

# THE LANCE

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Flushing, New York

JANUARY 2022

WINTER SEMESTER

## The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

by: Alexandra Lynch '23



On December 2nd, 92 scholars of the Holy Cross Community were inducted into the National Honor Society as a result of their outstanding academic achievement. Students were accepted into the society several months ago after applying to prove their worthy scholarship, leadership, service, and character; the pillars of the NHS. Certainly a night to remember for both the students and the faculty, this ceremony was the first in-person one able to happen since the beginning of COVID-19. Many faculty members attended the ceremony to witness this wonderful achievement that they helped their students reach. Some teachers even stayed the entire afternoon until the ceremony at 7pm, a perfect example of how lucky Holy Cross is to have such dedicated faculty members.



Mrs. Doepfner, Moderator of the NHS at Holy Cross

While COVID-19 limited the attendance of the ceremony, it most certainly did not limit the magnificence of the evening. Each scholar was only permitted to have one guest, yet with social distancing rules implemented, the auditorium was full as this year's NHS is Holy Cross' largest group yet. With such a large group, it was impressive to see how well COVID-19 guidelines were followed in such trying circumstances. Luckily, the event was live streamed so that loved ones at home could witness their scholar's achievement as well. Mrs. Doepfner, the moderator of the National Honor Society at Holy Cross, expressed her gratitude throughout the ceremony that it was finally able to happen in person. When speaking to The Lance, she mentioned as follows: "It was an uplifting night of celebration for everyone. Ms. Gianna and I are proud of our new and veteran members who have worked hard to achieve this honor. It has been a challenging time. We were disappointed that we had to limit attendance, but pleased that we were able to virtually share the ceremony with those who could not attend in person. The NHS officers, Sofia Bhuyan '22 (President), Samantha Sambucharan '23 (Vice President), and Ripley Petrovic '23 (Secretary), were poised and impressive in their presentation of the evening. The guest speaker, Dr. W. E. Blanchard '89, did an excellent job of sharing how his past experiences as a student at Holy Cross impacted him through the years. He made special mention of the power of hearts and minds in our lives. We were also very appreciative of the faculty members who shared in the celebration and gave their support and recognition to the membership." Mrs. Doepfner and Ms. Gianna did a wonderful job organizing the ceremony. Both of them spoke beautifully throughout the ceremony, graciously inspiring their students and recognizing their accomplish-

ments. Ms. Gianna told The Lance: "Being the co-moderator of the National Honor Society has been such a rewarding experience. Watching so many of my students, both past and present, being inducted into the society and being acknowledged for their academic achievements was very special. Their hard work does not go unnoticed and I hope they are as proud of themselves as I am!"



Ms. Gianna, Co-Moderator of NHS

Ms. Gianna's sense of pride for her students was eminent throughout the ceremony. Along with their speeches, there was a Blue Ribbon ceremony, and a candle lighting ceremony, both occurring after all members pledged to the NHS and walked across the stage to receive their certificate. The candle lighting ceremony was very dignified as the NHS officers, Sofia Bhuyan, Samantha Sambucharan, and Ripley Petrovic, along with Ms. Gianna and Mrs. Doepfner lit candles representing the pillars of the NHS.



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## The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony continued...

### The Lance

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This publication seeks to follow the Holy Cross philosophy, objectives, and mission statement. We reserve the right to edit all articles for grammar, taste, clarity, content, and availability of space. Letters are accepted. Please direct them to the editors or the moderator.



The Blue Ribbon ceremony, also known as the "Who IAmMakesaDifference" Blue Ribbon Ceremony, was held by Mrs. Doepfner. Founded by Helice Bridges, the Blue Ribbon Ceremony requires seven steps and was a deeply inspirational and unique addition to the event as a whole. The ceremony is meant to make all people feel loved, valued, and connected, as well as use the 'power of love' as the ultimate motivator to end conflict, enhance health and prosperity, and to make dreams come true. Mrs. Doepfner explained the significance of this, especially in times like these. These blue ribbons encouraged the students to honor those who had made a difference in their lives up to being inducted into the NHS. The Blue Ribbon ceremony will absolutely remain a fond memory for all students inducted that night, as it brought the Holy Cross community together through a beautiful representation of gratitude.



