



SAINTS SCENE



SCHOOL SALUTE. This month, the Saints Scene newsletter—led by School President Ed Hearn and Principal James Horne—proudly spotlights St. Patrick's School in North Park as part of its ongoing Augustinian Heritage series. Located less than a mile from Saints, both schools share a strong Augustinian tradition. Pictured: a lively group from St. Pat's student body dressed for the annual Spirit Day celebration. See page 3 for the feature penned by St. Patrick's Principal Hernan Valdivia.

Walking Through Holy Week: Finding Resurrection in School Life

Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

As the school year winds its way through spring, Holy Week and Easter arrive not just as

days on the Church calendar, but as deep invitations for reflection and renewal — both in our faith and in our daily lives, and there is a great message within for Saintmen.

Through Holy Week (last week) we were reminded of the journey Christ

Continued on page 14



REQUIESCAT IN PACE. With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of Pope Francis, a humble servant who led the Church with compassion and truth. As St. Augustine reminds us, 'Let us not grieve as those without hope, for our hearts rest in Him who is eternal.' May our Holy Father now behold the face of God, and may his soul rest in the peace of Christ, who he loved and served so well. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 17, 1936; Died of a stroke on April 21, 2025. He was the 266th Pope of the 1.3 billion members of the Roman Catholic Church and the first Pope from the America.

- St. Augustine High School.

Parochial Basketball Tourney Wraps Up 69th Year

For two weekends in March, the gymnasiums at St. Augustine High School pulsed with the sound of sneakers, whistles, and cheers as 42 parochial school teams competed in the 69th Annual Parochial Basketball Tournament.

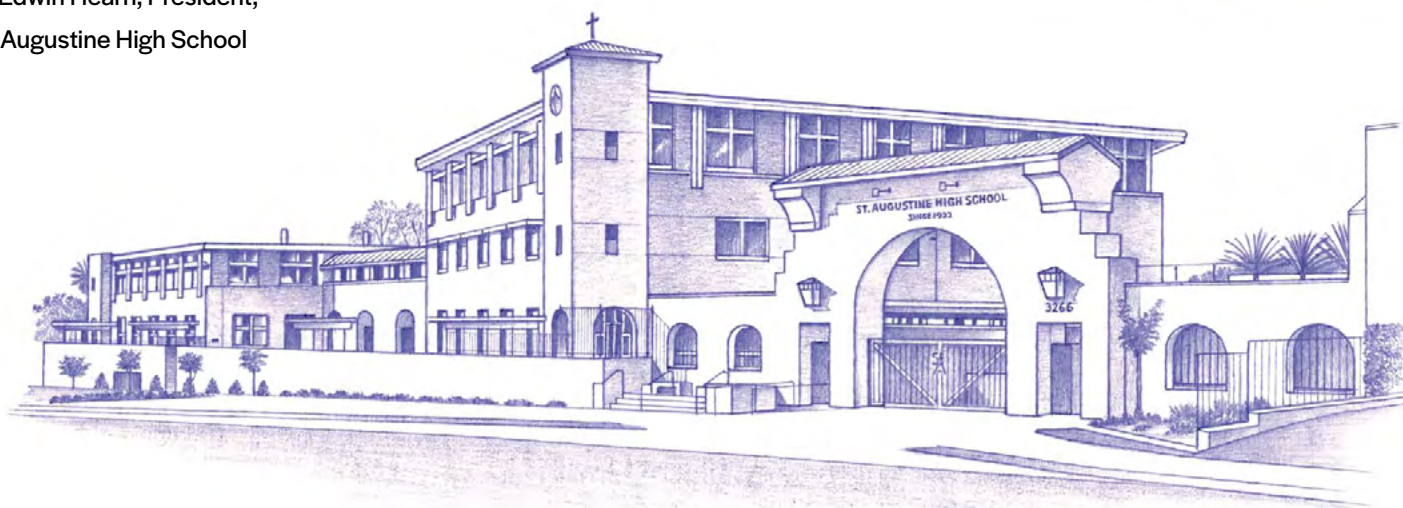


Continued on page 15

The Road Together

More Than a School: The Living Unity of Augustinian Education

By Edwin Hearn, President,
St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

It's often said that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." In the case of Augustinian education, this

is not just a clever turn of phrase—it's a profound truth. When I think of St. Augustine High School, I don't see an isolated institution tucked away in San Diego. I see a vibrant thread woven into a global tapestry of Augustinian schools—a living, breathing network united not just by name, but by spirit, vision, and purpose.

