



The Blue Jay



Mardi Gras 2017

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Jesuit Marches for Life



Joining marchers from across the United States, stretching for thousands, members of the Jesuit Pro-Life Club participated in the 44th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 27. The march is held on or near the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion.

Blue Jay force unites with thousands

By Peyton Toups
Staff Writer

Members of the Jesuit Pro-Life Club marched in the streets of Washington, D.C., along with an estimated 800,000 last month during the 44th annual March for Life.

The march has been held each year since the 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court, which legalized abortion throughout the nation. Since that decision, approximately 60 million unborn children have been killed.

Among the faculty accompanying the Jesuit students were

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Jesuit's Pro-Life Club, 31 members, along with eight faculty moderators and chaperones, arrived in the nation's capital for the annual March for Life. In addition, they joined together for other events across the city, including a Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

Staff photos by
Peyton Toups

All because it's Carnival Time! Jays on Parade



The Blue Jay Band makes its annual trek along the traditional parade route last year with the Krewe of Carrollton. The band joins that parade and others once again this year.

By Mac McCabe
Staff Writer

As the Carnival season culminates with the biggest celebrations leading to Mardi Gras, continue to keep an eye out for your fellow Blue Jays as they march and ride along in different parades. Here's where you can find those strutting Jays!

The Blue Jay Band, along with the Jayettes and the Cheerleaders, has made its annual appearance with the Krewe of Carrollton. Look for them again right near the start of the Krewe of Bacchus on Sunday. The Band will be among the first five appearing in the superkrewe's parade. So, you better keep an

eye out or you might miss them! Bacchus starts along the traditional Uptown route at 5:15 p.m.

The Jesuit Jazz Band, an ensemble of about 30 musicians, will be riding earlier Sunday with the Krewe of Mid-City, before many of them also march with Bacchus. The Jazz Band will take its traditional perch aboard the Captain's float, so they'll be pretty easy to spot. Mid-City rolls Uptown, starting at 11:45 a.m.

The Jesuit MCJROTC and the MCJROTC Band kick off a night of three major parades, leading the Krewe of Hermes on Friday night. Hermes follows the Uptown route, beginning at 6 p.m. The cadets also appeared last weekend in the Knights of

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Quips, quotes have deeper meanings

Coach Ursin imparting life lessons to his Jays

By Palmer Montalbano
Staff Writer

While most Blue Jays and fans of Jesuit High School know Coach Terry Ursin as the defensive backs coach on the football team, his interests go far beyond the field.

His players are well coached and consistently wreak havoc on opposing offenses, but they are also well equipped for life. Some of Ursin's quips and mottos are forever ingrained in the minds of his players and students.

When a mistake is made, coach shouts, "FIDO." Forget It Drive On, inspiring his players not to dwell on the past.

When in conversation, coach reminds his students that if what they are saying is not THINK (Thoughtful, Helpful, Intelligent, Necessary, or Kind), then refrain from speaking.

He said that he learned these key lessons in his own life experience and now passes them on to his students. In addition to his coaching duties — he's also the



Social studies and history teacher Terry Ursin, Class of '93, says that returning to Jesuit to teach is his calling. Both in the classroom and on the field as a coach, he seeks to inspire and guide his students and athletes with key life lessons.

Teacher Feature

assistant track and field coach — Ursin teaches American History and Social Studies.

Ursin, a graduate of the Class of '93, truly enjoys the Jesuit "tradition, the intangibles, [and] walking through the hall of champions."

His decision to become a teacher, he said truly rests on "a vocation, a calling."

"Teaching keeps me fresh," he said. In addition to answering that vocation to teaching, he said he centers his life around his wife, twin sons, coaching, and working out.

One thing that Blue Jays might not know about their coach and teacher is that he also was in the band when he attended Jesuit.

That experience of football and music led him to witness the many aspects of the school he decided to return to for his pro-

fessional career.

A piece of advice he wants to give to the student body focuses on the importance of the decisions that they make, both now and in the future. There are many decisions to come that will be a big part of any young man's life, he said. He advises students to "think about where you want to be as an adult."

"Think about your future and your present," he suggested. "Is what you're doing now helpful

for where you want to be?"

He also reminds students that "everything is on camera. You can't hide." Let all actions reflect your own dignity, respect and the man that you want yourself to be.

