



SAINTS SCENE

Roadmap to Reality: St. Carlo Acutis and Our Digital Age

Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

Historically, October is recognized as Character Education Month. Through unified efforts of parents and educators, we can help students internalize and actively live virtues like honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion. On Nutmeg Street we recognize that these virtues are not abstract ideals but essential qualities for young men striving to become

Saints in the modern world.

It is in this spirit we will host a special showing of *Roadmap to Reality*, a new film about St. Carlo Acutis. Carlo was an ordinary teenager with an extraordinary love for the Eucharist and a deep desire to use his gifts, especially his skill with technology, to point others toward God. Before his death at just 15 years old, Carlo created a digital catalog of Eucharistic miracles that continues to inspire people worldwide. Pope Francis called him a “saint of the digital age,” reminding

Continued on page 9



YOUNG SAINT. Workers install a tapestry on the façade of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican, depicting Carlo Acutis, a British-born Italian youth who became the first millennial declared a Catholic saint in a ceremony last month led by Pope Leo. On Oct. 2, Saints will honor Carlo with a special presentation of the film *Roadmap to Reality: Carlo Acutis and Our Digital Age*. Special guest will be director Jim Wahlberg. The event begins at noon in St. Augustine Commons. Details on Page 3.

College Topics Night for Students / Parents on Campus, October 22

Parents and students at St. Augustine High School will soon have the chance to hear directly from experienced college admission officers during a special event titled “Getting In & Paying For It.”

The session will be held on **Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Raymond Center for the Performing Arts – Theater.**

The evening will address some of the most pressing questions families face during the college process:

- How do college admission teams read applications?
- What makes a student stand out to colleges?
- How can families pay for college, and what types of aid are available?

Open to parents of all grade levels, the event is designed to provide practical insights, strategies, and reassurance as students prepare for higher education. Admission officers will share their professional wisdom on navigating applications, financial aid, and the factors that truly matter in the competitive admissions landscape.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Jerry Rey at jrey@sahs.org

or call: (619) 282-2184 ext. 5531

Plan Ahead for Student SAT Test Dates

Planning ahead is the key to success when it comes to the SAT. The College Board has announced the upcoming test dates for the 2025–2026 school year, with opportunities offered in October, November, and December of 2025, and again in March, May, and June of 2026.

SAT Test Dates

Each test date comes with its own registration and late registration deadlines, so students are encouraged to review the schedule carefully and mark their calendars early.

Taking the SAT is a milestone in the college admissions process, and timely registration ensures students have the best chance to secure their preferred testing location. Families are also reminded to check the College Board website regularly for updates and details on preparation resources.

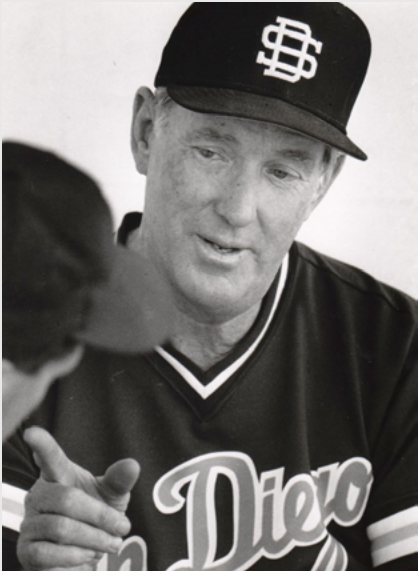
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 4, 2025	September 19, 2025	September 23, 2025
November 8, 2025	October 24, 2025	October 28, 2025
December 6, 2025	November 21, 2025	November 25, 2025
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

Visit the College Board’s website for the most current information.

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines>



ICON COACH. Saints graduate John Cunningham ('55) passed away last month after a remarkable life devoted to family, service, and Catholic education. A tireless volunteer at Saints and an original inductee into the school’s Athletic Hall of Fame, Coach John also built an extraordinary six-decade career at the University of San Diego, serving in various posts, including Head Baseball Coach for 25 years.

