

On a different note, volleyball is preparing for their District games. We asked Senior Angelina Medrano how she felt volleyball progressed throughout the season. She said 'over the season I feel like our program has completely changed! I feel like all of us have the mindset of wanting to win and come back better than we did in district. I feel like we know exactly what we are up against having played these great teams already, now we just need to execute and play every game like it's our last game!' This mindset has obviously impacted the team dynamic as our girls are now 3-1 in their district run. Within the past 4 games they haven't beaten Hill Country Christian, Boerne Geneva and Veritas, who are all teams they lost to previously in season. Trying to wrap up their season strong, they hope to continue this winning streak into the playoffs. This part of the season is crucial to our volleyball players especially with all the hard work and dedication they put in since the beginning of summer. Our Seniors will have their last shot at a State Championship, and I assure this will be a tenacious fight to the end. Best of luck to our volleyball team while they prepare to face tough opponents as they head to District!

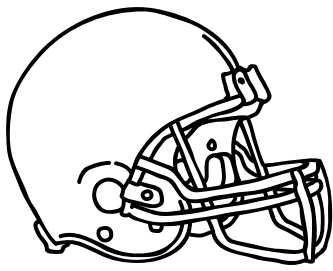
Junior Varsity

Junior Varsity volleyball has officially concluded their season. They ended their season with 5 wins and 10 losses. Despite the challenges they have faced this season, they constantly persevered. Even when it sometimes felt hopeless and all morale was lost, despite all of these obstacles, they persevered. They have displayed discipline by always pushing through the struggles no matter what you're feeling. Doing it not because you love it, but because it needs to get done to improve ourselves as athletes. There is nothing you can do without discipline. These athletes sure have demonstrated this quality throughout the entirety of the season. They had a rough start to the season, but they had a super strong finish. They have improved so much and there is nothing more that a coach can ask for.

Genesis Medrano explains that the team has drastically improved throughout their season. There were several struggles in the beginning, but it is not about how you start, it is about how you finish. Games were difficult, and presented a much bigger challenge than middle school volleyball. Genesis states that towards the end, they were feeding off of each other's energy, which contributed to their improved communication. Communication improved on the court, a better relationship was built between the players, and as a result, their game improved. Mentality also played a big role within this season. Hopelessness is a tough enemy to overcome, it damages your morale and overall hinders your ability to play optimally. This was also an aspect that was improved throughout this season. When players gained more confidence in themselves and their ability to play the game, their stats improved as a result. Self-confidence is always something that will be an obstacle, but by building better relationships with teammates, the team ambiance improved and so did their confidence. Genesis excels in passing and saving the ball. She is able to make quick saves, and help her teammates out with an assist.

Samantha Chapa explains that as the season came to a close, relationships improved and as a result they had more fun. When you had fun, the work didn't feel like work anymore. Whether strength and conditioning, disliked drills, it felt better because you had your teammates to back you up, and knowing that the season soon comes to an end. Sam also mentions the importance of discipline. Discipline can simply be defined as doing the things you hate, but doing it like you love it. You may not always want to show up to practice, but you do because you know you want to improve. You may not want to practice on the weekends, but you do because you want to improve. It is all about the consistency and discipline that an athlete implements into their training style that makes them a dominant player. Sam knows this. Sam is really good at spiking the ball. Her serves and her ability to get a point are what makes her a great player. She is working hard for next year, and to hopefully make Varsity.

Junior Varsity has improved tremendously over the last month. They are more coordinated, communicative, and most importantly they built long-lasting friendships that don't just last on the court, but last off the court. It was a tough season, says Genesis, but in the end they were able to find their way. Despite the statistics at the end of the season our Knights continued to put max effort into their games. It can feel discouraging when all you see are a bunch of losses, but these volleyball players had the mindset to keep working for just another win. They have worked so hard throughout the season and now that is finally over, they can prepare for the upcoming year's events, and even get a head start on next year's volleyball season. Congratulations to all of our JV volleyball athletes this year!



Football

Going out in the heat and doing the work that makes us better is what really makes the team strong, explains RJ. One of the most important aspects of the team is the relationship that the team has with each other. Saying that after practice teammates would go out to dinner and study football plays. This special bond that the players develop between each other is what keeps the team strong and united both on and off the field. With practices 6 days a week and lasting 2-3 hours long, these athletes are surely determined to reach their goal of State. Throughout these practices they focus on the fundamentals of football, studying plays, watching film, and working on countless applicable skills for their games. RJ's biggest strength is his love and knowledge of the game. His knowledge makes him a team leader, allowing him to explain different plays to his teammates and perfect his position. The support he gets from his family, friends, and coaches is what truly keeps him going.

