

---

# THE LEPRECHAUN GOLD

---

ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL \* VOLUME XLIII \* ISSUE 4 \* DECEMBER 2013

---

## STVM Football is Division III State Champion (again)



**Leprechaun Gold**

St. Vincent-St. Mary High School  
15 North Maple Street  
Akron, Ohio 44303

On the Web: [www.stvm.com](http://www.stvm.com)  
Advisor

**Mrs. Maureen Harrigal**

Assistant

**Mrs. Barbara Wood**

Editors

**Kristen Bratton**

**Kelly Lauck**

Staff Reporters

**Jane Dulaney**

**Shannon MacNeil**

**Erin McNulty**

**Julia Mendiola**

**Shea O'Brien**

**Mary Beth Thomas**

**Hope VanDevere**

**Derek Whiddon**

Photographs

**Mrs. Patty Burdon**

**Mrs. Beth Dolan**

Proofreader

**Mrs. Luanne Richardson**

**AN IRISH PRAYER**

*May the road rise ever*

*to meet you*

*May the wind be*

*ever at your back*

*May the sun shine*

*warm upon your face*

*May the rain fall*

*soft upon your fields*

*And until we meet again,*

*May God hold you in the*

*Palm of His hand.*

The *Leprechaun Gold* is published throughout the year for the students of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. There is no charge for the paper but donations are accepted and appreciated. Unsigned editorials represent the consensus of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are encouraged, provided they do not contain material disruptive to the educational process and that they are signed. The *Leprechaun Gold* reserves the right to edit submitted material for length.

**What is the spirit of Christmas?**

**Kelly Lauck**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Christmas is, in a word, magical. It is a time when communities come together to celebrate the birth of Christ, celebrating joyfully with their loved ones. Families and friends are brought together after many months or years apart, sharing food, laughs and memories. Gifts are thoughtfully planned, purchased, and exchanged. Streets, homes, buildings, and halls are decked in the most festive way, putting everyone who sees them in the holiday spirit.

Christmas is, in another word, stressful. It is a time when people are constantly running errands, trekking from store to store in the pursuit of the never-ending list of gifts that they must purchase. Families stress over how much to spend during a season when the list of things to buy seems endless. In the midst of all the holiday hubbub, it is easy to see how the materialistic aspect of Christmas has gotten out of hand.

The tradition of gift giving at Christmas time dates back to Biblical times when the Magi brought gifts to Jesus. The exchange of presents was meant to remind people of the generous spirit of the Three Kings, and of Jesus, God's gift to all mankind.

By the 18th century, however, corporations began to capitalize on the gifting tradition. Santa Claus began popping up in advertisements across the country. In 1820, stores began placing Christmas-themed ads in newspapers. By 1867, the Macy's department store in New York City stayed open until midnight on Christmas Eve so last-minute shoppers could make their final purchases.

**STVM students want...**

**Mary Beth Thomas**  
STAFF REPORTER

As Christmas season comes around the Christmas lists come out. These are some of the things that are high on the list:

**SENIORS:** 67 percent want money for Christmas, 7 percent college tuition and 6 percent clothes/shoes, and 20 percent of the class also want electronics like laptops and iPads.

**JUNIORS:** 59 percent would like money, 14 percent want clothes such as coats and yoga pants, 27 percent of the juniors also want things like iPhones, the Xbox One, PS3, and GTA 5.

In more recent years, Christmas has become a more secular, bonafide consumer-motivated holiday. Christmas shopping, particularly Black Friday shopping, has been pushed closer and closer to Thanksgiving. Stores such as Target, J.C. Penney, and Macy's opened their doors at midnight on Thanksgiving night in 2012. In 2013, those same stores opened at 8:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

In 2012, nearly \$59 billion was spent on Black Friday alone, according to *statisticbrain.com*. According to *electricsite.com*, 25 percent of people who use their credit cards for Christmas spending take almost a whole year to pay off their debts.

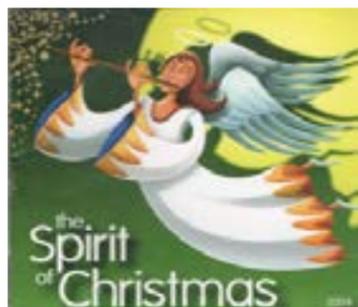
A popular initiative to counter the excessiveness of the season is the "Keep Christ in Christmas" movement. "Keep Christ in Christmas" was coined by late animator Tom McLaughlin, who was inspired to create designs where the "T" in Christmas resembled Jesus on the Cross. This year, a small group of Christian business people organized an online

"Keep Christ in Christmas" pledge and are hoping to break a world record by doing so.

The Christmas gift-giving bonanza calls into question the true meaning of the season. "The act of giving a gift out of love and respect in order to make someone happy does not inherently take away from the meaning of Christmas. However, the commercialism that has ensued diminishes the true spirit of the season," commented senior Ben Bashor.

Seniors Erica Wolf and Kenzie Nolte seem to have a similar viewpoint. "It takes away from the true meaning when it becomes more about the gift itself rather than the thought put into it," they added.

Although Christmas is "the most wonderful time of the year," it begs the question: is it the season of generous giving or the season of materialistic excess?



**SOPHOMORES:** 72 percent want the Xbox One, PS4, beats, laptops, and iPhones. 28 percent of the sophomores want clothes and socks.

**FRESHMAN:** 84 percent of the freshman would like electronics like the Xbox One, PS4, GTA, and iPhones/iPads. 16 percent of them want clothes.

On Black Friday the top items purchased were video game consoles, like the Xbox One and the PlayStation 4. Tablets and iPads, North Face coats, and shoes like Uggs and Air Jordans were the top purchases.

