



# The Padruan

Saint Anthony's High School  
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## 'TIS THE SEASON

### CHRISTMAS CAPTIVATES CAMPUS

**Senior Writer and Editor-in-Chief:**  
Logan Taylor

**with contributions by Freshman Writer:**  
Andrew Soojian

The beginning days of advent at St. Anthony's High School signifies a moment of great excitement and anticipation. It's a time in which the Friar community; students, faculty, and staff alike, join in the gleeful spirit of holiday festivities, participating in the various seasonal traditions practiced within our school.

With December's arrival, the campus environment quickly transforms into a holiday wonderland. Exquisite decorations including garland, wreaths, nativity scenes, and beautifully decorated Christmas trees welcome all who step through the doors. Every nook and cranny of the campus is adorned with festive cheer, but it is truly the twinkling lights that make the holiday season sparkle. The atmosphere created by the lights' glimmering glow is particularly enchanting. Lights of luminous hues, red, green, and white alike, hang amidst the hall ceiling, creating a warm and welcoming ambiance, replete with Christmas magic. Sheets of red and green are draped in place of the fluorescent lights, visually complementing the strung lights, and reinforcing the school's joyful holiday spirit.



While the holiday decorations are a beloved feature of the Saint Anthony's High School Christmas season, the festivities certainly do not stop there. Among the most iconic of traditions at Saint Anthony's would have to be Senior Lockeration. Held this year on Friday, December the 6th, this hallmark event is a fun-filled contest that brings out the imagination, artistry, and creativity of the senior class. For lockeration, seniors stay after school to decorate their homeroom's section of lockers in the most vibrant colors. Each homeroom is assigned a row of lockers, for which they cover with wrapping paper and then embellish their own unique designs. This year, the designs were highly inventive. Many students opted to place cutouts of staff members on their lockers, adding a personal, slightly comic touch to the daz-

zling displays. The competition is fierce, as homerooms vie for the honor of victory. All senior students participating in the competition were determined to succeed, and claim the rewards that followed. The prizes offered were highly generous. That is, winning homerooms would be awarded special cards that would grant free lunches from the cafeteria; a delicious reward after all the hard work and creativity. The excitement and joyful collaboration surrounding the competition serves as a strong reminder of the wonderful Christmas season of St. Anthony's.

On Monday, December 9th, the winning homeroom was announced, and Mrs. Mazzuca's homeroom, room 112, emerged victorious.

Our campus is bursting with festive spirit, with exquisite decorative displays that persist beyond the common areas. Additional rooms including the library, classrooms, and faculty offices all partake in the festive charm, each space a testament to the creativity and imagination of the teachers and students who work in them. Several rooms on each floor have been decorated by teachers; and each and every one exists as a distinct space. These rooms take on a warm and inviting ambiance; with personal touches that lend a homely, comforting feeling to the classroom setting. The teachers' collective participation in decorating reflects our shared fervor of the holiday season at St. Anthony's.

Past the litany of decorative festivities, St. Anthony's also works in organizing various ceremonies and events. This year, a new tradition was added to the roster: The Winter Festival. Previously known as 'Freshmen Movie Night', the winter festival places a greater emphasis on holiday cheer, in which freshmen can immerse themselves in the festive tone of the celebration and enjoy the plethora of games, food, and activities. This gave the freshmen class a wonderful opportunity to have snacks, hot chocolate, and play games with their friends, engaging in friendly competition and fostering a sense of community. For many freshmen, this was their first real taste of Christmas at St. Anthony's, and it offered them an extraordinary opportunity to form lasting friendships and memories that will define their time at the school.

One irreplaceable component of our Christmas season are the musical performances held for the chorus and symphonic band respectively. Throughout the month of December, the music department was working doggedly, adding extra rehearsals, both during the day and night in preparation for the two major performances. The chorus concert transpired on Friday December 13th, with the band concert following the next day. Both concerts showcased the remarkable artistic talents of St. An-

thony's students, and brought people together, uniting in the shared love of music. Not only did these concerts serve as recognitions of students' immense musical talent, but also reminded how the arts play a vital role within our Franciscan community.

In addition to these events, St. Anthony's also celebrates other festive traditions, such as Grandparents Day and the Alumni Breakfast with Santa. Both events provide students and families with opportunities to connect with the broader school community. Grandparents day allows students to invite their grandparents to school, where they can participate in various activities as well as learn about the superb educational offerings of our school. The day serves as the steadfast reminder of the importance of family within the Franciscan faith. The Alumni breakfast brings together former students for a joyous morning filled with celebration, delicious food, and a visit from Santa Claus himself!



The St. Anthony's Christmas season culminates in a wondrous celebration of faith during Christmas Eve Mass. Held at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, this Mass is a beautiful occasion which unites students, faculty, staff, and their families to honor the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Schola accompanied this Mass with music, providing gorgeously sung hymns and soulful songs of fervent faith. This Mass is a powerful reminder of the holiday's true meaning and a perfect way to end our Christmas season with reverence and gratitude.

Each and every student, teacher, and faculty member at St. Anthony's all work with boundless diligence in order to prepare for the true glory of Christmas. Within our school there is a grand sense of purpose and passion as we make ready for the coming of Jesus. Through this joyous season, we revitalize our faith, recall our vocation, and re-augment our lives to better suit the will of our holy father; recognizing who we are, where we're going, and how we can be better. The graceful atmosphere of our school builds discernment within us and leads us to seek what is true. Above all, it is Christ who truly captivates our campus.