It is through such advice that we can see that Coach Ursin truly speaks from the heart. One can easily see within him a passion for life, teaching, coaching, and most importantly his students and players.

For Blue Jay of Month, commitment to pro-life cause comes within family



Christian Westholtz, left, joined fellow seniors Luke Malter, center, and Michael Nash, right, in front of the U.S. Capitol for the March for Life last month. Westholtz is the president of Jesuit's Pro-Life Club this year.

By Palmer Montalbano
Staff Writer

For many years, Blue Jays have been supporting the pro-life movement by attending the March for Life and offering prayerful witness outside abortion clinics in the local area.

This year, senior Christian Westholtz leads the Pro-Life Club, which is freshly back from this year's trip to Washington.

While most of the student body knows him for that, Christian also is a member of the National Honor Society, Campus Ministry, and is a humorously self-described "CYO basketball phenom." That sense of humor also comes out when asked about his spirit animal; Westholtz had to say a monkey simply because he looks like one.

Christian said that his favorite Jesuit memory is participating in this year's March for Life because it was his final trip as a Blue Jay. The most impressive part of the march, he said, was Vice President Mike Pence's speech. The crowd was so large that you couldn't really hear the speech.

Blue Jay of the Month

"I had to call a phone number, so I could hear from the microphone," he recalled.

Christian's dedication to the cause originates in his family.

"What a lot of people don't know about me is that I have a special needs sister who has Down Syndrome. What caused me to join the pro-life movement is that 90 percent of all pregnancies that are found to be Down Syndrome are aborted.

"I don't see a life without my sister, so that is what made me join the Pro-Life Club."

His presidency follows a long line of Jays who felt moved by the unborn. Christian's drive and leadership has allowed his fellow Blue Jays to fervently express their wishes that life be respected, cherished, and saved.

Christian plans to continue his participation in the pro-life community in college.

"I'm deciding between LSU and Alabama." Wherever he decides to go, Christian said that he plans to major in Political Science, "and then go to law school and eventually coming back to New Orleans."

First-time marcher found hope in D.C. trip

By William Martin
Staff Writer

A Reflection

It's a trip I'll never forget.

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel with the Jesuit Pro-Life Club for the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

I knew before going this was the largest pro-life rally in the world, but until I was there on the street for the march did I realize how large this movement is. I marched with hundreds of thousands of others like myself who want to protect the victims of abortion.

Seeing the number of people making a powerful stand for something I feel so strongly about gives me hope for the

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Don't be a fool just because it's Mardi Gras

*Actions have consequences
that might be longer lasting*

By John Howell
Opinions Editor

Thoughts
of a Blue Jay

It seems that every year when the Carnival season arrives the adults seem to sing the same tune: "No drinking, no drugs, no sex, no anything ..."

And often, we, as students, smirk derisively and dismiss them, even if we don't drink or smoke.

Still, despite the chorus of elders reminding us not to, every year, many of us make our way out to places where there is a lot of fun and not a lot concern for consequences. We may not drink, or we may, but all the same people do and do it a lot. And so every year, there must be a

reminder of what should happen at Mardi Gras.

Of course, there is the standard "do not drink or smoke or do irresponsible deeds." These rules are important and are not to be glossed over, "just because it's Carnival time!" But often it seems pointless to follow these rules without any explanation, especially when it seems that thousands are here to do just those things.

There are, however, simple explanations, and good ones too. What could these be? The most obvious and concrete answer regards the consequences of irre-



The allure of the throws coming from that special float and the thrill of the crowds all add to the spectacle and fun of Carnival in New Orleans. Enjoy the long Mardi Gras weekend and the week off from school. But stay safe and always remember to make the right choices.

Staff photos by Wesley Bennett Faust

sponsibility.

We might often forget it during this time of year, especially, but the consequences of our actions are the sole reason that we shouldn't act in certain ways.

When someone is under the influence, they will very likely do something they regret.

That is not to say what they will do will be as dramatic as a hit-and-run or a fatal accident but they may very likely end up kissing the wrong person or saying the wrong thing, doing things that are not life-changing in grand ways but are in their own way drastically bad.

Often people may return (or be returned) to their parents intoxicated and inspire much anger and punishment. That means being grounded or having

a shorter curfew. That means a limit on your freedom, a firm stop to your fun.

