

RUMBLE

April/May 2009 • Issue XXIII

ST. JAMES ACADEMY THEN AND NOW

By: SANDY WARFORD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

It is hard to believe it has been four years since we opened the doors to our first Freshman class. Although many things have changed over these four years, one thing has remained constant: our commitment to provide our students with a faith-filled education. We strive daily to bring our students closer to Jesus in everything they do. From academics to extra-curricular activities, all we do is dedicated to our Lord.

As we prepare for our first graduation, we ponder on those important moments in our school that brought us together as a community. Although this is just a fraction of examples, the feeling of community is present in each one of these moments:

- The loss of our friends Zach Morris, Lauren Dopp and Brooks Wisdom.
- The Dedication of our school and the annual Mass we have to celebrate this dedication.
- The celebration of our first State titles in soccer, track & field, wrestling and volleyball.
- The hiring of 23 new teachers as we began our first year with four grades.
- Our first State Assessments.
- All School Serve Day and the Spring Break Mission Trips.
- Annual class retreats.



As we continue to strive for excellence each day and push our students to their fullest potential, it is humbling to remember, after these four years, how it all began:

- We started with 123 students and have grown to 575 students.
- We started with a staff of 37 and now have a staff of 72.
- We started with a course list of 26 and now have a course list of nearly 130.
- We went from one lunch session to three.
- We started with zero students' cars in the parking lot to 242 parking permits.



My, have we grown!

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For additional information about our school, please visit our Web site at www.sjakeepingfaith.org.

MASS REQUESTS

If you have a special Mass request, please email Monsignor Raymond Burger at msgrburger@msn.com or Mrs. Terri O'Neill at toneill@sjakeepingfaith.org. Mass is celebrated daily in our chapel and we welcome your special intentions.

RENTAL INFORMATION

If you or someone you know is interested in renting the St. James Academy Common's Area for an event, please contact Mike Medina at 913-254-4257 or by e-mail at mmedina@sjakeepingfaith.org.

GO THUNDER!

www.sjakeepingfaith.org

A LABOR OF LOVE

BY: JODIE MADDOX, CAMPUS MINISTRY

A few months ago, the junior and senior students of St. James Academy were given the opportunity to sign-up for a Mission Trip to New Orleans. Students who attended the trip over spring break would work with houses affected by hurricane Katrina. Students could apply their service to their Christian Stewardship Project. On paper this opportunity looked like a great chance to get all 30 hours accomplished as well as hang out with fellow students over break.



After enduring a 15-hour road trip on a chartered bus, our 35 upper classmen were eager to begin their service. Our host for the week, National Relief Network (NRN), is working with FEMA to refurbish homes at an affordable rate for police officers, firemen, and teachers in St. Bernard's Parish. Most of these civil servants are still living in trailers provided by FEMA after Katrina hit the New Orleans community over three and a half years ago. Our band-of-volunteers were given the task of gutting, cleaning, stripping, and clearing the rubble from three affected homes over a 3-day period. Because of their inexperience, finishing two houses would be a huge accomplishment. NRN did not expect our students to ever finish all three homes, they were told two homes in three days is the norm for most teenagers. However, their performance and dedication would soon "Thunder" through the broken community, forever changing the lives of three unknown families.

On the third day when it did not look as if the third house would be completed, there was an overwhelming consensus to focus on the lives affected by the disaster, as the students vowed to leave a legacy of hope to all involved. Students decided staying late and finishing the task at hand was the only option left on the table...quitting was unacceptable.

During the trip our students were afforded the opportunity to not only be the hands and feet of Christ for those in need, but the face of Christ was alive and within their reach. As community members shared their hearts and stories with our students, St. James Academy volunteers sat silently overwhelmed by their beautiful stories of suffering and triumph. The victim's experience of loss but ability to "Keep the Faith" touched the heart of each student. A very pivotal moment came when Colonel Dave Dysart, Director of Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness in St. Bernard's Parish and a retired Marine, came to personally thank our students for their service and dedication. "New Orleans is being rebuilt by the youth of America, we are forever grateful to your generation for staying the course and not forgetting our humble community." These words empowered a small group of Kansas high school students to look at themselves and their abilities in a totally new light. Everywhere our students went they were greeted with praise and appreciation for their service. Their hearts were bursting with pride for a job well done, having given of themselves in ways unknown to most.

