Crescent Chronicles

Print Journalism

It's a Great Day at OLA

May 2024

Mary's Month



Mary and Jesus

By Caelyn Taylor-Henson The liturgical month of May is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

BAY ST. LOUIS-In the Catholic Church, it is a Catholic tradition that May is dedicated to Mary, a time when spring is around and at the peak of its beauty. Spring is also a time of nature renewing itself, and in Her way, Mary brought new life into the world when she gave birth to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May is a time for new beginnings and a chance to start with gratitude and devotion. Giving devotion to Mary is essential in the Catholic Religion as our mother, Mary, is an example of a committed woman who said "Yes" to God's will. In most Catholic Churches, a "May Altar" includes a Mary statue with pictures, candles, or even flowers. This altar will be standing from May 1st to May 31st to remind us of Mary's importance in the life of the Church and our own lives. On top of that, many churches and families hold a "May Crowning," presenting Mary herself with a crown made of blossoms, flowers, or other hand-made materials, honoring her queenship and significance as the mother of Christ, our King. In this beautiful month, also known as "Mary's Month," let's give thanks to our mother Mary and all mothers around the world, pray a Hail Mary, and reflect on Her act of saying "Yes" to God.

A Fun Thursday: Student Council Hosts OLA Field Day! Students participated in lots of fun activities!

By Anne Pierson Kane

BAY ST. LOUIS- Last Thursday was very eventful at OLA. The day started with the Mav Crowning/Ring Ceremony Mass. Grades were separated into groups, competing against other grades. The activities included four different relay races. These games were the over-under relay, a chicken/ wheelbarrow relay, the 5-legged race relay, and a stilts/ egg-on-a-spoon relay. During the chicken/ wheelbarrow relay, one person ran across the gym in an inflatable chicken suit. The following person crawls while someone else holds their feet.

"It was funny to see everyone in a chicken suit. Especially Coach Corley", says senior Marley Kinniburgh. "My favorite game was over-under. And the snowballs were really good", says Laney Fletcher. Once each group had done each race, everyone moved into the gym. In the gym, seniors who played sports were recognized. Following this, the annual water balloon fight was held. In conclusion, the day was a huge success! Every student enjoyed the day. Follow along for more information on OLA days!



Chicken/wheelbarrow relay race

Great Places for Students to Shop

Some great places and apps offer high school and college student discounts! By Alexis Barrois



BAY ST. LOUIS- Many places offer student discounts that some students need to learn about. Places such as Wave Nutrition will offer students a one-dollar discount for any student who brings in their student ID on Wednesday. Seniors need to know shops, apps, and streaming platforms that provide discounts because they are about to go to college, and saving money is crucial. Apps that students use every day, such as Spotify, and streaming platforms, such as Hulu, offer student discounts for any college or university student for up to four years.

For more information, students can confidently reach out to businesses in their area and inquire about potential discounts.

Remember, discounts can vary depending on the business owners and locations, so it's always worth asking.

Boutiques for Summer!

Summer is almost here! Keep reading to find out the best places to shop for summer

clothing.

By Claire Wojtowicz



BAY ST. LOUIS- Spring cleaning and warmer weather make room for a new summer wardrobe! But where should someone shop for the best summer clothes? Many boutiques from Bay St. Louis to Long Beach have summer clothes, from dresses to swimwear. Starting in Bay, The Boutique, located across the street from The Blind Tiger, has all things summer, from sunglasses to cute shirts, shorts, and dresses. Moving to Pass Christian, Sara Kate Boutique, conveniently located in the heart of downtown Pass next to the Hook restaurant, has all things summer, including cute jewelry, shoes, and handbags. Sara Kate has a large selection of dresses, from sundresses for summer events to formal attire. They also have a wide

variety of shorts, tops, swimsuits, and two-piece sets. In downtown Long Beach across the railroad track and above Forget-Me-Not Florist, Simply Jane Clothing Co. offers a clothing collection similar to The Boutique in Bay St. Louis. They have many fun jewelry and game-day outfits for Mississippi colleges. Remember to stop by one of these three shops when looking for new outfits for summer!