Moderator:

**Mr. Christopher Farrell**, Dean of Admissions

Editor-in-Chief:

**Logan Taylor**, '25

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**Brother David Anthony Migliorino, OSF**

Principal

**Brother Joshua DiMauro, OSF**

Assistant Principal, Dean of Student Activities

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Celebrating Our Grandparents

Grandparents Day at Saint Anthony's was a heartfelt event of family and faith. On the second Sunday of Advent, the morning began with Holy Mass, where Father John Crozier gave a solemn Blessing of Grandparents, creating a meaningful and emotional moment for everyone in attendance. Brother David reminded both grandparents and grandchildren alike that grandparents are the ultimate teachers because they so deeply value the importance of family.



After the Mass, families gathered in the Student Center to enjoy a delicious brunch and spend quality time together. Countless families took the opportunity to take professional families portraits in front of the Nativity. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to express their love and appreciation for their grandparents while sharing a joyful morning. The event made everyone appreciate the important role grandparents play in shaping lives and bringing families together.

**Freshman Writer:** Ashley Caiazza

## Chorus Travels to NYC

All of Manhattan got to hear the Carol of the Bells, as the Saint Anthony's High School Chorus spent a wonderful Christmas Day caroling around New York City! The day began bright and early with a 5:45 AM departure on the Coach Bus from Saint Anthony's. The bus to Manhattan departed with 48 Juniors and Seniors and 5 Teachers---Brother Joshua and Mr. Farrell were joined by Ms. Malangone, Mrs. Mattutat and Mr. Mataban. The first stop brought the group to Battery Park, where they paid respects at the Twin Tower Memorials. With an ascent to the 102nd Floor, the students were able to "See Forever" atop One World Trade.



From there, carols were heard around the city, and even the Brooklyn bridge! Some of the most memorable and iconic stops included the Rockefeller Center Tree, Bryant Park, and the steps of Times Square. The best location was when the ensemble entered Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The beautiful architecture and acoustics made for a pretty picture, and a beautiful song as the Chorus sang from the Altar to the many visitors in the Cathedral. The day was a wonderful experience spreading Christmas spirit and cheer throughout the city!

**Senior Writer:** Tatyana Poland

# FALL PLAY DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

## Writer and Editor-in-Chief:

Logan Taylor, '25

This past month, the Saint Anthony's Theatre Company opened their Fall play, *You Can't Take it With You* to great success. The play, which highlights the comedic clash between two differing families, was met with warm laughter, thunderous applause, and high praise from students, faculty, and parents alike.

Much of the positive reception can be attributed to the unwavering dedication of the cast and crew, as well as the time and resources invested into making *You Can't Take it With You* the best it can be.

Auditions began in early September. Over two days, Mr. McAuliffe, Mr. L. Cordina, Mr. R. Cordina, Mr. Long, and Mrs. Gash acted as judges on a panel, methodically monitoring the various character interpretations of individual students.

Through this process, many unique acts of comedic talent were discovered. Within two days, the cast list was complete, rounding out to a slim 19 students.

In speaking to why he was drawn to *You Can't Take it With You*, Director Lewis Cordina stated, "It's a story about family values, differing values, and different ideologies coming together in a civil, productive way, which is very refreshing. In this year with everything going on in our society...it's the right message to deliver to an audience".

The play's sentiments of togetherness and mutual understanding reflect a nostalgic value which, in our modern Amer-

ican moment, seems to vanish more each day. In an age when we are so divided as a nation, it's necessary to be reminded of our innate human connection.

What connection allows for, among other things, is collaboration; and the Saint Anthony's Theatre Company has always prided itself upon large-scale, cross-department, collaborative endeavors. This year's play was no exception.



For instance, students from all grade levels worked on stage crew, deftly assembling highly robust sets made to resemble a lived-in, dusty, and personal 1930s-era Manhattan apartment.

Additionally, the cast, under the direction of Mr. L Cordina, delivered spectacular performances throughout. Each student actor was deeply in tune with the essence and personal quirks of their respective characters.

In discussing his portrayal of Tony Kirby, a personable young idealist, Sophomore Nico Meloni stated, "[Tony] is a character that isn't bothered by many things. I like to think of him as someone who gets committed quickly. I don't think he's somebody who thinks about his decisions all the time".

Similarly, Senior Lily Castro described her character, Penelope Sycamore as. "A bit of a kook", adding, "She's always trying to make everyone happy, but she's also in her own little world all the time."

Moreover, Junior Stage Manager Kieran Brown sang his praises for the play, calling it "hysterical...witty". Kieran's responsibilities as Stage Manager entail taking extensive notes on all specific aspects of the play such as entrances/exits, light changes, set changes, as well as any modifications made in translating the play onto the stage. As such, if any student is familiar with the flow of "You Can't Take It With You", it would be him.

With the collective diligence, teamwork, and creativity of students and teachers, it's no wonder *You Can't Take it With You* was a hit and a major highlight of the Theatre Company's season.

The combined efforts of Director Mr. Cordina, Stage Crew Moderator Mr. Doyle, the sound team, the lighting team, the Stage Crew, and student actors all served to shape *You Can't Take it With You* into a magnificent celebration of the theater tradition at Saint Anthony's High School. More than entertainment, the Theatre company fostered a sense of community among all who attended, a reminder of the superb theatrical offerings of Saint Anthony's. A testament to the remarkable talent of all involved, the curtain call of *You Can't Take It With You* left everyone eagerly anticipating what the Theatre Company will bring to the stage next at the Spring Musical.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

## STUDENTS RING IN THE SEASON IN SONG

**Freshman Writer:** Lilah Carden

The Annual Christmas Concerts were a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. On December 13th, the chorus concert took place under the direction of Brother Joshua, Conductor and Mr. Farrell, the Assistant Director. Also assisting was Mr. Mataban, the piano accompanist and Mr. Graci on lighting design). The concert began with “Conditor Alme Siderum”, a traditional Latin hymn used during Advent, translated as “Creator of the Stars of Night.” While singing, the performers entered and made their way to the stage, decorated with festive accessories. The rest of part one was filled with more traditional odes to the birth of our Lord, ending with a beautiful rendition of “O Holy Night,” beginning with upper female voices, the rest of the sections then joining in, creating seemingly effortless harmonies.