Elected by the rest of the National Honor Society, students Sofia Bhuyan ('22), Samantha Sambucharan ('23), and Ripley Petrovic ('23) are this year's officers. Now that Holy Cross is fully co-ed, it was especially nice to see three brilliant lady knights up on that stage. All three scholars presented intelligent and moving speeches about what induction to the National Honor Society meant to them. The NHS and the Holy Cross community look forward to seeing how their leadership will play out and help to connect the pillars of the school and the NHS. Sofia Bhuyan, a senior and the president of the National Honor Society stated: "I am really proud and excited for this new year being the first girl as NHS president. I am looking toward to a productive and high energy year. This is the largest group of national honor society members and I know my officers and NHS coordinators could not be more thrilled to have such a organized year." Samantha Sambucharan, a junior and the vice president of the National Honor Society mentioned:



Ripley Petrovic '23, Sofia Bhuyan '22 & Samantha Sambucharan '23

"It was honestly such an amazing experience, due to it being one of the first in person ceremonies Cross has had in a while since COVID-19. Being inducted into the NHS was such an honor, let alone being elected Vice President. Working with the President, Sofia, and Secretary, Ripley, has been nothing but fun, we make an amazing team. Lastly, having the opportunity to give a speech to my peers and celebrate our academic achievements together was definitely an unforgettable moment." Ripley Petrovic, another junior, the secretary of the National Honor Society provided: "It was such a huge honor to get to represent the NHS and induct so many new members at the induction ceremony. I look forward to all we will accomplish together!" One particularly touching moment of the event was during the Blue Ribbon ceremony, when Ripley individually took the time to remind her peers that if they did not have a loved one who could be there that night, that she was there for them. This moment was unplanned and proved just how much Ripley, along with Samantha and Sofia, deserve to lead the NHS in order to aid a more loving Holy Cross community. However, the evening was not over with just that, the guest speaker, Dr. W.E. Blanchard, provided a dignified speech as well.



Dr. W.E. Blanchard is a Holy Cross alum from the class of 1989, his presence alone being enough to inspire students, as he has stayed connected to the school for so long. The alum spoke about the significance of his time at Holy Cross and how it has shaped him into the person he is today, even mentioning specific faculty members that he knew back from his time at the school. Overall his speech provided impactful insight into how the portion of our lives as scholars is absolutely imperative in shaping the rest of our lives. Dr. W.E. Blanchard moved the audience and showed the students how proud they should be for their achievements that night. It was an honor to be able to have such an intelligent speaker and alum of Holy Cross speak to the NHS. Mrs. Doepfner and Ms. Gianna set up a beautiful ceremony to honor the NHS inductees. The event was a perfect recognition of the hard work and dedication these 92 students of Holy Cross have put into their education, it will be hard to forget. Congratulations to the National Honor Society inductees!





## National Honor Society Members

### Junior Members



Waheed Asgar, Alex Ascarruz, Camilo Balbin, John Bonavita, Adrianna Caporale, Damyan Dekajlo, Nicole DePasquale, Sean Devlin, Jenny Drakoulas, Julia Farley, Kaitlyn Farran, Andrew Fazio, Elizabeth Fazio, Anthony Forte, Nicolas Furnari, Thomas Gafaro, Jake Gergyes, Christian Gomes, Edward Harnett, Jessica Herceg, Maria Katechis, Kelly Lin, Alexandra Lynch, Carmelina Maniaci, Alexanadra Marchesini, Julia Muczynski, Raquel Natale, Devonte Peterkin, Ripley Petrovic, Elenie Rama, Ryan Ravines, Joseph Reid, Wesley Reyes-Mayancela, Madison Rodriguez, Samantha Sambucharan, Chad Seepersuad, Isabella Sartori, David Tran, Alexa Vasilou, Amanda Waldron, Bertha Wesley, Alexis Wirta.

### Senior Members



Katherine Aboumoussa-Armfield, Jayson Albert, Gabriella Aordikian, Jaden Baril-Newman, Sofia Bhuyan, Emily Browne, Savannah Browne, Melissa Cutrona, Britney DeFray, Isabella Defendini, Maria DelGreco, Emma DellaVecchia, Carmelo Delorme, Anthony DiMarcello, Jeraldo Estevez, Olivia Giakoumas, Angelina Gomes, Kimberly Johnston, Zoe Kalantzopoulos, Kevin Kane, Sara Keenan, Derek Kilpatrick, Michael Kiyar, Cindy Leung, Jiexuan Li, Robert Lombardi, Valeria Lopez, Paige Mahon, Francesco Mancini-Menditto, Anthony Marin, Emmanuel Martinez, Irene Mavromichalis, Katerina Mavromichalis, Thomas McKnight, Aleck Ning, Christian O'Hagan, Madison Ohringer, Maria Rapic, Samantha Rodriguez, Juliet Romero, Christopher Roses, Timothy Roses, Sabrina Roveto, Caterina Russo, Tyler Schweber, Magdalena Targonski, Gabriella Tesi, Franklin Torres, Anna Tranquada, Jeffrey Yu.



