CRESCENT CHRONICLE

JOURNALISM

IT'S A GREAT DAY AT OLA

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

DANCE TEAM HEADS TO FLORIDA



OLA Dance team at State.

Jazz routine to be performed at nationals.

By Caroline Dufrene

On February 17, the OLA Dance team will compete for the All-American Nationals in Orlando. They will perform their jazz routine at the Orange County Convention Center.

The dance team prepared all season for competitions. They have practiced and prepared to culminate their year with a national competition. OLA attended the UDA regional competition in Brandon in addition to MHSAA in Jackson. After placing fourth in both jazz and pom categories at State, team members have a good chance of scoring high at nationals.

Coaches Jonna Ball, Mrs. St. Mary, and Captains Kaila Seymour and Callie Fletcher agreed this event "will open many opportunities for the team." This will also be a first for the OLA dance team, and the seniors look forward to competing with their friends for the last time.

After their fantastic season, the dance team looks forward to nationals and the new memories it will make. They hope to continue to improve each season and grow the program, and wish to see new faces at tryouts!

History of March for Life

By Anna Kate Ivey

Thousands of pro-lifers gather in Washington, D.C., for an annual protest every January against abortion and for the right to life.

The annual pro-life event in Washington, D.C., is called March for Life. This march was meant to be a one-time but yearly event every January. The march was motivated by the Supreme Court's decision in Roe vs. Wade, where they decided that abortion was a fundamental right. The march consists of pro-lifers walking through Washington D.C. and around the Capitol. March for Life has a universal goal to make abortion

unthinkable and to change state and federal laws. Many from around the country come to celebrate this peaceful rally and show their support for the right to Life. Men, women, and children often show their support by holding pro-life signs. Some examples include "Let their hearts beat," "Let us be their voices," "Choose love, choose life," and "I am the pro-life generation."

A rally is held before the march, which includes many speakers who come to share their own experiences.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Pro-Lifers gather in Washington D.C. to protest the right to life



OLG Youth Group in Washington D.C.

OLA Students Attend March For Life

Our Lady Academy students traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the largest pro-life march in the world. Their experience was unmatched by any other.

BAY ST. LOUIS-The Our Lady Academy upperclassmen attended Washington D.C.'s annual March for Life. The March was held on Friday, January 19th, and consisted of a 3-mile walk. These students include Isabella Kerner, Addison Drye, Ava Schmitt, AnnaKate Ivey, Natalie Ladner, Camille Boudreaux, Emily Reinike, Caroline Dufrene, Emma Monti, Claire Murtagh, Emily Johnston, McKinley Monfra, and Madelyn Johnston. Each student felt it was essential to participate in something bigger than themselves.

Every student who participated in this significant and emotional journey had a reason behind why they decided to march. "I chose to march because I firmly believe that abortion is wrong, and I want to do whatever I can to make sure abortion is never a thought.

I am strong in my faith, and I believe that with wisdom and understanding, we together as a people can fight to end abortion." - (McKinley Monfra, OLA junior). Another student said, "I decided to march because I have always advocated for prolife beliefs. I have always wanted to be part of something that could better impact the world." - (Camille Boudreaux, OLA Junior).

The highly anticipated event did not play through exactly how each student had expected it to. "I expected the march to be much more chaotic, but it was very peaceful." - (Addison Drye, OLA junior).

The March consisted of peaceful protestors with few pro- abortionist standing on the sidelines. Many students felt overwhelmed by the love and similarities of the community they were a part of. "I expected the March to be much louder, but I loved every bit of it. It was such an amazing experience, and I really enjoyed being in a place with many others *Continued on page 3*

This Week's Handy Help!

A large number of students struggle with different home economics skills. This column will give crucial advice to help students grow skills that will help them for the rest of their lives.

By Ema Freeman

Have you ever struggled with managing your money once you go shopping? It's easy to put many items in your cart and never check the price. However, doing this leads to a big shock once you checkout, and you may realize you have underestimated the cost of your chosen products. In this edition of handy help, money management will be the topic. "How do I save the most money and save time when buying groceries? Every time I go to the grocery store I forget something I needed to buy as well,"

The best way to prepare for a grocery trip so you save money and time, as well as remember everything you need, is to follow these steps:

1st: Make a grocery list containing all the items you need!

