



The Lolly Roger

Vol. 19, No. 3

For SMHS Pirates, By SMHS Pirates

December 11, 2023

Class of '73 Alumni Dedicates Painting to Divine Redeemer



By Rachel Limb and Leah Flannigan

At our Alumni 50th Anniversary reunion, we got the chance to see Kathy Boyle's latest art piece, which was dedicated to Divine Redeemer Catholic

School, her childhood elementary and middle school. We met with Kathy and her long lasting childhood friend Cindy Plush. The reunion, organized almost entirely by the alumni themselves, finished off with the donation of this grand masterpiece which was blessed by Father Jason after the mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The artwork consists of four different depictions of Mary and can be found displayed at DR. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Class of '73, especially Kathy Boyle, Cindy Plush, and Ann Besson, for reminding us what it means to be a community here at St. Mary's.



What Happened to Black Friday?



By Patricia Gonzales

For years, Black Friday was one of the most chaotic yet vital parts of the holiday season. People would line up hours before the opening of their favorite retailer in order to get the best deals for their Christmas presents. Once the stores would open their doors, masses of determined consumers would rush in and run to complete their holiday wishlist. People would fight tooth and nail for a doll or a television or a new jacket. Despite its honestly violent nature, Black Friday was a crucial event people would look forward to after Thanksgiving. Due to the shift in dependency of online shopping, however, the nature of the holiday has greatly changed.

Black Friday is more mild in nature than it was several years ago. Rather than waiting outside of stores for the opening of holiday sales, people can now wait in the comfort of their own homes for their deals. Deals last more than just the Friday, often lasting the weekend or days prior. The deals are also significantly less impressive in recent years. Previously, stores would discount their items no less than 40% off, but now it seems finding discounts for more than 30% off are rare. The stakes of Black Friday have greatly decreased due to the lack of need for in-person participation, longer time frame for deals, and poorer discounts. This brings to question the future of the holiday.

As the dependency of online shopping increases, phenomena such as Black Friday may cease to exist. This threat to in-person shopping is already in

effect today. People today often prefer ordering their groceries online, only driving to the store to pick up the items or even never coming close to the store and delivering the items to their home instead. Malls have decreased in quality as well. They used to be the socializing hub where friends and family would spend their free time perusing their favorite clothes stores or eating in food courts. Nowadays, malls have become increasingly more empty, losing the magic they once held. Now for Black Friday, less and less people are excited to participate in the holiday. Although the shift to online shopping is more convenient for the holiday season, it sucks the excitement and novelty that has long been associated with Black Friday. Perhaps rather than focusing solely on convenience, we should focus on appreciating the fun aspects of life, or else we may be too late and lose things that create lasting memories.



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Reporters

The Jolly Roger is the student publication of the Print Media Journalism class at St. Mary's High School. The staff of the Jolly Roger works to entertain and inform its readers while understanding and abiding by the First Amendment, which protects our freedom of speech and press.

As students writing for students, staff members have the right to report or editorialize on important events and issues concerning the school, community, nation and world. However, as journalists, the staff must avoid printing material that is obscene, libelous, promotes negative stereotypes, presents near or immediate danger to students, creates a substantial disruption to school or compromises the religious beliefs that are foundational to St. Mary's High School.

Our staff encourages input from students in the form of letters to the editor. Jolly Roger editors have the right to edit letters for grammatical errors or libelous material and to choose which letters will be published. All letters should be turned into the journalism staff.

We look forward to hearing your feedback and hope you enjoy our hard work.



'Twas the Night Before Finals

By Emily Sauley

'Twas the night before finals, when all through the
school

Not a pirate was stirring, no one was a fool;
The stockings were hung in the courtyard with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The students were nestled all snug in their desks,
While thinking of finals and all their many tests;
And the teachers with all their red pens,
Had just settled down to grade the work of many
young friends,

When out in the courtyard there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my desk to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the blinds with a loud crash.

The moon shining on the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of midday to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than the track team his reindeer they
came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by
name;

"Now, Clavenna! Now, Cuadrado! Now, Balboa and
Benson!

On, Davis! On, Dygert! On, Hennessey and
Hartman!

To the top of the school! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As the snowflakes in the air began to fly by,
The sleigh began to mount to the sky,
So up to the roof the reindeer flew,
With the sleigh full of presents, and St. Nicholas
too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the hallway St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his toes,
And pencil and pen tarnished his clean clothes;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like he had just passed his finals in
fact.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how
merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
He was smiling and was filled with so much glee,
It was almost like good grades he could foresee.