# HCTV

by: Ayaan Bhatti '24



HCTV, which stands for Holy Cross Television, has been a tradition at Holy Cross for many years. The videos consist of information about the ongoing events at Holy Cross. Usually, their episodes are played every morning in homeroom, but how are these videos made? The process seems very complicated, but creating these videos is not that hard at all (most of the time). One main camera is used to record the video and audio of the people talking. The scripts are created in the morning, while the recording is at the same time. One person is needed to hold the microphone and to do the teleprompter, while the other person is tasked with recording. These roles are switched everyday, and mostly depend on who is available in the morning. The room next to where the videos are recorded is the studio, which is where the videos are edited and published. After recording the episode, the files are transferred to the studio's computer where the videos are edited. They are usually edited throughout the day, or after school. The role of editor is also switched everyday, so that everyone gets a chance to learn and gains experience on how to do it. As the videos are finished by the end of the day, they are published to the HCTV youtube channel, where they can be accessed the next morning by the homeroom teachers. The club has been unable to go live this year for technical reasons, which is why all the videos are pre recorded.

HCTV tries to keep the videos short so that everyone can get a chance to watch them during homeroom. They are usually two to three minutes long, and contain important information for the students of Holy Cross. Many advertisements are also shown on HCTV, which gives students a better way to receive them, rather than just an announcement. On special occasions throughout the year, the club records special episodes for important events throughout the year. HCTV's most recent special is the Christmas Special, which is done yearly. This year, the special consisted of a gingerbread decorating contest. There were two groups of students, and two groups of teachers. The students succeeded in defeating the teachers in this competition. Events such as this are recorded and edited solely by the members of the club. The creation of these videos can be very interesting, and very time consuming, but at the end of the day, the effort that gets put in, also gets shown off.

## Food Drive

by: Elizabeth Fazio '24

Thanksgiving is the time of year to be grateful for the countless blessings in our lives. We spend the holiday surrounded by those we love and cherish the most and share a meal with them. However, many people are not as fortunate as us and cannot afford to put a nice meal on the table for Thanksgiving. That is why Holy Cross High School hosts a food drive every year around Thanksgiving to help those in need. After speaking with Nicholas McAloney, a student who helped in organizing the event, I was able to learn more about this incredible act of charity. Nicholas is a senior at our school who as a freshman was inspired by the upperclassmen that were helping out with the food drive. He knew that he wanted to follow in their footsteps and assist in organizing future food drives. This year's food drive took place on Wednesday November 10, 2021 and donations were accepted throughout the day in the auditorium. Donations included but were not limited to: Pastas, Rice, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Yams, Dried Beans and so much more. Over 45,000 non-perishable items were brought in during this year's food drive and everything was given to St. John's Bread and Life. Our annual food drive is one of the most notable events and aids hundreds of families during the holiday season, especially in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. I do not doubt that our food drive will continue to help those in need for many years to come.

## Hygiene Product Drive

by: Elizabeth Fazio '24

At Holy Cross High School, our Knights Creed is to be like C.H.R.I.S.T. C for Community, H for Honesty, R for Respect, I for Integrity, S for Service, and T for Teamwork. This year's Hygiene Product Drive was the perfect time for the Holy Cross community to exercise the service aspect of our Creed. The Hygiene Product Drive was hosted by Ms. Paprocki and Ms. Franzese. Items were accepted from November 9 to December 13. Approximately 13 large boxes were donated and the most common items were toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, and conditioner. All of the proceedings were brought to the Helping Hand Rescue Mission. They are a non-profit organization based in Huntington Station, New York. Their mission statement perfectly sums up the motivation and purpose behind their work- God. "The Helping Hand Rescue Mission seeks to improve the spiritual and temporal conditions of the children, families, and people of the communities we serve by providing excellent service to all who come, whether they be rich or poor, high or low social status. We are here to love, to serve, and to give." They also entail a well-known Bible verse, Matthew 25:36 which states that by assisting the least of God's people, you are assisting God Himself. The motives behind the Helping Hand Rescue Mission align perfectly with our vocation here at Holy Cross. To know, to love, to serve. Thank you to all who participated in this year's Hygiene Product Drive.