The homecoming game was a thrilling game with an extraordinary crowd! With a pep rally the day before, the anticipation for the game and the following dance was high! Going into the game, the players were excited and energetic. With a huge crowd, the energy was high and excited for the turnout of the game. This energy was kept alive due to our cheerleaders, dance team, and especially drumline. Drumline does a great job at keeping energy high through their loud and exciting beats. Going into the game, RJ was focused and simply excited to join his brothers on the field for an exciting game. It was a hard and physical game that left the crowds pleased. The football team executed their game plan perfectly. Through working together, hard-work, and knowledge of the game, they were able to win. The crowd created such an exciting atmosphere to partake in that was really a fun experience to participate in with friends. The halftime performance from our dance team and our cheerleaders was amazing! Cheerleading always does a great job keeping up the high energy during the games, but the ambiance that was created due to the cheer team was so fulfilling. Not to mention our dance team's performance on the field. This performance was one of their few performances so far, and they did an extraordinary job especially considering how new the team is. Our Homecoming Court also made an entrance at halftime! The Homecoming Court made their appearance by simply introducing themselves and their escorts for this event. There was no absence of exciting things to witness at this game, and was nothing but fun for all who came!

Football has been busy these past few weeks winning the last 5 games in a row! These games create a good situation going into the District. They have just recently had a by-week, with no game and easier practices, they are able to recover from their previous games. This week allows them to recover, and prepare for the upcoming District games they want to win. Throughout the rest of the season the Knights will be constantly practicing to work towards their goal for a good record in District in order to make it to State.



As you can see there has been no absence of enthusiasm for these games, and the Knights sure don't disappoint. The games are thrill packed, full of energy and excitement. As playoffs start, the action will become even more intense. As football has about a couple months left in their season, they are hyper focused on the upcoming games leading up to State. Winning the next upcoming games are crucial to be in a good position going into State. Holy Cross is awaiting the outcomes of the coming games and we can not wait to see what they do next!



Cross Country



The Cross Country season has nearly come to a wrap with State being the last meet for this year's season! The State meet takes place in Waco on October 30. The 11 runners who have qualified for State are Esteban Cerna (Senior), Michael Rivera (Senior), Joshua Tuttle (Senior), Bella Arriola (Senior), Jennifer Cazárez (Senior), Adrian De Los Santos (Junior), Nicholas Orozco (Sophomore), Sophia Moreno (Sophomore), JohnAnthony Martinez (Sophomore), Zachary Ramirez (Freshman), and Roman Crockford (Freshman).

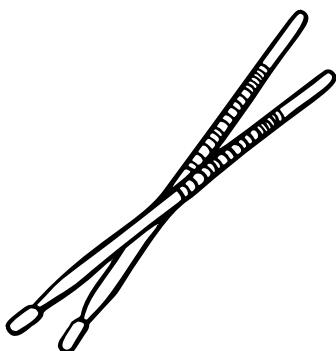


These 11 dedicated runners are training hard to place well at State! With daily practices at school and personal training after school from these athletes, they are sure to do well! They are constantly training, from doing long distance runs, to weight training, to track speed runs. This is the last meet for the season, and for the seniors the last meet of their high school careers.

This year's Cross Country season has been a great one! We have received a new cross country coach and we have had a great group of runners this year! Determined athletes who run regardless of how they feel. Showing up to practice to run long distances, a hard task to initially carry out. Running 3.1 miles (or 2 miles) continuously is unfathomable to some people, but for our Cross Country runners it is not only possible, it is necessary. Congratulations to all our runners! Good luck to our 11 State qualifiers!

Drumline

By: Nicholas Orozco



Drumline is a crucial part to the energetic ambiance during the football games. Without it, the games quite frankly wouldn't be the same. The energy, the beat, the hope that it creates is unmatched. It keeps the players going knowing that they are there to support them, it helps them feel more at home because they are always there with loud music. It keeps the crowd excited and energetic throughout the game which in turn keeps the players energetic. These contributions can often be overlooked, but they are a big part of our Knight's football.

Drumline practices 3-4 days a week for a couple hours per practice.