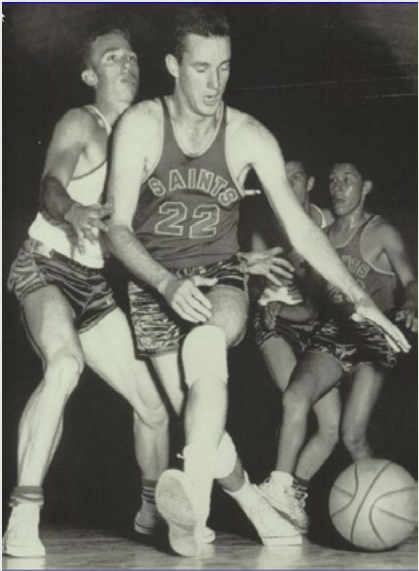


Godspeed, Coach John

The Catholic Community in San Diego Mourns the Loss of John Cunningham ('55), Beloved Saintsman and USD Baseball Coach

We pause to acknowledge and recognize the passing of John Cunningham earlier this month. A Saints alum from the class of 1955, John Cunningham was a standout basketball and baseball player. He went on to play both basketball and baseball at the University of San Francisco.

Following his playing career, he returned to San Diego and worked for nearly 60 years at USD. He held a variety of positions, including 25 years as the head baseball coach. In 1993, the City of San Diego honored him by putting him on a list of the 25 most influential San Diegans in baseball – a list that includes Tony Gwynn and Ted Williams. In 1995, John Cunningham was part of the first-ever St. Augustine Athletic Hall of Fame induction class.





About the Movie

Discover the inspiring story of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial on the path to sainthood. This powerful documentary explores his life, deep faith, and how he embraced technology without losing sight of what it means to be truly human. Follow a group of high school students on a moving pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy as they visit Carlo's tomb – discovering how his legacy continues to shape lives today.

Special Guest: Jim Wahlberg

Older brother of actor Mark Wahlberg, Jim is the CEO of Wahl St. Marketing & Consulting, a long-time advocate for faith-based addiction recovery, and a renowned filmmaker. His powerful testimony will share how faith, sobriety, and purpose transformed his life from prison to producing top documentaries like: *Mother Teresa: No Greater Love*, *Jesus Thirst: The Miracle of the Eucharist*, *If Only* & *What About the Kids* on addiction and redemption.





Let's Get Started!

1

YOU'RE APPROVED! EMAIL

Receive an email from your school giving you access to get started at sahs.carpooltoschool.com

2

CREATE PROFILE & LOGIN

Create a profile to ensure you get matched perfectly!

3

GET MATCHED

Based on distance, your student's grade, schedule, and exclusively with your school.

4

CREATE A POOL

Get started creating your first trip today!

Powered by
go >>> together



LiveChat and 800-514-3808
Available Monday-Friday 7am-7pm

Carpools Really Work

St. Augustine High School has added you to their secure, online transportation matching platform CarpooltoSchool at <https://sahs.carpooltoschool.com>.

With CarpooltoSchool, you can: Request and offer rides Meet other caregivers interested in pooling kids to and from school, or extracurricular activities.

Organize or access bikepool and walkpool matching if you live close to school Set up short-term carpools for an event, a season, or for the entire school year Already part of a carpool? Use our great calendar features, including Google and Outlook integration, and quickly notify everyone in your carpool with updates or changes. Plus, you will be able to see the environmental impact of your choice to carpool rather than drive alone.

Get Started:

1. Visit <https://sahs.carpooltoschool.com>
2. Login using your email address
3. Temporary Password: carpool773253
4. You will be asked to verify your address and contact details - and you can also provide specific information on your carpooling or school trip chaperone needs. Be sure to update your profile, availability, and carpool information so that other caregivers know if and when you are available.

For this and other 'Tips and Tricks' on how to use the service and best practices for school carpooling, visit our website: <https://sahs.carpooltoschool.com/secure/TipsAndInfo.aspx>.

If you have any technical difficulties or any questions on how to use the service, please send an email to: custserv@gotogether.today. CarpooltoSchool Powered by Go Together, Inc.



St. Augustine High School

College Topics Night

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 - 6:30p.m.

Raymond Center for the Performing Arts - Theater

"Getting In & Paying For It"

How do colleges admission teams read applications?

What makes a student stand out to colleges?

How do you pay for college and what types of aid are available?

Parents of all grade levels are invited to join experienced college admission officers as they share their wisdom and experience on this important topic.