Another reason to stop yourself from doing anything rash or stupid is the possibility of being captured on film.

We live in a great age of technology, but we must remember that the technology is ever-present. It is all-reaching now, and there is no escape.

That foolish impulse could haunt you for years to come. There will always be Instagram or Snapchat there to capture you with a Solo cup of questionable beverage in your hand; there is no avoiding this. No matter what you do, when you are out in the crowded streets Uptown or in the French Quarter, you will be photographed. This is just how it is

now.

Of course, I cannot tell you what to do.

We will all do what we will, regardless of what is written here. I hope this has reminded you of why you shouldn't do just anything you please, without regard to the results.

Hopefully, when you're faced with the decision to do something wrong, the consequences will ring out in your mind; and perhaps that thought will compel you to do what is right.

Enjoy the parades, the time with friends and family, the thrill of the crowds.

Carnival holds more fun than we can possibly exhaust. But stay safe this Mardi Gras, and do what's right.

*Where ya gonna
park ya car for
Endymion, dawlin?*

Come to Jesuit!

For just \$20, park all day and into the evening!

What a deal! Other lots charge up to \$100!

You'll be a short walk from the parade and your car will be safe. Security is provided, along with a portable toilet.

But be sure to arrive early. The lot will open at 9 a.m.

on Saturday. Once we fill up, that's it!

Proceeds will benefit the Jesuit Student Council.

*Be close to the route
and ya won't have far to lug all ya loot!*

Parades

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Sparta parade.

Along with these organizations, some Jesuit faculty members also will be riding in the rolling street pageants.

Before Bacchus on Sunday, look to the Krewe of Thoth for Athletic Director Dave Moreau aboard Float 16A. He'll be on the sidewalk side as the generous krewe begins its Uptown trek at noon.

Thoth takes a circuitous route, which allows it to pass several local hospitals, spreading Carnival joy to those who might otherwise be unable to share in the parades.

Football Coach Mark Songy will be riding Saturday night with the Krewe of Endymion. Look for him on the Captain's Float A, on the passenger side, bottom level and position No. 8.

The largest parade of Carnival, Endymion takes to the streets from City Park, taking its traditional route through Mid-City to downtown New Orleans beginning at 4:30 p.m.

And if you're going to Endymion, don't forget about the easy parking right here at Jesuit, just a short walk to the parade route.

The Student Council will be manning the parking lots here, opening at 9 a.m. For just \$20, you'll have a safe spot near the route.

And then, Lent

As we revel in the final days of Carnival, we are reminded that the reason for Mardi Gras is to have a final celebration before entering into the liturgical season of Lent, a time of penitence and preparation.

Here are some guidelines regarding fasting and abstinence.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are between 18 and 59. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals

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Jesuit represents! The Blue Jay Pro-Life Club unfurled its banner expressing its support at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., last month.

Staff photo by Peyton Toups

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the Rev. Kevin Dyer, S.J., school chaplain; Scott Delatte and Susan de Boisblanc, co-moderators of the Pro-Life Club; Director of Campus Ministry Peter Flores; Theology teacher Chris LaMothe; and Coach Mark Songy.

With the new administration in the White House, which has pledged to end all taxpayer-funding of abortion, there was an attitude of hope and encouragement at this year's march.

Vice President Mike Pence and presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway each addressed the crowd.

"[The Founding Fathers]

declared these truths to be self-evident," Pence said, "that we are, all of us, endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. ... Forty-four years ago, our Supreme Court turned away from the first of these timeless ideals."

Pence is the first sitting vice president to address the March for Life, and is the highest-ranking official to do so.

The day before the march, the Pro-Life Club attended the Mass for Life at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Catholic University. The sheer number of pro-life groups who attended forced the group and many others to sit on the floor.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, gave a moving homily, in which he reminded the congregation of the

mission of the pro-life movement: "to reclaim the belief of nature and supernature that a mother's womb is the primal sanctuary, where a helpless, innocent, fragile, tiny baby is safe, secure, nurtured, and protected."

The Blue Jays on the trip also enjoyed touring other parts of the nation's capital. On Saturday, they visited Arlington National Cemetery and viewed John F. Kennedy's memorial and the moving silence of the Changing of the Guard before the Tomb of the Unknowns.