**Shamrock Alley**

**Kristen Bratton**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Twelve students travel to State Courthouse in Columbus**

On November 20, 12 STVM senior AP Government students with their teacher, Mrs. Joanne Kropf, traveled to Columbus to visit the State Courthouse and the State Senate Building. The trip, sponsored by the Akron Bar Association, also included students from Revere, Tallmadge, and Stow. Highlights of the trip included meeting Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, sitting through an Ohio Supreme Court case hearing, touring the Supreme Court and Senate buildings, and viewing the introductory procedures of a State Senate session. Participants in the trip included seniors Alex Angle, Ben Bashor, Kristen Bratton, Michael Callahan, Katie Engels, Joey Fickes, Jack Giles, Mary-Claire Mundy, Julianne Stamer, Jacqueline Wammes, Brad Walter, and Derek Whiddon.

**Foreign Language Clubs Decorate Trees for Christmas in the LRC**

On December 4, Spanish Club members decorated their Christmas tree at morning and afternoon meetings. The French and Russian Clubs also decorated on Wednesday. The Chinese Club decorated its tree on Thursday.

**Model UN succeeds at competition**

On December 4 and 5, the STVM Model United Nations team participated at a competition held at Lorain Community College. Seniors Katie Engels and Joanne Lutman received Superior Delegation awards for representing Finland; sophomore Kate Baughman and junior Chris Consilio earned Honorable Mention for representing the Russian Federation; and junior Matt Chu and senior Hannah Rochford also earned Honorable Mention for representing the Russian Federation. Senior Brandon Grajzl and junior Mariah Costa also represented the Russian Federation.

**January 2014 Exam Schedule**

- Tuesday, January 17, 2013**  
9:00-10:00: Period 1 Exam  
10:10-11:10: Period 2 Exam  
11:15-11:45: 11/12 Lunch/Homeroom  
11:50-12:20: 9/10 Lunch/Homeroom  
12:25-1:25 Period 3 Exam
- Wednesday, January 18, 2013**  
9:00-10:00: Period 3 Study hall  
10:10-11:10: Period 4 Exam  
11:15-11:45: 11/12 Lunch/Homeroom  
11:50-12:20: 9/10 Lunch/Homeroom  
12:25-1:25 Period 5 Exam
- Thursday, January 19, 2013**  
9:00-10:00: Period 7 Exam  
10:10-11:10: Period 6 Exam  
11:15-11:45: 11/12 Lunch/Homeroom  
11:50-12:20: 9/10 Lunch/Homeroom  
12:25-1:25 Period 8 Exam

**Seniors enjoy annual breakfast**

**Kristen Bratton**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Wednesday, December 4, seniors spent homeroom and first period in the Student Center to celebrate the holiday season with the annual Senior Breakfast. Festivities included decorating ornaments for the Student Center Christmas tree, participating in a Christmas carol contest in order to be called to get food, and eating cinnamon rolls and donuts. Be sure to check out the sparkly red, green, and gold ornaments that adorn the student center tree!

**Merry Christmas**



Kristen Bratton  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The minute students enter the halls of STVM as freshmen, the road to college has begun. The college decision process can be condensed into four principle steps: get ready, explore options, apply, and decide.

The first step that all students need to take seriously in order to prepare for college applications and also for overall success in high school is academics. The Ohio Articulation Requirements require that all students, upon applying for college, earn College Preparatory or higher credits in English (4 units), mathematics (4 units), science (3 units), history (3 units), and electives (5 units). According to Mrs. Marcia Korllos, a math teacher and chief coordinator of student schedules and grades, success in college and beyond is a result of the daily work that students apply to their studies in high school.

Senior Julia Mendiola expanded on this idea to stress the importance of daily dedication to schoolwork. "Freshman year I thought school didn't matter, and I never did my homework. Even though I've been working hard junior and senior year and getting good grades each quarter, I can't improve my overall GPA because I dug myself into a hole freshman year. It's really important to take school seriously because you will really benefit from it later."

On the subject of earning good grades in high school, Mrs. Korllos recommends that, "Students should take classes that challenge them, go to class every day, get involved, and always do their best work. If students do this, their GPAs will be the best that they can be, and they will be prepared for whatever future they choose." However, she also noted that it is important to remember that the #1 thing that college admissions officers are looking for is not the highest GPA; rather, it is the rigor of the classes that students take. "If you are capable of doing the work, it is better, in their eyes, to earn a B in an honors or AP class than an A+ in a college prep class."

The next step is to explore college and career options. The first part of this involves researching colleges and career paths that interest you. Ms. Emily Buehrle and Mrs. Emily Knapp help students get a head start on this process with the annual College Fair. From the College Fair, students should determine which colleges they are interested in. They will learn more through a campus visit (students who attend the College Fair earn two excused absences for college visits). On college visits, students should inquire about each college's admission process, potential scholarship possibilities, and application deadlines for programs they are interested in (competitive programs fill up and, therefore, close earlier). School websites for colleges and universities will also provide answers to these questions.

The second part of this step, which pertains mainly to juniors and seniors, involves taking the ACT and the SAT standardized tests. STVM provides students with an advantage by holding SAT and ACT practice testing days for Honors freshmen, all sophomores, and all juniors each year in the fall. From these results, students can gauge where they stand and in what areas they need to improve in order to score well on the actual test. For juniors, the in-school SAT test determines which students will be recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars, an accolade that can lead to numerous college scholarships and grants. For students taking the actual ACT and PSAT tests, it is important to remember to have scores sent to College Admissions Offices directly from the testing agency, as many colleges no longer accept test scores from a high school transcript. The process of selecting schools to receive scores is required as a part of the registration for these exams. ACT requires students to send their scores to five colleges. Scores can also be directly sent from the ACT or SAT testing sites if the student decides to consider colleges not previously selected to receive scores. In addition, students are required to take the writing portion of the ACT at least once, as it helps to determine English placement in the freshman year of college.