This sense of belonging, this deeper kinship, is something many Catholic schools no longer experience. Too often, they are viewed as stand-alone entities—Catholic in identity, perhaps, but disconnected from a larger ecclesial family. Saints, by contrast, has always walked in step with brothers and sisters across continents, carried by the same

Rule that guided St. Augustine and bound by the same Core Values that animate our shared mission.

To truly understand this, one must first realize that Saints is not a diocesan school. It is, unmistakably, an Augustinian school—founded, nurtured, and still deeply inspired by the Order of St. Augustine. Invited west by Bishop Cantwell more than a century ago, Augustinians planted their roots in San Diego soil, carrying with them centuries of tradition steeped in communal living, interiority, the restless pursuit of truth, and a love that binds all in unity.

And yet, like so many religious institutions in the modern era, we have faced storms. Beginning in the 1960s, Catholic schools across the country saw the numbers of priests, brothers, and nuns dwindle. Many of those schools slowly lost their religious identity, becoming Catholic in name only struggling to articulate what made them distinct or spiritually alive.

But Saints didn't drift. We endured. How? Through providence, certainly, but also through the foresight and courage of leaders like Fr. John Keller, OSA—a Saints graduate from the Class of 1955, a former provincial, principal, and president, and a true visionary. Fr. Keller knew that preserving the Augustinian identity required more than vestments and titles. It required formation, intentionality, and a renewed commitment to the mission.

Enter the **Augustinian Values Institute**—a luminous idea born in Fr. Keller's heart and brought to life through collaboration with other Augustinian schools. Since the early 2000s, faculty and staff from all eleven North American Augustinian high schools have gathered annually at one another's campuses. These are not mere conferences; they are sacred convocations, retreat-like in spirit, rooted in reflection and renewal.

Continued on page 14

The Other Augustinian School in North Park: St. Patrick School

By Hernan Valdivia, Principal,
St. Patrick's School, Saints Class of 1993.



Mr. Valdivia

Just seven
tenths of a mile.

That's all that
separates Saints
from the other
Augustinian

school in North Park: St. Patrick School. Educating boys *and* girls in the Augustinian tradition for 80 years, we enjoy and benefit from our unique partnership with Saint Augustine High School, the Province of St. Augustine, and The St. Augustine Foundation.

Built in 1944, St. Pat's is a Preschool–8th grade Catholic elementary school sharing the same mission and a deep commitment to values rooted in unity, truth and love. Most importantly, I want you to know that we are here in North Park ready to welcome your family into ours.

Our relationship with Saints isn't just about proximity; it's a bond that nurtures a sense of community, spiritual growth, and academic excellence, and it started 80 years with Fr. John Burns, O.S.A., two classrooms, and \$1,250 in parishioner donations. Fr. Burns would be proud to know this legacy of learning continues today and points the way forward as we plan for the next 80 years.

The sense of "brotherhood" that permeates the daily fabric of life on Nutmeg St. is alive and well on 30th. I felt it as a student when I attended Saints in the



NEIGHBORS. St. Patrick's School Faculty top row, left to right: Margarita Jasso, Lynae Watkins, Elise Hennrikus, Leiana Lepule, Patrick Williams, Regina Song, Jane Richardson, Hernan Valdivia, and Brian Prezlock. Lower row, l-r: Lisa Cross, Francis Fernandez, Aria Dalkas, Leslie Young, Celeste Cesena and Rachel Doyle.

early '90s, and it's what drew me to St. Pat's as a teacher and parent of two young girls 13 years ago. More importantly, those values I learned nearly 30 years ago continue to guide me as the principal of this extraordinary school- what I like to call a "slice of heaven" in the Mid-city heart of San Diego.