A pencil he had placed behind his ear,
And it became clear he was here to bring cheer;
He had a round little belly and a broad face,
And a long white beard that didn't seem out of
place.

I was nervous and stressed for the week to come,
And as I sat there to anxiety I began to succumb;
With a wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
St. Nick told me I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not another word, but went straight to his
work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And running back down the hallway on his merry
mission,

He flew out the door to carry on this tradition;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,

**HAPPY FINALS WEEK TO ALL, AND TO
ALL A GOOD NIGHT!**

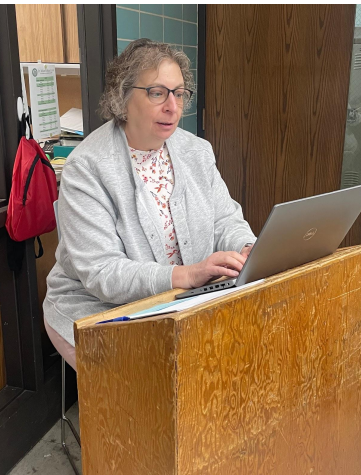
Teacher Interviews

By Rachel Limb



Dr. Pinner

This is Dr. P's second year of teaching at St. Mary's. When asked what her favorite Christmas tradition was, she smiled and said "when my grandkids decorate my Christmas tree" and if you've seen Dr. P's grandkids, you know that they are just bundles of joy. This Christmas, she's looking forward to listening to her favorite Christmas song, "All is Well." One of her favorite St. Mary's memories was when she chaperoned the dance for the middle schoolers and saw "all of you lovely high schoolers interacting with the younger kids. It really warmed my heart." This week being finals week, Dr. P has some wise words to share with you all: "Sleep. You know what you know," she says, "the most important thing is getting a good night's sleep."



Mrs. Hennessey

Mrs. Hennessey has been teaching at St. Mary's for four years now. I asked her to share her favorite St. Mary's memory and she recounted the time when her oldest daughter, Ronnie Hennessey infiltrated the freshmen class on their orientation day (Class of 2025) and pretended to be a freshman all day. Her alias was "Veronica Hemisphere" and only a few people caught her! This Christmas, Mrs. Hennessey is looking forward to watching her favorite Christmas movie, *Die Hard* and she's looking forward to her favorite Christmas tradition: opening one small present on the Epiphany because that's when Jesus received his gifts. Lastly, a piece of advice for all of us taking finals this week: Mrs. Hennessey says "relax".



Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith has only been teaching here at St. Mary's for 4 and a half months, but so far, her favorite memory is from her 5th period class. Every day, the students walk in the room and say "another day...another math class." It brings a smile to her face. This Christmas, Mrs. Smith is looking forward to watching *A Christmas Story* and enjoying Christmas Eve with her family. Her advice for finals: "Don't blow it off. Persevere!" Good luck with finals, Pirates!

Teacher Interviews contin.



Mrs. Knoepke

This is Mrs. Knoepke's 6th year teaching at St. Mary's. Her favorite St. Mary's memory is from a few years ago when the whole school would go over to DR and celebrate mass. "You would see the kids' faces light up," Knoepke said. "They love having someone to look up to." If you're looking for another Christmas song for your playlist, give Mrs. Knoepke's favorite Christmas song a go: "Grandma Got Runover by a Reindeer." Mrs. Knoepke's favorite Christmas tradition is spending Christmas eve with her direct family. While we love extended family, sometimes we need a break from those crazy aunts and uncles. For finals, Knoepke's advice for everyone is "Remember what you already know."

Ask Rusty!

RUSTY! I have my huge math final next week and am TOTALLY gonna fail! What do I do?!

-super duper worried student!!!

Well, I would straighten yer sea legs and walk into that test with ye head high. If you being studying now, yer chances are good!

Rusty, why is Mr. A bald?

-Mr. Hartman

Arg ye matey, according to me sources it was due to a one "Caesar Martinez."

Ruuuusttyyyyyy.

why hasn't break started yet?! I'm soooooo borredddd...

-The Most Bored Student Ever



Why the hurry, matey? Ye need that time to study! Go get to work before yer time is up!