 Look around the house for items running low, and ask other household members if they need anything.

2nd: Give yourself a budget and stick with it.

 It can be very easy to be swayed by various items in the grocery store, but if you give yourself a budget and stick with it, you will save big.

3rd: See what deals are available the day you visit the store

Many stores, such as Rouses and Winn Dixie, offer newspapers with different deals and offers. If you take the time to view the paper, you can save your money for something else.

4th: Pay attention to the price of every item you put in your cart

 By doing this, you also help yourself stick to your budget. Count costs while shopping, not after.

5th: It's ok to buy off-brand products if the quality is the same!

Although the packaging and prestige of buying name-brand products in the grocery store is tempting, purchasing the off-brand version is fine. Often, these products are significantly less expensive and virtually the same as the name-brand product.

In conclusion, following all these steps will make the most out of your time and money when taking a trip to the grocery store.

"How do I calculate the discounted price of an item? What does it mean if something is 20% off, 60% off, etc?"

Many people need help understanding how to calculate discounts! It's elementary math and has the potential to be revolutionary to the way you shop and view sales.

- 1st: Check the original price. Let's say the dress you're buying is \$70.
- 2nd: How much is the sale? The dress you're buying is 35% off.

Depending on the original price, some sales are bigger than others, so don't immediately write off small percentages as a small sale. 20% off of \$5 is only \$1 off, but 20% off of \$150 saves you \$30!

who thought in some of the same ways I did." - (Mckinley Monfra, OLA junior). The March was composed of a peaceful protest and upsetting reminders of the tragedy of abortion. Videos, photos, and audio of abortion brought about a deafening silence throughout the crowd. This March brought about a feeling like no other. Every interviewed student mentioned that they would attend the March again. They feel that March is an event everyone should attend and experience at least once.

"I would do it again. It was a very informative trip that changed my outlook on life." - (Ava Schmitt, OLA junior). "I recommend to everyone to at least go once." - (Addison Drye, OLA junior).

This trip was made possible through the fundraising and thoughtful planning of Our Lady of the Gulf youth minister Shelby Martin and others throughout different religious departments. To be part of one of the most significant protests in the world is such an honor. Each individual who participated in this March will never have the same outlook on the pro-life movement again. For anyone interested in attending the Washington D.C. March for Life or learning more, visit marchforlife.org for more information and upcoming events.

 3rd: Convert the percentage into a decimal by dividing by 100. The decimal for your dress's sale is .35

For example, 20% becomes .2, 30% becomes .3, and so forth.

- 4th: Multiply your decimal by your original price. (70 x .35 = 24.5)
- 5th: Subtract this number from the original price, and you've done it! If the \$70 dress is 35% off, the discounted price is \$45.50.

CONTINUED FROM THE HISTORY OF MARCH FOR LIFE

The speakers tend to include how they changed from pro-abortion to pro-life,

and some share their participation in abortion and how it has affected them greatly.

March for Life has become the largest annual human rights demonstration since 1974 when it started.

Throw Me Somethin' Mister

By Ava Schmitt

Mardi Gras is one of the most exciting and anticipated holidays only on the coast. It is a Christian holiday celebrated before the Lenten season leading up to Easter.

BAY ST. LOUIS-Mardi Gras was established by Jean-Baptise Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville in March 1699. He established this holiday while planting a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Mardi Gras, at first, was celebrated mainly by European Christians to mark the beginning of Lent and to prepare for the fasting before Easter. The first parade for Mardi Gras occurred in Mobile, Alabama, in 1704. Later, it spread throughout the coast.

Mardi Gras occurs forty-seven days before Easter and the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is also called Fat Tuesday because it is the last feast before fasting for Lent. Mardi means "Tuesday" in French, and Gras means "fat." Also, the word carnival is derived from the Latin *carnelevarium*, meaning to take away or remove meat.

