



HILLTOPICS

Winter UP Ahead

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New Faces of the Hill

Ken Hoang ('25)

Rector's Bubble



Jeremiah O'Neill

Grade: Freshmen
City: Crystal Lake, Illinois
Favorite class: World History
How did you hear about SLS? "I learned about SLS from my older brothers - Joey, John, and James."

Hobbies: Playing guitar and doing homework
Favorite thing about Christmas: "Being with family."



Mateo Lopez

Grade: Freshmen
City: Chicago, Illinois
Favorite class: Every class
How did you hear about SLS? "I heard about SLS from my father, a graduate of the class of 1995."

Hobbies: Video games especially *Valorant*
Favorite thing about Christmas: "Spending time with family."



William King

Grade: Freshmen
City: Mora, Minnesota
Favorite class: Latin
How did you hear about SLS? "I heard about SLS from my brother, Isaiah."

Hobbies: Basketball
Favorite thing about Christmas: "Receiving presents."

Advent is one of the four seasons in the Church's calendar. In fact, it is the first of the seasons. So, the Church year begins with Advent, followed by Christmas. Then the Church moves to Ordinary Time for a little while and then shifts gears towards Lent. Following Lent, comes Easter, and then the Church goes back to Ordinary Time through the end of the Church year.

But since we are now in holy season of Advent, let us look at it more closely. What is Advent? Advent is a season of prayerful waiting for the coming of the Lord. The great motto for Advent is "*Come, Lord Jesus*". In that phrase, which is really a prayer, we invite Jesus to come into hearts and to be born in our lives, so that we might celebrate the feast of his incarnation with hearts renewed and lives filled with his grace.

But before we invite Jesus to come into our hearts and into our lives, first we need to make some preparations. There are things we need to do first in order to, in the words of Saint John the Baptist, "*make straight the way of the Lord.*" We need to remove barriers. We need to clear the way. We need to make room for Jesus to come and dwell in our hearts and in be born in lives. So, what are these preparations? How do you prepare for the coming of the Lord?

In the first week of Advent, we are invited to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord by taking the time to pray. Prayer is communication with God. It is also an opening of the heart to God. When we pray, we let God enter into our hearts and into our lives. A prayer that comes from the heart is inspired and shaped by the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus praises the Father for revealing the mysteries of his kingdom to the innocent and the simple, like little children, while hiding them from the learned and the wise (Luke 10:21-24), we are reminded of the importance of simplicity of heart and openness of mind. We need to be mindful of that every time we pray.

Like little children, may we cultivate a simple heart and an open minded in our communication with God and in our relationships with one another so that we may receive the Lord and the grace that he offers to us during this holy season and throughout the New Year.

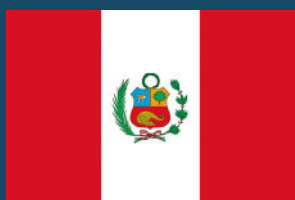
So, be simple, be open, and pray often. This is how we begin to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord.

FOREIGN VISITORS

Cristian Cruz ('25)

This year finally marked the return of St. Lawrence's exchange programs with other countries. Peruvians visited SLS for the first time since 2019. The visitors included four students and two chaperones who arrived Sunday, November 13th and spent a week at SLS. This student exchange program, led by Mr. Jose and Mrs. Miriam Liborio, made it possible for the Peruvians to visit once again. Students from the Spanish classes hosted the visitors. The visitors went to class with the SLS students to experience our unique schedule. Andrea Daniela Luksic, one of the Peruvian students, said, "It is really different from my school; you have different schedules throughout the week, and you guys have shorter classes. I love it!" Andrea's favorite classes were Biology and Physics.

During their visit, the Peruvian students set up a presentation for the SLS students. In their presentation, they talked about some famous Peruvian dishes, along with details of Peru's geography. They presented their Peruvian traditional dance and shared snacks from Peru. In their off time, they would typically go off campus or do fun activities. Some of the Spanish students also accompanied them on field trips, which included a tour and hiking at Ledgeview Nature Center, a tour of Lambeau Field in Green Bay and shopping a Fox River Mall in Appleton. They continued later in the week with a tour of the EPIC Center and Central Park Campus in Madison and a visit to the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Milwaukee Art Museum. During the weekend, SLS also hosted a volleyball tournament, in which the Peruvians participated. Senior Jesus Chavez said, "I went along to tour Lambeau Field, and it was pretty cool because it was a new experience for all of us." The exchange program is back, and the SLS Spanish class students cannot wait for their turn to experience Peru.