The bagpipes then performed for the Intermezzo, their pipes also decorated festively with Christmas lights. The performed a collection of songs, including some recognizable carols such as “Jingle Bells”, “We Three Kings”, and “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” Part two then commenced, even more festive than the prior part. Included here was themed lighting and projected snowflakes onto the side walls. There were also even more festive accessories, including black, Charles Dickens-esque hats for the sing-a-long-

portion and Santa hats for “Let It Snow.” Santa Claus also came, making a wonderful surprise for the many young children in the audience. “Bethlehemu (Nigerian Christmas Song)” also had a corresponding accessory, this time light up necklaces, along with dance movement. The Chorus Concert was a great production of all the hard work the performers put into their songs these past two quarters.



On Saturday, December 14th, the instrumental concert took place. The evening began energetically with the percussion ensemble directed by Mr. Trumpy. “Bah! Drumbug!” cheerfully began the evening, then leading into the energizing “Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24” which had even the audience nodding their heads along with the beat. The concert band then took the stage, also under the direction of Mr. Trumpy. They played several more mod-

ern holiday classics, ending with “A Charlie Brown Christmas” which emphasized the festive theme of the evening, the familiar melody delighting the audience. Under the direction of Mrs. Avellaneda, the Director of Music, the orchestra performed next. Their repertoire spanned many genres, between doing a medley from “The Polar Express” and the up-tempo “Dance of the Tumblers.” During “Adagietto” there was even a harp soloist, which further elevated the airy tone of the song.

The symphonic band followed also under direction of Mrs. Avellaneda. Similar to the orchestra, they had a wide variety of songs, however their final two gave odes to two famous movies, as they were “Phantom of the Opera” and “Home Alone.” Between the jazz band which would perform next, a harp solo of “Silent Night” was performed by Carrie LaBarca, adding even more beautiful festivity to the evening. The jazz band had high energy, was and was filled with various soloists and had even the audience tapping along to the beat. The Celtic Friars Bagpipe Band under direction of Mr. Saxer and Mr. Dexter was the final group to perform, playing a selection of Christmas carols and Irish and Scottish Marches.

For both evenings, the ensembles ended with Hallelujah Chorus leaving the audiences with warm hearts and holiday cheer from the inspiring talent and effort that went into preparing for these Concerts.

# POWDERPUFF FOOTBALL

## SENIORS ARE 2024 CHAMPIONS!

**Junior Writer:** Chloe Nuccio

The annual Powder Puff game at St. Anthony’s High School is a beloved tradition that brings students together in competition and school pride. This year’s 2024 Powder Puff game lived up to its reputation, creating an exciting evening filled with teamwork and friendly contesting. The Powder Puff game, which included over 480 junior and senior girls versus each other in many friendly football games, is much more than just a game. It’s a weeks-long event that begins with preparation and training. For weeks leading up to the game, the girls are coached by their boy peers, who create strategies, positions, and techniques to help their team win. The sight of juniors and seniors practicing their plays on the St. Anthony’s field demonstrates the collaborative spirit we have here at St. Anthony’s.

On game night, the evening began with a Tailgate-style BBQ in the Cafeteria together. The teams then descended on the Student Center and the atmosphere was exhilarating. The stands were packed with students and parents all eager to support their teams. Each team’s t-shirt color dominated the bleachers, cheering on the teams playing on the field. The enthusiasm of the bleachers set the tone for the games. As the games began, the teams headed to

their field to play their first game. The rivalry between the teams was evident in every play, but it was always accompanied by respect and good sportsmanship.



The coaches—junior boys for the junior teams and senior boys for the senior teams—played an integral role in shaping the game’s outcomes. Their enthusiasm and commitment to their roles as coaches were evident as they called plays from the sidelines, offering guidance to their teams. Their involvement was an important layer of this night as they added excitement to this event.

Beyond the competition, the Powder Puff game served as a reminder of the values that St. Anthony’s holds dear. The event highlighted the importance of teamwork, school spirit, and community involvement. It provided an opportunity for stu-

dents to step out of their comfort zones, whether by learning the game of football or leading a team. The supportive environment in the student center ensured that every participant—player, or coach—felt included and valued.

As the final whistle blew, the game ended with a narrow victory for the Senior Rathjen Team. The positive and thrilling environment throughout the night reflected the success of the event as a whole. The 2024 Powder Puff Tournament will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the highlights of the school year. It demonstrated the power of friendly competition in bringing students together and creating valued memories for all those who participated. As the students of St. Anthony’s look back on this year’s game, they can take pride in having contributed to a night full of school spirit, long-lasting tradition, and excitement!



# FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

For each issue, the Paduan sits down with one of our esteemed Faculty Members to introduce them to our school community. If you have a teacher recommendation, please write to [paduan@stanthonyshs.org](mailto:paduan@stanthonyshs.org)



## Mrs. Annette Barba

**Freshman Writer:** Andrew Soojian

Mrs. Barba is a fixture on the second floor in Room 234. A devout Catholic, she regularly attends Mass in the Chapel here at Saint Anthony's and enjoys being a lector as well. As she approaches her 25th Year at Saint Anthony's, the Paduan sat down with Mrs. Barba to gain some insight into her passion for teaching English.