The third step in the college process is to narrow down college choices

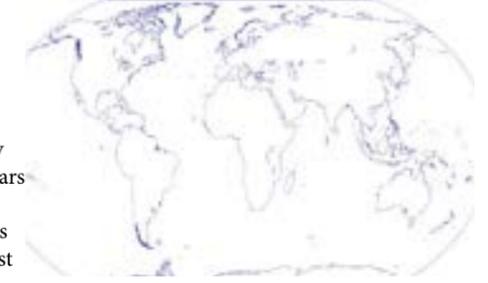
and to apply. Colleges either align themselves with the Common Application, better known as the Common App, or have their own application. For the Common App, students are required to answer extensive questions in a wide range of categories, including personal information, contact details, demographics, language, geography and citizenship, and extracurricular involvement/leadership (for this category, it is important to be involved in STVM activities and community service initiatives). Some schools allow the attachment of a resume *pdf* file.

Some colleges also request teacher recommendations, and it is important to build a relationship with teachers in such a way that they can positively reflect on academic performance and class attitude in a student review for a college. Make sure to be respectful towards teachers by asking them in advance for such a service (no less than 2 weeks). Finally, the Common App (as well as most colleges with independent applications) requires a written essay to be submitted with other application materials. Essays range in their inquiries, but most involve explanations from students regarding the qualities and accomplishments that have prepared them for maturity or for the next phase of their educational experience. The University of Cincinnati's 2013 Common App prompt reads: "Make a personal statement regarding how your academic achievements, personal interest, and life experiences have helped to prepare you to succeed academically and to be an active member of the U.S. community." When filling out and submitting the Common App and other applications, it is important to inform the college counselors of which colleges you are applying to, as they will then send the schools your transcripts and provide them with the school report materials that they will need to send. Remember, too, to keep track of early application and scholarship deadlines.

The final step in the college application process is to make a final decision. Once you are accepted into a college, there are typically five steps that need to be taken. The first is to confirm the admission, usually on an online confirmation form. The second is to pay a matriculation (registration) fee. The third is to apply for financial aid using the FAFSA (the Free Application for Federal and Student Aid). The FAFSA is a financial application that serves as the first step in applying for a share of the billions of dollars in student financial aid that are available every year, and it is used by aid providers in determining a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the amount that the student's family is expected to be able to contribute toward the student's college education. The FAFSA is available on January 1 of each year. It is important to file the report as soon as possible because some aid programs award money on a first-come, first-serve basis. An early application may receive priority consideration for the limited fund sources being applied for. The fourth step is to apply for student housing. At most colleges, first-year non-commuters are required to live on campus. Check the school websites for information and be sure to meet the priority housing deadlines. The fifth step in the process is for students who have earned Advanced Placement or Post-Secondary credits to send final transcripts so that academic advisors at their college of choice can place them in the proper courses.

The final piece in the college search process is to register for and attend orientation, an academic and social transition effort on the part of colleges that familiarizes soon-to-be college freshmen with their new home. Orientations usually occur in the summer, and students should use this time to meet with an academic advisor and to register for classes.

Regardless of what stage students are at in the college application game, it is crucial to take all aspects of the process seriously and to be responsible in handling relations with colleges and application requirements. Mr. Endress, one of STVM's two college counselors, advises that students (particularly juniors), "Start applications early next year. Get on college campuses, narrow your choices, and start taking the ACT now. If you find that you are struggling, take an ACT prep class." If you have any questions regarding college applications or career questions, see the college counselors.

Derek Whiddon  
STAFF REPORTER

## 1 World mourns Nelson Mandela

On Thursday, December 5, former South African President Nelson Mandela passed away at the age of 95 at his home in Johannesburg, South Africa. Mandela's death came after years of hospital visits and struggles with infections. South African President Jacob Zuma announced Mandela's death and declared a ten day nationwide mourning period for the civil rights icon. In his 95 years, Mandela not only became South Africa's first black President, but he also led a fight against racism that reverberated throughout the world.

Mandela was born into the Thembu royal family in 1918, and he studied at Fort Hare University and eventually at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, where he studied law. Mandela then became involved with the African National Congress (ANC) and was a founding member of its Youth League. The group was dedicated to the resistance of apartheid, which was the legalized system of segregation in South Africa beginning in 1948. Apartheid curtailed the rights of South Africa's majority black population while the white minority remained in charge of the country's government. Mandela first came to national prominence as a leader of the ANC's defiance campaign in 1952, aimed at fighting apartheid in South Africa. Mandela was even selected to preside over the Congress of the people in 1955.

While working as a lawyer for these various organizations, he and his colleagues were arrested for seditious activities on several occasions, culminating with the Treason Trial from 1956 to 1961. Through all of these trials, Mandela was never prosecuted for the alleged crimes. However, after leading a sabotage campaign against the apartheid government in 1961, Mandela was convicted of plotting to overthrow the state. He was sentenced to life in prison on Robben Island in South Africa.