They focus on keeping a synchronized beat, drills to be able to keep rhythm, and learning new music. Drumline is consistent and dedicated to their sport. They get to practice early or stay later to practice even further. They know what they do is important, so because of this they try and perfect it day in and day out. There are several different skill levels from different people in drumline, but regardless of your skill level, there is always something to do. Drumline is looking to expand their members and gain new perspectives and talent. Despite what many may think, drumline has a very fun atmosphere. It is a great place to start learning a new instrument and get into music. From novice to professional, all are welcome. The more experienced players are always there for help and support when just starting. There are many good beginning novice players like Natalie Orozco, Ellie Gonzalez, Arianna Cruz, and Zachary Ramirez.

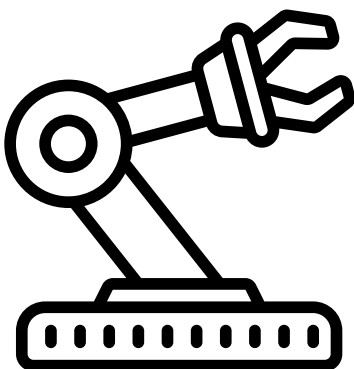


Drumline has been managed and coordinated by Ms. Marlo Mitchell-Gonzalez for the past several months. Ms. Marlo is a parent of Ellie and David Gonzalez in drumline, and she took on the role of guiding and leading the drumline kids. This arrangement has worked out quite well for the kids and has improved greatly under her leadership. She has done a fantastic job introducing new kids to the sport, and getting them to where they need to be. We would like to sincerely thank Ms. Marlo for all of her hard work and dedication to drumline. She has done an extremely good job at keeping everything together. With all of that being said, we have recently welcomed a new drumline instructor, Mr. Christopher Oliver. Mr. Oliver is a new instructor that has come to Holy Cross with a degree in music and with the hope of inspiring his kids. He is a great new addition to the team, and we can not wait to see what changes are made under his leadership.

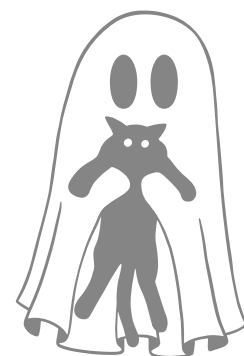
Drumline is a great place to make new friends, participate in school activities, and have a bunch of fun! Drumline is often overlooked as an important aspect of football and other sports, but it is so much more than what is initially believed. It is full of energy, excitement, and music. If you feel like taking a chance and participating in something more than yourself, give drumline a try. Drumline is eager to accept more members. More members means more music during our football games. Even if drumline isn't the thing for you, you can still help and support the drumline by donating to their sport and supporting their fundraisers. Whatever you can do to help is greatly appreciated. Next time you see a member of the drumline, say "hey" or "good" job at last week's game, for the small acts are always the most meaningful. Give it a shot, take a chance on something new, you never know what might come out of it!

Robotics

By: Nicholas Orozco



Robots are a vital asset in today's society. No matter where you go, almost everything is electronic based, and runs off of an algorithm. Someone has to write that algorithm, and for Holy Cross, our robotics team carries out that task. In robotics they create their robots, write the code for it to function the desired way, and then present it for a competition. Robotics is a club that is often overlooked but in reality, it is much more than meets the eye.

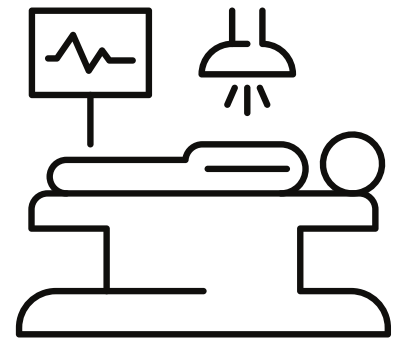


Right now they are preparing for a competition that takes place on October 29th. The challenge is to create a robot that is able to perform complicated surgeries in a short amount of time. They are required to make the robot that will carry out the surgeries, they are required to write the program that the robot will follow, and they are required to market and promote their product (the robot) to a group of judges. The point of this competition is to be able to create a robot that executes its purpose extraordinarily well, verifying that you programmed the robot correctly, and being able to publicly sell your product. This is a tough task to carry out. Corin Day explains that the hardest part of the challenge is the marketing. Publicly displaying their product and persuading other people to buy it is unnerving. They are currently trying to perfect their sales pitch and their robot. It is imperative that they know what they are going to say to the judges, and it is important that they perfect their program and robot. If they advance after their competition on the 29th, then they will advance to State in December.