**Paduan: How many years have you been teaching at St. Anthony's?**

This is my 24th year. Before this, I taught in public schools in the city for six years.

**Paduan: What classes do you currently teach?**

I teach English 9 honors. I used to teach sophomores for around 16 years.

**Paduan: And what class was that?**

It was American Literature, but when that became a class for juniors, I moved down to teaching freshmen.

**Paduan: What do you like so much about teaching Freshmen?**

I enjoy the mix of literature I get to teach them, from all different countries and of different genres. I like that they come in new, enthusiastic, and ready to learn. I enjoy getting them organized as they're all on different levels. With our students coming from different schools across Long Island, I enjoy getting them all on the same page when it comes to Grammar and Reading Comprehension.

**Paduan: Do you have any special connections with teachers who have been here as long as you?**

Yes there are a lot of us who have been here for a very long time. Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Jensen, Mrs. Kiernan, Mrs. Fahey, and a lot more. We've all been through a lot together: the different styles of teaching over the years, Covid, which was a big adjustment for us, and we all have children and grandchildren.

**Paduan: What's your advice to new teachers?**

I think they should be enthusiastic and have a lot of passion about what they teach. For instance, I became a High School English teacher because I fell in love with all the literature when I was in high school.

**Paduan: Do you have any advice for your students?**

Yes! Read, read, read! And don't keep your work until the last minute.

**Paduan: Why did you come to Catholic School after starting a career as a teacher in a public school?**

When I moved to Long Island, I knew I wanted to teach in Catholic school because God speaks through literature and I can't talk about that in public school. Here, I can tie scripture into literature, which makes for a different genre.



## Ms. Kaitlin O'Neill

**Junior Writer:** Jordan Turansky

Ms. O'Neill, an alumna of the Class of 2002, is a member of the Mathematics Department and came to Saint Anthony's in 2007 and has taught all levels of Math including this year's curriculum of Algebra 2, AP Calculus BC and Calculus 3 since joining the Department. As part of her work in the department, Ms. O'Neill is also the moderator of the Math Honor Society. In her current role, she serves as the Director of Educational Technology and a part of the Academic Team working closely with Mr. Washington, Mrs. Kampa and Dr. Vasiliades.

Over the years, Ms. O'Neill has traveled numerous times with students on pilgrimage to Italy and Spain. She also moderated the Girls Who Code Club and coached Cross Country and Winter and Spring Track in her earlier years. Always with a smile on her face, Ms. O'Neill is ready to take on any challenge, to "solve any problem", "add" her expertise, "multiply" the success of her students and to "exponentially" have a profound impact on Saint Anthony's.

**Paduan: What is your inspiration to continue working at Saint Anthony's High School?**

It is very interesting actually, I believe it is very much the fact that God has a plan, and

you do not always know what your plan is. The second I walk into this building, it feels as if it is my fate. I feel this sense of; this is where I want to be, and that is why I have been here now for about 17 years. I do not want to go anywhere else.

**Paduan: What is your favorite part of Saint Anthony's High School?**

I know it sounds cheesy, but the people and relationships. Some of my best friends in the entire world are people that I met here; doing Italy trips or teaching in the classroom next door. I know people always use the word family but I do really feel like we are a family. I was also saying that we are truly an organization that's dedicated to trying to make good people, at our core the Franciscan influence is really about making people who care about people and people who want to go out into the world and make it a better place.

**Paduan: What is your day to day like during the school week?**

Since taking on more of an administrative role, I am half in the classroom and half acting as an administrator; I would say I have very few down periods. I have many meetings, and extra help. Once the school day begins, especially during periods I am always prepping for either my classes or something administrative. I would say the day to day is very busy; it takes a lot of coordination but it is nice so I like it...anything I can do to help the school, I am into it.

**Paduan: What is the most important/special part of this school to you?**

I think that we are really lucky to be in a school that is faith based, because I do know a lot of people who either worked here, went to public school, or work in public schools. And even though they obviously have amazing experiences, there is something different about being in a faith based school, particularly a Franciscan based school. Because there just is this kind of undercurrent of spirituality, connection like, a greater purpose than just learning stuff that is on a page to go somewhere else.

**Paduan: Who has been your biggest role model at school?**

I would have to say, Mrs. Karen Scharbach. As the previous department chair, she did nothing but support her staff and encourage them to take good risks, think outside the box, especially to think beyond just the delivering of information. She taught us to inspire. As an educator, she was ahead of her time in her practices and policies. She is absolutely the most brilliant person I've ever met and was able to use that brilliance to convey ideas to her students through multiple avenues. She inspired me by being fearless. While she always projected kindness, that kindness was never weakness. When she was set on something she believed was right, she was unwavering in her mindset, even when it may have been an unpopular opinion.

# FRIARQUEST TRAILBLAZERS

## THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE RESEARCH AT SAINT ANTHONY'S

**Senior Writer and Editor-in-Chief:**  
Logan Taylor

Since its inception in 2012, the Saint Anthony's Independent Science Research program, Friarquest, has grown exponentially. Initially spearheaded by Paul Paino, Friarquest (originating as a science research extracurricular) has seen tremendous increases in student enrollment and participation, bolstering impressive statistics.

