

## SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

### Game Announce



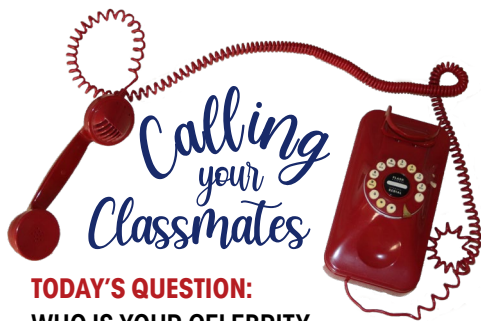
Piper Van Buskirk competes in the butterfly at districts. Photo by Elizabeth Tucker '24

Last Friday and Saturday, the boys and girls swim teams competed in their district meet held in Albany. The boys got second overall at the meet. Senior Micah Hugo qualified individually for state in two distance events, and junior Jonathan McDonough qualified for state in the 100m butterfly and backstroke. Junior Michael Coffey qualified in the backstroke, and the relay team of McDonough, Hugo, Coffey, and junior Luke Manning will be going to state in the medley relay and the 400 yard freestyle relay.

The girls swim team finished fourth overall. They were led by sophomore Hallie Walker and junior Piper Van Buskirk. Walker, who won the butterfly, is also going to state in the backstroke. Van Buskirk is going in the backstroke as well as in the Individual Medley. The girls medley relay team of sophomore Sara Hutton, junior Gwyneth Westover, Van Buskirk and Walker is also state bound.

#### Can't Miss Match-ups

Tomorrow, the boys and girls varsity basketball teams play Cottage Grove in their last home league game of the season. The boys tip-off at 6 p.m. and the girls follow at 7:30 p.m., but make sure to show up by 5:45 for the Seniors Night celebration for the boys and the 7:15 for the girls



**TODAY'S QUESTION:**  
WHO IS YOUR CELEBRITY VALENTINE?

#### Max Anderson



"I would have to go with Ryan Reynolds."

#### Michael McConaghie



"Definitely Mr. Kiesewetter."

#### Synnové Slayden



"Probably Michael B. Jordan."

#### Kalen Rinck



"Oh man, probably Ryan Gosling."



Junior Conor Thompson, reads the bible during the Mens Journey Retreat. Photo by Ryan Moser

## A BUSY RETREAT SEASON BEGINS

By Ava Konrady '24

The last two weekends have been busy for the Retreat Team and two more are happening this weekend and next. The first co-ed Sophomore Journey Retreat was held on Feb. 3-4 and the Winter Men's Encounter took place last weekend.

20 sophomores retreated at Marist for the first co-ed sophomore Journey Retreat, marking a historic event in the long history of Marist retreats.

A majority of the activities remained the same from the single-sex retreats, such as the small group discussions and ice-breaker games, but some things had to be changed to make the blending possible. "Without giving away all of the surprises, some things from the girls' retreat were taken out and some stuff from the boys' retreat were too, in order to make the retreat work for both

genders," Santin also said.

Of course, with any major change like this one, there is an adjustment period, and the co-ed retreat is still a work in progress. It presented the retreat team leaders with new challenges and opportunities. "To be a leader means to connect with the community of students and make retreats fun for them," retreat rector Abigail Schombert said.

Just a short week later, the Men's Encounter took place at Saint Benedict's Lodge in McKenzie Bridge. The encounter, while the most secretive retreat, is known for being one of the most impactful Marist experiences. Students have the opportunity to physically retreat from their daily lives and forge stronger bonds with their peers. "I showed up on Saturday morning not expecting much fun to be had, but the leaders did an amazing job balancing helping

me grow in my faith and closer to my classmates," retreat-goer Will Barsotti said.

While a majority of the encounter members were juniors, many senior students elect to attend as well if they missed it the year prior. "I knew all the guys I was going with, so that made it a good experience," senior Brady Bidwell said. "My biggest takeaway was recognizing that sometimes helping others is the best way to help yourself. This encounter really helped me grow closer with Christ and my classmates."

The busy retreat season isn't over yet, as the seniors are set to leave for the Metanoia this Friday at 8 pm. After the first was canceled due to the ice storm, both groups of students are embarking on this one, making it the largest metanoia Marist has ever had.

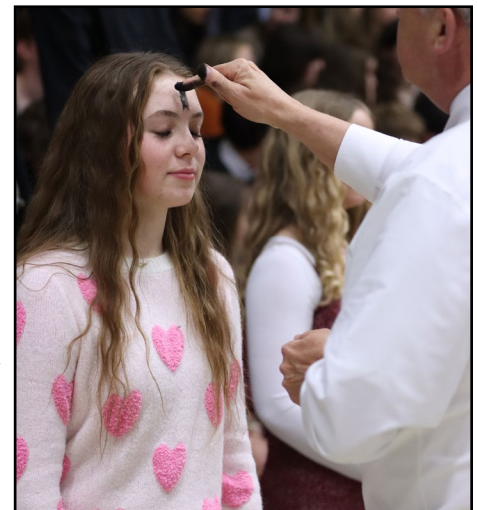
## ASH WEDNESDAY AND VALENTINE'S DAY

By Kaylynn Guevara '24

On Wednesday, students and staff celebrated not only Valentine's Day but also an Ash Wednesday Mass which was said by Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, O.P. who shared a short but poetic sermon, in which he reminds us that during this time of Lent, we have to recognize that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return.

Fr. Jordan also encouraged us to see Lent as a time to reflect on ourselves and our actions and recognize what keeps us from God – what fractures our relationship with Him.

As students left the Mass with a cross of ash on their foreheads, they were asked to remember what the season of Lent means; symbolized by the color purple, it's a time of penance and sacrifice.



Sophomore Finely Schweigert gets the palm ashes from history teacher Jon Nuxoll. Photo by Toni Cooper

## FUN AND GAMES AT WINTER PEP



Freshmen Malcolm Philip, Connor Harvey and Eamon Odonnell play dodgeball at the pep assembly against the seniors. Photo by Sofia Capley '26

By August Santin '25

On February 7, the Marist student body gathered in the gym for an end-of-day assembly to recognize upcoming winter activities and sports and to celebrate the new volleyball state champion banner.

Cheered on by their fellow classmates and Sparty, it was also a chance for the classes to compete in games like dodgeball, bump, and a fun twist on connect four, which were organized by Student Council and refereed by Jack Kiesewetter '15.

## SEEING SHADOWS Spartan for a Day

By Hailey Trank '24

This Monday, Marist welcomed this year's first group of Spartans for a Day, a program that allows prospective students to experience what our campus has to offer through the eyes of current students. Marist Ambassadors give these tours to interested students on A-days during 2nd, 3rd and 4th periods. Director of Admissions Alice Meyers organizes this for the opportunity to admitted students during the spring semester preceding their enrollment.