An amazing thing happened in just three short days of giving. Homes were rebuilt, families were given the gift of hope, a nation was brought together through tragedy and triumph, and young men and women were groomed through skills of fortitude and gratitude. Our upperclassmen thought they were receiving service hours to complete a school requirement, but gained an experience that will last a lifetime. Our desire as a community to pass on the faith to our youth through deed and action was brought to life through a simple Mission Trip to the Bayou.

DON'T MISS EVENTS

MAY

05.08.09

SENIOR MASS/
AWARDS

MAY

05.09.09

GRADUATION

MAY

**05.15.09-
05.19.09**

FINAL EXAMS
(FR-JR)

JUNE

06.06.09

SAT TEST DAY

JUNE

06.13.09

ACT TEST DAY

JULY

07.25.09

FEAST OF ST.
JAMES THE
GREATER

ST. JAMES ACADEMY SENIORS SPENT THEIR SPRING BREAK WITH ARCHBISHOP KELEHER IN ROME, ITALY

by Kendra LeCluyse

A moment of inspiration could lead to a lifetime of deeper spiritual understanding and an outstanding tradition for St. James Academy seniors.

When Archbishop James P. Keleher gave his homily, at the very first Mass ever celebrated at St. James Academy four years ago, he said that first class should go to Rome when they become seniors. And now, that is exactly what they have done.

Twenty-six students and a handful of parents and staff chaperones descended upon Vatican City, experiencing first-hand the deep-rooted history of their Catholic faith, in a Spring Break experience they will never forget.

The students were blessed to have the presence of Archbishop Keleher on this trip. "The journey to Rome, as always, was inspirational. But the difference was, so were the young people that I accompanied to the Eternal City of Rome. For me, it was a most memorable pilgrimage," he proclaimed.

St. James' Chaplain, Monsignor Raymond Burger and the Archbishop, were with the group to celebrate Mass in many of the Vatican City's holiest places. "Most moving to me was when we celebrated the Eucharist at the tomb of St. Peter, beneath the great altar of the basilica," added the Archbishop." He said you could actually see the sarcophagus with St. Peter's bones in it.

Monsignor Burger was in charge of the pilgrimage. The itinerary was extensive and enjoyable to those who had been there before, and to those who had not. "Watching the faces of newcomers to Rome is as interesting and inspiring as one's first experience of Rome," explained Monsignor Burger.

They explored ancient Rome including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, The Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, Victor Emmanuel Monument, Mamertine Prison, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon.

They took morning walks through Rome visiting many churches, Campo dei Fiori, Casa Santa Maria Residence for American priests, Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. They visited three major basilicas; St. John Lateran and the Holy Stairs, St. Paul's, and they celebrated Mass at St. Mary Major.



Our first Mass at St. Ann's inside the Vatican's Wall

They also celebrated Mass in Vatican City. The Pope was away at the time.

St. James President, Mike Alex and his wife Patti Alex were two of the adult chaperones for the pilgrimage. "Rome is the heart of our faith, and the amazing thing is that Rome connects you to the people and places of our faith," said Mr. Alex. And he added, "I was moved to see how moved our kids were when they walked

into St. Peter's Basilica." It is a tremendously large cathedral built over St. Peter's grave.

Senior Joe Getto tried to put into words the incredible feeling that came over him as they entered St. Peter's basilica. "Walking through St. Peter's was mind-blowing. It was so big and still tangible to human thought." He made an analogy between seeing the basilica and understanding God's existence. "You're able to take in the vastness of God and the Universe, and not fully understand it, but still see it," Joe explained.