Teacher Appreciation Week The Origin behind Teacher Appreciation week! By Lily Fontenette

BAY ST. LOUIS - Teacher Appreciation Week dates back to the 1950s when Eleanor Roosevelt convinced Congress to pass a day to recognize teachers. Before Eleanor's involvement, it is presumed that some states did celebrate teachers. Many believe that a teacher from Wisconsin or Arkansas wrote letters to Eleanor to help get this recognition for teachers. Teacher Appreciation used to be celebrated on March 7th until 1984, when it was moved to May. Soon, the celebration was expanded to a week at the beginning of May. We now continue to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week on May 6-10th.

Ring Ceremony By Madelyn Johnston

Bay St. Louis—Our Lady Academy has many traditions. One tradition, in particular, has a beautiful meaning: the Junior ring ceremony. The Junior ring ceremony, a significant tradition at Our Lady Academy, is a moment when the outgoing Seniors pass on their legacy to the Juniors. This symbolic act allows the Juniors to begin crafting their own legacy for OLA, demonstrating their potential to excel. As they leave their mark on OLA, they can reflect on their ring, a tangible reminder of their time here. This ritual underscores the value of their OLA experience and their lifelong connection to the OLA Crescent. Knowing more about this tradition gives us a chance to prepare for our ring ceremony. This shows us how valuable our time at OLA is and how many memories we get to make before we leave. If your time at OLA is coming to a close, remember all the good times you've had.



Junior rings last year

Newly Baptized and Confirmed! By Anna Kate Ivey

BAY ST.LOUIS-On Sunday, April 30, 2024, Kaila Seymour was baptized and brought into the Catholic Church! Kaila started her journey to becoming a Catholic after a Steubenville trip last summer. This retreat had a significant impact on her faith journey. In October, she began having a few meetings with Shelby Martin and Father Mike. She later joined Our Lady of the Gulf Confirmation classes and attended a few RCIA events. Kaila is hugely excited about this new chapter of her life in Christ and looks forward to becoming closer to God in the future!



Kaila Seymour on her night Of Confirmation

May Mary Crowning By Madelyn Johnston

Bay St. Louis- May Mary Crowning is an OLA tradition that goes back many years. For many years, the OLA family has performed this tradition alongside another OLA tradition, the Junior Ring ceremony. We honor Mother Mary for all she has done by performing the Mary crowing. The May crowning is a symbol of not just honoring Mary but honoring all of the Mothers of the world. Our Mother Mary is a prime symbol of Motherhood for all mothers. She shows us what a mother stands for and what a mother should do. A scripture from Luke 1:26-38 says, "Then the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus." This scripture shows us that Mary was faithful to God and gave up her life to be the best mother to God's son. By honoring and teaching about Mother Mary, she shows us the best example of a mother. A mother does not have to be as perfect as Mary because everyone is different. This should show us that by honoring Mary, we should honor and appreciate our Mothers.



Marie Skyler crowning Mary

Saint Sebastian

By Ava Schmitt

BAY ST. LOUIS- St.

Sebastian was born in Gaul and later went to Rome to join the army of Emperor Carnius. After being in the military for a few years, became a captain under Diocletian. While he was captain, he converted many soldiers. Eventually, people found out about his conversion, and he was ordered to be killed with arrows. The archers left him for dead, but a Christian widow took care of him and brought him back to health. Sebastian then presented himself before Diocletian, who condemned him to death by beating. His body was thrown into a sewer and was found by another pious woman, who dreamed that Sebastian told her to bury his remains near the catacombs. Sebastian was an early Christian saint popularized by Renaissance painters. His feast day is January 20th. Sebastian is the patron saint of archers, athletes, and those who desire a saintly death. He was a strong and faithful Christian who encouraged others to follow God.

Senior Class Is Honored At The Senior Appreciation Breakfast By Caroline Dufrene

Our senior girls had a chance to find connections in our community with leaders and officials.