Fr. Tom Davis, O.S.A., our newly appointed pastor echoes these sentiments,

"Life is about community whether we're in a school or a church or a hospital. The beauty of Saints and St. Patrick's is that they share a beautiful bond that reflects the shared dignity of who we are as people."

Continued on page 12



ABUELOS

Celebrating 33 Years of Love & Legacy!

Recently, we were honored to welcome Saints families to the 33rd Annual Grandparents Day at St. Augustine High School! It was a heartwarming celebration filled with love, laughter, and lasting memories as students spent meaningful time with their grandparents—sharing stories, exploring campus, and paying tribute to the vital role they play in our lives.

A heartfelt thank you to Father Barnaby Johns, OSA, for celebrating Mass, and to all the grandparents and families whose steadfast support and guidance continue to inspire our Saintsmen. Your love and wisdom shape the leaders of tomorrow.



The gym was full for our annual grandparents day mass. Huge thanks to Myrna Ramirez and Karen Gross our parent coordinators.



Saints Freshman Antonio Cervantes-Quintanilla (left) with his mother and grandparents and Marco Santillan-Quintanilla (right) with his grandparents.



Senior Stephen Cota and his grandparents.



Freshman Nigel Thompson with his grandmother



Save the Date!



TASTE OF SAINTS

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025



GREAT FOOD
LIVE MUSIC
LOCAL BREWS

[SAHS.ORG/TASTE OF SAINTS](https://saahs.org/tasteofsaints)
TICKET SALES OPEN SOON

Taste of Saints will come to life on **Saturday, May 17, 2025** at 5pm on the rooftop of the St. Augustine Commons. Enjoy an evening of entertainment, local craft beer, wineries and tasteful bites. You won't want to miss the live and silent auction, wine wall and more.

Taste of Saints is a 21+ event. Dress is casual. All proceeds benefit the St. Augustine Endowment Fund.

Advanced Placement Exam Dates Set for May

The 2025 AP Exams will be administered in schools over two weeks in May: May 5–9 and May 12–16. AP coordinators are responsible for notifying students when and where to report for the exams. Early testing or testing at times other than those published by College Board is not permitted under any circumstances.

| Week 1 | Morning 8 a.m. Local Time | Afternoon 12 p.m. Local Time |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday, May 5, 2025 | Biology Latin | Microeconomics |
| Tuesday, May 6, 2025 | Chemistry | United States Government and Politics |
| Wednesday, May 7, 2025 | English Literature and Composition | Computer Science A |
| Thursday, May 8, 2025 | Statistics | World History: Modern |
| Friday, May 9, 2025 | United States History | Macroeconomics |

Art and Design: Friday, May 9, 2025 (8 p.m. ET), is the deadline for AP Art and Design students to submit their three portfolio components as final in the AP Digital Portfolio.

| Week 2 | Morning 8 a.m. Local Time | Afternoon 12 p.m. Local Time |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Monday, May 12, 2025 | Calculus AB Calculus BC | Music Theory Seminar |
| Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | French Language and Culture | |
| Wednesday, May 14, 2025 | English Language and Composition | |
| Thursday, May 15, 2025 | Spanish Language and Culture | Computer Science Principles |
| Friday, May 16, 2025 | Physics 1: Algebra-Based Spanish Literature and Culture | Psychology |



AROUND CAMPUS

More Than a Sign

In the quiet, residential blocks of North Park, an important street sign is catching the attention of motorists—especially those headed to and from St. Augustine High School. Boldly marked “DRIVE 25” beneath the distinctive Saints “STA” logo, the sign is part of a simple but vital campaign: slow down.

Principal James Horne explains, “These signs are up to remind our student and parent community that we share this neighborhood. The streets around Nutmeg Street are narrow, lined with family homes, and often busy with foot traffic during the school day.”

St. Augustine High School has long been part of the North Park fabric. The Drive 25 initiative is another example of how the school promotes responsibility and respect—not just within campus gates, but beyond. A 25-mile-per-hour limit may seem modest, but on these streets, it makes a world of difference in keeping pedestrians and neighbors safe.