Robotics is also so much more than just a competition. It is a place to experiment with new things. It is a great place to see if robotics is a fit for you. After competition is over, robotics is a place to experiment and do something that you enjoy. If you want to craft something out of wood, it's possible. If you want to code, it's possible. If you want to build something, it's possible. Robotics is simply such an inclusive space, that it is impossible not to find something there that you love. There is always something for everyone. No matter what your interests are, you are sure to find something in robotics.

Mr. Hernandez is the teacher of robotics and with him as the coordinator, it is sure to be an inclusive and exciting environment. Mr. Hernandez wants kids to explore what they want to do and do it. He challenges the kids to look up what they want to do and come to his class and do it. Robotics is simply another skill that can be harnessed and applied throughout your high school career. In today's world, there is just simply no way that programs and algorithms are not an important part of life. If you use technology, that technology has a program telling it how to function and what to do. Without that algorithm, the technology would become futile. Even if it wasn't something that piqued your interest in the past, there is no harm in trying something new.



As we have explored, there are several good things about robotics. It is very stem based and is applicable to many career fields in today's society. It is a great way to get a head start on applicable skills for careers like engineering, cyber security, technician, electrician, etc. Robotics can give you skills that are applicable to a future career, or simply if you need help putting something back together. Robotics would love to welcome new members to its group, but one thing to keep in mind is take it seriously. Too many people take advantage of the opportunity they are being given by being able to be in the class, so take it seriously. Contribute to the group projects and work on an individual project. Robotics also hosts many fundraisers for new equipment throughout the year, so if you see one please support our robotics team. High school is the opportunity to take chances, step out of your comfort zone, and have a little bit of fun, so if robotics fits this description, give it a try. You may enjoy it much more than you may think!

HOMECOMING WEEK AT

A GLANCE

By: Nicholas Orozco



The first week of October seems to bring a whole new excitement to the school year. Preparations for all fall holidays begin, many extra-curriculars start their seasons, the weather grows colder and colder, and our school events are at an all-time high. Furthermore, comes the highly-anticipated Homecoming! For this segment I would love to recapture all the memories made during the HOCO events and all the preparation and meticulously planning it took to have established them.

SPIRIT WEEK



Before the homecoming dance, our student council dedicated an entire week to themes and fun activities. The first activity we had was spirit attire. Themes chosen to be dressed up were on certain days of this week including: MONDAY-DYNAMIC DUO, TUESDAY- HOLIDAYS, WEDNESDAY ADAM SANDLER DAY, THURSDAY- PINK-OUT. Although it seems like an easy task, it took a lot of thoughtful planning and we had many people behind it. Student-council President Emma Garcia said that she, “found inspiration in convenience and including everyone”. She really wanted to choose themes that were easy for our student body to participate in yet fun to do. It is safe to say she was able to accomplish that.

We had many of our students dressing up and I personally loved seeing all of my friends in the funny outfits they were able to create. It was amazing to see how something as simple as changing our school attire brought our students together. Although we may not have realized it at the time, wearing holidays disguised as outfits and dressing up as Adam Sandler had students laughing, collaborating and bonding together for the sake of school spirit. Down below we have some photos of the costumes worn during our whole spirit week.



PEP-RALLY

Right after, the fun begins, we start our crazy games like table surfing, hungry hippo, our spirit competitions, and the skit. For the games no grades are excluded, we use all of our students at random to compete. We do this to ensure that everyone is included, and also for our enjoyment. I found it hilarious to see our nearly adult seniors and tiny little 6th graders both rolling around on the floor together to complete the games. We asked student council treasurer Jesse Martinez to describe the process of preparing the games and he said ‘Stressful, but we found happiness in watching our student body enjoy the work we put in’. I think

It is safe to say this is one of the first of many successful pep-rallies our school is going to have.

HOMECOMING PROPOSALS

By: Nicholas Orozco

Now one of the most loved things about homecoming is the thrill of finding a date. This is obviously not the only reason people go and there is certainly no shame in going with just friends. But isn't there something so heart-warming about love? So for this I've shown some of the most creative and heart-felt ways students asked each other to homecoming.