BAY ST.LOUIS- On Thursday, April 25, Our Lady Academy, St. Stanislaus, Bay High, and Hancock High senior classes traveled to the Bay St. Louis community hall for the annual Hancock Chambor Education Breakfast. This is a time to celebrate the upcoming classes and bring about community connections as community leaders. elected officials, and esteemed school board members come to this breakfast. Seniors are welcomed by Dr. Raymunda Barnes, who is the Chairman of the Education Committee. Also in attendance is the vice president of the Pearl River Community College Hancock Campus. Dr. Barnes. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Toy L. Watts, Superintendent of the Laurel School District. Marley Kinnibrugh says, "The senior breakfast was fun! There was plenty of good food and fellowship." Evie Boudreaux says, "The breakfast was delicious, and it was so much fun to get to see everyone." Blakelee Geil says, "The senior breakfast was amazing!" This is a perfect time for our seniors to close out their last year with fellow seniors and get to know people throughout our community.

Eighth Grade Pool Day

By Blakelee Geil

BAY ST. LOUIS- Every year, students who attend OLA are required to sell 50 raffle tickets for Hooray for OLA. This fundraiser takes place every year to raise money for OLA. Along with selling raffle tickets, you can have the opportunity to receive benefits. If you sell 100 raffle tickets, you can have a beach day. The grade that sells the most tickets as a class gets the opportunity to have a pool day. The eighth grader won and got to celebrate their win. Altogether, the class sold over 3,000 tickets. Then, On Monday, May 6th, the eighth graders got on the bus and went to the north pool in Diamondhead. Three parents and Ms. Mcraney chaperoned them. They stayed at the pool from 8:30 until 2:45.



Image of Saint Sebastian being shot with arrows



Some seniors at the breakfast

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Cinco de Mayo

By Isabella Kerner

May 5th is arriving soon! Read all about the history of Cinco de Mayo and the traditions that follow it today!

BAY ST. LOUIS- Cinco de Mayo, which also translates to the fifth of May, celebrates Mexico's victory in the Battle of Puebla. The Battle of Puebla occurred in 1862 during the Franco-Mexican War. At the time, Mexico was in financial ruin and incredibly in debt to most of Europe. Spain, France, and Britain sent forces demanding payment. While Spain and Britain could agree with Mexico, France sought power. Napoleon III sent the French troops to Mexico to establish dominance over and claim states in Mexico. The Mexican army ultimately overpowered the French, establishing Mexico's victory. While Cinco de Mayo is considered a famous holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, it is mostly celebrated in America. Many Americans enjoy celebrating Mexican culture and commemorating their heritage. Residents of Puebla, Mexico, may celebrate Cinco de Mayo with military parades and festive activities. In America, many families may celebrate Cinco de Mayo by eating together in Mexican restaurants, listening to Mexican music, hosting parties, and sometimes partaking in small parades. Today, Cinco de Mayo stands as a symbol of Mexico's determination to overcome foreign truculence. It is a celebration that welcomes everyone, regardless of their cultural background. Many local Mexican restaurants, such as La Chula and Avocados, embrace this spirit of inclusivity and celebrate Cinco de Mayo. So, on May 5th, why not visit your local Mexican restaurant, learn more about the history and traditions of Cinco de Mayo, and join in the festivities? It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the rich culture and heritage of Mexico.



Cartoon depiction of peppers celebrating Cinco de Mayo.



Grace at the Mercy Day tea

Senior Spotlight: Grace Oliver

By Ava Schmitt

BAY ST. LOUIS-Grace Oliver is a senior at Our Lady Academy and has attended OLA since seventh grade. Grace has one sibling, a brother, Adam. Grace is attending Ole Miss next year, majoring in nutrition and dietetics with an emphasis on health and science. Out of Grace's entire time at OLA, she tells us that "my favorite memory is winning Intramurals with my class." Grace is most excited about joining a sorority and making new friends in college. The highlight of her senior year has been spending the last few weeks with her best friends before graduation. Grace says, "My favorite class has been calculus this year because Ms. Ashley has been a great teacher and pushed us beyond our limits!" Grace has enjoyed her time at OLA, but she is off to succeed and grow.

Senior Spotlight: Sage Sortina By Isabella Kerner

Get to know all about Sage Sortina before she

graduates!

