



THE INQUISITOR

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A March for the History Books

By: Lainie Vestermark

The March for Life is held on the Friday closest to the somber anniversary of Roe v. Wade, January 22nd. It is an annual, peaceful protest where pro-life advocates march up the streets of Washington D.C. in an effort to end abortion and promote the sanctity of life. The March for Life is an energetic and peaceful march that starts at 4th Street and ends at the Supreme Court building. Thousands of adults and children gather together hoping to see the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion to be overturned one day. This year, Seton's Sacred Life Club (SLC) provided rides to The March for Life for Seton students who wanted to attend the march. The president of the Sacred Life Club and the SLC faculty leader, senior Grace Vestermark and Mrs. Maria Cackett, organized 2 large buses to transport the students to and from D.C. The march started in 1974, which makes this year the 47th March for Life. The march has dramatically increased in size since then.

This march is not just for teens and adults. Many kids join in the charge to overturn Roe V. Wade, the Supreme Court decision for which the march peacefully protests. The dedication to the

March For Life shown by pro-lifers is astonishing. Hundreds of thousands of supporters come every year despite the frigid weather conditions of D.C. Usually, there is a rally before the march. A special guest always gives a speech to kick off the march; however, this year's speaker made history. President Donald Trump was the first president to ever speak at the March for life, which caused many more people to attend the march. Millions of families marched to help preserve the right to life, and to strengthen families and bring these beliefs into practice.

Year after year, people's hearts change to see the reality of abortion. Year after year, more and more people come, with crowd numbers reaching the hundreds of thousands. The pro-life movement doesn't just organize the March For Life, though. People all over the world work hard to do their part to overturn the abortion law. The March For Life is a symbol of how people, young and old, are making it known that abortion is not the only option. One thing is certain, the March for Life will continue to inspire and change the hearts of others until Roe V. Wade is finally overturned.



Are There Aliens?

By: Jillian Riley

The word “alien” is defined as a foreigner, especially one who is not a naturalized citizen of the country or world where they are living. In saying this, the question remains. Are aliens real? In the past three decades, U.S. scientists have found more than 4,000 exoplanets. An exoplanet is a planet which orbits a star outside the solar system. The discoveries of exoplanets keep rolling in; observations suggest that every star in the Milky Way galaxy hosts more than one planet on average. To this day, we have not been able to fully prove that aliens exist, but we have not been able to prove that they don’t. After all, it is not impossible that there are other life forms in the universe. To date, scientists have explored about 4% of the visible universe. That 4% is made up of planets, stars and galaxies that astronomers can see. Yet, there’s a vast part, the other 96%, that scientists cannot see even with a telescope. Many scientists call this unseen area Dark Matter, and they’re still just beginning to study this matter that makes up such a large percentage of the visible universe.

How does a belief in aliens correspond with the Catholic teaching? Father Funes, director of the Vatican Observatory said, “It is difficult to exclude the possibility that other intelligent life exists in the universe. These potential forms of life could include those that have no need of oxygen or hydrogen. Just as God created multiple forms of life on earth, there may be diverse forms throughout the universe. This is not in contrast with the faith, because we cannot place limits on the creative freedom of God.” When asked how a belief in aliens might correspond with the Catholic teaching, Mr. Vincent Terreri, the Computers teacher at Seton, said, “The important thing to remember about Catholic teaching is that, when God created Adam and Eve, He created us with integrity. And as a consequence of the Fall, sin entered the world. Adam sinned and nature wept. We don’t realize our connection with nature is such that our actions and our sin actually affected our world. So, as long as you don’t need to fuss with those truths that you believe, I don’t see why it would be unreasonable that there are intelligent forms of life on another planet that didn’t fall. Why couldn’t God create intelligent life in places where

they still have perfect bodily, intellectual, and emotional integrity?” Why should we put a limit on the limitlessness of God? He added, “What we say about aliens says more about us than what they might be like because it reveals our fears about ourselves.”