On the closing Sunday, they visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. It was a somber way to complete the pilgrimage, reminding all that they were marching for the millions killed in the nation's modern holocaust.

throughout the season of Lent.

We should each seek to do more rather than less, since fasting and abstinence on the prescribed days should be considered a minimal response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion of life.

Mass is celebrated each school day at 7:15 a.m. in the Holy Name of Jesus Chapel on the second floor.

Friday Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction also will continue throughout Lent.

Expanded confession times

also will be available throughout Lent, as well as by appointment. Check outside the Chaplain's Office, Room 241, for more information.

All students also will have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter as all Theology classes will again participate in Stations of the Cross near the end of Lent.

While school is out the entire week of Mardi Gras, don't forget to visit your parish church to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Senior Dublin signs with Green Wave

By Reed Darcy
Sports Editor

National Signing Day, when all the best senior high school football players officially choose their college or university, was held this month.

As the student athletes considered where might best foster their success both on and off the gridiron, Jesuit recruits were headlined by Corey Dublin, a four-year starter on the offensive line. Dublin signed a scholarship to play for Tulane University.

Per 247Sports.com, Dublin is a three-star prospect who Jesuit Coach Mark Songy called "a fine football player" who will "have an opportunity to play quickly, perhaps even as a freshman."

Songy continued, saying that Dublin "was a dominant player for us, starting for four years, earning all-district and all-state honors. He will bring a personality to the Tulane offensive line, which is important for the type of offense they run."

Jesuit's offensive line coach, Timothy Falter, called Dublin "dedicated and responsible" on and off the field, adding that "he has been a tremendous football player and state champion wrestler."

Two other Blue Jay offensive linemen also have signed to

play collegiate football. Cameron Maheu and Peyton Cox will both walk on to Nicholls State University's squad.

Songy stated that Maheu "possesses the tools essential for him to adjust to the college game" and Cox has the "work ethic and potential [to] make him a perfect candidate to compete for a spot on their offensive front."

Also attending Tulane as a preferred walk-on will be Connor Prouet, whom Songy called "a team player who is stubborn on his feet." Prouet will play most of his snaps at fullback, as opposed to the running back position he excelled in for the Jays. Songy said he is certain that Prouet "will grow into his new position and have an opportunity to contribute early."

Another preferred walk-on is linebacker Cameron Crozier, who will enter South Alabama University in the fall.

Crozier was "one of the best defensive players we have had at Jesuit over the past few years," Songy said, adding that Crozier is likely to carve out a role immediately and perhaps receive a scholarship soon.

Songy expressed strong faith that all his players made good decisions. He is confident that each of them will be successful both on the field and off.

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are permitted if necessary for one's health, but solid food between meals is prohibited.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics, 14 and older, on all Fridays of Lent.

These obligatory times of penance should not be seen as limiting the occasions for Christian penance. The penitential spirit should be maintained

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future. There were supporters who made this trip from every state in our country. It was an unbelievable feeling to see firsthand how many teenagers just like myself made this trip and share the same passion and commitment as our Pro-Life Club at Jesuit.

Knowing that so many young people are out there who have the same dedication and are working with teachers through their schools or church parishes to be educated in ways to offer support is awesome.

Everyone participating in the march that day was positive and full of spirit and hope. Something wonderful and powerful was happening around us.

One of the events other than the march itself that made this trip so meaningful was attending Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on the night before the march.

The church was packed. Our group arrived three hours before Mass was scheduled to begin and every single seat was already taken and there was little to no

room to sit on the floor. Like the march, seeing the countless number of worshippers made me realize that I was a part of something incredibly important.

During the march our group didn't encounter any counter-protesters. I believe the chants of the pro-life crowd would have drowned them out. We were told that most of the abortion rights advocates left the scene after the first couple of hours passed.

We finished off our trip by taking the opportunity to tour the National Mall and take in both enjoyable and thought-provoking sites around the city. We had fun ice skating and seeing the majesty of the Lincoln Memorial. The trips to Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum were deeply moving.

This trip truly made an impact on my life spiritually. I learned how to argue, express and teach others about my views on abortion. It also reiterated for me that every person has the right to life and we need to continue being the voice for the voiceless.

I am hopeful for the future of this movement. Given the opportunity, I will march again next year so that one day we will not have to march any longer.

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