Archbishop Keleher in front of the tomb of St. Peter in the Crypt of St. Peter's Basilica after Mass



Outside St. Peter's Basilica

2009 "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" ANNUAL APPEAL

YOU can Make a Difference! All St. James Academy friends are needed to Make a Difference. Everyday, St. James Academy Makes a Difference in 565 students' lives. Help us continue to serve the students and provide the programs our students deserve, guaranteeing them the very best education and faith development experience we can offer.



2008 Mission Trip to Mexico

What's the Difference? The Difference is, our cost per student (salaries, utilities, supplies) is \$9,225 but our students pay \$7,300 tuition in 2008-09. However, there have been far more requests for tuition assistance than forecasted, so the actual tuition paid has fallen.

For these, and many other reasons too complex to explain here, St. James Academy needs your donation. As we've grown so quickly, and since there were multiple unanticipated expenses associated with opening a new high school, our current financial status has not met projections. This fourth year of operations is about to close and we are seeking assistance to improve our financial position. The gap between tuition and actual cost per student is significant. A traditional high school makes up the difference through fundraising. Due to the economic downturn, our fundraising effort, to date, has fallen short. This "Make a Difference" Appeal replaces two traditional fundraising events conducted in past years, the Zeal Appeal and the Thunder Classic golf outing. Both have been suspended in order to focus time and effort to this low-expense, high-reward fundraiser.



2007 Madrgal Dinner

Please help the "Make a Difference" Campaign with a contribution in any amount. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. If the economy has affected your giving, please consider even a small gift. We hope to involve everyone in our community so lots of gifts, large and small, will "Make a Difference"! Please complete the pledge card and return your gift as soon as possible. The fiscal year closes June 30, so your prompt attention is appreciated.

Why should you "Make a Difference"? Here's how we've already made a difference:

"I am so grateful for the sense of family/community/friendship that you all are fostering at St. James Academy; as that sense of family unity is one of the main reasons we have our children in the Catholic School system."



Freshmen girls, now Seniors!

"(Our son) has said, on more than one occasion, that the faculty and students seem very genuine and down-to-earth."

"Once again we are reminded what a wonderful home St. James is for all of us"

"I value the courage and commitment St. James has made for the good of kids!"

"... but if I could just magically measure your students' hearts for growth, I'll bet my thermometer would go off the chart!"



Freshmen Retreat 2006

2009 "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" ANNUAL APPEAL

"The overall consensus is that they love St. James Academy!"
 "The kids at St. James were so friendly"
 "The school is inviting"
 "The chapel makes me want to pray"
 "When asked about gossip regarding the school's achievements, my response is that when we were considering St. James, 'All I cared about was whether the school was Catholic, because I knew that God would take care of the rest.'"



Mrs. Henderson with her students

COMPANIES WHO HAVE MATCHED GIFTS TO ST. JAMES:

Aquila, Inc. • DST • Hallmark • H& R Block • Sauer-Danfoss • Principal Financial Group • QwestDiagnostics • Schwab • Sealed Air • Sprint • United Way • UPS

Please cut along dotted line and return with donation to St. James Academy by June 30, 2009

Name(s) as you would like it to be published: _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

- I am interested in remembering St. James in my estate planning.
- My company will match my contribution (please enclose company's matching gift form).

Level of Giving \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$1,925* \$2,500 \$5,000 Other

**"Make a Difference"* option - the difference between tuition, \$7,300, and actual cost per student, \$9,225.

Full Payment Enclosed \$ _____ Partial Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Bill Me: Pledge Amount/Frequency \$ _____

Charge my: Visa Mastercard 3-digit CSV Code (found on back of card) _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

I cannot give monetarily at this time, but please ask the St. James Academy faculty and staff to remember this intention at daily Mass.

All gifts will benefit the 2008-09 fiscal year if they are received by June 30, 2009.

Please return this card to St. James Academy 24505 Prairie Star Parkway Lenexa, KS 66227 (envelope provided, please add stamp)

ST. JAMES ACADEMY CLASS OF 2009

This list represents the college of choice reported by the students as of April 28, 2009.