Sadly, many scientists believe that 2020 will not likely gain fame as the year we first discover extraterrestrial life. Astronomers looking for alien signals have examined only a few thousand star systems so far. There is so much more that astronomers need to explore. “The rate at which researchers are able to process the massive amounts of data that radio telescopes receive doubles approximately every 18 months to two years, meaning it grows by a factor of ten every six years or so.” (Time) The Milky Way has around 100 billion star systems that could host intelligent life, under our current assumptions. An estimate of 100,000 active civilizations in the galaxy would mean there is one per million star systems. “At the exponential rate of growth in signal processing, researchers will have examined one million candidates by around 2034, bringing the odds of a discovery into the probable. Adding or removing a zero from the estimate of the number of civilizations out there merely adds or subtracts six years from the estimate, respectively, since that’s how long it takes to expand our search proportionally.” (Time) So, if aliens are real, we will most likely discover them in around 20 years. See you in 2040, aliens!



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Seton Science Fair

By: Luke Weidenkopf

Every year students from junior and senior high compete in Seton's annual science fair, which takes place in the middle of January. This year, the science fair took place on two different days. The Science Department decided to split up the science fair this year, in order to shorten the amount of time needed for the actual judging. They also wanted to have a ceremony at the end of the day to reward the students for their hard work. The science fair is a yearly competition in which high schoolers and middle schoolers compete to win their category and move on to regionals where the winners can compete further. Students spend countless hours on their experiments which vary from Lex Hartung's project, "Dust Off", which explored the possibility of a more efficient way to burn sawdust, to Luke Wood's experiment "Meat", which delved into the effect of storage on the molding of McDonald's burgers. Each year, judges evaluate experiments that are fun, original, and full of new ideas. Judges come from all over and from many different backgrounds. Most of the judges are parents of Seton students while others are scientists or volunteers who want to help Seton and see a lot of fun and interesting projects. The science fair is a great opportunity for students to learn the scientific method and learn what it takes to be a scientist. The science fair teaches determination and hard work and each year students look forward to the challenge of the science fair.

The winners of this year's senior high science fair were Kateri Mantooth, Kaitlyn Storey, Christopher Wood, Rudolph Gasser, Matthew Hugo, Moira Haggerty, and Charlotte Yelvington. The winners for junior high were Alfredo Powers, Lucia Bingham, Maximilian Wilson, Robert Verrocchio, Kieran Kelly, Jacqueline Hugo.



CF Dance

By: Andrea Borneman

Once again, Seton held its annual CF Dance on February 1st. Every year, Seton holds a dance to raise money for patients with cystic fibrosis (CF). Cystic fibrosis is a hereditary disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. Before students entered the gym for the dance, they each had to pay \$15.00 for admission. The students were then given a ticket to enter a raffle to win a Fitbit. Students also got the option to enter another raffle where they guessed the number of marshmallows in a jar to win a Chick-fil-a gift card. The gym was decorated with lights, and there was lively music playing. On one side of the gym, a table was covered with delicious brownies and cookies, and the students who organized the dance offered hot cocoa from the snack room. The whole dance was organized by the National Honor Society (NHS) to help those with CF. According to senior Grace Vestermark, "Those with cystic fibrosis most often have to stay in hospitals all the time and stay away from people. It's a really big struggle and currently there is no cure. All the money paid is to benefit scientific research to help find a cure, or better treatment methods." Unfortunately, there are many people who have cystic fibrosis, but you can help make a patient's day while enjoying good food and dancing the night away at the next CF Dance.



A Night to Shine

By: Jillian Riley

Night to Shine is a prom night experience that is centered on God's love. It is an unforgettable experience for people with special needs age 14 and older. This February 7, 2020, Night to Shine celebrated its sixth anniversary. This past year, on one night, 655 churches from around the world came together to host Night to Shine for approximately 100,000 honored guests through the support of 200,000 volunteers. In 2020, there were 720+ churches that volunteered their halls to host this event. One of these churches was All Saints Catholic Church in Old Town Manassas. Mrs. Mary Jo Smith and her daughter, Dani, are the two people that are in charge of organizing the Night to Shine that is held at All Saints. Mrs. Smith and Dani began organizing Night to Shine in 2018, making this year's event their third. Mrs. Smith stated that "the first year we were a month out from the Night to Shine and we only had five guests registered. Thanks be to God, the word got out and we had over 100 guests that first year." This year there were over 150 volunteers and around 100 guests. Out of those 150 volunteers, 47 were current Seton students, and 40+ of the volunteers were Seton alumni, parents and teachers.