## Tips from "Dr." Aidan

by: Aidan Fromann '23

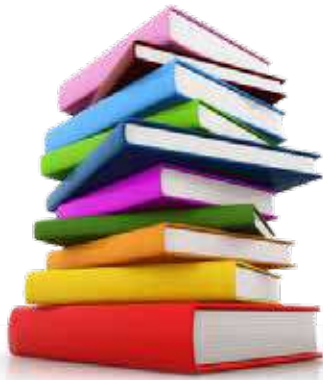
When it comes to the Coronavirus, good health is an excellent way to protect yourself from infection. I am no doctor and I am not liable if you have flammable diarrhea from this advice, but with much "experimentation" I have found treatments which work greatly! Whenever you are sick I would recommend taking vitamin C, especially chewable tablets. When I had Covid, I took alka seltzer cold and flu which helped me feel so much better. Companies can make so much money if they just mandate alka-seltzer, but that is just my opinion. It is also a good idea to help give yourself a good and strong immune system. People don't realize how much restaurants like McDonald's and Wendy's can hurt them! So listen to "Dr." Aidan's advice and please don't sue me, I cannot afford an attorney! Stay healthy and God Bless!





## BOOK & TOY DRIVE

by: Kayla Marcelin '24



Holy Cross High School does a lot of different drives for different causes. Two drives our school did are the book drive and the toy drive. The book drive is about giving children the chance to read a book that might be old to one person but new to them. The book drive was very successful. The drive lasted for about a week. More than 100 books were donated because of multiple students bringing in books everyday. The toy drive was another successful fundraiser that was held at our school. Students would bring in a small toy and on the tag the students would put what grade they are in and their name so they get credit for bringing the toy in. The toy drive gave children a chance to have toys that they never had the chance to receive before. These children deserve a chance to have a book or a toy just as much as the next child. Our school did an amazing job giving these children a chance to have a new book or new toy.

# TOY DRIVE!

## The History of Christmas

by: Salvatore Abicca '23



The fact that the sentiments in this editorial have come to be associated with a major retailer may seem ironic. Yet, calls to reject consumerism at Christmas have been around ever since it became a commercial extravaganza in the early 19th century, which is also when buying presents for kids became a key part of the holiday. How to explain this? Today, just as in premodern Christmases, overturning norms during this special time helps to strengthen those same norms for the rest of the year. The Santa myth not only gives kids a reason to profess the reassuring belief that magic is still out there in our disenchanted looking world, it also transforms holiday purchases from expensive obligations into timeless symbols of love and enchantment. As historian Stephen Nissenbaum puts it, from the beginning of Santa Claus's popularization, he "represented an old fashioned Christmas, a ritual so old that it was, in essence, beyond history, and thus outside the commercial marketplace." Kids' joyful wonder at finding presents from Santa on Christmas morning does more than give adults a taste of magic, it also makes our lavish holiday spending feel worthwhile, connecting us to a deep, timeless past all while fueling the yearly injection of funds into the modern economy. Cultural analysis doesn't have to be a Scrooge-like activity. To the contrary, it gives us the tools to create a holiday more in line with our beliefs. I've always found the way we abandon kids to deal with the

discovery that "Santa isn't real" on their own or even expect them to hide it, for fear of disappointing adults that want to get one more hit of secondhand enchantment unethical and counter to the spirit of the season. The song "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" is supposed to be funny, but it captures shades of the real anxiety many kids go through every year. Knowing what children and their beliefs do for society during the holidays can help us choose a better approach. A couple of years ago I saw a suggestion floating around on the internet that I think offers an ideal solution for those who celebrate Christmas. When a child starts questioning the Santa myth and seems old enough to understand, take them aside and, with utmost seriousness, induct them into the big grown up secret: Now THEY are Santa. Tell the child that they have the power to make wishes come true, to fill the world with magic for others, and as a result, for us all. Then help them pick a sibling or friend, or better yet, look outside the family circle to find a neighbor or person in need for whom they can secretly "be" Santa Claus, and let them discover the enchantment of bringing uncredited joy to someone else. As Francis Pharcelus Church wrote to Virginia O'Hanlon more than 100 years ago, the unseeable values of "love and generosity and devotion" are in some ways the "most real things in the world," and that seems like something that all kids whether they're age 2 or 92 can believe in.