Student Name	College/University	Student Name	College/University
Bret Alex	Emporia State University	John Kisthardt	Undecided
Monica Austin	Pittsburg State University	Kelly Kolich	College of Charleston
Christina Avila	JCCC	Jenny Kowal	Undecided
Kimberly Barrientos	KU	Caitlin Lewis	Fordham University
Nathan Beck	KU	Laura Ludlow	Undecided
Jordan Bichelmeyer	University of St. Mary	Chris Lyons	KU
Bridget Blowey	Creighton University	Kevin Lysaught	KCKCC
Maggie Blowey	KU	Matt Maner	KU
Elie Bowen	University of Oklahoma	Aileen Markey	Fort Hays State
Lindsay Brull	College of St. Benedict & St. John's University	Richard Marx	KU
Eric Budy	K- State University	Andrew Massman	KU
Josh Burgoon	Benedictine College	Jessi Matusek	K- State University
Alan Burns	Benedictine College	Greta McCall	Creighton University
Luke Burns	University of Missouri	Meghan McCormick	KU
Cameron Cain	Undecided	Tara McDaniel	Undecided
Stephen Carney	JCCC	Ryan McNally	K- State University
Allison Corley	Benedictine College	Melinda Micheels	JCCC
Jacob Cortright	Benedictine College	Christian Moffitt	Undecided
Ben Crabtree	K- State University	Megan Montolio	Saint Louis University
Christine Daly	Benedictine College	Caroline Morrand	Undecided
Jacob DeCelles	Undecided	Sam Muder	Undecided
Chris DeLeersnyder	JCCC	Tyler Nemec	Undecided
Leslie Donahue	KU	Erin O'Brien	Benedictine College
Lindsie Drew	Benedictine College	Max O'Neill	KCKCC
Jessica Eisman	JCCC Cosmetology	Kali Orrick	K- State University
Sarah Feldkamp	Missouri State University	Kristen Oswald	Benedictine College
Britney Fellhoelter	Iowa Central CC	Logan Pappenfort	K- State University
Caitlin Fox	St. Olaf College	Ethan Radford	JCCC
Joe Getto	KU	Andrew Raw	JCCC
Jenna Goode	Loyola University- Chicago	Mitzi Recalde	Arizona State University
Ashley Gough-Worley	Xavier University	Ben Reynoldson	Benedictine College
Kyle Graas	Undecided	Corwin Roberts	Graceland University
Erin Graham	Undecided	Ernie Rodriguez	KU
Rachel Gray	University of Virginia	Jonas Sanchez	JCCC
Disa Gustin	Undecided	Frank Schockey	K- State University
Jasmine Gustin	Undecided	Carson Serzyski	K- State University
Sesinyos Haileselassie	KU	Alex Sevedge	KU
Shelly Harber	Oklahoma City University	Kate Simons	Undecided
Anna Heimes	University of Dallas	Haley Slaven	Viterbo University
John Huber	University of Central Missouri	Anthony Smith	Pittsburg State University
Brook Jansen	Pittsburg State	Tess Smrt	University of Arkansas
Joe Kelling	Creighton University	Graham Snodgrass	Undecided
Abraham Khadivi	University of Dubuque	Mica Spradlin	Pittsburg State University
Daniel Kindel	KU	Emily Steinbacher	JCCC
		Matt Straub	Undecided
		Taylor Sullivan	Undecided

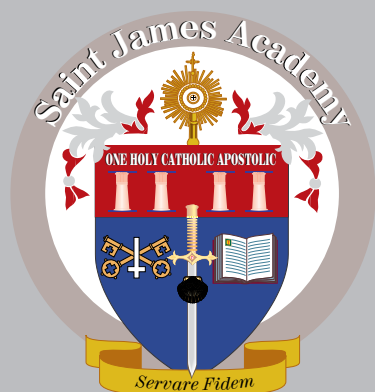
ST. JAMES ACADEMY CLASS OF 2009

Student Name	College/University
Adam Summers	K- State University
Allison Sutton	Benedictine
Amanda Thacker	Undecided
Robbie Tinker	K- State University
Dani Todd	KCKCC
Robert Toth	K- State University
Amy Vogrin	Benedictine College
Rachel Weimer	Missouri State University
Kim White	Benedictine College
Michael Wieger	Creighton University
Nia Williams	Missouri State University
Kali Yates	K- State University
Krista Zuroske	Creighton University