Election Central

Congratulations to the 2025–2026 Election Winners

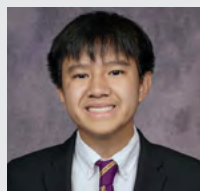


ASB Executive President:
Tommy Battaglia

Saints News Network Lead Anchors:
Jameson Grohman, Jack Wisniew,
and Alec Daniels

ASB DJ: Flo Ledesma

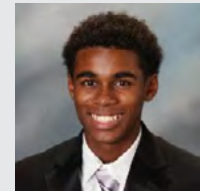
ASB Club Coordinator: Gio Troisi



Junior Class President:
Roberto Datiles Jr.

Junior Class Officers:
Spencer Austin, Paisos Polamalu,
Yabet Gebrelu, and Ben Bayona

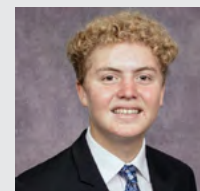
Junior Pit Leaders:
Matt Walp, Andrew Samarkos,
Ian Kunde, and Matthew Weinpel



Senior Class President:
Devin Manns

Senior Class Officers:
Johnny Haskett, Cruz Badillo,
Padraig Jensen, and Max Rabreau

Senior Pit Leaders:
Dom Cresto, Carter Jones,
Vincent Smith, and Austin Lambeth



Sophomore Class President:
Daniel Horne

Sophomore Class Officers:
Rocky Anderson, Lorenzo Gonzalez,
Steven Haskett, and Gavin Shaw

Sophomore Pit Leaders:
Lucas Weyde, Juan Pablo Zaragoza,
Nathan Jacobs, and Dylan Jensen



AROUND CAMPUS

Once a Saintsman, Always a Saintsman

Recently, the school's Alumni Association delivered thoughtful "We Care" packages to each Saints alum residing at Nazareth House, the assisted living facility near Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The gentlemen received alumni-branded cups, stickers, and commemorative DVDs of the *Sons of Augustine* 100-year documentary.

The gifts were warmly received. Many alums expressed their delight at seeing how the school they attended—and helped shape decades ago—continues to thrive.

"Our venerable alumni are the true embodiment of the ideal, *Once a Saintsman, always a Saintsman*," said Alumni Director Mr. William Morstand ('12), who shared how honored the recipients felt by the gesture and kind attention.



We Care items.



"The Graphite Kid" Gil Klecan '50 showing off his vintage Saints license plate frame.



Top Row (L to R): Fr. James Mott '57, Ray Pathman '57, Jim Cunningham '50.
Bottom Row (L to R): John Nelson '55, Fr. Anthony Giesing '47, Gilbert Klecan '50.



ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL

AROUND CAMPUS

Front Lines of Tech

St. Augustine High School was proudly represented at the recent Artificial Intelligence (AI) Revolution Trade Show at the San Diego Convention Center. Leading the Saints delegation was Principal Mr. James Horne (right), joined by faculty members Mr. Brant Chesser (English/Writing, left), and (not pictured) Mr. William Raines (Science) and Mr. Kevin Manley (Math).



The Sports Page

Saints Scene's Volleyball Updates



The Team.



Senior Enrique "Kiki" Zamudio (white Jersey) and the rest of the team congratulate fellow Senior Jonah Villafana after a great play.



Freshman phenom Noah Pabarcus spikes one home from an off net position.



Senior Owen Adams, one of the team's best jumpers, gets way up to power home a spike against Francis Parker.

The Other Augustinian School in North Park: St. Patrick School

Continued from page 3

Whether students are attending weekly mass, engaging in service projects, or participating in academic activities, we encourage them to follow the example of **Saint Augustine's love for learning and his belief that faith and reason go hand in hand.**

As an academic institution, we have a rigorous curriculum designed to prepare our students for higher learning, but as a Catholic school, we have equally high expectations to teach our students how to be good people. Like Saints, our school strives to cultivate an environment where students have opportunities to live this mission daily.