One of these Seton volunteers was Mary Ostrich, who graduated from Seton last year and is currently a freshman at NOVA. When asked what her favorite part of the night was, Mary responded, "My favorite part of this year's Night to Shine was the joy. Every single person in the room were little Christs giving and receiving love without holding anything back, and I think that was the most beautiful thing to witness. The whole night is such a beautiful experience because of the authentic joy and laughter radiating from the guests and buddies. Looking around the room at Night to Shine 2020 at All Saints while on the dance floor with my buddy, I saw buddies dancing with their guests, spinning them around, singing with them, and hitting up balloons with them. Even in the small moments we are able to touch so many lives. I was able to witness the lives of not only the guests being touched but also the buddies as they were able to give their guests a beautiful gift of service." Dominic Olszewski, a senior at Seton, said that his favorite part was "the joy in the participants because it shows us all the struggles we have are small compared to them and they are always joyful. I love the fact that those with mental disabilities are being cared for in such a loving way." Overall, it was a memorable and joyous event.

There were several different things that buddies could do with their guests. First, the guests entered the prom through the

red carpet where volunteers were cheering them on. The girls could go to the hair and makeup station to get dolled up, while the boys got their shoes shined. The buddies could take their guest to the photobooth, where there were many props with which they could pose for pictures. In addition, the buddies could go on limo rides with them. There were volunteers serving dinner, which consisted of chicken nuggets and macaroni. This event was a wonderful and heartwarming night. The Christian faith is about loving Jesus and loving His people, which means serving those in your community. Dani Smith sums up this mission best as she says, "Get involved! If not with this function, then look into another way to serve others. We are here to love and serve our Lord, and one way of doing that is by serving others."



Sisters of Life

By: Emily Flynn

On Wednesday January the 22nd, Seton School had the privilege of having the Sisters of Life come and speak to the students and faculty. The order was founded by Cardinal John O'Connor after he visited a World War II concentration camp. He felt great sorrow over the loss of life at the camp and promised to God and himself that he would do whatever it takes to defend it; hence he founded the Sisters of Life. The Sisters of Life focus on spreading God's love and a message of respect for all life. The sisters help all those in spiritual and physical need in their area, but they especially focus on helping women in crisis pregnancies. Abortion causes one of the largest losses of human life the world has seen and; therefore, it is the sisters' mission to prevent it. The Sisters of Life not only work to prevent abortions by helping women in need they also help women who have already had abortions find healing.

During the talk, after the Sisters of Life had introduced themselves and their mission, they went on to tell their own personal stories of vocational discernment. Among all the sisters that spoke, there was one consistency among them: they all had an overflowing joy and fervor for life. They spoke and acted in such a way that they conveyed the beauty of God-given life. As inspiring as their stories were, the way they spoke about life, joy, and beauty was equally, if not more, striking. All of the sisters emphasized the fact that they were brides of Christ and we could see the look of love on their faces when they spoke. Their attitude of love and self-giving was perfectly summed up in their performance of "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz. The lyrics were modified to fit a more Catholic theme of love of God rather than a worldly lover. The performance was the perfect way for them to conclude the talk with a lasting impression.



The Sun Rises on Another Seton Musical

By: Jillian Riley

On December 9 and 10, 110 Seton students, which is just under a third of the student body, auditioned for this year's spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. Many students went into auditions hoping for a lead role, while others went in just wanting to participate in the musical in any way possible. As a part of the audition process, each student had to sing a song of their choice from a musical, Disney, or the liturgy. A great variety of songs were sung by each student at auditions. When asked what song he auditioned with and why he chose it, senior John Paul Vander Woude responded, "I'm auditioning with the last portion of 'If I Were a Rich Man' because it was the only song I knew all the words to, I can sing it well, and I was auditioning for Tevye." Junior Marie Heisler responded by saying, "I auditioned with 'Think of Me' from *Phantom of the Opera*. I love this song, and it's really fun to sing." After auditions, the next step of the musical is call backs.