Mardi Gras Day this year will be **on February 13**. The Mardi Gras season will last thirty-eight days. January 12 marked the start of Carnival for this year. Christian carnival celebrations usually start on the Epiphany. Upcoming parades for the Mississippi coast include the following:

- Long Beach parade at 6 p.m. on February 3
- The Nereids parade at 12 p.m. on February 4
- The Ocean Springs parade at 7 p.m. on February 9
- The Diamondhead parade at 12 p.m. on February 10
- The Pass parade at 12p.m. on February 11

Mardi Gras is one of the coast's most lively, creative, and exciting holidays. The Mardi Gras parades extend way past Mississippi. To find the schedule for all the parades:

- 1. Visit the Gulf Coast Weekend website.
- 2. For Alabama parade schedules, visit mobilemask.com.
- 3. For Louisiana parade schedules, visit mardigrasneworleans.com.



The image above is of a bright and people-filled Mardi Gras float in a Louisiana parade.

Cookin' It Up

By Kirynn Necaise

Ms. Ashley's Crockpot Tacos

Ms. Amy Ashley has given her three-ingredient taco recipe.

Ingredients:

- 1 pack of taco seasoning
- 1 pack of chicken breasts
- 1 jar of salsa
- Your favorite taco toppings

Directions:

- Dump your salsa, taco seasoning, and chicken breasts in the crockpot.
- Cook on low for four hours
- Shred chicken when done
- Enjoy !!!!!!!

Next time you see Ms. Ashley, thank her for this easy recipe.



This recipe is not as simple as Ms. Ashley's crock pot tacos but it is definitely worth your time!

You will need:

- 1/2 cup butter melted
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 ripe bananas mashed
- 11/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 cup chocolate chips

Directions:

- Mix the first 4 ingredients
 - 1/2 cup butter melted
 - 3/4 cup white sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1 tsp vanilla
- Add dry ingredients slowly
- Stir in bananas
- Stir in chocolate chips
- Bake for 55 minutes at 350 degrees
- Let cool
- Enjoy!!!

This bread will rock your world; give it a try!





Senior Spotlight- Lily Yanez

By Faith Ponte

Meet Lily Yanez, an upcoming graduate at Our Lady Academy and a state champion in swimming.

BAY ST. LOUIS - Our Lady Academy's upcoming graduate is Lily Yanez. Lily Yanez's favorite color is light blue, and she enjoys playing tennis. Lily also enjoys listening to music and hanging out with friends. Her song recommendation is "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield. Lily does not plan on swimming in college because "it's not gonna take [her] anywhere." Although she will not train professionally, Lily still plans to swim regularly for exercise. Lily plans to go to Pearl River Community College and major in mathematics. Lily wants to be a neurologist in the future. She is happy with graduating overall, but her feelings are conflicting.



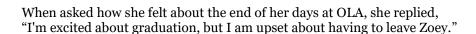
Lily Yanez during the OLA run-through for the swim team to head to state

Senior Spotlight-Ava Alonso

By Alexis Barrois

Our Lady Academy's upcoming graduate, Ava Alonso, discusses how she feels about her days at OLA coming to an end.

BAY ST. LOUIS - Our Lady Academy Senior, Ava Alonso, is on the Ola volleyball and basketball team. Her favorite color is purple; her hobbies are painting and being outside. Ava Alonso plans to attend Ole Miss but says she is still determining what she will major in. Since she does not know what she wants to major in, Ava said she is still deciding what she wants to do for her occupation when she is older. Ava does not want to pursue anything that deals with volleyball or basketball once she graduates high school because "I just don't want to do it anymore," she said.



Stay tuned for the next senior spotlight as we get other perspectives on the senior class 2024.





Ava Alonso, a Senior at OLA, was at the volleyball senior night with her family.

OLA Volleyball Takes Over the State Championship



OLA Varsity Volleyball at State

Why are fish bad at volleyball?
They are afraid of the net!

Why was Cinderella taken off the volleyball team?
She ran away from the ball!

Why couldn't the volleyball player cross the road?
There were too many bumps!