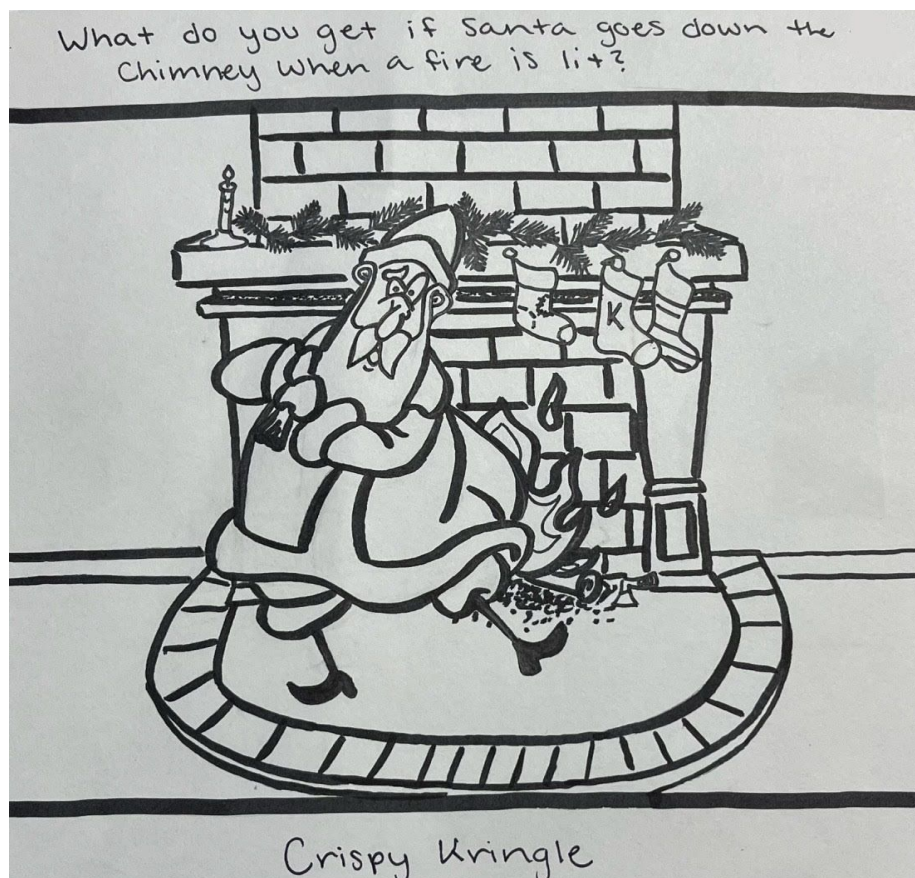
Soft Sugar Cookies

Ingredients

- 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups white sugar
- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Directions

1. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together in a medium bowl; set aside.
2. Beat sugar and margarine in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Wrap dough; chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
3. Beat first egg into butter mixture. Beat second egg into mixture along with vanilla extract; add flour mixture and stir until dough is just combined.
4. Wrap dough; chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
5. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Grease two cookie sheets.
6. Roll out dough on a clean floured surface to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thickness. Cut out shapes using cookie cutters; arrange them on the prepared cookie sheets. Gather scraps and repeat this step.
7. Bake in batches in the preheated oven until edges are golden, about 6 to 8 minutes. Cool on the baking sheet briefly before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.
8. Decorate!
9. EAT!



Cartoon by Toni Jungling

Kickstart to Winter Sports!

By Abby Stalp and Leah Flanigan

Girls' Basketball

The St. Mary's Girls' Basketball team has started their season off with a blast. While beating Lutheran with a tight game ending in 36-35 with a buzzer ending shot within the last 30 seconds of the game, they proved that they were a force to be reckoned with. They are putting in the work and we can all see it. This past weekend they had the opportunity to travel to Greeley, CO to compete in a tournament. They played tough competition and held strong. They once again earned their respect by beating Middle Park 85-30. Maeve Salvesson

leads the team with an average of 17 points per game; Jaela Pedro with an average of 6 rebounds per game, and Hope Chaves with 3.7 assists per game! We cannot wait to see where these ladies go! Come cheer them on at their first home game on January 9th!

