



Dodgeball tournament set for March 9

JPII is looking for teams for its first Knights Smashball Dodgeball Tournament on Saturday, March 9. There are three categories of competition: Middle School (7th and 8th grades), High School (9th through 12th grades), and Adult. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each category. All three gyms at the school will be in use for the tournament. Teams are made up of 6-10 players.

The team entry fee is \$160. Several levels of sponsorship are also available. A Master Sponsor costs \$500; a Knight Sponsor costs \$250 and includes a team fee and signage at the tournament and on the event website; an Event Sponsor costs \$100 and includes signage at the tournament.

Tickets cost \$10 per family and \$3 for an individual. Concessions will be available.

The registration deadline is March 3, for more information visit the event website www.jp2dodgeball.com or contact Eve Abdo at (615) 587-0211 or jp2smashball@gmail.com.

IN FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING, MR. THOMAS LOVES IT

In his search for his vocation in life, Brian Thomas made stops as a bank employee, a Dominican friar and a youth minister before he finally ended up this year as a theology teacher at JPII.



Brian Thomas

After graduating from Mt. Juliet High School, Mr. Thomas attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for three years studying political science. "I took a year off ... and during that year I got really involved in my parish's youth ministry as their youth minister," he said. "That's where I decided I wanted to work with teenagers."

In the meantime, he completed his degree in political science at Middle Tennessee State University and began exploring the priesthood. He eventually joined the Dominicans. "I was attracted to monastic life, living in community and prayer life. But I also wanted to teach and Dominicans do both of those things." After two years, he felt "God was calling me elsewhere," and left the order to return to Nashville in 2011.

"While I was in college I had been a bank teller. My old boss was gracious enough to give me a job" as a customer representative at a bank, Mr. Thomas said. "But I knew I didn't really want to be a banker." He decided what he wanted was to teach theology to high school students, so he sent letters to the three Catholic high schools in the Nashville diocese without knowing if there was an opening at any of them. But within 48 hours of sending off the

FUND FOR EXCELLENCE PHONE-A-THON APPROACHING

The Fund for Excellence Team Leaders, Board of Trustees, parent volunteers, and the Advancement Office will be calling all parents who have not had an opportunity to make a FFE donation or pledge by Feb. 15 during our annual Phone-a-thon February 19, 20 and 21. Help us reduce the number of phone calls by making a donation TODAY!

Our goal this year is for everyone to be a part of this vital effort.

Donations can now be made online at www.jp2hs.org/Donate. You can also contact Lori Jones at (615) 590-6004 or by e-mail at lori.jones@jp2hs.org. Gifts are 100% tax deductible.

If you would like to volunteer to make calls during the

letter, he heard from Deacon Brian Edwards, the theology department chair at JPII, asking him to come in for an interview. He was hired and started this school year.

"It's been so different than I thought it would be," Mr. Thomas said. "I love it absolutely."

"One of the parts of my job I get the most fulfillment from ... teenagers are right at that age where they are trying to figure out who they are as people," Mr. Thomas said. "I'm in an important place to help form them as to who they are and making sure Christ is a part of that."

Although he has no prior experience teaching in a school, he has plenty of resources at his disposal at JPII, Mr. Thomas said. "The school is set up so every new teacher has great resources," he said, including a mentor to work with them. Mr. Thomas' mentor is Kat Morris, another member of the theology faculty. "I can go to her for anything," Mr. Thomas said. He also has many other good teachers around him to help, including department heads "all the way up to the administration ... making sure we have the tools that we need," Mr. Thomas said.

Besides teaching theology to juniors and seniors, Mr. Thomas is helping with the Youth in Government program at JPII and accompanied the group of JPII students who traveled to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

"One of the most important things about out of classroom experiences, is it shows them what we're teaching in the classroom is not just stuff. We live what we're teaching. Especially for theology teachers," Mr. Thomas said. "It's so much more powerful if they see me living out my faith instead of just talking about it. So I really value things like the March for Life where we can show we really believe the things we talk about in the classroom."

Phone-a-thon 5-9 p.m. Feb. 19-21, please contact Jo Lind Weaver at jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org.