ALUMNUS of the ISSUE

Max Trinh ('25)



Zeb Boos

Once a Hilltopper, always a Hilltopper. Mr. Zebadiah Boos, a graduate of the Class of 2016, visited SLS on October 21st to give a presentation about athletic performance, fitness, and overall health. During Mr. Boos's high school years, he was very athletic. He was involved in several sports, specifically, cross country, basketball, and track. He was a track and field thrower, breaking five school records. "He was an excellent student," claimed Mr. Phil McCabe. "He was very attentive and frequently asked questions." Mr. Boos earned an academic scholarship to the University of Providence, located in Great Falls, Montana, from which he graduated in 2020 with a Bachelors of Arts in Biology with a concentration in Physiology, and minors in Chemistry and Philosophy. Now, he is on the road to becoming a certified Olympic trainer with a PhD, which he is currently attending Marquette University here in Wisconsin to attain. Mr. Boos recalls having some of the best times of his life at SLS. "When I got to SLS, I was surrounded by guys who believed in something and worked towards something. We had a faith that brought us together as brothers," stated Mr. Boos. Besides sports, he was involved in band, forensics (where he won a state championship), and math club, served as student body president, and participated in two plays. When asked about his participation, Mr. Boos responded, "If I had any advice for students now, it is to be involved in as much as possible. You will find time and it is worth every minute." Zeb Boos is certainly a Super Student and a role model for the students on the Hill.

GOBBLE GOBBLE

Samson Mathew ('23)



Everyone at SLS was eager for the Thanksgiving break. During Thanksgiving, students take the time to be thankful for all the good things in their lives. On the Monday before Thanksgiving, SLS held a banquet for students, faculty, and friars. The assembly prayed and participated in the long tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving before digging into the turkey. FLIK prepared a traditional Thanksgiving meal, with all the fixings, for all who attended to enjoy. Nick Nguyen ('23) said, "The food tasted amazing. FLIK did a great job."

The Thanksgiving holiday gave students a much-needed break to wind down and have fun. Students were able to travel near and far to celebrate Thanksgiving with their family and friends. Aidan Arredondo ('23) spent time with family and caught up with alumni over break. He stated, "It felt very calming to see family and friends after a while away. I also prepared for the basketball season at the local YMCA with some of the alumni." Some students met their classmates in Chicago. Clive Moras ('23) said, "It was fun to see the Christmas tree and the Starbucks Reserve Roastery. I loved the atmosphere at the café and the latte was exceptionally good. We also saw the Christmas tree at Millennium Park; it was spectacular." Micah Wood used the break to watch the World Cup games. He stated, "The holiday came at a good time because I was able to watch nearly all the World Cup games that happened during the break. I played board games like Throw Throw Burrito with my family; I got a good shot at my brother. I also enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal with my family. The cranberry fluff was my favorite."

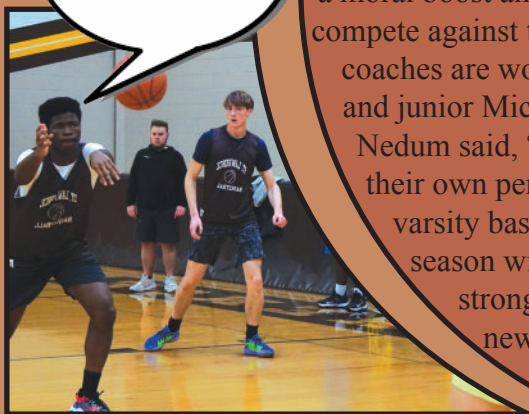
Students used the break to re-energize themselves and came back refreshed for the final three weeks of the first semester.



Jump Ball

Gunnar Stier ('23)

Incoming!



A new season approaches, and with it, new coaches are ready to tackle the challenge. After Mr. Quan Nguyen took over as head coach of the varsity basketball team, replacing Mr. Dave Bartel, he instantly got to work finding a new varsity assistant coach. He recruited none other than Mr. Grant Bargender. Together these two coaches want to accomplish a variety of goals. Mr. Nguyen said, "As a team I want them to bond together. I want to have fun, and I want them to improve as players." Mr. Bargender shared similar thoughts when he said, "I hope to provide the team with a moral boost and encourage a winning mentality. As a team, I want to compete against the toughest competition and win." Together these two coaches are working with the team captains, senior Nedum Osuala and junior Micah Wood, to build a stronger, more successful team. Nedum said, "This year I want to help my teammates to achieve their own personal potentials, and have a winning record." The varsity basketball team will be heading into the 2022-2023 season with a strong roster, strong coaches, and an even stronger mentality. Together they plan to begin a new chapter in SLS basketball and dominate the competition.