BAY ST. LOUIS- Sage graduated elementary school from Saint Charles Borromeo, beginning at Our Lady Academy in seventh grade. Her favorite thing about OLA is intramurals and the memories behind them. When Sage graduates, she plans to attend Pearl River Community College. There, she will study and major in nursing. When asked what Sage would miss most about OLA, she replied, "I'm going to miss a lot of my classmates and teachers." Outside of school, Sage enjoys painting, going to the gym, and spending quality time with friends and family. She says, "My parents are very supportive and loving to me and without them I wouldn't be who I am today." Sage also has a baby brother and four cats! Cats are her favorite animal.

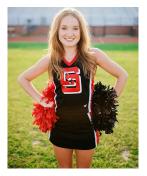


Sage at the Mercy Day Tea

Senior Spotlight: Eva Wittman

By Anna Kate Ivey

BAY ST. LOUIS-Eva Wittman, a 2024 Our Lady Academy graduate, plans to attend Ole Miss in the fall! For elementary schooling, she attended Holy Trinity. As for family life, Eva's father is a lawyer, her mother houses people experiencing homelessness, and her brother Philip lives in Starkville. She owns a dog named Sandy, who is nine years old. Reading, tanning, and hanging out with her friends are some of Eva's hobbies. She enjoys dance and is a member of the St. Stanislaus cheerleading team. What Eva loves most about attending OLA is how comfortable she is with her classmates and "how we have such a bond from being here together all day without phones." Winning Intramurals with her class and Mrs. Cranford screaming bloody murder at her to stop reading a novel are two of her favorite memories from OLA. "That is the maddest I have ever seen her!" stated Eva. After graduating, she will miss going to an all-girls school, not brushing her hair, and some of her teachers.



Eva Wittman Cheerleading

Senior Spotlight- Faith Ponte By Laney Fletcher

BAY ST. LOUIS-Faith Ponte has been a member of Our Lady Academy since seventh grade. Some fun facts about Faith are that she has a three-legged dog and two sisters. Her favorite color is yellow. Faith loves going on walks and hikes in her free time. Her favorite memory at OLA is her seventh-grade intramurals, Seventh Grade Surfs Up. Her best friend is Mallory Capo.In the fall, Faith does not plan to attend college; instead, she will work at Paws on the Pass and take care of animals. When asked how she feels about graduation approaching, she said, "I'm happy to be out of school, but I will miss my friends." Faith is going to miss her classmates and some teachers at OLA.

Faith Ponte at the Mercy Day tea



Senior Spotlight-Kirynn

By Blakelee Geil

BAY ST. LOUIS-Kirynn Necaise has been attending a private school since elementary school. She attended St. Vincent de Paul and moved on to Our Lady Academy. She has been attending OLA since her seventh-grade year. She plans to graduate in May, attend the University of Southern Mississippi, and major in psychology. Kirynn's favorite memory at OLA is bringing her dog to school for her art project. But she dislikes the smell at OLA. Out of all the traditions at OLA, Kirynn's favorite is intramurals. Her favorite administrator at OLA is Mrs. Lisa Hinson. Kirynn hopes to be in medical school in the future. A fun fact about Kirynn is that "I have had three cornea transplants and swallowed two pennies."



Kirynn Necaise at prom

Senior Spotlight: Olivia May!

By Claire Wojtowicz

BAY ST. LOUIS- OLA Senior Olivia May was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and after moving around for a while, she landed in Bay St. Louis in 2016. She attended Mashburn Elementary in Georgia and joined Holy Trinity Catholic School when she moved to the Bay. Olivia joined the OLA student body as a seventh grader in 2018. Of all her OLA classes, Olivia has loved Anatomy with Mrs. Cranford the most. Three fun facts about Olivia are that she has never broken a bone, she loves animals, and she is a professional scuba diver. Olivia plans to attend college at Mississippi State University and major in Animal and Dairy Science on a Pre-Veterinary track. When asked if she would rather be a senior or a seventh grader, Olivia answered, "I would rather be a senior because either way I'm looking forward to a new chapter in my life, but I'm definitely more excited about college than I was about middle school."