-Paul Lopez asking Kiandra Cirlos



-Julio Olivarez asking Madye Martinez



-Carlos Cirlos asking Gianna Felan



HOMEcomings DANCE

By: Nicholas Orozco



Now we finally make it to our homecoming dance. Although the dance begins at 7:30, the preparation starts as early as 8am. Students and Volunteers gather into our gym and help set up tables, the DJ stand, chocolate fountain, (yes a chocolate fountain!) and many other decorations.

To some schools it may be funny that we have our homecoming at our own school, but I think it's fascinating to see how a group of dedicated parents and students can change our gymnasium into a homecoming venue.

After all the decorations are set up, many students begin to dress up and meet up to take pictures before the event. Honestly one of my favorite parts of the whole Homecoming ordeal is going out with my friends. I love seeing all of my friends all dressed up, as we all joke about how long it took us to get ready. We love to act like it is such a chore and that we are 'too old' to participate in such events, but we all will soon realize that these are the events we will come to miss. Once you get to the homecoming dance you would see the Greek-Goddess themed set-up and a food stand filled up with snacks.

Next, we announced our homecoming court and the winners. The winners this year were Gabriel Estaves as King, Bella Arriola as Queen, Marco Gomez as Prince, Chloe Encio as Princess, JohnAnthony Martinez as Duke, Hope Bernal as Duchess, Jeremiah Aguilera as Lord and Leila Acosta as Lady. After this announcement the dance floor stays open for the rest of the night. I found that the rest of the night is a very basic thing to re-explain to you. So instead of ending with that I wanted to talk more deeply about something else. I wanted to talk about something I heard from a fellow student. One student I knew was speaking on how our homecomings are usually not as 'nice', and they are never as "fancy" as other private schools.

Now I'm not here to lie to you and tell you that we're the richest private school with the most perfect homecoming. I'm sure we all know that we aren't. Yet some of my favorite memories are still made during this night, and that is not because we have the nicest venue, or the most expensive dresses, or the fanciest DJ setup (In reality it was my dad helping for free). It was because the memories we made together, all the dancing and laughing we created, we never needed anything too expensive to have that. It's not about the amenities that are bought, it's about the community we have that helped create a great night for all of our students. Without an amazing group of volunteers, student council, and others, this night would not have been possible. In the end, it's not about how "nice" it was, it's about all who came to support Holy Cross' special night.

I hope to leave you with that. That none of that flashiness matters, no matter as much it may seem to. Take care of those around you, and your school community. Be involved, forget embarrassment, and enjoy these events before they pass you up.

Finally, a special thanks to all our volunteers and student council members. Events like these don't happen on their own, they have a special group of people behind them, and I'd love to give recognition to them.

Decorations and set up were Mr. Hernandez and Valerie Hernandez Food and Snacks - Student Council Parents. Cyndi Garcia Stephanie Hernandez Jennifer Arce Amanda Martinez Barbara Zuniga Lorena Felan Crystal Ruiz Chocolate Fountain - Patty Gonzales

Crafts

All Saint's Day Peg Dolls

By: Michelle Crockford

Materials:

- Peg dolls (any amount and cut desired)
- Pencils (I don't recommend charcoal)
- Various paints of your choice (Don't use a water based or washable paint; acrylic gives the best color)
- Flat brush
- Liner brush
- Tooth picks (optional; at least three)

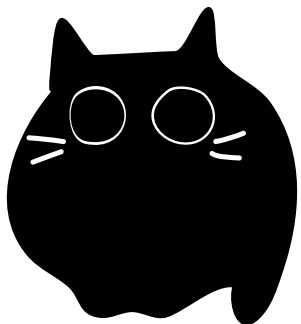
Sharpies (optional)

Saint peg dolls are a simple, yet creative way to celebrate All Saints Day this year, November 1st. Before doing this activity, look for saints that interest you, or may be your patron. (saints whose feast is your birthday, are patrons of a trait about you, or share your name.) Afterwards, sketch out a brief design on paper.