The wrestling season is back on the Hill of Happiness and the team is excited for the season. The team coaches are head coach Mr. Phil McCabe, coach Mr. Dan Stephany, and new this season, coach Br. Truong Dinh. There is not only a new coach, but also new wrestlers and new captains. This year's team captains are seniors Jimmy O'Neill and Jesus Chavez. Coach McCabe, Jimmy, and Jesus were asked, what are the goals and challenges will be for this season. Jesus said, "The goal for this team will be to get the returning wrestlers on track and for the new wrestlers to learn from them. The goal for the team is not only to know the winning aspect of the sport but the learning aspect as well." Jimmy O'Neill agreed and added, "Our goal is to also make sure that this whole team is on the same page. This team should know what we are all doing and that we have the same mentality so that our team can be successful this season." Coach McCabe declared more of the challenges by stating, "The challenges of this season are being a young team. Our team has been made up of sophomores and freshmen for a while. The team needs to stop worrying about how long their opponents have been wrestling and worry about themselves. We should be going in with a winning mindset." Judging by the captains' and Mr. McCabe's claims, it looks like this year's team is setting their goals high, and they are ready for a new season and the challenges that it may bring.

TAKE IT DOWN!



Hit it!



Diego Soto ('25)

Gimme That!



Diving into FUN



ThienHanh Mai ('25)

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, students experienced a disruption in the number and type of field trips that were offered off the Hill. Recently, though, that has all changed as students, once again, were given the chance to go swimming at the Plymouth High School pool. The students were enthusiastic that there was an opportunity to go swimming, and many signed up and attended. Some of the things they did while in the pool were swimming, diving, and playing water polo. Sophomore Will Hying said, "The water polo game was very intense." Other students used the pool to relax and spend time with friends. Freshmen Tony Vu and Bao Tran both said the trip was "very relaxing, but also cold." The students took this small opportunity and turned it into a big, exciting trip to have a lot of fun. Everyone who went on the trip made the most of it. Students look forward to more opportunities like this one.



Fiesta Guatalupana

Said Villa ('25)

On Saturday, December 3rd SLS hosted their yearly Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is commemorated on December 12th, but SLS celebrated it in advance. This is an important day for many Mexicans and Mexican Americans because it celebrates part of their cultural heritage. The feast day memorializes how Juan Diego saw the Virgin Mary and built a church in honor of her. The celebration at SLS began in the chapel to pray the Rosary in Spanish and English and sing "La Guadalupe." Afterwards everyone walked to the refectory to enjoy a traditional Mexican meal, which several visiting parents prepared for the SLS community. This year the families made tacos, beans, tamales, and a spicy sauce. According to Antonio Brand Gonzales ('25), "The food made me feel like I was back home, and I always look forward to eating at home." This was a phenomenally successful event organized by Mr. Francisco Saucedo, and many of the students cannot wait until next year to celebrate the feast day once again.





GIVE THEM A BREAK



Nicholas Dean ('23)



It's 1!



The purpose of class retreats at SLS is to take the time to form bonds with your peers, contemplate and work on specific goals, and above all, become closer with God through prayer and deep meditation. Each class seized the opportunity to enjoy what these class retreats had to offer, and not only did they grow in love for God, but they had fun experiences too.

Every year, each class, from the incoming freshmen to the experienced seniors, go to various locations for their retreats during the early weeks of November. Both the freshmen and sophomore classes remained on campus to participate in their retreats. While going through their on-campus retreat, the freshmen were led by a Catholic organization called Spiritus. Since this is the freshmen class's first year here, Spiritus really focused on bringing the class together through a variety of activities and group discussion. Having Spiritus as their retreat leaders as well, the sophomore class underwent many of the same activities as the freshmen class; however, their retreat strongly focused on strengthening their relationship with God. The junior and senior classes, on the other hand, had the opportunity to attend their retreats at two off-campus locations. The junior class attended their first off-campus retreat at Mt. Morris Retreat Center in Wautoma, Wisconsin, where their focal point was on mental health and learning to call out to God for his fatherly guidance. And SLS's senior class had their final retreat at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, Wisconsin, where they went over the discernment of their individual vocations or, in other words, what God is calling them to do.

Fall Retreat



No matter what each class did or where they stayed on the retreat, all students seemed to have a fun and relaxing time away from school. Freshman Mateo Lopez commented on his first-year experience with his class retreat saying, "The activities with my class and Spiritus were very fun, and I felt like I was brought into a closer bond with my classmates." Having experienced these class retreats for the first time as well, sophomore Emmanuel Hernandez commented on his favorite aspect of his retreat with Spiritus by saying, "I thought it was an awesome experience. It was truly life-changing as it improved my relationship with Christ." After having gone through the retreat process for a couple of years now, junior Phuoc Hoang talked about his first experience with an off-campus retreat saying, "It was a whole new experience going on a retreat away from SLS this year, but in a way, it was a very enjoyable experience." Now, going on the retreats for all four years has certainly been a blessing for some members of the senior class, as each year's retreat is always different from the previous. Senior Samson Mathew commented on his last retreat as an SLS student by saying, "The retreat was wonderful because I could spend a lot of time with my friends and, especially, God, who has been guiding me through my vocational discernment process."