***"In my first year here research was a club and it had about 12 kids in it. Since that time, it's developed into a class with 130 students"***

***Mr. Paul Paino,  
Chief Instructor***

### **Science Research Program**

The program has additionally garnered the attention of science researchers from the nation's most esteemed institutions. Students from the program regularly pursue mentorships with researchers from prestigious laboratories and universities. These institutions include, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratories, and the Feinstein Medical Institute, among many others. Such collaborative endeavors have consistently launched Saint Anthony's students to the forefront of the competitive Science-research landscape, and given them a distinct edge in 'Regeneron STS' (Science Talent Search) and 'ISEF' (International Science and Engineering Fair) competitions.



Citing the enduring competitive spirit of the program, Paul Paino stated, "Every year we send kids to ISEF. For the last couple years we've had kids in the finals of Regeneron STS and Regeneron ISEF...we've had a lot of success in those contests."

This year, the continued achievement of our science scholars is no exception. These research students have already collaborated extensively with their respective mentors, formulating sophisticated experiments and methodologies that seek to address urgent problems in the medical, biochemical, physical, and environmental sciences. Among such a distinguished group of academicians are Emmett Boxer and Amelia Furnell, both of whom have conducted different, equally state-of-the-

art research.

Emmett's examination of the protein Keratin-17 as a potential biomarker for colon cancer was at the core of his research. In collaboration with his mentors Kenneth Shroyer and Lyanne Delgado Coka, both researchers from the Stony Brook Renaissance School of Medicine, Emmett Utilized a unique method of genetic staining to investigate the presence of Keratin-17 in a variety of colon tissue samples.



Elaborating on the subject, he stated, "It's not totally known how it [Keratin-17] promotes cancer. Keratin-17 is mostly expressed during Embryogenesis and it's usually not expressed at all during the adult life of the cell...When the levels are high, you're more likely to die a lot faster, which is important because...for Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma they use it as a prognostic marker; so they can check to see how much you have, and from there, can see what type of treatment you should be getting."

Emmett examined Keratin-17 expression across a spectrum of tissue samples, including benign colorectal mucosa, adenomas, and invasive carcinomas, and ultimately determined that Keratin-17 should be further investigated as a biomarker for early detection of both premalignant and malignant lesions.

While Emmett's research dealt with internal bodily issues, Amelia's, conversely, investigates the external environment. Seeking to determine the effect of infrastructure on diversity of Formicidae (ants) species, Amelia, along with her mentor, Mr. Jeffrey Petracca, an Entomologist from the Long Island Aquarium and DNA Learning Center, utilized DNA barcoding to identify varying ant species. From that, she was able to use the number of species surveyed as a bio-indicator for the well-being of the environment.

Discussing the impact of human intervention on biodiversity, she said, "On roadways, deicers and different chemicals are used. It's bad for ecosystems to be broken up by roadways or cities as a whole. I sampled ants from highly populated roadways, and I compared that to ants who were collected from a forest."

Comparing Formicidae species from both Suffolk County and Hamilton County, she discovered 75% species diversity for Suffolk County while only 40% diversity for Hamilton County. Despite Hamilton County being located amidst a sprawling natural atmosphere within Adirondack

Park, the biodiversity still tallied lower. Her results indicate the presence of human activity is negatively impacting ant species and ecosystems within the area.

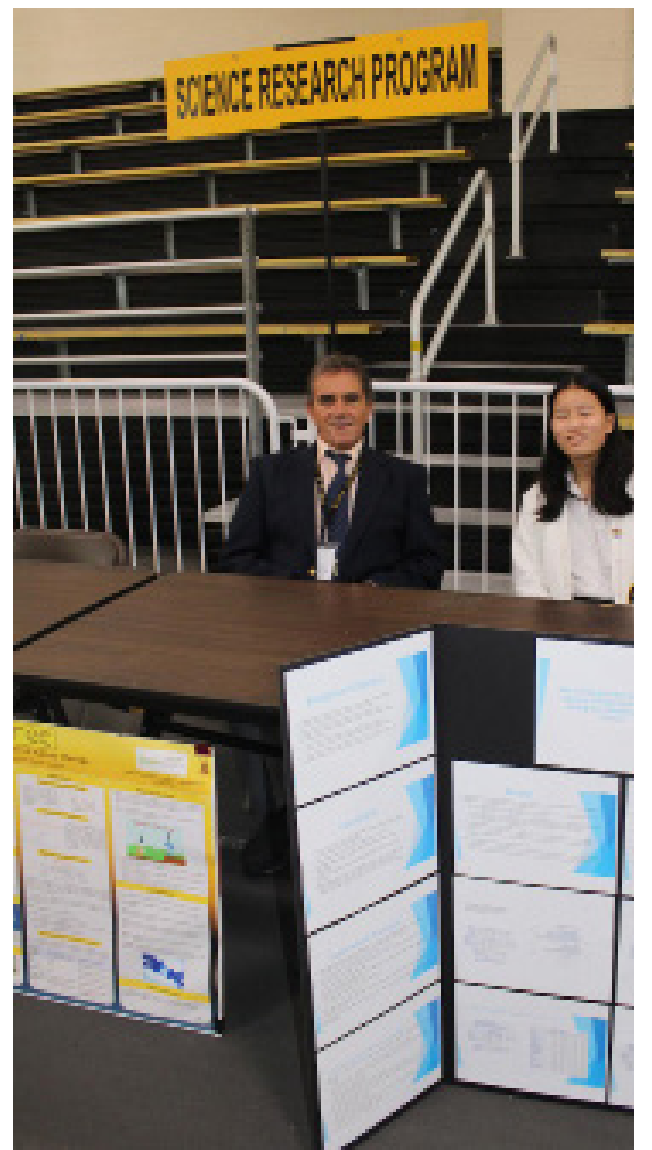
Addressing the concern of environmental sustainability, she wrote, "Without proper action and accountability by New York State, the loss of biodiversity will have consequences that affect not only ecosystems, but also human well-being."