Out of those 110 students, 43 of them were called back for some of the main roles. These roles consisted of the main characters, such as Tevye, Golde, and the daughters, and even some more minor characters, like Yente, Mendel, and Fruma-Sarah. The students that were called back consisted of students in almost every grade.

Every year, the production team builds a family-like community. All those who participate are excited about different aspects of the musical. For many students, this will be their last year of participating. When asked which aspect they are most excited about, almost every senior admitted that singing, dancing, and being with their friends are what they're most excited for.

Almost every Seton student will agree that the musical is an amazing experience. When asked about what he would say to students that want to audition next year, Michael Allen replied, "I encourage all of the student body - singers, actors, and people with no experience in either category - to audition. Every part they could possibly give you has some significance. The musicals have always been one of the highlights of every year." Similarly, John Paul Vander Woude said, "The musical has been a highlight of my year ever since I started in ninth grade. I highly recommend it."

The Seton spring musicals have always been a great experience for everyone involved. If you didn't audition, there are still ways to be involved. You can sign up for stage crew, makeup, costumes, lighting, or sound crew. Every extra pair of hands is gratefully accepted. If you can't help out, you should at least come see it. This show will definitely be one to remember.

Midterm Exams Poll

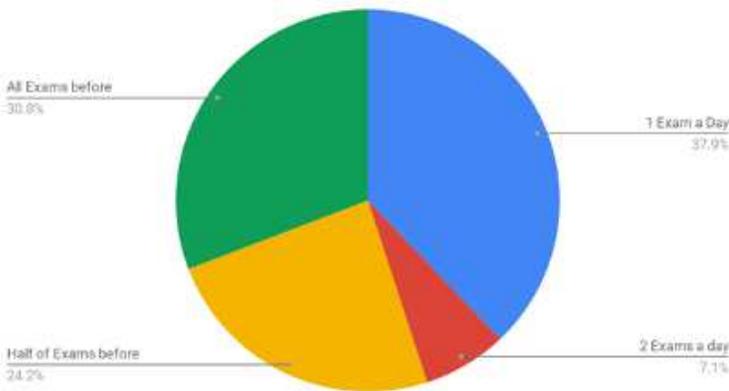
By: Andrea Borneman

After the midterm exams, a poll was sent out to all the religion teachers to give to their students regarding the midterm schedule. The poll allowed Seton students to anonymously say what they thought about the new midterm schedule this year. The questions on the poll are below along with the results of the student's responses.

1. **Do you prefer 1 exam a day?**
61 students responded yes and 5 students responded no.
2. **Do you prefer 2 exams a day?**
12 students responded yes and 10 students responded no.
3. **Would you prefer half of your exams before Christmas?**
39 students responded yes and 9 students responded no.
4. **Would you prefer all of your exams before Christmas?**
50 students responded yes and 11 responded no.

In summary, the majority of the students that participated in the poll prefer one exam a day and to have all the exams before Christmas. Thank you to the teachers and students who assisted with our poll.

Percentage of Yes' to the Poll



Mardi Gras: Quick Facts and Fun Traditions

By: Rose Sladky

We have all heard of Mardi Gras and are probably familiar with some of its traditions. Some of these include bright colors and beads, King cake, masks, parades, its association with New Orleans, etc. Maybe we even know the disturbing Edgar Allen Poe story that takes place during Carnival: "The Cask of Amontillado."