Being an Augustinian school means more than just attending classes and going to mass on Wednesdays—it's about becoming part of a larger family that values learning, service, and faith. The focus on community and service is an integral part of the experience at both St. Augustine High School and St. Patrick School. If you would like to become part of our community learn more about our Augustinian school, please feel free to give us a call or simply stop by.

We are just seven tenths of a mile away.



SWEET MUSIC. The God Squad turned Sunday Mass into a soul-stirring concert, led by St. Pat's maestro-in-residence, Mr. William Fleming—proud Saints alum, Class of 2010.



HOW TO. Members of San Diego's pro rugby squad, The Legion, stormed St. Pat's campus—not to tackle, but to teach. Students laced up for high-energy fitness drills led by the elite athletes.

ST. PATRICK PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP



Engaging Activities:

- Spanish
- Art
- Science
- Cooking

Kinder Bootcamp:

- Letter & sound recognition
- Number recognition
- Foundational skills



REG
FEE

\$150

PER
CHILD

DATES

**JUNE 23 -
AUGUST 1
2025**

HOURS

7:30am-5:00pm

or

8:00am-3:00pm

**CALL TO SECURE YOUR SPOT
TODAY! 619-487-9538**



Walking Through Holy Week

Continued from page 1

took through suffering, sacrifice, and ultimately, resurrection. In many ways, school life mirrors that same rhythm. There are weeks when tests pile up, assignments feel endless, relationships strain, and personal doubts cloud the minds of our boys. These moments — whether they're academic stress, friendship struggles, or quiet personal battles — echo the experience of carrying a cross.

But the story of Holy Week doesn't end at the cross — and neither do the challenges facing our students. Easter morning was and is the reminder that hope always follows hardship, that light breaks through darkness, and that God's love can transform even the heaviest burdens.

We need to encourage Saintsmen, who carry crosses of their own, to believe that every mistake is an invitation to grow, not a reason to give up.

So as the flowers bloom and the sun starts to linger a little longer, let Easter remind you: your story isn't finished. Every challenge leads to new life. Stay rooted in hope, lift one another up, and remember that the Resurrection isn't just a moment in history — it's a daily reality we are called to live.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season!



James Horne
Principal



More Than a School: The Living Unity of Augustinian Education

Continued from page 2

Educators learn about Augustine, Monica, prayer, and pedagogy through the Augustinian lens. They return to their schools not just informed but transformed.

And the circle has only grown. Irish, English, and Australian Augustinians—upon hearing of the Institute—asked to join. And so they have, enriching the conversation and expanding the vision. Each gathering reminds us that we are part of something far greater than any single school. We are stewards of a spiritual legacy that spans centuries and continents, and every new participant adds depth and color to that legacy.

This unity is not theoretical. It's practical. It's mutual. When Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai faced challenges during and after COVID—balancing boarding school demands, governance shifts, and financial uncertainty—it was Saints' turn to help. We offered counsel, walked beside them, and watched with joy as they re-emerged stronger and more Confident in their Augustinian identity. In that shared effort, our bonds deepened. We were no longer just sister schools—we became true collaborators in the spirit of Unitas, one of Augustine's most cherished values.

This is the magic of the Augustinian network: we don't just survive, we thrive together. We exchange ideas, offer support, and dream collectively. At the latest ASEA* meeting last year in Detroit, we resolved to take our mission even further—into the digital realm, into new communities, and into the future. A communications consultant was engaged. Long-term goals were established. We committed to making the Augustinian voice louder, clearer, and more accessible than ever before.

Most schools face the world alone. But we don't have to. Saints is blessed to be part of something deeply rooted, beautifully diverse, and vibrantly alive. As long as we walk together under the watchful eye of St. Augustine, we will continue to teach, serve, and lead—not just as individuals, but as a unified body, carrying a shared flame into the world.

*Augustinian Secondary Education Assn. (ASEA).