By Laney Fletcher

The Varsity Volleyball team of Our Lady Academy has had a great deal of State Championship wins. The team has won 16 state titles throughout the past years, beginning in 2002. This team has put forth hard effort and extraordinary talent to achieve this incredible goal. BAY ST. LOUIS- Volleyball is a sport that requires teamwork, coordination, and athleticism, which this team executes. Our Lady Academy volleyball is a Class 3A division team known for their discipline and hard work every season. This past season was the team's 16th state championship title, which was won at the University of Mississippi on October 20, 2023, against Alcorn Central. Emily Meyers, the head coach, said, "I am so proud of our team this season. The girls were hardworking, dedicated, and relentless. An excellent group to coach and share another championship with."

The team roster for last years team includes Anna Kate Ivey, Gabby Haas, Taylor Henley, Casey Hanrahan, Myah Favre, Kaylin Kinniburgh, Laney Fletcher, Ava Davis, Kinsley Stegall, Reagan Krebs, Ava Alonso, Emma Cleveland, Julia Hoffman, and Loralai Williford.

OLA volleyball had a record of 42 wins and eight losses last season. With the help of a great coach, this organization has also been district champions for 24 years, including last year. This group of talented girls won 23 home games and 12 away games. What an excellent way to end the season. During the state championship, Myah Favre led the team with 27 kills in all four sets and Ava Davis with 47 assists. Anna Kate Ivey said, "The hard work definitely paid off."

For more information on this team's State Championship win against Alcorn Central, check out MaxPreps.

A Day in the Life of Leigh Chapman

Ms. Chapman hard at work.



By Blakelee Geil

Helicopter landing. BAY ST. LOUIS-Ms. Chapman has worked at St. Charles and Our Lady Academy for 14 years. However, two years ago, she was offered the opportunity to be the assistant Principal at Our Lady Academy. Although she greatly enjoyed being a teacher, she now enjoys being the assistant principal. While she sometimes misses the classroom in the office, she can interact with every student, teacher, and peer. Her daily schedule includes arriving at school between 7:50 and 8 A.M. Then, depending on her schedule, she leaves school earlier, like 4:30 or five-ish. Sometimes, she has to stay and work later if she is on duty. When she first gets to school, Ms. Chapman walks into the faculty lounge and talks to other teachers. She then heads to her office to get her work done.

Although being an assistant principal is fantastic, it can sometimes become stressful. She finds that making a list of all the activities she has to get done in a day and checking them off as she goes helps her to stay organized and less stressed throughout the day.

According to Ms. Chapman, if she could make one change to OLA, she would have all the students wear proper mass uniforms daily; she feels that it makes students look more put together. Her favorite memory of OLA was when she and Ms. Ashley convinced a past senior class that the Pope would be coming to OLA. The students believed this because they had an assignment outside that day, and a little ways away, a helicopter would be landing for a different project. All of the girls were so convinced they had their Chromebooks out recording the helicopter landing. Little did they know it was a complete joke. Ms. Chapman is thankful daily for being part of the OLA family.

You can see Ms. Leigh Chapman in her office at OLA for more information.



Crescent Soccer at St. Pat's

By Lily Fontenette

OLA varsity soccer is playoff-bound.

BAY ST. LOUIS- As the soccer playoffs approach, the team prepares to win another game. Soccer playoffs will take place on February 3. Depending on how the team plays against St. Patrick's determines where and who they play. They play against St. Patrick's on Wednesday, January 25, at 5:30. The girls have won nine games out of fifteen. Our Lady Academy is second in the District and twelfth in the Region. As stated by Natalia Mossy, "I believe I can speak for the entire team when I say that we are anxiously awaiting the upcoming soccer game against St. Patrick's, a longstanding rival of the OLA Soccer team. While I believe it will be quite a close game, I firmly believe that our soccer team will pull through. Historically, our team has always given 100 percent effort, which has been key to every victory; our practice, persistence, and camaraderie will certainly lead us to victory." Stay up to date with the playoffs on Our Lady Academy's Facebook or Instagram page.