Here are ten quick facts about the holiday:

1. Mardi Gras has many other names including, "Fat Tuesday," "Shrove Tuesday," and "Pancake Tuesday".
2. It is traditionally the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, but celebrations usually last around a week.
3. It is a part of the Carnival season, from Epiphany to Fat Tuesday.
4. It is believed to have pagan roots.
5. Hundreds of krewes (clubs/societies) put on parades and balls every year. However, many of these balls are private and formal events for the krewe.
6. The Mardi Gras colors are purple, green, and gold.
7. Mobile, Alabama claims to have had the first organized Mardi Gras celebrations and festivities in 1703. This is disputed by New Orleans who says that the first Mardi Gras celebration took place in 1699 in their city, when two French explorers landed near there. They held a small celebration and named the spot Point du Mardi Gras.
8. In 1857, one of the first known Mardi Gras parades was put on by the Mistick Krewe of Comus. It is also possible that the first one took place twenty years earlier, in 1837.
9. In 1872, Rex, the King of Carnival and the "Monarch of Merriment," had his first appearance in the parade. Traditionally, he issues an edict commanding his subjects to join the celebrations. The anthem of Rex is "If Ever I Cease to Love".
10. Louisiana is the only state to declare Mardi Gras a legal holiday. However, festivities do occur in other places such as Alabama, Canada, and Brazil.

Some Seton families like to celebrate Mardi Gras before the penitential season of Lent begins by making King cake, filling up on candy and junk food, eating ice cream, going out to eat, enjoying dessert, and making pancakes and waffles.

Winter Sports Wrap Up

By: Staff Writers

The winter sports season has come to an end and all of our sports teams are to be commended. Both the girls and guys varsity basketball teams had excellent seasons and qualified for the DAC's. Boys varsity basketball coach, Dan Vanderwoude, saw overall improvement in the team this year and said, "I think we've become more versatile defensively because we've improved our ability to trap and press, but we'd like to go to the next level defensively next year because we've been more effective causing turnovers and getting the ball in open floor." Girls basketball honored their senior players on Monday, February 9, at their last regular season home game. Arianna Barber and Olivia Chipps will certainly be missed as they move on to college. The girls ended their excellent season with a loss to The Miller School in the VIS quarterfinals. Great job ladies! The boys honored their senior players on February 13th and wished all the best to Dominic Olszewski, John Paul Vander Woude and Cristian Godeanu (manager) who will be sorely missed next year. Their exciting season ended with a loss in the VIS 1st round to Hargrave Military Academy. Well fought season, gentlemen!



It was a tremendous season for Seton swimming. Both the men and women teams won their regular seasons, and the men were the DAC champs. Nine swimmers qualified for National Catholics and eight qualified for one or more events, including seniors Caroline Griffin, Shane Koehr, Anne Konstanty and Jacob Alsup. Many more qualified in a relay capacity with two relays making it to the finals. Sadly, they had to say goodbye to a whopping 18 seniors! One of those seniors, Theresa Dwane said, "My experience on the swim team has been so fruitful for me both physically and socially. I have been a part of the Seton swim team since I was 10th grade, but I regret not swimming from 7th through 9th grade as well. From my time on the team, I have grown closer to not only my classmates but also students outside my class as well. I am so appreciative of Coach Koehr and all the other coaches for helping me grow as a swimmer and a person and realize that I can do always do more than I think I can. I highly recommend joining the team as it will not only keep you active during the winter but also help build a community that you can carry outside the pool deck."



These seniors will truly be missed!

Katie Albin, Jacob Alsup, Joey Arnold, Christian Ceol, Callie Couture, Manager, Lauran Curley, Drew Dalrymple, Katie Dealey, Theresa Dwane, Justin Fioramonti, Caroline Griffin, Jeremy Kleb, Shane Koehr, Anne Konstanty, Elena Morano, Kathleen O'Malley, Dominick Tolentino, and Patrick Wood, Manager