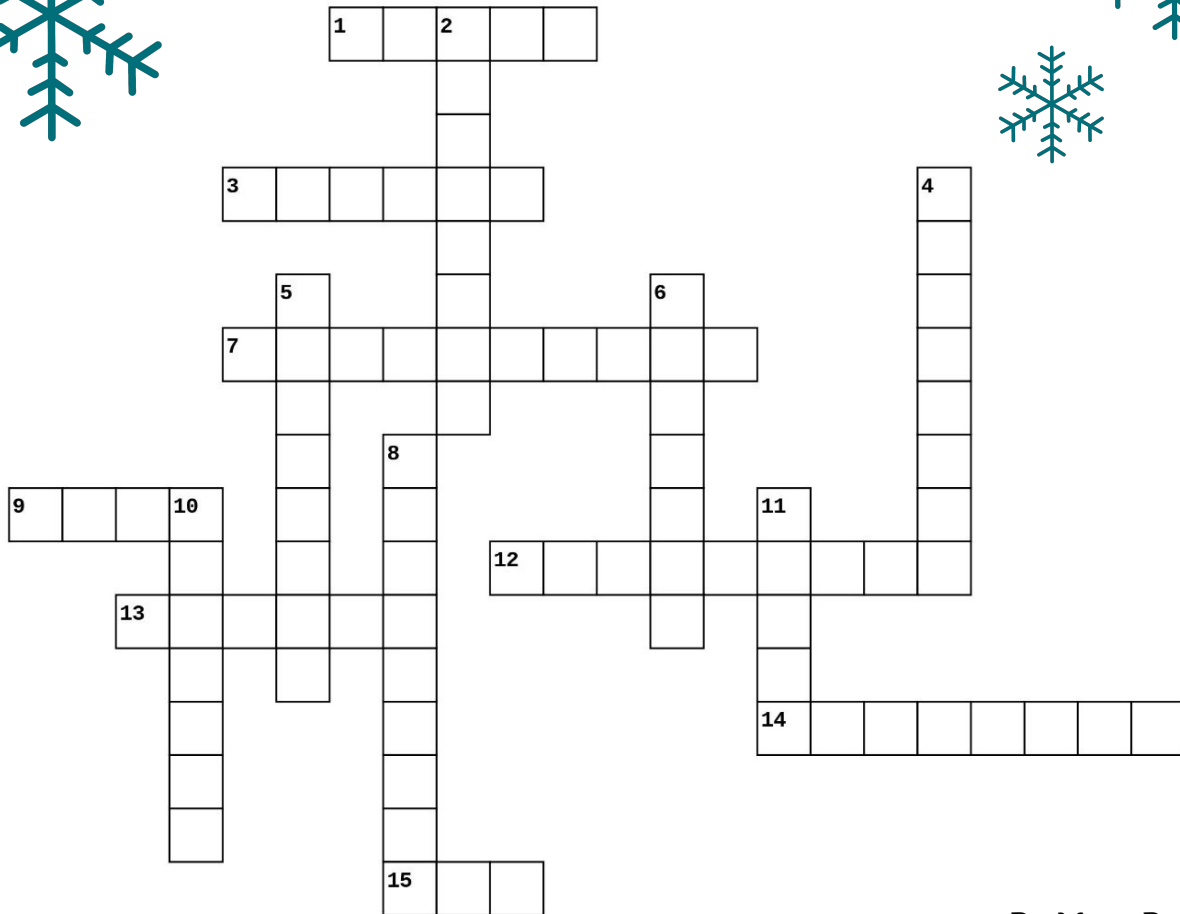
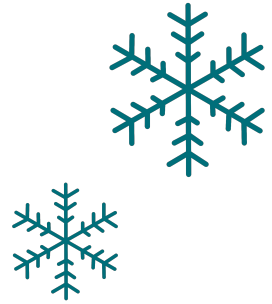


Boys' Basketball

Boys' Basketball is starting off their season strong. They are competing with some very strong teams and they are performing very well, with almost doubling Rocky Ford in a tournament they realized they had a very strong team. Jackson Lewis leads the team in stats with an average of 17 points per game! This team is very competitive and determined on the court. You can tell that they are looking forward to a strong season. Help support them on December 16th as they take on Peyton High School!



Winter Wonders!



By Mary Rysavy

Across

1. Pole Where Santa lives
3. ----- Night is a very popular Christmas carol
7. Popular flavor associated with canes
9. People usually put a ---- at the top of a Christmas Tree
12. Small items hung on Christmas trees
13. ----- Calendars count down the days until Christmas
14. Hung on chimneys and filled with small presents
15. Santa's helper

Down

2. The animal that pulls Santa's sleigh
4. Found underneath a Christmas Tree
5. The month Christmas is in
6. People build this out of snow
8. Found in pear tree on the 1st day of Christmas
10. Had a very shiny nose
11. Born in a manger on Christmas

Thank you for your support for the Jolly Roger!

Mr. Archuleta
Mrs. Cross
Mrs. Knoepke
Dr. Pinner
Mrs. Hennessey

Mrs. Smith
Kathy Boyle
Cindy Plush
Ann Besson