### Isolation

by: Jade Devarez '24

A covid-19 short story

Red, itchy eyes meet with drywall  
Cubed up inside a plain white room  
Tears taste like hurt instead of salt  
And pain is evident in simple movement  
Life is geometric shapes on a gray scale  
Instead of light and airy watercolor shades  
Sickness claims the body like a home  
And unpacks all its stuff in the heart, lungs, and brain  
The warmth of close contact drifts from memory  
And all that is known is the cold sweat left on the forehead  
And all that consumes you is the empty spaces in your bed  
With no one to hold, and nothing to share  
Except for the dry coughs and sniffles of your nose

## THE LANCE



WRITE FOR THE LANCE.  
DESIGN FOR THE LANCE.

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO

2021 Brooklyn/Queens Diocesan Division



**Back Row:** Destinée Louis-Jacques, Jessica Hercegg, Olivia Giakoumas, Ava C  
**Front Row:** Isabella Montenegro, Maria Del Greco(C), Meghan Gonzalez



# OUR LADY KNIGHTS!!!

11 Varsity Volleyball League Champions



Gucciardo, Sara Keenan(C), Alexis Wirta, Tiffany Chen, Georgia Tentamos.  
es, Juliet Romero, Alexandria Marchesini, Olivia Scotti (not pictured).





little saint nick foundation  
"Kids helping and inspiring other kids"

## Day Of Service

by: Briana Tola '23

On Friday February 4th Holy Cross had our annual day of service. This is the day for our Knights to bring in a coloring book and a stuffed animal to donate to children at Cohen's Children's Hospital. Students and staff also made get well cards for the Children at Cohen's. We donate the stuffed animals and coloring books to the Little Saint Nick Foundation. The Little Saint Nick Foundation is a registered non-profit organization headquartered in New York with an expansion chapter in Florida, has the mission of "Kids Inspiring and Helping Kids". The Little Saint Nick Foundation was founded in 2004 by Raymond Mohler, Jr. at age six. Ray suffered from Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease, a rare childhood hip disorder. I had the opportunity to interview Ray. Here is a little bit about Ray! We also would like to thank Mr. Brolly, director of service for planning the day of service!

### Q: What made you decide to start the Little Saint Nick Foundation?

A: When I was four years old I had pain in both my hips and could not walk. My parents rushed me to the hospital. This was a very traumatic experience and had nothing to pass the time at the end of the day I was able to leave. I was diagnosed with a rare hip joint disease and I was able to recover outside the hospital. On the way home I asked my parents if the other kids got to go home too but my parents told me it wasn't always possible and I felt I needed to give back to the children who were still there. With my birthday being on Christmas Eve I decided to give back my Christmas and birthday gifts back to the hospital that I was in when I was 5. From there I loved the feeling of giving back.

### Q: What is the mission of the Little Saint Nick Foundation?

A: Our mission is "Kids Inspiring and Helping Kids". This mission is not only to help kids in crisis but to also empower kids of all ages to give back. Our programs enable kids to give back everyday of the year.

### Q: What is your favorite part about the Little Saint Nick foundation?

A: My favorite part about the Little Saint Nick Foundation is not only being able to help kids but being able to empower kids and have a double impact. We are able to create a full circle movement by helping others at the same time creating a community of service for others.

### Q: Do you have any advice for a Holy Cross student?

A: Whatever your passion is, go for it and you hold all the power to whatever you want to do with life. If you focus on yourself this will help you succeed.



Board Vice Chair - Mr. Frank Orzo '64, Raymond Mohler, Jr., Brianna Tola '23, ??????????, Mr. Dylan Brolly - Director of Service