St. Valentine's Day is More than Roses and Chocolate

By: Emily Flynn

Although there is not much information on St. Valentine's life, we can still learn a lot from him. Many people believe that St. Valentine is actually two people whose lives have been blurred together over time. Because St. Valentine lived a long time ago in ancient Rome, it is hard to distinguish fact from fiction when it comes to the details of his life. We do know that both of the men believed to be St. Valentine were priests and martyrs in Rome. Even though martyrdom is the ultimate sign of love, the gruesome execution of a man in ancient Rome doesn't make us think about the flowers, chocolates, or sweet love poems associated with St. Valentine's Day. The romantic aspects of St. Valentine's day all come from legends, rumors, and secular traditions. One story about St. Valentine explains a possible origin for the tradition of giving Valentine's Day cards. It is legend that while in prison St. Valentine agreed to heal his jailer's daughter of blindness to prove his faith. He healed and converted her and many people in the jailor's household. Later, St. Valentine sent a letter to the girl he healed signed "from your Valentine". It is also a popular belief that St. Valentine held Catholic marriages at a time when Catholicism was illegal. The most probable way St. Valentine's day got a romantic connotation was its coincidence with a medieval festival. This medieval celebration had the same date as St. Valentine's day and marked the time when they believed birds went out to find mates. This day was used as a celebration of romance so it is likely the two days intertwined and became known as St. Valentine's Day.

Although St. Valentine's day is heavily secularized, we can still look at it as a day to reflect on our relationships from a more Catholic perspective. When looking for a romantic partner it's important to keep a few things in mind, the most important being, always put God first. Having a relationship with Him is the most important and the most fulfilling relationship we will ever have. The next thing to focus on when looking for a new romantic relationship is yourself. You don't need to hunt down your next partner like prey because if you start looking inward they will eventually come to you. Improving and staying true to yourself will lead to happiness in all aspects of your life. There aren't many things more attractive than a person who is always trying to improve themselves and get better. Another important point is to not over idealize relationships. As humans, we tend to let our imaginations get the best of us and let our daydreams of the

perfect girlfriend or boyfriend become our expectations. It is not fair to ourselves or our potential partner to put unrealistic expectations on them. They are only human and will always have flaws, and they can't fix all your problems. Unrealistically raising your expectations also closes you off to the person who could potentially be the love of your life. The last point to remember is our vocations. Especially as teenagers we can often feel pressured to have a girlfriend or boyfriend, but sometimes it's just not meant for you. It's okay not to have a romantic partner as a teenager or ever for that matter. Religious vocations bring just as much happiness as marriage and should be an option for you. Therefore, it is important to pray for discernment of your vocation.



Presidents Day

By: Theresa Dwane

Why do we celebrate Presidents Day? The answer is in the title itself. The reason is to honor all of America's presidents, both past and present. The question remains, how did Presidents Day become a national holiday? The answer to this question is more complex. This year, Presidents Day falls on Monday, February 17. The origin of the holiday itself goes back 200 years and was not known as Presidents Day at first.

Presidents Day originally began in 1800 as George Washington's birthday, February 22. This became a day of commemoration for him after his death the previous year. Later on, the day became a federal holiday in the late 1870s and was signed into law by President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1879. At first, George Washington's birthday was only observed in the D.C. area, but in 1885, the holiday spread to the rest of the United States as the first federal holiday commemorating a particular American individual. Americans continued to celebrate this holiday for many years until the 1960s, when Congress suggested establishing the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This act would move the dates of certain federal holidays to Mondays, in order to provide workers with more three-day weekends.

While this legislation was being discussed by Congress, Senator Robert McClory of Illinois made the first consideration of renaming Washington's Birthday to Presidents Day. However, lawmakers from Virginia disagreed with the proposal, as Virginia was Washington's home state. Nevertheless, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was passed in 1968, put into effect in 1971, and Washington's Birthday was moved from February 22 to the third Monday in February. Because of the change in date, people thought that now both Lincoln and Washington were being celebrated because the date is between their birthdays. At this point, many companies started creating "Presidents Day" sales to advertise around the country. By the mid-1980s, the holiday began to be more widely known as Presidents Day, but official calendars still listed the third Monday of February as Washington's Birthday. By the early 2000s, the name "Presidents Day" became the official name of the holiday and more than half the country's calendars display the third Monday of February as Presidents Day.

Citizens around the country celebrate this holiday in different ways. Many areas perform historical reenactments and host celebrations in honor of the nation's leaders. In addition, some states require public schools to study the presidents and their accomplishments leading up to Presidents Day, focusing on Washington and Lincoln. No matter how the holiday is celebrated or where one lives in the USA, Presidents Day is a day to take the time to commemorate the present and past American presidents and pay tribute to what they did to protect and improve our country.