**Average Scholarship Awarded to
St. James Academy Students
\$8,196.73**

79% of students received scholarship awards

**Total scholarships awarded over four years
\$4,789,152**



Colleges & Universities Accepting St. James Academy Students

Arizona State University	McDaniel
Arizona University	Milsaps College
Avila University	Missouri Science & Tech- Rolla
Baker University	Missouri State University
Bemidji State University	Newman University
Benedictine College	University of Notre Dame
Boston College	Oklahoma City University
Bradley University	Ottawa University
Buena Vista University	Penn State
Cal Poly Tech At San Luis	Pittsburg State University
Obispo	Providence
Catholic University of America	Quincy University
Central Christian College	Regis University
Central College	Rockhurst University
Coe College	Rolla University
College of Charleston	Saint Louis University
College of St Benedict & St. John's University	Santa Clara University
College of the Holy Cross	Seton Hall University
Colorado School of Mines	Spring Hill College
Colorado State University	St. Gregory's University
Creighton University	St. Louis University
Denison University	St. Mary's University
DePaul University	St. Olaf College
Doane College	Texas Christian University
Dominican University	Trinity University
Drake University	Truman State University
Eckerd	University of Arkansas
Emporia State University	University of Central MO
Evansville University	University of CO at Boulder
Fordham University	University of Dallas
Fort Hays State University	University of Dayton
Franciscan Univ of Steubenville	University of Dubuque
Gonzaga	University of Kansas
Goucher	University of Louisiana
Graceland University	University of Missouri
Indiana University	University of MO Science & Technology
Iowa Central CC	University of NE- Lincoln
JCCC	University of Notre Dame
JCCC Cosmetology	University of Oklahoma
K- State at Salina	University of St. Mary
K- State University	University of Tampa
KCKCC	University of Virginia
KC Art Institute	Viterbo University
Lamar University	Wartburg College
Lewis University	Webster University
Loyola University- Chicago	William Jewell College
Loyola- New Orleans	Wooster
Marquette University	Xavier University
	York College

ALL SCHOOL SERVE DAY

By Kendra LeCluyse

It was a beautiful sight to see thirteen yellow school busses pull up in front of St. James Academy Friday morning April 3rd, to haul the entire student body and numerous parent volunteers, to do God's work all across the metro area and beyond.



Cleaning up at Prairie Star Ranch

'All School Serve Day' is a unique tradition at St. James Academy, organized this year by teacher, Jodie Maddox. It is having an incredibly positive impact on our students. "Thirteen agencies received over 400 volunteers to help with manual tasks and social needs. However the most profound impact was watching our students enjoy a hard day's work, while receiving the priceless gift of gratitude," said Maddox.



Students at Harvesters

The organizations that benefited from our outpouring of support included Operation Breakthrough, Harvesters, Turnstyles, Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic, Wayside Waifs, Holy Name School, St. Benedict Childcare, Humane Society in Lawrence, El Centro, Prairie Star Ranch, Santa Marta, Sanctuary of Hope and the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence.

"The Social Justice class organized our All School Serve Day to help promote stewardship throughout our community through acts of service," explained Maddox. The students did cleaning, painting, organizing and they socially interacted with members of the organizations.

Fox 4 News aired our students in two of their broadcasts that same evening. They showed Riley McMullin and others in action at Harvesters Food Bank. Taylor Zitnik, as well as other students, were shown playing with children at Operation Breakthrough.

As the busses returned to St. James, it was an even more beautiful sight to see the beauty in the good the students had done that day, as it is in giving that we truly receive.



St. James Students making a difference at Wayside Waifs