None of this came easy. Both students had to overcome hurdles in conducting their research and developing their plans. "I've just never done something like this before", said Emmett. "You kind of underestimate the amount of work you have to put in. It was a learning process. You don't really know what you're expecting, but you just have to go in with an open mind and use that information to do your best."

Similarly, Amelia added, "Time is a big challenge. I wanted to take in as much data as I could for the project I was pursuing; and I wanted to have all the information to prove the validity of my results, so I could have the best project available for my research."

Both students are contenders for Regeneron STS in Washington D.C and Regeneron ISEF in Columbus, Ohio, happening respectively in March and May of next year.

With their diligence, rigor, and voracious appetite for knowledge, there is no doubt that wherever they end up going, they will greatly succeed. We wish them the best of luck in their competitions and highly commend their efforts in research and study. All of us at Saint Anthony's cannot wait to see what they bring to fields of science, and the world.



# JUBILEE YEAR 2025

## THEME INVITES ALL TO BE “PILGRIMS OF HOPE”

At one quarter through the 21st Century, Pope Francis proclaimed the year 2025 the Ordinary Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope.” This year-long celebration of great spiritual, ecclesiastic and social significance calls all Catholics to breath new life into the Holy Church. In his February 2022 letter declaring the theme, Pope Francis states: “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...”

A jubilee year, a holy year, invites the involvement of all Catholics in various events at the Vatican in Rome but also in their own dioceses. The year officially began on Christmas Eve in Rome when the Holy Father opened the Jubilee Door at Saint Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. Other Holy Doors will be opened at the major basilicas in Rome. Catholics who make a holy pilgrimage to Rome or other sacred Jubilee site can receive a plenary indulgence, a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins, during this Holy Jubilee Year.

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto



### JUBILEE PRAYER FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

*Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.  
May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.  
May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.*

the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That’s why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the ‘anchor of hope’ refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency maneuvers to stabilize the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim’s journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. [Taken from: [www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va)]

A Jubilee Holy Year is a time for each of us to reaffirm our relationship with God and with one another. May we all embrace 2025 with hope in our Church, in our world and in our school community.

## THE CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

### **He is Here; The Implications are Endless!**

A few years ago, one of the priests on the seminary faculty shared an experience from his time as a high school teacher. He posed a hypothetical scenario to his students involving two recently married couples, each living in similar circumstances.

The first couple decided that their life needed a change. Perhaps they, like many of us, were at the start of a new year and were preparing a list of resolutions. For the sake of the conversation, let’s call them “Couple #1.” They resolved to take on several noble tasks. They decided that, having been blessed financially, it would be right to intentionally donate to causes they felt were important. They felt compelled to wake up earlier than usual each day to go for a run or walk, starting each day focused and ready. They also realized they wanted to be more generous with their time and decided to spend their weekends helping at a local soup kitchen, serving those in need.

The priest and the students all agreed that these resolutions were noble and praiseworthy. The priest then asked his students: “How long do you think these resolutions will last?” He shared that the longest response he received was “probably around three months.”

He then described a second hypothetical couple: “Couple #2.” This couple, like Couple #1, lived in similar circumstances. However, their lives were changed by the

arrival of a newborn. Rather than simply donating some of their resources to charity, they would pour all their resources into their child. Instead of waking up a little earlier each day, they would be waking up at all hours of the night to tend to their baby’s needs. Instead of spending a few hours each weekend helping the needy, they would devote every hour of their day to their newborn.

The priest asked his students: “How long do the changes in Couple #2’s life last?” Some students guessed “eighteen years” or “until the child moves out for college.” But one student provided the answer the priest was looking for: forever. The changes that a newborn brings into a family’s life last forever.

The priest then asked, “So, which couple—#1 or #2—represents Christianity?” Sadly, about half the class answered that Couple #1 represented Christianity, believing that Christianity is about good works sustained by willpower and self-betterment.

The priest, recalling one of the students’ earlier remarks, responded: “If Christianity were like Couple #1, it would probably last around three months. And yet, here we are, two thousand years later—two thousand years into forever.”

Christmas (and New Year’s) reminds us that a child is born to us: Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

At times, the disappointments we face in life might lead us to believe that even

Jesus’ birth is a story that’s “too good to be true”—especially when we’re confronted by the struggles life throws our way. And yet, throughout the centuries, we continue to see signs of God’s faithful presence. The Church—the means by which Jesus continues to make Himself known in His Sacraments and among His People—continues to proclaim: He is here.

I hope that these days of Christmas have given you a sense of God’s nearness to us and the great gift of His presence that changes our lives, for the better, forever.

### **Father John Crozier**



In addition to his role as Chaplain at Saint Anthony’s, Father Crozier serves as the Chaplain of Hofstra University and diocesan Director of Vocations.

# THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE GIVES THANKS

Sophomore Writer: Maya Williams

The Thanksgiving Potluck organized by the Global Ambassador Club was truly a masterpiece. It wasn't just a meal, it was a celebration of community, unity, and culture. With a great deal of desserts brought by attendees, the event was a sweet symphony of flavors from all around the world. The room buzzed with energy as tables filled with a mix of old and new friends. People played games ranging from Jenga to card games from around the globe, creating a lively atmosphere of connection and fun. It was an absolute pleasure to be in such an environment seeing the gathering of old and new friends. With the help of the Saint Anthony's Leadership Team, the event was an opportunity not only for the international community but all Saint Anthony's students.