Parochial Basketball Tourney Wraps Up 69th Year

Continued from page 1

Hosted by the St. Augustine Alumni Association, the event has become a rite of passage for young basketball players across San Diego County. Twenty-six varsity teams and sixteen junior varsity squads descended on the Saints campus for what has long been considered a showcase of rising talent—and a beloved tradition for the Catholic school community.

Now in its 69th year, the tournament serves many purposes. For student-athletes, it's a chance to test their skills on a big stage. For families and alumni, it's a moment to relive their own school memories and support the next generation. For the school itself, it's an opportunity to highlight its facilities and ongoing commitment to youth development through athletics.

"This tournament is more than just a competition," said Alumni Board Vice President Phil Sciuto '79. "It's about tradition, teamwork, and giving young players a taste of what it means to compete with integrity and heart."

In the end, four schools emerged with hardware:

- Varsity Champion: School of the Madeline
- JV Champion: All Hallows Academy
- Varsity Consolation Winner: St. Michael's, Poway
- JV Consolation Winner: St. John's, Encinitas

Despite the fierce competition, the atmosphere remained one of mutual respect and sportsmanship. Coaches, referees, and tournament organizers were quick to praise the high level of play and the conduct of the athletes.

Behind the scenes, Sciuto and a dedicated team of alumni board members and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the tournament ran smoothly. Their efforts did not go unnoticed.

"It takes a village," said Sciuto. "We're proud to carry the torch and keep this tradition alive."

As the final buzzer sounded on the last game, thoughts already turned to next year's event. The 70th edition of the tournament promises to be a landmark celebration—a tribute to the past and a continued investment in the future.

TOURNAMENT SHOTS



Mr. Phil Sciuto ('79) is pictured after receiving his well-earned Saints Alum of the Year Award.



2025 Tournament Trophies.



Eventual Varsity bracket winners School of the Madeline vs. St. Patrick's North County.

Junior Varsity Division winners All Hallows Falcons vs. St. Columbo in tourney action.



Teams listen to pre-game prayer by Saints Chaplain Fr. Max Villeneuve OSA. Referee in foreground is the annual Parochial Basketball Tournament director and Mr. Phil Sciuto.



Slots Going Fast for Popular Alumni Golf Classic

Get ready for another unforgettable day under the summer sun! The 39th Annual Alumni Golf Classic tees off on Thursday, August 1st at Steele Canyon Golf Club. This beloved tradition features a 4-man scramble format, welcome drinks, exciting raffle prizes, and a post-round dinner—all for **\$225 per golfer**.

Proceeds from the event support the attendance of four Saints students who are sons of alumni, helping to pass on the cherished Brotherhood we all hold close.

Spots are going fast—half the field is already filled—so don't delay! Sign up today and join us for a day of camaraderie, competition, and celebration of our Saints heritage.

See you on the links, Saintsmen!

For sponsorship opportunities or more information, please contact Philip Sciuto at: philipsciuto1@gmail.com



39th Annual Alumni Golf Classic

August 1st, 2025
Steele Canyon Golf Course
4-Man Scramble + dinner, raffles, & awards
\$225 per golfer



SAINTS SCENE

Your Award-Winning* monthly report on the St. Augustine High School Experience

Publisher: Edwin J. Hearn, Jr. Saints President

Editor-in-Chief: James Horne, Saints Principal

Senior Advisor: Fr. Barnaby Johns, OSA, Augustinian Provincial

Senior Editor: Kevin DeRieux, Finances & Facilities Director

Senior Editor: Gregory Hecht, Assistant Principal for Academics

Saints Scene Coordinator: Thomas Shess, Alum Parent ('05): Thomas.Shess@gmail.com

Art Director: Kristin Hardy, OLP ('05), Kristin Hardy Design: kristinhardydesign.com

Circulation Director: Casey Callery, Director of Community Relations and Special Events

Editor Emeritus: John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55)

Staff Photographer: Bill Hill, Saints Parent



Correction Policy: While every effort is made to be accurate, we occasionally err. We do apologize to those impacted and kindly ask that you notify Saints Coordinator: Thomas.Shess@gmail.com for any corrections.

***Awards:** Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.

Mission of St. Augustine High School – Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth and love.