Olvia at Mercy Day

Senior Spotlight

By Anne Pierson Kane

BAY ST. LOUIS- Ray will be attending Millsaps College in the fall. She is majoring in Government and Politics. In the future, she wants

to work in Congress, specifically in international affairs. In her free likes to read and do art. Her color is green. Ray says she is about graduation, and her favorite from OLA is winning intramurals. cross country in 9th grade and play soccer as a kid. Some fun facts are that she is a natural blonde, she



time, she favorite excited memory She ran used to about her will have

three jobs by June, and she has eight pets: a Doberman named Brutus, six cats named Freya, Loki, Rosalie, Leroy Jenkins, Emma Jane, and Leo, and a leopard gecko named Nanners.

Senior Spotlight- Marley Kinniburgh

By Evie Boudreaux

BAY ST. LOUIS-OLA senior Marley Kinniburgh is a member of the OLA Softball team, Robotics club, CAC officer, President of Campus Ministry, and class historian. Marley has attended OLA since the 7th grade and had this to say about her time here, "OLA has been a blessing in my life and has given me such an amazing group of people I am able to call best friends. " Outside of school, Marley is active in her community. She is a parishioner of Saint Thomas of Long Beach and actively participates in their Lifeteen

Youth Group. Marley was also part of the Search Team for the Diocese of Biloxi, which is a high honor to be chosen for. She also volunteers for STLB and Diocesan events, such as blessing the jeeps, cleaning the church, and projecting Christmas children. In the fall, Marley plans to attend the University of Mississippi to study Radiology, and she said this about looking forward to the plans God has in store for her, "Ole Miss will be a great fit for me; I grew up



there, and can't wait to continue my academic journey on such a great campus. " Some fun facts about Marley are that she is going to

the National Eucharistic Procession this July, she is allergic to hotdogs, and her spirit animal is a lemur.



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Senior Spotlight: Kaila Seymour

By Caroline Dufrene

BAY ST.LOUIS- Kaila Seymour is attending Duke University in the fall, where she will be majoring in mathematics. She says she is excited for this new chapter because "I am excited for college so I can meet new friends and be in a new environment." Her favorite memory from OLA is winning Intramurals. During her time at OLA, Kaila was a member of the dance team and a member of CAC, Ambassadors Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Spanish Honor Society, and Science Honor Society. Outside of OLA, she was a member of the Arabesque School of Dance Competition Team for ten years. When she leaves OLA, she will miss her friends and faculty but is excited to go on to the next chapter of her life.



Kaila in her cap and gown

Senior Spotlight Get to know more about OLA senior Marlie Klein! By: Alexis Barrois

Bay St. Louis- Our Lady Academy senior Marlie Klien plans to attend Mississippi State University to major in Biological Sciences with a concentration in nursing; after this degree, she plans to attend nursing school. When asked what she intends to do as a job after college, she responded, "After college, I plan to be a nurse practitioner who specializes in mental health, working in clinics." Marlie was asked how she feels about graduation, and she replied, "As I know I will miss my high school years, I am glad to be graduating and moving on to the next stage of life.I hope to thrive in college and have a great time at Mississippi State." Her favorite memory from OLA is winning Mercy Day for the first time in junior year. Some advice Marlie would give to underclassmen would be," Advice I would share with the underclassmen would be to enjoy your high school years, but there is greater ahead to come."



Senior Marlie Klein at Mercy Day Tea 2023

Senior Spotlight Claire Wojtowicz

By Marley Kinniburgh

BAY ST. LOUIS- Upcoming graduate Claire Wojtowicz has been a student at OLA since the seventh grade. She is involved in many athletic extracurriculars, such as basketball, archery, and softball. Claire has been a basketball player and archery participant since her seventh-grade year and recently played on the softball team as a senior. She was inducted into the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society, where she serves as President. Throughout her time at Our Lady Academy, Claire especially favors the memories she made with her friends, saving, "My favorite memory will forever be laughing with my friends at lunch. OLA will always be a community of people that I can look to for guidance and the starting point of all my friendships." Her favorite high school tradition is the annual intramurals competition, and she cherishes her current victory, receiving awards for both overall production and backdrop. Claire's future is filled with promise as she plans to attend Hanover College in Indiana to major in Environmental Science. Her excitement for the college atmosphere is palpable as she shares. "I'm really looking forward to meeting new people and experiencing new scenery." However, she also acknowledges the bittersweet feeling of leaving behind her friends, family, and pets. This summer, Claire intends to make the most of her time with loved ones before embarking on this new chapter in August.