During a period of escalating civil strife and a push for his freedom, Mandela was released from prison in 1990 after serving 27 years. Mandela then entered negotiations with then South African President F.W. de Klerk to create multiracial elections during the 1994 election cycle in the country. In 1994, Mandela was able to win the presidential election as a member of the ANC. He was the first black man to ever be elected president in South Africa, signaling the end of apartheid that had gripped the country for decades. He was also the first president to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. In addition to abolishing apartheid in the country, Mandela's government instituted numerous reforms, including campaigns to combat poverty and HIV/AIDS in the country.

Mandela served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. In 2002, President George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor the U.S. can award. He continued to be an active world political voice in his retirement, advocating for social justice worldwide. He was instrumental in helping to bring the 2010 FIFA World Cup to South Africa. Part of his presidency is depicted by actor Morgan Freeman in the 2009 movie "Invictus." Even in his death, Nelson Mandela remains a larger than life figure for perseverance, civil rights, and social justice throughout the world.

## 2 Deal reached on Iran's nuclear activities

After long negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland, six major world powers have come to an agreement with Iran over the country's nuclear program. Iran has agreed to scale back its nuclear program for the first time in over a decade. The deal freezes or reverses productivity at all of Iran's major nuclear facilities. It also prevents them from installing new centrifuges that are used to enrich uranium. It also caps the amount and specifies the type of uranium Iran is allowed to possess. Iran has accepted a great increase in oversight in the deal, including daily inspections of its nuclear facilities. Officials say the deal would make it virtually impossible for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon without it being detected. In exchange for its concessions, Iran will receive a reprieve from current trade sanctions and have some access to its funds overseas. The Israeli government, as well as several members of Congress, expressed skepticism about the deal and Iran's compliance. However, President Obama praised the negotiations and said that the agreement "achieves a great deal."

## From sea to shining sea



### 1 Four killed as train derails in New York

As commuters were heading home from the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, a Metro-North train went speeding off of the tracks at 82 m.p.h. on Sunday, December 1, in a curve of the track with a 30 m.p.h. speed limit along the Hudson River near the Bronx. 4 people were killed and more than 60 were injured when the train derailed. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will be investigating the crash for weeks and possibly even months before an official cause and assessment of the crash will be issued. The train's driver, William Rockefeller, told reporters that he "lost focus" and was "in a daze" during the crash. Rockefeller has never been disciplined for a work-related incident as a train driver.

### 2 Pope Francis named *Time* magazine's Person of the Year

After nine months as the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis has been named Person of the Year by *Time* magazine. He has been widely acclaimed for his humility and generosity as Pope. Francis is the first non-European pope in the modern era and the first from South America. The Vatican was happy to hear the news of *Time*'s selection, but also noted that the Pope was not seeking the award and wanted the focus to be on the mission of the Church. In their selection, *Time* magazine stated that the Pope is "poised to transform a place that measures change by the century." Pope Francis is known for his simplicity and has a reputation of being a voice for the poor.

### 3 Budget deal reached to prevent January shutdown

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Committee Chairperson Patty Murray announced that they had reached a deal on the federal budget. The pair said that the deal cuts the deficit without increasing taxes. The deal is being praised by people on both sides of the aisle as a step in the right direction. If the deal passes Congress, it would prevent shutdown scenarios in January and October of next year.

# Christmas Pop culture for 2014 includes clothing



### Black and white

A classic color combo that is very hard to mess up. Just throw on some jewelry that sparkles and you're ready to take on the night. Keep in mind that black is known as a slimming color.



### Layers:

Layers should be your secret weapon this time of year because they are the perfect solution for transitioning from freezing cold outside to a warm fire inside. A perfect combo could be a classic button down, knit sweater, light vest, and a trench coat. Stick with neutrals and a few pops of color for a more effortless look. Don't be afraid to play with prints though. If it looks bad, just peel a layer off and voila, new outfit!

Shannon MacNeil  
STAFF REPORTER



### Mini bags:

Keep your clunker at home and take a sleek mini bag out on the town. It can be the perfect accessory to any outfit, adding sparkle and color. These bags come in all shapes and styles and are made to be fun. They hold all the essentials and won't weigh you down while holiday shopping or mingling at a party.



### Anything but these:

Girls (and maybe boys?), these boots are comfortable no doubt, but so are onsies....keep them at home.



### Holographic:

A futuristic approach to metallic, holographic clothes and accessories adds interest and flair. Warning: this could become very tacky if not done correctly, so don't go overboard. Make one piece your statement and keep the rest of your outfit simple.



### Pops of color

Adding color is a great way to bring life to your winter wardrobe. Mixing it with neutrals is perfect because neutrals (gray, black, or brown) go with practically anything.

# Leprechaun Gold ADOPT-A-FAMILY HELPS THE NEEDY

Shea O'Brien  
STAFF REPORTER

During the Christmas season, each home-room has been given an agency or a needy family. The sole purpose of Adopt-a-Family is to serve others and to make a positive impact other people's lives.

"We are all so lucky to be blessed with the awesome Christmas we get every year, and we don't realize how blessed we are. Visiting these families really made me realize how lucky I am," said senior Lexi Mathern.

Adopt-a-Family has been assisting families and agencies since 1985 and has helped thousands of people. Gifts include toys, clothing, furniture, and food.

The Adopt-a-Family project started on December 3 and goes through December 17.

"This is a unique year for our Adopt-a-Family because of the lateness of Thanksgiving, but it is also a very important part of tradition here at STVM. It is one of the clearest ways that our community shows the face of Christ," said

Campus Minister, Mr. Ken McDonald.

Some of the organizations that STVM will be working with are St. Hilary Parish, St. Mary Elementary School, Blessed Trinity Parish, Pregnancy Care and Greenleaf Family Center/Life Link Program.