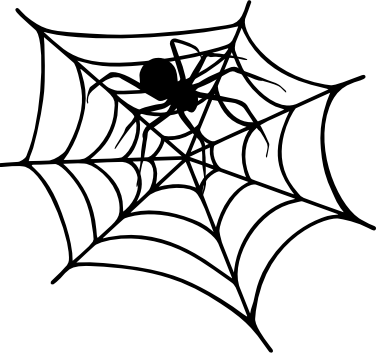
Instructions:

1. Sketch out the basic design of your saint on your peg doll. (Remember not to carve into the wood, as it will ruin the texture, and that you don't want to see the outline under the paint.)
2. Start painting with your lighter colors first (the yellows, whites, lighter greens, pinks or blues) with the flat brush.
3. Then add the darker colors. (Save black for the absolute last.) Be very careful not to go over lines, as it is harder to clean up darker colors.
4. When you have finished all the bulk designs of your peg, use your liner brush, or a thin point sharpie to outline. (I suggest outlining in white if your saint is primarily wearing black or brown.)
5. Finally, use the tooth picks (or the liner) to dot in fine details on faces and robes. (Whites, yellows, blacks, and reds.)



Tip 1: Use broad, steady strokes with the flat brush. Try not to overlap the paint for a smooth finish.

Tip 2: Let different colors of paint dry before trying to add more. Especially if the paint is being applied right next to another color that is wet, or if you have to pick up the peg doll before it is dry. (This prevents fingerprints and smudges.)



Halloween is coming up and there is so much to witness, the tricks, the treats, and the frights! If you're young, and don't like a little scare I suggest you go to beauty, because this is just the beginning...



We'll save the best for last, and will begin with the history of Halloween. The first Halloween can be traced back to 2,000 years, when the ancient Celts roamed Ireland, the UK, and Northern France. They celebrated their New Year on November 1st, marking the end of summer and the beginning of the dark, cold nights. The Celts believed that the night before the new year (October 31), the boundary between the living and the dead blurred and that the ghosts of the dead would return to celebrate on the night of October 31.

To commemorate the event, the Druids (Priestly class in Celtic Culture) would build huge bonfires for this sacred event. The people would gather together to burn crops and animals as a sacred sacrifice to the Celtic deities. During this time, the Celts would wear costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, while they attempted to tell each other fortunes.

Fun fact, did you know candy corn was originally called chicken feed? Prior to World War I, most people didn't consider corn to be human food, therefore they fed it to the chickens.

Since we have finished the SCARY backstory of this amazing holiday, we will now get to some REAL scary stuff. If you like the movie "Halloween", a little known fact among fans is that the mask of the famous villain, Michael Myers, has a surprisingly innocent backstory: When in progress of making the original 1978 film, production designer Tommy Lee Wallace was looking for a mask. When he picked up two masks from a Hollywood boulevard magic shop: a clown mask, and a William Shatner as Captain Kirk in Star Trek mask. These two eventually evolved into the iconic horror look that we now have today!

If you are over 16 years old and love trick-or-treating, Don't move To Canada! A city in Canada banned teens over 16 from trick-or-treating. If anyone over the age of 16 were caught trick-or-treating they would be fined 200\$.

Most of you innocent people have friends or "BESTIES" so let the newspaper crew share with you some halloween costume recommendations to do with those, "BESTIES"!

If you have no homework, and want to watch something terrifying to mark the day, then here are some scary movies that will scare the pants off you! 1. TRICK 'R TREAT 2. HALLOWEEN 3. CANDYMAN 4. THE CONJURING 5. HAPPY DEATH DAY 6. BOO 2 7. SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK 8. SCREAM 9. YOU'RE NEXT 10. IT.

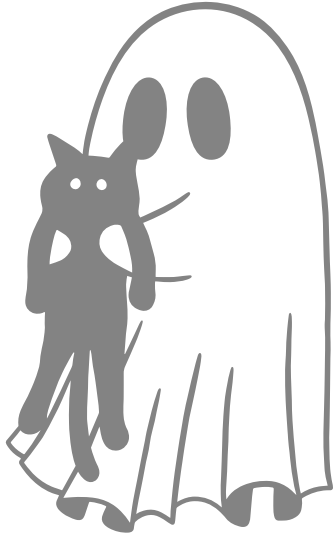
1. Thing One and Thing Two.
2. Mario and Luigi.
3. Skeletons.
4. Woody and Jessie.
5. Salt and Pepper.
6. Skeleton Jack and Sally.
7. Ghosts.
8. Barbie and Ken.
9. Woody and buzz.
10. M&Ms.

As promised, the scariest fact has to do with Ancient History. As said the bonfires were used for both animal sacrifices and on occasions Human sacrifices. They would throw in bones of dead animals as they wore the dead animal skins.

Happy Halloween from the Gauntlet crew!

Randoms

By: Adelina Mann



HAVE A SPOOKY HALLOWEEN!

AND STAY SAFE!