The soccer team celebrates their seniors after a game

Sudoku #829 (Medium)

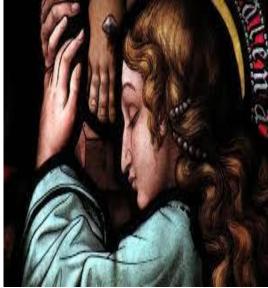
1	9	6	7	5	8	4	3	2
4	7	8	3	6	2	5	1	9
5	2	3	9	1	4	6	7	8
6	5				1		4	3
7	3		6		9	8	2	5
2	8	4	5	7	3	9	6	1
8	4	5	1	3	7	2	9	6
9	1	7	2	8	6	3	5	4
3	6	2	4	9	5	1	8	7

Saint Spotlight

By Madelyn Johnston

Mary Magdalene has been chosen for the Saint Spotlight for the week. Mary Magdalene's feast day is July 22. Mary Magdalene is the patron saint of women. Mary was born in the late 1st century BCE in Magdala, by the lake of Galilee. Mary was a Jewish woman. but she had the manners of Gentiles; she was a charming and prideful woman. After she met Jesus, Mary felt very sorrowful for her sins and changed her lifestyle to a holy and humble one. After Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection, in which Mary was, Jesus visited Mary and cast out seven demons. After Jesus' Resurrection, Mary was one of the first people to see Jesus. Since Mary met Jesus, her life has been one of holiness and living for her savior. It's said in the Bible that Mary spent the last few years of her life in a cave in the wilderness, praying and fasting.

Women by many sins, by whom conversion becomes the beloved of Jesus, thank you for your witness that forgives through the miracle of love. You, who already possess eternal happiness in His glorious presence, please intercede for me so that some day I may share in the everlasting joy. Amen.



Mary Magdalene sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Catholic Saints Word Search

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Nicholas Rita Thomas Teresa Gabriel Anne Blessed Virgin Mary Frances Joan Isidore Rose Michael George

Juan
Marguerite
Augustine
Elizabeth
John
Bernadette

Peter Valentine Vincent Raphael Joachim Joseph



The Second Search Retreat is Approaching!

By Evie Boudreaux

Are you searching for answers, friends, and a closer relationship with God? If you are a junior or senior this 2024 semester, you should attend the Diocesan Search Retreat on February 2-4, 2024!

SACRED HEART OF DEDEAUX- Search retreat is a local retreat for juniors and seniors in high school. It is peer-guided and peer-given. Throughout the weekend, the team members share testimonies, sing songs, pray, participate in small group discussions, adoration, and reconciliation, and end with the celebration of mass. It is a great weekend to meet new people and share experiences.

The Diocese of Biloxi organizes the local Search retreat. It is constructed of two teams, one adult team and one senior team. The adult members are Marianne Schmidt, Shelby Martin, Kaitlynn Clarinet, Father Braxton, Ashley, and Joseph Herbert. The senior team comprises 14 high school seniors from all over the coast, and two are OLA seniors, Marley Kinniburgh and Claire Murtagh. This retreat is for juniors and seniors only. Seniors have priority when applying. There are 45 people selected from the applications to attend and around 3-4 people from each parish. The retreat is at the Sacred Heart of Dedeaux Retreat Center, Pass Christian, MS.

There are two dates every year. This past date was January 5-7, 2024, and the upcoming date is February 2-4, 2024. The Fee is \$100 with a \$50 deposit; if you need help with the cost, feel free to contact the Diocese of Biloxi Youth Office.

Search is an excellent opportunity to escape everyday distractions and make new friends within the diocese. Search is also an excellent opportunity to find answers to your questions about faith, prayer, and church. "I think it's a great way to deepen one's faith and connect with local Catholics. Search allows retreatants to listen to testimonies that resemble their own trials and struggles and helps guide them on their walk with Jesus Christ," Marley Kinniburgh, Search Team member.