"I feel honored to be a leader of Adopt-a-Family. I always take things for granted, and meeting the families has opened my eyes to how blessed I am. Adopt-a-Family is a project that gives to the less fortunate," said senior Julie Schlosser.



# Name that Christmas movie quote

Janie Dulaney  
STAFF REPORTER

- "Look, Daddy. Teacher says every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings!"
- "What has Beethoven got to do with Christmas? Everyone talks about how 'great' Beethoven was. Beethoven wasn't so great."  
-"What do you mean Beethoven wasn't so great?"  
-He never got his picture on bubble gum cards, did he? Have you ever seen his picture on a bubble gum card? Hmmm? How can you say someone is great who's never had his picture on bubble gum cards?  
-"Good grief"

- "It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags."
- "We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup."
- "In putting on the suit and entering the sleigh, the wearer waives any and all right to any previous identity, real or implied, and fully accepts the duties and responsibilities of Santa Claus, in perpetuity to which some time the wearer becomes unable to do so, by either accident or design."
- "If they'd rather die then they better do it, and decrease the surplus population!"



- "Happy Birthday! Hey, I said my first words!"
- "The thing about trains...it doesn't matter where they're going. What matters is deciding to get on."
- "Aunt Clara had for years labored under the delusion that I was not only perpetually 4 years old, but also a girl."
- "Let's see, we've got a munkle for your uncle, a fant for your aunt and a fandpa for your cousin Leon."

(answers on p. 12)

December 2013

# New Year's Resolutions vary for 2014

Erin McNulty  
STAFF REPORTER

Since 2014 is just around the corner, many Americans will be making New Year's resolutions. According to *forbes.com*, about 40 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions, and only about eight percent of these people actually keep their resolutions. Many STVM students and teachers plan to participate in this New Year's tradition. Hopefully they will be among the successful eight percent!  
"Forgiveness." -freshman **Amya McGee**  
"Get fatter." -freshman **Lany Wallace and Marj Sovacool**  
"Stop being so sarcastic all the time." -sophomore **Jackie Cunningham**

"Get through 'The Notebook' without crying." -junior **Ben Goulet**.

"Watch This Week with George Stephanopoulos at least three times a month at 9 AM on Sundays and learn to make eggs benedict so I can have breakfast while I watch." -senior **Jack Hurley**

"Not be so serious all the time." -junior **Tommy Seikel**

"Turn up even more for AP Bio." -senior **Erica Wolf**

"Don't pick on Tori so much." -senior **Mario Volpe**

"Travel out of the country by the end of senior year." -senior **Kenzie Nolte**

"To focus more on school with coming seniori-

tis and graduation." -senior **Lexi Mathern**

"Go on an ice cream date with Michael Callahan." -senior **Joanne Lutman**

"Lose weight and get a new car." -Mrs. **Ortiz**  
"Leave the STVM building by 10 p.m. and make sure that the coffee machine is off and the dishwasher is started." -Ms. **Godshalk and Mr. Neary**



# Athletic Update

## FOOTBALL

Derek Whiddon  
STAFF REPORTER

### STATE SEMI-FINAL

#### MARION FRANKLIN: W 17-9

Bushner 2 for 7 passing with 98 yards and a touchdown.  
P. Campbell had 193 yards on 23 carries with a touchdown.  
Lockett had 54 yards rushing on 8 carries.  
Speaight had a 54 yard touchdown reception.  
Cunningham made a 21 yard field goal.  
The defense held Marion Franklin to just 82 yards rushing.  
The Wolfpack combined for 5 sacks and 14 tackles.  
Speaight recovered a fumble.

### Whiddon featured on nightly news before state championship game

Kristen Bratton  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Thursday, December 5, Senior Derek Whiddon was featured on the 5:00 nightly news on ABC. Film crews came to STVM during the day to film shots of Whiddon walking through the halls, participating in class discussion, researching on LRC computers, and discussing future plans.

Whiddon, a starting right tackle whose job is "to help move the offense down the field to score as many touchdowns as possible," went on with the rest of the 2013 Fighting Irish football team to win their second consecutive state championship against Trotwood Madison (24-0) and to finish their season with a perfect 15-0 record. This championship win was the first back-to-back state title for STVM since 1981 and 1982. "Football has been a part of my life ever since I was little. To win my final game in the state championship with this group of guys was amazing."

Along with bolstering the football team's accomplishments and Derek's role as a lineman, News Channel 5's Bob Jones (who covered the story) also reported on Whiddon's other side, that of his academics. As a successful Honors/AP student throughout his four years with numerous extracurricular activities to add to his resume, Whiddon is a very accomplished 17-year-old. He is President of National Honor Society, a Mu Alpha Theta board member, participated in the University of Akron STEM Research Experience during his sophomore and junior years, and is a member of peer ministry, the 2013 Kairos Team, Irish Athletes for Christ, and the Journalism staff. Along with seniors Aaron Adkins, Tony Adkins, Newman Williams, Parris Campbell, and Dante Booker, Whiddon is also a captain of this year's team.

Whiddon hopes to pursue a degree in pre-law or political science, and hopes to attend The Ohio State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Xavier University, or The University of Pennsylvania. His interest in government results from the knowledge that he has acquired from his dad, an Akron Police detective, and from his participation as one of two delegates representing Ohio at the Boys Nation program in D.C. last summer.