With the retreats having come to a close and students returned to their daily schedules, the feeling of an entire weekend of successful retreats seems to be lingering in the air as many students were deeply moved by their experiences. Students returned from their little break away from school refreshed and with a stronger relationship with both their peers and God.



VISITING A CEPHALATE GREEN KNIGHT

Hung Dao ('23)

On a particularly snowy Saturday in November, Mr. Joshua Brath and Mrs. Maggie Stielow, SLS's guidance counselors, took a group of nine seniors to St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, for a college visit. The tour started with a presentation on St. Norbert. Then, the seniors were split into three groups for a tour of the campus. They went through academic buildings, saw residence halls, and ate lunch at the college. Senior Keith Fronteras recounted, "I liked the old-fashioned buildings and the food. Overall, it was a very good trip."

College visits are a vital part of a senior's decision process because it helps them with discerning what kind of campus they want, and it helps to make connections with people from the school. The guidance counselors at SLS organize these trips. In organizing a trip to St. Norbert, Mrs. Stielow said, "There are several seniors with St. Norbert College on their college list, which is one of the main reasons I scheduled an in-person campus visit day. With SLS having a number of international students, I liked that St. Norbert's has a director of international recruitment and admissions who offered to provide information to our seniors." Mr. Brath mentioned that the guidance department is working to schedule a visit to Marquette and UW-Madison next semester for both seniors and juniors. These visits have proven to be an invaluable tool for students who are looking into colleges and deciding where they want to attend. Mr. Brath and Mrs. Stielow have done a great job creating these opportunities for the students.



MARIAN
UNIVERSITY

Eating with Awareness

Clive Moras('23)



As a college-prep high school, SLS makes every effort to expose students to as many colleges as possible and to ensure students are making informed decisions about their future school. Mrs. Maggie Stielow, the new college advising guidance counselor at SLS says, "To me the most important part of the college search process is experiencing a college visit." However, since SLS is a boarding school located in Mt. Calvary, WI, it is somewhat remote from many college campuses. As a result, having college representatives from all over visit SLS plays a significant role in the exposure that students receive. Mrs. Stielow organized the first semester "Lunch and Learn" visits with emphasis toward the seniors, while the second semester visits will be devoted to the juniors. SLS was fortunate to have representatives from a variety of universities, including the University of Dallas, Marian University, UW-Oshkosh, Lakeland College, St. Norbert College and even the ROTC program from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. These Lunch and Learn visits, held during lunch, seamlessly integrate into the school day. The meetings also provide students with the opportunity to have one-on-one talks with college representatives, allowing them to obtain answers to questions and learn more about the college admissions process in general. Senior Sungho Bak, an international student said, "It was extremely helpful to hear the answers to my questions immediately by a trusted speaker." The goal of these Lunch and Learn sessions is for students to gain as much knowledge to assist them in their college search journey. Hence, the huge benefit these sessions provide for SLS students.

Do You Hear Those People SING?

Hung Dao ('23)



As fun as it is to be kings of the Hill, the Hilltoppers have to come down sometimes, and field trips are the perfect opportunity to do just that. Two teachers, Mrs. Katie Daane and Mr. Jeff Krieg, organized some field trips for the students towards the end of the first semester. Mrs. Daane took a group of students to the Marcus Performing Arts Center in Milwaukee to catch a performance of the Tony-award-winning musical, *Les Misérables*. “I saw that *Les Mis* was coming to town,”

Mrs. Daane said, “so I wanted to offer the students an opportunity to see it.” The students got to see incredible actors masterfully perform the three-hour musical. Sophomore Jason Hong said, “I went to the show because I wanted to compare it to the movie, and the show’s performance quality was high, and the show was fun.” The show went until midnight, but the show kept a lively atmosphere among the students.

Mr. Krieg took students to Green Bay to see the Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel exhibit. He saw the exhibition advertised and offered the trip to anyone interested in Michelangelo’s work and his challenges. The trip was fun and enlightening to those who went. “I thought it was cool because we got to see and read all about the different parts of the ceiling that you don’t usually hear about,” said junior Jonathan Prado. Undoubtedly, these trips offered the students time off the Hill, but more importantly an opportunity to observe some fantastic art that the world has to offer.

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JOURNEY TO PORTUGAL

Day 4



To Be Continued...