Claire Wojtowicz at Mercy Day tea

Anne Pierson Kane senior spotlight

By Kirynn Necaise

BAY ST. LOUIS-Anne Pierson Kane, an OLA senior, plans to attend The University of Alabama and major in marketing. Anne Pierson was asked what inspired her to major in marketing, and she replied," It sounded fun and interesting." Her role models are her parents. Anne Pierson was a part of the cheer, basketball, and track teams. She is also involved in many clubs, such as the honor society, Spanish honor society, and student council. Her favorite memories from OLA are having a pep rally, returning to school, and winning field day. Anne Pierson's favorite tradition is intramurals. She will miss knowing everyone and being weird at school. Some fun facts about Anne Pierson are that she is left-handed, used to have a dead tooth, and had braces twice. Her favorite soda is Diet Coke. A quote that inspires her is, "Good things come to those who wait."

Anne Pierson Kane at Mercy Day tea



Kennedy Leverett senior spotlight By Kirynn Necaise

BAY ST.LOUIS-Kennedy Leverett, a graduating OLA senior, plans to attend Mississippi State University and study biology for pre-dental. Her dad, a dentist, inspired her future career path. Kennedy looks to her parents as role models because they have always worked hard to make her happy and are good people.Kennedy's favorite memory from OLA is winning intramurals, which are also her favorite OLA tradition. Kennedy says she will miss her friends and having such a great class. Her favorite teacher is Ms. Ashley. Her favorite class at OLA was a typing class with Ms. Griffith.Kennedy has been on the soccer team for the past six years. She is also involved in CAC, Campus Ministry, SADD, NHS, and Mu-Alpha-Theta. Kennedy has two dogs, Daisy and Baby. Some fun facts about Kennedy include: she ran down three flights of stairs asleep at cheer camp in 7th grade, she had pencil lead in her forehead, and she snapped two bones in half in her arm. Her favorite drink is Diet Coke.

Kennedy Leverett at Mercy Day tea



New Movies are Coming Out This Summer!

By Evie Boudreaux

BAY ST. LOUIS—Coming out May 17th, Back to Black is a biopic about singer Amy Winehouse and her journey to writing the record-breaking album Back to Black. Also coming out May 17th is John



Krasinkis's new movie starring Ryan Reynolds, about a magical adventure of a little girl and everyone's imaginary friends or "IFs."In theaters on May 24th, the new Garfield movie is showing. This movie follows Garfield's journey with his long-lost father, a scruffy street cat. The sequel to the original Inside Out movie is out June 14. Inside Out two is about how, as Rylie, the main character, ages, new feelings are introduced. Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust are shocked when the new feeling of Anxiety joins the picture.

Upcoming Local Concerts and Events

By Marley Kinniburgh

2024 Mississippi Coast Coliseum Events:

- Biloxi Blues Extravaganza June 8 from 7:30 pm to 12:00 am
 - Tim McGraw Concert June 13 at 7:00 pm
 - Gulf Coast Big Rig Truck Show July 26-27
- Five Finger Death Punch Concert September 16 at 6:30 pm
 - The Getty's Concert November 2, 6:00 pm
 - Little Big Town Concert December 11 at 7:00 pm 2024 Smoothie King Center Events:
 - Nicki Minaj Concert May 8 at 8:00 pm
 - Brooks and Dunn Concert May 16 at 7:00 pm
 - Nate Bargatze Comedy Show May 30 at 7:00 pm
 - Cody Johnson Concert May 31 at 7:30 pm
 - Megan Thee Stallion Concert June 10 at 7:00 pm



Nicki Minaj concert advertisement

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