Super Bowl LIV

By: Aaron Forman

Super Bowl LIV, or Super Bowl 54, was noteworthy because it was the Kansas City Chiefs first Super Bowl appearance in 50 years! The last time the Chiefs appeared in a Super Bowl was January 1970. A lot has changed since then, but the sweet taste of victory remains the same. Today's Chiefs have 24-year-old Harrison Butker as their kicker. Butker played football at Georgia Tech, and was captain of the team his senior year. As a teen, Butker drifted away from his Catholic faith, much like many teens today. During that time, he even began to question Christianity. Butker says when he started college, he felt very empty because he only had school and football and didn't see how either would lead him to anything meaningful. During his time at Georgia Tech, he became close with a Catholic teammate who helped to lead him back to his Catholic faith. Today, it is not unusual for Butker to finish practice on the football field and change quickly into his altar server's cassock so he can serve at Mass. Butker now feels fulfilled in his life as a professional athlete, husband, and new father.

The first Super Bowl was played January of 1967 in Los Angeles, California January 1967. The tournament was initially called the AFL-NFL World Championship Game, which was quite a mouthful! The AFL Kansas City Chief's owner, Lamar Hunt, proposed using the term "Super Bowl" to refer to the championship game, and it stuck. The first Super Bowl champions were the Green Bay Packers, but Kansas City gets to claim that title this year. Way to go Chiefs!



Chinese New Year

By: Lainie Vestermark

For many people around the world the New Year begins on January 1st; however, millions of families with Chinese heritage celebrate the New Year a little differently. Chinese New Year, which was celebrated on January 25th, is a celebration that dates back thousands of years in China. Each year is categorized by a specific animal, and this year is the Year of the Rat. In Chinese tradition, the Year of the Rat will bring new beginnings and opportunities. It is a year that will bring about a renewed and refreshed feeling. Along with the Year of the Rat, the next eleven years are represented by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, and Dragon. Following the theme of each year, a number of annual traditions help make Chinese New Year as famous as it is now. One very famous tradition is the dance of the dragon. The dance is performed by many people, up to ten, who control and maneuver a long, elaborate looking dragon. One particular person is chosen to be the dragon master, and his job is to guide the dragon during the performance.

In Ancient China, elders told legends of a fierce beast named “Year.” “Year” looked like an ox with the head of a lion, and it terrorized the villages for centuries. As a result, the villagers would play music, hang lanterns, launch fireworks, and perform a dragon dance to scare away “Year” for good. When people think of Chinese New Year, the dance of the dragon is usually its most defining feature, but that’s not the only tradition that is celebrated. The new year celebration lasts several days, and many feasts are prepared. Many popular Chinese foods are served such as dumplings, noodles, fish, spring rolls, and duck. Many of them have specific meanings; for example, dumplings and spring rolls both represent wealth, while fish represents prosperity. Along with a giant feast, many families spend time decorating their houses with red decorations, which symbolize fire. In China, the color red not only symbolizes luck, joy, and happiness, but it is also the color that wards off evil and represents celebration. All over the world, many people celebrate Chinese New Year and enjoy taking part in the festivities.

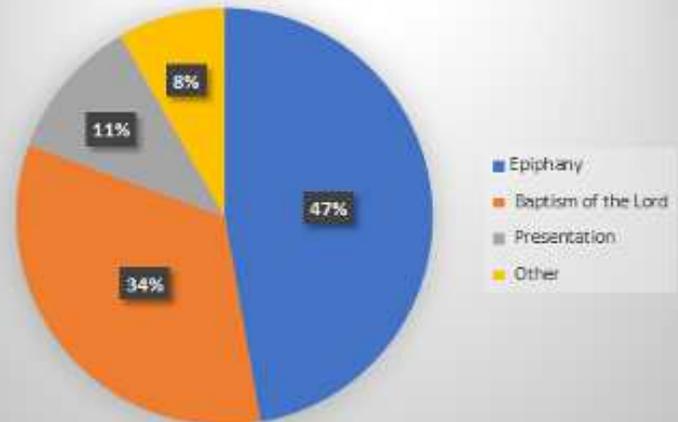


Taking Down Christmas

By: Theresa Dwane

A common view in today’s society is that once Christmas Day has passed, the season has ended and it’s time to take down the wreaths and Christmas trees. In the Christian point of view, however, the season rather begins Christmas Day and extends a couple more weeks. Therefore, many Christians generally keep their decorations up until the Epiphany (January 6), the Baptism of the Lord (January 13), which is the liturgical end of the season, or even until the Presentation of the Lord (February 2). Of course, there’s nothing wrong at all with taking them down before these days, and there’s no right or wrong time to take them down.