## STATE FINAL

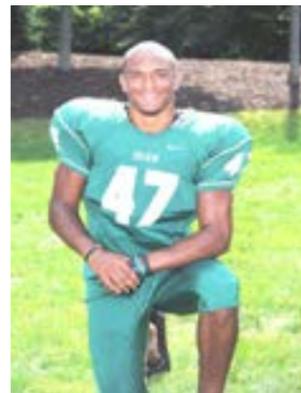
#### TROTWOOD MADISON: W 24-0

Bushner completed 3 passes for 56 yards.  
P. Campbell had 58 yards on 18 carries.  
N. Williams had 42 yards on 5 carries and 2 touchdowns.  
Lockett had 29 yards on 10 carries with a touchdown.  
The defense held Trotwood to just 12 yards rushing and forced 4 turnovers.  
Bischof, Junius, and Lockett each had an interception.

### Dante Booker named Ohio's Mr. Football

Derek Whiddon  
STAFF REPORTER

The Associated Press has named Irish Senior Dante Booker Ohio's Mr. Football for 2013. Booker is the 27th winner of the award, presented annually to the player deemed the best in the state. He was a captain on this year's undefeated, state champion football team. He led the Irish defense as they shut out Trotwood Madison in a 24-0 win in the state championship game. Dante is the first STVM player ever to win the award, and the second to be coached by Coach Dan Boarman.



### Around the pro leagues

Janie Dulaney  
STAFF REPORTER

#### MLB

The Detroit Tigers have traded their first baseman Prince Fielder to the Texas Rangers for second baseman Ian Kinsler on November 20. Fielder is still due \$168 million and will now be paid \$138 million by the Rangers. Fielder had a batting average of .279, 25 homeruns, and 106 runs batted in this season. Detroit lost in the League Championship Series to the Boston Red Sox.

#### NBA

Derrick Rose will be out for the rest of the 2013-2014 season after undergoing surgery on his torn medial meniscus in his right knee. Rose missed all of the 2012-2013 NBA season after tearing his ACL.

#### NHL

Vancouver Canucks forward Alexander Burrows will be out for an unknown time after breaking his jaw during a game against the Carolina Hurricanes. He previously missed the first three weeks of the season after getting hit with a puck.

#### NFL

Five former Kansas City Chiefs players are set to sue the team for allegedly hiding the risks of head injuries. These former players are Leonard Griffin, Chris Martin, Joe Phillips, Alexander Louis Cooper, and Kevin Porter. They're accusing the Chiefs of negligence, fraudulent concealment, loss of consortium between the plaintiffs and their wives, and negligent misrepresentation, among other things.

# Athletic Update

## 2013 STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



Congratulations

# Athletic Update

## Boys' Basketball

**Janie Dulaney**  
STAFF REPORTER

**CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC L 52-53**

**ST. EDWARD L 59-72**

Hudson had 24 points; Blount had 5 points; Junius had 2 points; Baddley had 2 points; Robinson had 3 points and Woolridge had 7 points.

**HOBAN W 80-53**

Hudson had 18 points, 4 rebounds; Blount had 18 points, 10 rebounds, 3 blocks; junior Josh Williams had 16 points and 4 assists; sophomore VJ King had 11 points and 6 rebounds.

## Wrestling

**Hope Van Devere**  
STAFF REPORTER  
**IRONMAN TOURNAMENT**  
**SKONIECZNY 3-2**

**STVM WRESTLING MATCH AT CINCINNATI MOELLER: 138-Senior Ryan Skonieczny 4-0; 126- freshman Joe Koontz 4-0; 120- senior Sal Ferrise 3-1; 132-junior Garrett Carter 3-1; 145.152- senior Walter Gibson 2-2; 145/152-sophomore Ben Knaus 3-1; freshman Michael McIntire 3-0.**

## Bowling

**Shea O'Brien**  
STAFF REPORTER

**BOYS' BOWLING**

**FIRESTONE W 2,268-2,229**

High Series-Zach Swejk High game-224 and series of 401

Second Highest Game- Ryan Swejk-266.

**WALSH JESUIT L 2,264 - 2,429**

High Game- Justin Hofacker 257.

High Series- Hofacker 414.

**GIRLS' BOWLING**

**WALSH JESUIT L 1,414 - 1,882.**

High Game- A. Webber-Harris 167.

High Series- Webber-Harris 274.

## STVM dedicates new LeBron James Arena

The LeBron James Arena officially opened on December 13, 2013. Despite the snowy day, the turnout was high for the event. A year ago, LeBron pledged \$1million for the full renovation of the gym. Among the changes were new hardwood floors, new bleachers with aisles, branded scoreboards, lighting and new sports' equipment. The teams received new locker rooms.

LeBron did all of this to pay back those who helped him when he was a student here. "The people at STVM helped me grow as a person and as a basketball player, so this is my way of thanking them and helping future generations of Irish athletes also be proud of where they came from," said LeBron.

"Since he left, he always promised he was going to get a new gym," said Michele Campbell, the driving force behind the Arena. She is the Executive Director of the LeBron James Family Foundation,

## Girls' Basketball

**Erin McNulty**  
STAFF REPORTER

**ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY W 63-60**

Jack scored 1 three pointer, 3 baskets, and 4 free throws for a total of 13 points; Motz scored 1 three pointer, 3 baskets, and 2 free throws for a total of 11 points; Korinek scored 4 baskets and 7 free throws for a total of 15 points; Jakubick scored 2 baskets and 3 free throws for a total of 7 points; May scored 1 three pointer, 2 baskets, and 8 free throws for a total of 15 points; Handley scored 1 basket for a total of 2 points.