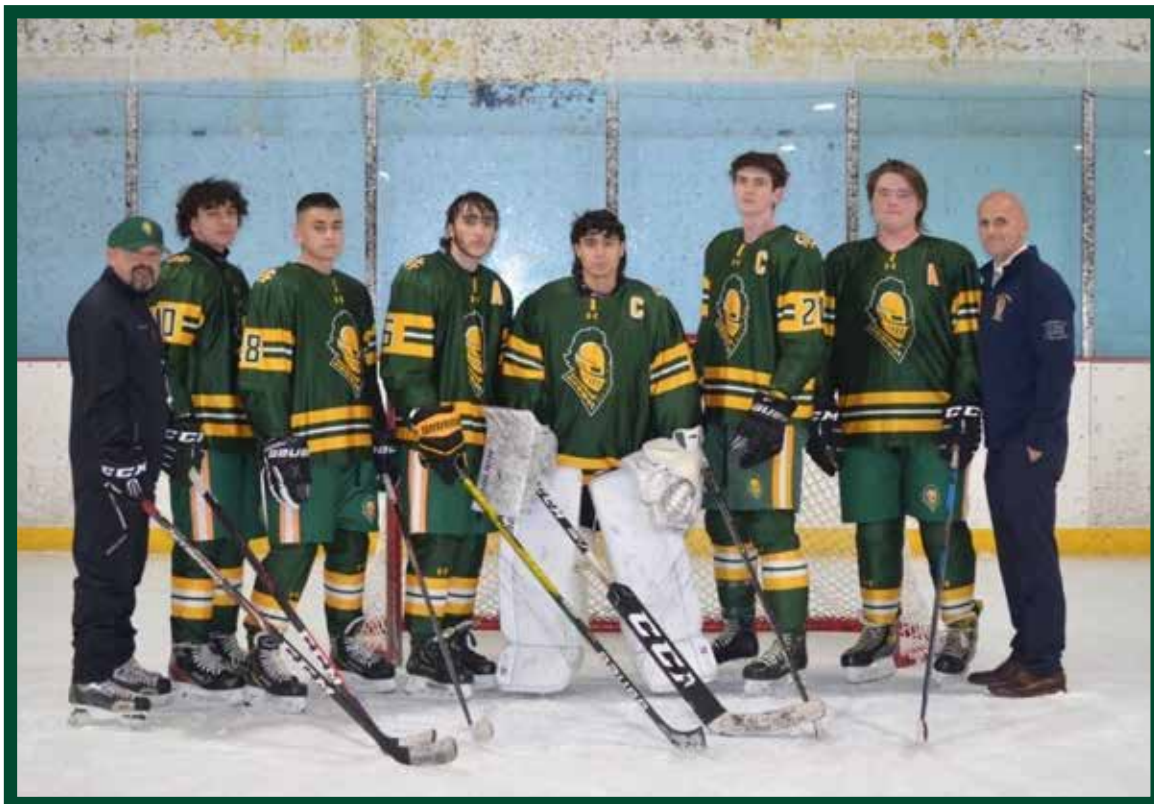


ICE HOCKEY

by: Jonathan Mai '22



With the Hockey season already halfway over, a few of the players were asked to talk a little bit about their passion for hockey, love for their team, and about what they thought about the season so far. Below are the responses from two members of the team. I believe that this season is the weakest out of the three years that I have played in my four years at Holy cross. Although our team has one of the smallest roster in the league we are still in fourth place and still have potential for a higher spot in the ratings. The team's future is bright however as we should be expecting new players and a new goalie to replace our current goalie who is probably the best in the league without a doubt. Throughout my three seasons of playing hockey for Holy Cross, it's made me realize how much I really am going to miss playing for a high school team and how fun it is to build a bond with these teammates, and hockey itself has made me feel more of a happy and excited person when it comes to me as a person.



The boys of our Holy Cross Hockey Team are having a solid season. So far our team is ranked 4th, and they are very excited to continue their season and to work together to be at the top. Seniors, we are all wishing you the best as you move on to your next endeavors at college and in your athletic careers. Special recognition to the Team Captains (Joseph Barbera and Nicholas Guadagn), Assistant Team Captains (Christian O'Hagan and Giuseppe Gelo), Head Coach (Kevin Goodspeed and Herbert Mai) for their hard work for their team throughout the seasons.







## CHEERLEADING

by: Samantha Sambucharan '22

The Holy Cross Cheerleading team is in the midst of basketball season. Currently, they have been getting more into stunting and creating new routines to perform for halftime. For the first time in Holy Cross history, the school finally has a JV and Varsity Cheerleading Team. We, at Holy Cross, are wishing the JV team good luck in creating history and in the hope that they will continue the team for many future Lady Knights to come.



enthusiasm for the season by stating, "This has been an extremely exciting year for the Holy Cross Cheerleading Team because this is the first year that we have a Junior Varsity and Varsity team.



Both teams have really been enjoying cheering on the boys basketball teams and we look forward to doing so for the rest of the winter season as well. We are also looking forward to

potentially performing at any big school events that may take place in the spring!" With the helping hands of Ms. Diez and Coach Paprocki, the team has a promising future ahead of them.