Questions? – Contact Dr. Jerry Rey at jrey@sahs.org or (619) 282-2184 ext. 5531





AROUND CAMPUS



POWERFUL POINT. Mr. Kevin Shaeffer, a Pentagon 9/11 survivor, shares his powerful story of courage and resilience with the Saints community.

9-11 Survivor Addresses Students

On September 4, just one week before the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the Saints community gathered in the gymnasium to hear an unforgettable presentation from Mr. Kevin Shaeffer. A survivor of the Pentagon strike on 9/11, Mr. Shaeffer spoke for nearly an hour, recounting his extraordinary story of resilience, patriotism, and courage.

As a Navy Lieutenant assigned to the Pentagon's Navy Command Center, Mr. Shaeffer narrowly survived when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed directly through his office. Severely burned and facing overwhelming odds, he endured a long recovery and went on to serve with distinction on the 9/11 Commission and later at the CIA, where he contributed to the team that located Osama bin Laden

Students and faculty were riveted as Mr. Shaeffer shared not just his survival, but the deeper lessons of service and perseverance that shaped his career and life. His visit was made possible through the vision and leadership of Mr. O'Beirn, whose efforts brought this important event to campus.

The morning served as a profound reminder to "Never Forget" the sacrifices of 9/11 and to carry forward the spirit of courage that defines true service.

Where Are They Now?

Four alums from the Class of 2015 Varsity Football team captains (posed at a game) have moved on after ten years.

#7 Tommy Goodridge graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2021 and is currently stationed in Rhode Island.

#5 is Frank Buncom graduated from Stanford and focused on careers in Health Technology and ecological restoration.

#79 Chris Gesell graduated from the Naval Academy in 2019 and is currently stationed at North Island.

#67 Danny Ramirez is currently teaching locally at Holy Trinity school in El Cajon and coaching Saints JV and Varsity football.





ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL

AROUND CAMPUS



FACULTY APPRECIATION NIGHT.

Each year, Saints Seniors honor a faculty member who inspired them from their freshman through senior years. Continuing the tradition, Seniors walk onto the field before a Varsity game side by side with their chosen mentor, in recognition of guidance in the classroom and support beyond campus. Pictured here is Varsity football player Dom Cresto with his mentor, Mr. Christian Da Luz before the Saints game vs. Del Norte High.

New Parents' Guide to Finding Out What's Happening on Campus

As a new Saints Parents, you should know there are really five (5) main ways to obtain information about what's happening at St. Augustine's.



Here is a quick tutorial:

1. Saint's Website

www.sahs.org (browse the whole site, but the links you might need most are the calendar and the Faculty/Staff directory).

2. Saint's E-Scene

(on-line newsletter delivered direct to your email at the start of each month) to subscribe)

3. Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/st.augustine> (filled with pictures, event updates, community news and student highlights)

4. Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/saints_info (filled with pictures, community news and student highlights) News, and student highlights.

5. CANVAS

this is our student learning management system. Everything about your sons academic journey (assignments, grades, discussions, teacher and class contacts) can be found here. By registering for your own parent account you can "observe" your sons academic classes and see what is happening.

You'll find most everything you need amongst the sites above, including information and points of contact for important events.

Saints 2025 Cross Country Season Preview

Interview with Varsity Cross Country Coach Mr. Christian Yoakum

1. How did the Saints off season preparation go?

Summer preparation for cross country is always a little bit of an unknown. We have runners that leave San Diego for the summer, some take a much-needed rest from a grueling track or baseball season, some live in Tijuana, and many work or participate in internship opportunities. Fortunately, cross country is a sport where athletes can train on their own. This summer we offered summer conditioning three days a week beginning in mid-June and had around 12 runners that were able to make consistently. We had a camp/retreat at the end of July for our top 8 runners to train at altitude for a week and bond as a team. The camp was very successful and capped off a very productive summer for our varsity runners.

2. Can you share some brief info on senior team leaders?

This year's team has two talented senior leaders; Jamie Gerding and Peter Jordan. Jamie is a 4-year varsity letterman with four years of experience running at the CIF championships. He brings experience, quiet leadership and a calming demeanor to the team. Jamie is a runner who does not get rattled and has his best races when they count the most. He understands peaking at the right point in the season is the goal.