**URSULINE W 67-27**

Loll scored 2 baskets for a total of 4 points; Jack scored 2 three pointers, 5 baskets and 1 free throw for a total of 17 points; Santucci scored one three pointer; Nolte scored one basket for a total of 2 points; Motz scored 3 baskets for a total of 6 points; Korinek scored 3 baskets and one free throw for a total of 7 points; Uecker scored 3 baskets and 4 free throws for a total of 10 points; Jakubick scored 2 baskets and 1 free throw for a total of 5 points; Taylor scored 2 baskets and 1 free throw for a total of 5 points; May scored 1 basket for a total of 2 points.

**CHIPPEWA 55-38**

Jack scored 4 three pointers and 2 baskets for a total of 16 points; Motz scored 2 baskets for a total of 4 points; Jakubick scored 2 baskets for a total of 4 points; Korinek scored 10 baskets for a total of 20 points; Uecker scored 1 basket for a total of 2 points; May scored 1 three pointer, 1 basket, and 1 free throw for a total of 6 points; Handley scored 1 basket. for a total of 2 points, Taylor made 1 free throw for a total of 1 point.

**SHAKER HEIGHTS W 82-37**

Loll scored 1 basket and 2 free throws for a total of 4 points; Jack scored 2 three pointers for a total of 6 points; Santucci scored 1 three pointer and 2 free throws for a total of 5 points; Nolte scored 1 free throw; Motz scored 3 baskets for a total of 6 points; Korinek scored 6 baskets for a total of 12 points; Uecker scored 4 baskets and 3 free throws for a total of 11 points; Jakubick scored 1 basket and 3 free throws for a total of 5 points; Taylor scored 3 baskets for a total of 6 points; May scored 2 three pointers, 3 baskets and 3 free throws for a total of 15 points; Handley scored 2 baskets and 7 free throws for a total of 11 points.

**SOLON W 54-49**

Jack scored 5 baskets, 1 three pointer and 1 free throw for a total of 14 points; Motz scored 2 free throws for a total of 2 points; Korinek scored 6 baskets and 1 free throw for a total of 13 points; Jakubick scored 2 baskets and 5 free throws for a total of 9 points; Taylor scored 2 baskets for a total of 4 points; May scored 2 baskets, 1 three-pointer, and 5 free throws for a total of 12 points.



# Christmas traditions abound at STVM

**Hope Van Devere**  
STAFF REPORTER

"My mom and I always go give food to the needy." - **Junior Jason Large**

"I play Scrabble with my sister in front of the fire on Christmas Eve." - **Junior Ethan Comeriato**

"My mom puts a pickle in the Christmas tree and the first one out of my siblings to find it wins." - **Junior Jacob Gura**

"My family likes to mix holiday traditions together. So on Christmas we have an Easter egg hunt and hide them in the snow." -

**Junior Ryan Donahue**

"My family and I have a family dinner with gift exchanges." **Senior Walter Gibson**

"I always have an arm wrestling match with my grandma." **Junior Dominic Diffo**

"One of the things I like to do around Christmas is when I'm at the grocery store, I pay attention to the people in line, and when I see someone with a big load, I offer to pay for all or half of their purchases. I try to do that at least once at Christmas." - **Mr. Ken McDonald**

"Our family finds a local Christmas tree farm, and we go out and find a tree perfect for us. My husband cuts it down and then the girls and I decorate it with ornaments that belonged to their grandparents."

- **Mrs. Joanna Price**

"On Christmas Eve my wife and I make homemade lasagna and eat it while we watch the movie *Christmas Vacation*, and then we go to bed."

- **Mr. Brian Lawson**

"On Christmas Eve every year we go to the kids 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Sebastian and then come home and have a huge Mexican dinner that we spent all day making even though no one in my family has Spanish roots. It has been a tradition since I was 4 years old."

- **Junior Mary Beth Thomas**

"When my kids were young, my wife would stay up and arrange presents around the tree, and I would get up early to "stage" that Santa was there drinking the milk and eating part of the cookies."

**Mr. Kevin Kelly**



"The day after Thanksgiving my sister and I wake up, make coffee and blare Christmas music while we decorate the house."

- **Ms. Emily Buehrle**

"My family and I decorate the Christmas tree together. On Christmas Eve we all open one present and go out to dinner to a nice restaurant"

**Sophomore Robbie Mathern**

"Christmas caroling with my family and friends." - **Junior Chad Kanakkanatt**

"My girlfriend and I decorate the Christmas tree with beautiful ornaments." **Junior Nathan Kirk**

"Every Christmas, all of my cousins, aunts, and uncles choose one of our houses to spend the night at. In the morning, we all wake up and open our presents together." - **Senior Stephen Beasley**

"Every Christmas my whole family goes to my grandparents' house. We eat a lot of food, mostly ham. My Grandma fixes her famous cookies for dessert and after we are finished eating, we open our gifts that our grandparents gave everyone. Then we usually stay up late telling stories and wait for Santa to come. Christmas is a very happy time."

- **Junior Christopher Pamer**

"Every Christmas Eve we all go to my grandparents' house for dinner and gift giving. Then when we go home, my sister and I are both allowed to open one present early. That night, my

parents sit out all of the other presents with "From Santa" on it. In the morning, we open our presents, eat cinnamon rolls, and hang out in our pj's the rest of the day."

- **Senior Madison Frericks**

"Christmas Eve I go to Mass with my mom's side of the family. Then we go to my aunt's house to eat lots of homemade cookies, and I have a gingerbread house competition." **Junior Emma Rickus**

"Open one present at midnight." - **Freshman Amya McGee**

"My family all come over and make cookies." - **Freshman Jessica Thompson**

"We go to our horse barn and give all the horses homemade treats and cinnamon sticks." - **Freshman Olivia Flesher**

"We make a countdown chain and on the last day, Christmas, we say a prayer and go around and say what we are thankful for."