### Cheerleading Squad:

#### Varsity Squad:

Ashley Altoro  
Sofia Bhuyan  
Juliana Cerasuolo  
Brianna Chang  
Nicole Depasquale  
Jenny Drakoulis  
Julia Farley  
Kaitlyn Farran  
Cassandra Shaye Gonzales  
Leah Gonzalez  
Calliope Grazioso  
Kimberly Johnston  
Madison Jones  
Alexandra Lynch  
Alexandria Marchesini  
Irene Mavromichalis  
Elenie Rama  
Samantha Sambucharan  
Gabriella Tesi  
Julianne Tricarico  
Daphne Wijaya

#### JV Squad:

Vanessa Caniano  
Camryn Chan  
Ariel Corales  
Emma De La Hoz  
Athena Drakonakis  
Nicoletta Laskaris  
Brianna Lopresti  
Eleana Maragopoulos  
Alexa Ricupero  
Olivia Sowunmi



## BOWLING

by: Alexandra Lynch '23



While bowling might not be the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about sports, the Holy Cross bowling team has most definitely had a notably interesting season so far. While COVID precautions have prohibited spectators from being allowed, Mr. Arens, the bowling coach this year, noted that "It was a fun season in which there was substantial improvement by all players". Persisting through the COVID restrictions with mask and vaccine mandates, Varsity Bowling was still able to advance into the second round of playoffs which will occur on January 25th against Archbishop Molloy High School. Mr. Arens noted that Mike Palmisano, a sophomore varsity player, won the league Triple Crown Award with a high game of 279, a high series of 694, and a high average of 208. Some other notable varsity players are Jason Anozier with a high game of 222, Hoyong An with a high game of 170, and Nico Medina with a high game of 147. Hopefully these exceptional skills will come in handy for their playoff game on the 25th! Mr. Arens noted some achievements of the JV bowlers as well: Luke Hammond, a sophomore with a high game of 132, and Addison Vilanueva, a freshman with a high game of 146. The Bowling Team has made some incredible achievements this year, and the Holy Cross community looks forward to seeing where they're headed next. Good luck!

## GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL

by: Sara Keenan '22



In September of 2018 Holy Cross High School welcomed its first class which included Lady Knights. The school adopted a saying used regularly: "History in the making". The Holy Cross Women's Varsity Volleyball team embraced that saying and made history.

In August 2018 our team was among the first women's teams in the school's long and illustrious history. That first year was incredibly difficult. We started from nothing and played against experienced teams. It took a lot of courage for our girls to go out on the court every day and compete. We weren't very successful, but we learned.

Fast forward to September 2020 when volleyball was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This would be the girls first year on varsity, with new coach Terry Lynch, and it got ripped from them. What a letdown for our team; more adversity to overcome, but we didn't let it get us down.

We were all excited in August 2021 to learn we would finally begin a new season. We had tryouts and practices and prepared for our first, and for some of our only, varsity season. Sadly, on September 4th, hurricane Ida flooded our gym, and we were left with no place to practice and no place to hold home games. While this was a tremendous setback, we didn't let it get us down. We were determined to be successful. The girls held their heads high and made it work. Every day after school we rushed to get changed, jumped on the bus, and traveled an hour to Island Garden to hold practice. We played all our





games on the road, traveling an hour or more each way. We finished the season in first place after winning a playoff game against Christ the King.

November 2nd would be our championship game vs. McClancy. We squeezed in one practice, jumped onto the bus, and were prepared to play our best. We seniors knew we were about to play what could be our last game as Lady Knights.

The Holy Cross Women's Varsity Volleyball team came to school the next morning as champions. With a new

coach, no gym, and starting as a new varsity team, the girls practiced hard, played hard, and fought their way to the top of their tier. It was truly a night to remember. Winning the championship game after overcoming many obstacles throughout the year was truly an honor for the whole team.

The way we played that night will forever go down in history. The team chemistry we had that night and still continue to have even after our season is truly incredible. Captains Maria Del Greco and Sara Keenan couldn't have been prouder of the girls and how far

they have all come together. Although it has sometimes been a difficult experience, we all made history. We wish the program luck as they continue succeeding for many years to come.



### Quotes:

"Not only playing with these girls but also being their captain the past four years has truly been an honor. I will forever cherish the bond I have made with this team and will miss them so much. Although my part in this journey has sadly come to an end, I will definitely be back next season to watch the girls play and cheer them on as they continue to make history!" - Captain Sara Keenan

"Freshman year we always said we wanted to win a championship and here we are as seniors making that happen. I'm beyond words proud of us for making it a reality" - Captain Maria Del Greco

"We did it - we actually did it" - Destinee Louis-Jacques

"Playing on this team the past four years has been an honor. Although it has been a long and bumpy journey, we made history. I will never forget my position as a lady knight and wish everyone who comes after us luck throughout their future seasons." - Tiffany Chen

## WINTER TRACK

by: Bertha Wesley '23

As our winter sports are underway, we would like to highlight our Holy Cross winter track team. Due to the ongoing pandemic, track this season has looked significantly different in comparison to prior seasons. But our Holy Cross student-athletes have stepped up to the challenge with ease. Our knights train 4 times a week and meet for competition day either at The Armory in Manhattan or Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. The last meet that our knights participated in was on January 16th. We would like to congratulate them on their phenomenal performance finishing in 5th place! We must take into account that the pandemic has hindered the way our track team would usually practice. Fifth place ain't too bad for a team facing numerous restrictions.