When do you take yours down? Below is data from a poll taken by 36 Seton students about when they generally take their decorations down.



Space Force is Ready for Launch

By: Luke Weidenkopf

On June 18, 2018, President Donald J. Trump directed the Pentagon to start a plan for the 6th branch of the United States military, Space Force. Pentagon officials got to work right away and started to make a plan for this new military branch. News went dry about the Space Force for a few months until Congress received a proposal from the Department of Defense (DOD) on March 1, 2019. The proposal entailed that the Space Force would fall under the Air Force's jurisdiction much like how the Marines fall under the Navy's jurisdiction. This also means that the Secretary of the Air Force will also have overall control of the Force. The DOD also said that the new branch would cost \$2 billion and would employ 15,000 people. The U.S. Space Force (USSF) was finally established on December 20, 2019. The mission of the USSF will be "to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force." The responsibilities of the Force will be "developing military space professionals, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing space forces to present to our Combatant Commands." The headquarters of the USSF will be located in the Pentagon, just like the other

five branches. Before USFF there was the Air Force Space Command (AFSPC). This was a department established by the Air Force on September 1, 1982. Its main goal was space operations, but it mostly dealt with "missile warning, launch operations, satellite control, space surveillance, and command and control for national leadership." Then, in 2005, the AFSPC roles were expanded to include cyberspace. Then on December 20, 2019, the United States Space Force was created.



Little Women Movie Review: A Beautiful Adaptation of the Popular Classic

By: Rose Sladky

*The following review does contain spoilers for the very few who have not yet read the book

Greta Gerwig's Little Women blessed theaters this past Christmas as a delightful new adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel. Little Women has had previous versions include starring performances by Katharine Hepburn in 1933, Elizabeth Taylor in 1949, and Winona Ryder in 1994.

The current movie stars several well-known and talented actors and actresses. Saoirse Ronan, also known for Brooklyn, stars as the ambitious writer, Jo March,. Emma Watson is the ladylike and sweet-tempered Meg. Florence Pugh plays the aspiring painter Amy, and Timothée Chalamet portrays the high-spirited and mischievous next-door neighbor, Laurie. Eliza Scanlen is the quiet and piano-loving Beth, with Laura Dern playing the affectionate Marmee. Last, but not least, Meryl Streep has a small part as the formidable, yet secretly somewhat soft-hearted, Aunt March.

The story describes the spirited lives of the March family, with Meg marrying John Brooke, Amy's eventual marriage to Laurie, Beth's death, and Jo's marriage in the end to Professor Bhaer. This adaptation has more focus into Amy's character, which I personally loved as she has always been my favorite March sister.

I stand opposed to the general opinion of labeling her as the "worst March sister," and the strong belief that Laurie should have ended up with Jo. Eliza Scanlon also greatly improves Beth's character. Beth has never had a particularly strong and dynamic personality, but Scanlon does a great job, and in my opinion made moviegoers like her more than they tend to.

I do wish this version would have been able to cover more of the story, but as it is a longer book it really needs a short mini-series to do this. On a more positive note, the cast is full of wonderful and talented actors and actresses with a new spin on Little Women, and the screenwriters did manage to get quite a bit of material covered. The movie was surprisingly well done, has become quite a hit, and was overall a beautiful adaption of the popular classic. It was shot on location in Massachusetts and has charming scenery, lovely costumes and an original soundtrack. Little Women was nominated for several awards, including Best Picture, and ended up winning an Academy Award for Best Costume Design.

Seton Scenes