- **Freshman Eryca Garrett**

## Holiday cheer is evident throughout Akron

**Kristen Bratton**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The holiday season is a time to delve into the spirit of Christmas, and the countless activities in Akron never disappoint. From festivals to holiday goodies, there is certainly something for everyone to enjoy at Christmastime:

1. **STAN HYWET HALL & GARDEN'S "DECK THE HALL" LIGHTS FESTIVAL:** Starting on Friday, November 29, over 750,000 lights will illuminate the Stan Hywet Estate for its annual holiday lights display. The festival is open from 5-8 pm on November 29-30

and December 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-23, and 26-30. This year, the festival will also feature DAZZLE, a 10-minute program that plays three times each hour in the Great Garden. This dramatic and sophisticated computerized Christmas light show is one of the largest in Ohio. The centerpiece of the display is a fully lit 25-foot Christmas tree. Other highlights of the festival include freshly baked gingerbread in The Gingerbread Bakeshop, Bavarian pretzels and popcorn at The Salty Reindeer, live music in the Manor House Music Room, family photo



opportunities at the antique sleigh or the large poinsettia tree, and more. To purchase tickets, visit [stanhywet.org](http://stanhywet.org).

2. **LOCK 3 HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES:** The holiday season at Lock 3 begins with the Holiday Lighting Ceremony and the dedication of the city's Christmas tree on November 29. From November 29 to December 31, Lock 3's holiday market will be open for shopping. Candles, candies, and Christmas decor are among the goodies that can be bought. Finally, the 10,000-square-foot ice rink will open for select hours in November, December, and January for \$3 per skate rental.

3. **Christmas at Hale Farm-** Celebrate the holidays 19th century- style with Lantern Tours of the historic site, all decked in traditional fashion for the holidays.

4. **EJ Thomas Holiday Events-** On December 20, the Akron Symphony "Holiday Pops" concert will deliver a fresh and festive mix of traditional carols and contemporary holiday favorites performed by the Akron Symphony Orchestra and Akron Symphony Chorus. On Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22, the University of Akron will present its annual "TubaChristmas" celebration. Be sure to check out [uaevents.com](http://uaevents.com) for more event and ticket information.

# HOMEMADE GIFT IDEAS FROM THE HEART

**Julia Mendiola**  
STAFF REPORTER

With Christmas fast approaching, it's time to find gifts for friends and family. If one is tight on cash or would like to give a more heartfelt gift, here are a few ideas for easy homemade gifts.

## 1. Cookie Cutter Candles

*What you need:*

- Cookie cutters (any shape)
- Honeycomb wax sheets in many colors (craft store)
- Wicks
- Scissors

*How to make it:*

Use the cookie cutters to make 10 identical shapes from the wax. Divide the shapes into two stacks of 5 sheets. Sandwich the wick between the two stacks, running it from the bottom to the top. Cut the wick to about half an inch. Shape the base so your candle will stand.

## 2. Handy Coasters

*What you need:*

- Cardstock
- Chalk or pencil
- Two coordinating or contrasting cotton fabrics (washed, dried, ironed)
- One package double-sided stiff, fusible interfacing (fabric store)
- iron

*How to make it:*

Trace your hand on a piece of cardstock, and cut it out to make a template. Trace the desired

number of coasters onto the fabric. Trim the fabric into a rectangle that contains all of your tracings. Trim the other fabric and interfacing to match its size. Following the interfacing package instructions, fuse it between the two fabrics. Cut along the traced line with scissors.

## 3. Peppermint Candy Cane Sugar Scrub

*What you need:*

- White granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup of almond or coconut oil
- Peppermint essential oil
- Glass jar
- Food coloring

*How to make it:*

Add the almond or coconut oil to 2 cups of sugar. Mix in slowly until soft, but not too oily. Add a few drops of peppermint oil and a few drops of red food coloring. Separate mixture equally into two separate containers. Add a few drops of red food coloring to one container. Layer the white sugar mixture and the red sugar mixture in the jar for a candy cane effect. Add a cute label and a ribbon for that extra little touch.



## 4. Colorful Stocking Stuffers

*What you need:*

- Wax crayons
- Mini muffin pan
- Oven

*How to make it:*

Remove all paper covering from crayons, and break them into small pieces. You can also use glitter or scented crayons for a fun twist. Place crayon pieces in muffin pan so that each circle is at least half full. You can group color families or get crazy and mix them up. Bake them in the oven at 300 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Let them cool overnight. Once the pan is completely cooled, flip the pan over and tap out disks. Put your colorful crayon disks in a cute bag with a bow for the perfect gift for your art-inclined friend.

## 5. Cup o' Herbs

*What you need:*

- Vintage teacup or mug with a floral print
- Herb plant

*How to make it:*

Plant the bulb or plant in the teacup. Some ideas for herbs are chives, oregano, or basil. Tie on care instructions with a pretty ribbon. This is a good addition to the kitchen of your loved one or friend who loves to cook with fresh ingredients.



Mrs. Barbara Wood

Mary Beth Thomas



Derek Whiddon

Shea O'Brien

Jane Dulaney

Kelly Lauck



Mrs. Maureen Harrigal

Shannon MacNeil

Erin McNulty

Kristen Bratton

Hope VanDevere

Julia Mendiola



- Christmas quote answer key**
1. It's a Wonderful Life
  2. A Charlie Brown Christmas
  3. The Grinch
  4. Elf
  5. The Santa Claus
  6. A Christmas Story
  7. Frosty the Snowman
  8. The Polar Express
  9. A Christmas Story
  10. The Grinch