Peter is a 2-year varsity letterman with two years of experience running on the CIF championship team. Peter is a talented 800-meter track runner as well and brings a lot of speed to cross country. Peter was our lead runner last season and is expecting to do so again this year. Peter brings confidence, experience and a knowledge of what it takes to be the best.

3. What excites you most about the upcoming season?

The most exciting thing for me about the upcoming season is the unknown. The team is a combination of experience from our 2024 state qualifying team (Jamie Gerding, Peter Jordan and junior Nico Sanchez) and a collection of young runners with talent but no varsity experience. Right now, the expectations from other teams and coaches is very low due to the influx of new runners; for the first time in 4 years we are not the favorite to win the Eastern league. I feel, however, that this team can be outstanding. Each year our team goal is to win league and challenge for a CIF championship and this year is no different. While we do not have a lot of experience, I do feel both goals are well within reach of this team.



File photo.

2025 Eastern League Cross Country Varsity Schedule

Date	Meet Name	Location	
Wed, Oct 1	Eastern League Cluster 1	Morley Field Sports Complex	San Diego, CA
Wed, Oct 8	Eastern League Cluster 2	Morley Field Sports Complex	San Diego, CA
Wed, Oct 15	Eastern League Cluster 3	Morley Field Sports Complex	San Diego, CA
Fri, Oct 24	77th Annual Mt. SAC Cross Country Invitational	Mt. San Antonio College	Walnut, CA
Wed, Oct 29	Eastern League Cluster 4	Morley Field Sports Complex	San Diego, CA
Sat, Nov 1	UC HOKA Postal 2 Mile	University City High School	San Diego, CA
Wed, Nov 5	Eastern League Cross Country Finals	Morley Field Sports Complex	San Diego, CA
Sat, Nov 15	CIF - San Diego Cross Country Championships	Morley Field Sports Complex	San Diego, CA
Sat, Nov 29	2025 CIF State Cross Country Championships	Woodward Park	Fresno, CA

Roadmap to Reality

Continued from page 1

us that faith, virtue, and holiness are possible even in the midst of the challenges and distractions of modern technology.

As an Augustinian community, we see this film as an opportunity for reflection and inspiration. St. Carlo’s life invites us to consider how our digital habits can be shaped by honesty, respect, compassion, and responsibility. His witness challenges us to ask: *Are we using technology to build community, deepen faith, and practice virtue—or to distract ourselves and disconnect from others?*

We will share St. Carlo’s story with our student body on Oct. 2nd and are excited that the film’s Director Jim Wahlberg (older

brother of actor Mark Wahberg) will be with us to share his own powerful testimony of faith with Saintsmen. We are hopeful the film will strengthen our shared mission to form young men of virtue, wisdom, and faith.

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Education,

James Horne

James Horne
Principal



Farewell and Thanks to a Life Well Lived

Saintsman Benjamin F. Smith ('66) July 18, 1948 – August 15, 2025

Ben Smith was a proud San Diegan and a “Saint” through and through. After graduating from St. Augustine High School in 1966, he earned a scholarship to the University of San Diego and soon returned to Saints as a teacher. Over two decades, he served as history teacher, Vice Principal for Discipline, and Vice Principal for Academics.

Even after moving into public education, Ben returned in retirement to teach part-time, cherishing his renewed bond with the Augustinians and the school community he always called family

Family was central to Ben’s life. He and his wife, Sharon, shared 56 years together after meeting as teenagers. He was a devoted father to Christine, Jeremiah, and Joshua, and a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. His presence was constant at family events, from school activities to camping trips. Faith was woven into his life; he volunteered in parishes, drove the church bus, and joyfully served as a Reader at Mass from age 16 until his health declined.

Ben’s love for Sharon, his children, and grandchildren reflected the same loyalty and care he gave his students. His passing on the Feast of Mary’s Assumption felt like a fitting close to a life lived in faith, service, and family.

He is survived by Sharon, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, along with his brothers Chuck Smith and Dan Bennett. A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, September 13 at 10 AM in the St. Augustine High School Gym. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Augustine H.S. or a charity of your choice



SAINTS SCENE

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

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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.