Held in the Student Center Hallway of Champions, the event brought together

various clubs such as the Video Games Club, Chess Club, and Art Club, each adding their own influence to the event's diverse vibe. A profound speech and prayer was offered by Brother David which set a reflective tone for the occasion, reminding everyone of the true spirit of Thanksgiving and what it means to be a Friar.

The walls of the hallway were adorned with heartfelt notes expressing what students were most thankful for, a visual representation of gratitude that filled the space. Throughout the event, prizes were awarded to those who demonstrated exceptional spirit and a willingness to help others, further emphasizing the importance of community and giving back. Photos from the event were shared on Instagram (@globalambassadorssahs), capturing the warmth and joy of the evening. The Thanksgiving Potluck wasn't just a gathering, it was a celebration of togetherness, culture, and kindness.

Although the holidays have come and gone, it is important to remember that it is a time for reflection. Thanksgiving was never about turkey, but what the world has to offer and expressing gratitude for what it has given you. The holiday's origins are often linked to the 1612 feast between the Pilgrims and Wampanoag people, the feast symbolized cooperation and mutual respect. Over time, the holiday evolved, with families associating the day with a large meal, often featuring turkey,



stuffing, and pie. The essence and importance of the holiday lie in reflection, appreciation and togetherness. Thanksgiving is a reminder to pause our busy lives and appreciate what we so often take for granted: family, friends, and the simple joys of life.

The potluck was able to capture the essence of a modern thanksgiving. The meal featured a few of the familiar traditional family dinner staples pie, turkey, and mashed potatoes, all ingredients to a Thanksgiving tradition. However, the potluck was also able to contribute more; it gave unity and joy. As much as food nourishes the body, the gathering nourishes the soul. Laughter and conversation create memories that last after everything is cleaned and stored for next time. The potluck, in its simplicity, is a reminder that Thanksgiving is not just about the meal, but the people you share it with and the joy that comes from being together.

# FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

Freshman Writer: Jenna Caniano

Every year St. Anthony's High School hosts the Fall Varsity Sports Awards Night to celebrate the accomplishments of all the Fall Varsity Teams which included girls soccer, boys soccer, girls cross country, boys cross country, girls swimming, football, girls crew, boys crew, girls tennis, and girls volleyball. During the evening of December 18th, Saint Anthony's honored over 300 student-athletes who participated in these sports. Students, their parents and other guests went directly to the auditorium where the teams sat together while their guests were seated to the sides and to the rear of the auditorium.

While team members seated their guests and found their other teammates, on the stage a slideshow played that included candid shots of players as well as media day photos. Before the actual start of the Awards Night presentations, coaches presented All-Academic Certificates to those student-athletes who had achieved an 89.5 cumulative overall GPA or higher for the first academic quarter.

Saint Anthony's High School Director of Athletics, Mr. Joseph Minucci, welcomed everyone to the annual Fall Varsity Sports Awards Night celebration. He called each team's coach or coaches to the stage to give a short description of their team's season and accomplishments. All athletes

were then called up to receive their varsity letters---a long standing tradition. Varsity jackets with letters trace their origins back to the Harvard University baseball team in 1865. The varsity letter symbolizes school spirit, community pride, and hard work.

Both the girls and boys Crew Teams went to Ocean City, New Jersey for a Regatta against nationally ranked crews. The Boys Varsity 8 and Varsity 4, and the Girls Varsity 4 came home with bronze medals. The Girls Varsity 8 earned a bronze medal at Head of the Passaic in New Jersey. Their season ended at the Head of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia, where each category had sixty crews.



The boys cross country team repeated their performance and gained the NSCHSAA Cross Country Title for 2024. The girls cross country won their fifth consecutive Catholic State championship. This win led them to earn a spot to compete at the New York State Federation

Championship.

The girls Soccer Team had an impressive season winning the League Championship over Kellenberg Memorial while going on to bring home the CHSAA State Championship with a shutout victory over Saint Mary's of Lancaster, New York. In boys Soccer, the League Championship had St. Anthonys facing Chaminade for the 13th year in a row. In spite of getting some scoring opportunities in the last eight minutes of the game, they boys couldn't convert them into goals, and the Friars lost to Chaminade.

Boys Football battled their way through the season culminating in an impressive semi-final victory over Cardinal Hayes on Cy Donnelly Field. Although the Friars could not edge out victory in NYCHSAA championship over Iona Prep, the team was proud with their season and look forward to next year.

After each varsity letter was awarded, Mr. Minucci and Brother David ended the evening with the announcement of each team's MVP (Most Valuable Player), each team's scholar-athlete, and the athlete with the most team spirit of each team. In addition, the top boys team and the top girls team with the highest academic averages were announced. The winners for the boys top academic team was Cross Country and the girls top academic team was also Cross Country. Way to go Friars!

# Oh Holy Night, Oh Night Divine

## Saint Anthony's celebrates Christmas Vigil

**Junior Writer:** Anthony Caiazza

'In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day'....these words from the song *Birthday of a King* invite us to the wonder of the Incarnation--the Word Made Flesh. What most expresses the Friars' love for Christmas is the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.