Take a look at one of our own track participants' perspective on the season this far.

"I usually run the 300m dash, the 55m dash and usually the 4x200m relay. These are my favorite events because I get to work with my teammates! January 16th was the last track meet. There were two girls relay teams, A and B. I was on A with Destinee, Ana, Cindy, and I. Cindy was first leg, Destinee second leg, I was third, and Ana was last leg. Overall, we came in 5th place. We didn't get a medal, but we were only 2 seconds away, which is really good for the competition of other schools."

**Lauren Emmet-Turner, Class of 2023**





## Basketball Captains

by: Briana Tola '23

### Freshman Captain Jonah Santiago

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since I was 4 years old.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? It's fun, and I have a great time doing it.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? If you want to be good you gotta work hard, even when no one wants to see you succeed.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? My favorite basketball player is Carmelo Anthony

### Freshman Captain John Sweeney

Q: What position do you play on the team? I play as a Center.

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since I was in 4th grade.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? I just play for the fun of it and to learn more about it.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? Practice and work hard to achieve what you want.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? Larry Johnson

### JV Captain James Mattone

Q: What position do you play on the team? Point guard

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since I was 8 years old.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? My sister and dad both played when they were younger. That is what convinced me to play basketball.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? Basketball is a fast sport that takes a lot of practice to get better, so don't be frustrated in the beginning.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? Lamelo Ball, Ja Morant, and Jalen Green

### Varsity A Trevonne Tcha #4



Q: What position do you play on the team? Shooting guard / small forward

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since I was in 6th grade.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? Watching NBA games with my father inspired me to try it out, then I started

ed loving it. Also I saw basketball at that time as an opportunity to get rich and to take care of my family in the future.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? Never give up even when the time gets difficult.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? Kevin Durant

### Varsity B Jaylen Clarke #3



Q: What position do you play on the team? I play point guard.

Q: How long have you played basketball? I have been playing basketball since I didn't give up.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? My favorite basketball player is Magic seven years old.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? My sister always played basketball with me outside when I was young and I enjoyed it so I kept playing.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? Work hard and Johnson.

### JV Madison Pizzurro #42



Q: What position do you play on the team? I play a small forward/point guard.

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since I was in second or third grade.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? I was going through sports that never felt right for me, dance was too boring and softball was too slow. My dad introduced me to the game and I fell in love with it. The speed of the game and the different shoes I could get always interested me when I was little.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? It doesn't matter how much skill you have or how long you've been playing, if the sport makes you happy, don't stop. Whether you lose every game or win the championship, if you enjoy it, you've already won.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player?

My favorite NBA player is Kyrie, my favorite WNBA player is Skylar Diggins-Smith.

### Varsity Girls Adrianna Caporale #5



Q: What position do you play on the team? Center and Power Forward.

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since the fifth grade.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? What made me want to play basketball was I always watched it growing up and I always told myself I was going to play one day. So I started playing and fell in love with the sport.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? Some advice I have for anyone who wants to play basketball is never get discouraged because you will get where you need to be if you work hard enough.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? My favorite NBA player is Jayson Tatum and my favorite WNBA player was Breanna Stewart.

### Varsity Girls Kyara Champagne #22

Q: What position do you play on the team? Guard and small forward forward.

Q: How long have you played basketball? Since the third grade.

Q: What made you want to play basketball? Growing up I've always looked up to my older brother and despite the 5 year difference I've always wanted to do whatever he did. Whether it was little things like walking to the store or ridiculous things like wanting to play on an all boys hockey team all because he did. As I grew up I came to terms that although "being" like my brother is cool, being better at something is even better and sooner or later playing basketball just to play led me to fall in love with the sport.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play basketball? Rankings and stats don't mean as much as you think. Passion and hard work are the two most important things that will get you far with this sport. Everything comes to you overtime.

Q: Who is your favorite basketball player? My favorite WNBA players are Kahleah Copper and Aerial Powers.