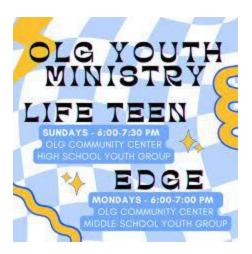
Service Opportunities

By Caelyn Taylor-Henson

BAY ST. LOUIS-Thursday Night Child Care has been going on for a while now; it lasts around seven weeks at Holy Family, in Pass Christian, from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. High school students only! Youth Group and Life Teen are offered in multiple parishes, such as Sundays from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm and Monday nights for middle schoolers at OLG in Bay St. Louis, Sundays from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm at Holy Family in Pass Christian, Sundays from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm at Most Holy Trinity in Bay St. Louis, and Sundays at 6:30 pm at St. Thomas in Long Beach. The Search Retreat will last February 2nd-4th at Sacred Heart Church in Dedeaux. Only juniors and seniors can attend!

For more information about these opportunities, you can

visit the Church's website to find out what they will be hosting daily, the times, why they are doing it, and who will be there. Any additional questions or concerns can be answered by emailing Mrs. Goris at sarah.sandoz@ourladyacademy.com. Different hours can also be received by asking to help in children's aftercare at St. Vincent de Paul in Long Beach. They offer aftercare to the students who cannot get picked up after school until a later time, provide snacks for the students, help those who are having trouble with homework, and check the student's homework to ensure they've completed it all before they play. Hours can be earned by helping the teachers stay after school with the kids, helping students with homework, checking their work, or even setting up anything they need help with.





Mrs. Carolee takes a break to smile for the camera.

Get in my Belly! Spotlight to Mrs. Carolee

By Anne Pierson Kane

Every morning when we arrive at school, Mrs. Carolee Ray is hard at work serving breakfast. It takes a daily schedule for her to have enough time to prepare for each meal, plus the cleanup that comes with it. BAY ST. LOUIS- Mrs. Carolee starts her day around 5:15 and usually gets to school between 6:15 and 6:20. Each Friday, she orders what she needs to cook the following week. This delivery comes on Monday morning, and she is then ready for the week. Upon arriving at school, meal prep starts for breakfast that day. After the breakfast rush, Mrs. Caorlee cleaned up and prepared for lunch as soon as breakfast ended. Following the two lunch periods, she cleans up. Mrs. Carolee and Mrs. Florence split up the dishes to wash to make the cleaning process more manageable. The after-lunch cleaning usually takes an hour to an hour and a half. Before leaving school, she preps whatever she cooks the next day, such as taking food out to thaw. The next step is an OLA favorite; this is the step of her day in which she bakes the cookies! She typically leaves school at 2:30 and will start the schedule over the next day.

Mrs. Carolee plans her weekly menus based on what tends to be favored by the students. She has also been incorporating new items and meals to try out. She loves to serve foods she likes and makes at home, including her cheesy chicken spaghetti, her favorite lunch. The only flaw with cooking her favorite meal is that the prep and cleanup are time-consuming and take a great effort.

Mrs. Carolee has always had a passion for cooking. Before her hire at OLA, she worked as acting cafeteria manager for the Bay Waveland School District beginning in 2017. She says that this job taught her all aspects of running a kitchen. When Mrs. Carolee first started at OLA, she drove the buses instead of managing the cafeteria, which she had initially applied for. However, she was encouraged. Eventually, she became what she had been wanting: the cafeteria manager! When asked what motivated her and what motivated her daily, she replied, "Knowing that my daughter is receiving a Christian education and seeing the benefits from that every day. I also love my job! When I first started at OLA, I heard the song "God is in this Story." At this moment, I understood that this was a part of God's plan for me. This has been my motto and inspiration throughout my time at OLA".

Keep following for more Teacher Spotlights!

NEWSPAPER STAFF

Thank you to all the newspaper staff for putting in hard work and determination to get the Crescent Chronicles up and running. We hope you enjoy the newspaper and keep reading.



Alexis Barrois 12th Grade



Evie Boudreaux 12th Grade



Caroline Dufrene 11th Grade



Laney Fletcher 12th Grade



Lily Fontenette 11th Grade



Ema Freeman 12th Grade



Blakelee Geil 12th grade



Anna Kate Ivey 11th Grade



Madelyn Johnston 10th Grade



Anne Pierson Kane 12th Grade



Isabella Kerner 11th Grade



12th Grade



Caelyn Taylor-Henson 10th Grade



Faith Ponte 12th Grade



Claire Wojtowicz 12th Grade