This Mass is a beautiful embodiment of the Christmas spirit. Each year the invitation to this Mass is extended to Junior and Senior families and Alumni. The auditorium is transformed into a holy scene with hundreds of flowers and shrubbery adorning the stage. One aspect that makes this Mass so inspiring is the mixed Chorus which truly brings the Christmas spirit to everyone who hears. Brother Joshua and Mr. Farrell extend the invitation to sing to the Schola, as well as all Juniors and Seniors in the Chorus. Beyond current students, Chorus Alumni are also invited to return to join the Chorus. Throughout the Mass, as you look to your left and right you see smiles of children as well as grandparents in awe at the beauty of this Mass.

Saint Anthony's High School has hosted the Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord since its founding. This tradition began when the school was an all-boys institution in Smithtown. "I know Saint Anthony's has hosted this Mass since before I was here, even in Smithtown, I believe the first Christmas Vigil at Saint Anthony's was in 1958", states Brother Joshua. This explains why this Mass is rooted so deeply in the Friar spirit. Over 1,000 attendees filled the Auditorium this December 24. Families and alumni traveled from many states to return to their hometowns sometimes just to sing at this beautiful Mass.



"When I was invited to sing at the Christmas Eve Mass, I didn't hesitate to accept. To see old friends and teachers brought back memories and a sense of warmth that the bustle of college often makes you forget", said Class of 2024 graduate Andrew Ageyman-Duah.

This Mass would not be possible without the time and effort put in by students, faculty and staff. They work extremely hard to make this evening special for our school community. Brother Richard Contino takes the lead when orchestrating the flower decoration for Mass. He and Dennis, the manager of BMS, the Building Maintenance Team at Saint Anthony's, worked hard to individually plan the location, size and position of each of the hundreds of poinsettias and every evergreen that transforms the auditorium into a new environment. "You certainly don't feel like you are in a school auditorium; it feels like Saint Patrick's Cathedral with the forest of Christmas Trees

on the Altar!", said Mr. Farrell.

With guidance from Brother Richard and Brother Joshua, the Student Council came to Saint Anthony's on the Remote Learning Day to assist in setting up the auditorium. This event was special because none of the council complained about waking up on their day off as they understood the importance of this Mass and the meaning behind it. "I loved having the opportunity to work alongside Brother Richard to help arrange the altar with beautiful poinsettias in preparation for the Christmas Eve Mass. The council knew it was our responsibility to transform the auditorium into a sacred space for all to enjoy with their families. These poinsettias were more than just flowers to all of us, they symbolized the joy, beauty, and hope of the Christmas season", said Student Council President Jacob DiazGranados.



The Vigil commences with the Chorus under the directorship of Brother Joshua leading a Sing-a-long of Christmas carols to bring everyone into the Christmas Spirit. Some of the carols included familiar Christmas carols, such as "The First Noel" and "Joy to the World", as well as Latin hymns such as "O Sanctissima, O Piissima". The Choir was accompanied by Mr. Tyrus Mataban on piano, as well as our guest organist, Mrs. Eleanor Gould. The Choir continues to sing throughout the evening's vigil making this Mass unique from any other.

To begin the Mass liturgy, Brother David, our Principal, recites "The Proclamation of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ". This is read from The Roman Martyrology and features key moments from The creation of the world, The covenant with Abraham, The Exodus and giving of the Law to Moses, The reign of King David, and The Babylonian Exile. Its purpose is to emphasize the profound significance of Christ's birth as the fulfillment of God's plan for humanity. During the procession, every member of the audience receives a lit candle which continues to transform the atmosphere of the auditorium. During this, all other lights are extinguished as



the candles provides light as the procession of the Franciscan Brothers approaches the altar.

Brother Robert Gabriel read the Franciscan Christmas Proclamation written by Celano that explains how Saint Francis initiated the first Christmas Crib at Greccio, Italy. Saint Francis created the First Nativity using real people, a real manger a real ox and ass, and real shepherds. He wanted to celebrate the incarnation in a special way. This tradition of the Nativity lives on at Saint Anthony's with a life-size nativity in the front of our school. This Nativity is visible from Pigeon Hill, Wolf Hill, and Old Country Road as all who arrive at the school and drive past are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. This follows Saint Francis' tradition by making the nativity visible to all, to bring people together and help people remember the Christ child. There is an impressive Nativity within the auditorium during this Mass as well which is blessed by Father John Crozier. As the Nativity is incensed, "Adeste Fideles" is sung. Singing "Adeste Fideles" unites the congregation in reverence, echoing the sentiments of joy and awe experienced by those present at the first Christmas.

This Vigil was an excellent blend of both English and Latin. The mix of Latin into the regular English service evokes great tradition and a specific connection to our faith as Latin is often only heard at the most holy Masses. Certain aspects also espouse the supreme reverence of the Mass clearly experienced during the Nicene Creed. Typically at a regular Sunday Mass at the words "AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WAS INCARNATE OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AND BECAME MAN" the congregation is to bow. During the Christmas Vigil however, the entire congregation genuflects at these words acknowledging the significance to the very moment being celebrated when through the power of the Holy Spirit, over two-thousand years ago, the Blessed Mother was betrothed with a Son, who was born into this world for the salvation of our sins.



The Christmas Eve Mass at Saint Anthony's is more than just a tradition; it is a heartfelt celebration of faith, community, and the enduring spirit of Christmas. From the angelic voices of the choir to the breathtaking transformation of the auditorium, every detail reflects the dedication and love of those who made this event possible. For alumni, students, and families alike, this Mass serves as a reminder of the deeper meaning of the season—one of joy, hope, and unity. As the congregation leaves, carrying the light of their candles and the warmth of the evening in their hearts, they take with them a piece of what makes Saint Anthony's so special: a place where faith and tradition come alive in extraordinary ways.