Parents can help their student's House win the Fund for Excellence House Parent Participation Competition by making a gift to the FFE! The House with the highest participation wins an ice cream social in the spring and is awarded House points in May. The standings so far are:

First place House of Peter; second place is House of Pius and House of Gregory; third place is House of John; fourth place is House of Leo; and fifth place is House of Clement.

The JPII faculty and staff have reached 100 percent Fund for Excellence participation. Match their effort and help make the Fund for Excellence campaign a huge success.

JPII FINE ARTS STUDENTS HONORED IN COMPETITION

JPII congratulates seven fine arts students honored by the regional branch of the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition.

Gold Key winners – the highest level of achievement on the regional level – include Katharine Smith for mixed media for her piece, "Tied Together" and Kate Cannon for her photograph, "Homage to Francesca Woodman." Robin Hall received a Silver Key for her painting, "Fallen Angel." Honorable Mention was given to Megan Gerstner for her drawing "Spinal Pains," Krystal Tran for her photograph "What Meets the Eye," Shelby Locke for her photograph "Descending," and Jordan Lee for her mixed media piece, "Untitled."



Seven JPII fine arts students were honored in the regional Scholastic Art Competition. They are, from left, Krystal Tran, Robin Hall, Megan Gerstner, Shelby Locke, Katharine Smith, Kate Cannon and Jordan Lee

The Scholastic Art Competition and Exhibition, entering its 90th year is the nation's oldest continuously run art competition in the nation and a source of scholarships for young artists. It is also considered to be one of the most prestigious, with past winners such as artist Andy Warhol and photographer Richard Avedon. For the 22nd consecutive year, Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art has partnered with the Alliance to host the regional competition and exhibition for Middle Tennessee.

The Gold and Silver Key works will be on display at Cheekwood through March 3. Gold Key winners will have their work submitted to the National Competition making them eligible to win scholarships and a trip to New York.

JPII TO HONOR BISHOP CHOBY AT ANNUAL GALA

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Bishop Choby holds a Canon Law degree from the Angelicum University in Rome and has worked at the diocesan tribunal throughout most of his priesthood. He was on the faculty of The Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio, between 1984 and 1989.

From 1989 until 2006, he served as pastor of St. John Vianney Church, where he was active in the community and in the local ministerial association and oversaw the construction of a new church and the opening of the current elementary school.

Bishop Choby was elected as diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Nashville by the diocesan College of Consultors in 2004 after his predecessor, Bishop Edward Kmiec, was installed as the Bishop of Buffalo. Fourteen months later, on Feb. 27 2006,

MARCH FOR LIFE INSPIRES PARTICIPANTS

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This was Duzanne's second trip to Washington for the March. "It's really important to me," she said. "We don't realize how much effect this has on us. This is people's lives we're talking about."

Bishop Choby was ordained as a bishop and installed as the 11th Bishop of Nashville at the Cathedral.

He is only the second native of the diocese who has been appointed to lead it as its bishop in the diocese's 175-year history. This year, Bishop Choby has been traveling to parishes and schools throughout the diocese, including JPII, to help celebrate the founding of the diocese in July 1837.

The annual Gala raises funds for the general operation of the school and features both a silent and live auction, a sit-down dinner and dancing. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a reception and the opening of the silent auction.

For information, contact Jo Lind Weaver, JPII's special events coordinator, at (615) 590-6008 or e-mail her at jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org.

Participating in the march inspired her to help make people back home in Tennessee and at JPII more aware of the issue and its impact on individuals, families and society, she said. "We want to spread the love we feel from the March to the people here."

MARCH FOR LIFE INSPIRES PARTICIPANTS

Among the more than half a million people who converged on Washington, D.C., Friday, Jan. 25, for the 40th March for Life to protest the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion were about 50 students and faculty from Pope John Paul II High School. They were among 400 people from the Diocese of Nashville, mostly high school and college students, lending their voices to the pro-life movement.

Helping to chronicle the excitement and spirit of the March for Life for the Eternal Word Television Network were Margaret Duzanne and Bryan Melcher, two JPII seniors.

Bill Staley, associate director of diocesan Catholic Youth Office, suggested to EWTN that two of the teens traveling with the group from the Diocese of Nashville use video cameras to capture their experiences at the March to be shown on EWTN programs, explained Duzanne.

When the network said yes to the idea, Staley asked Duzanne and Melcher to participate.

They interviewed people they met from throughout the country about what the March for Life meant to them and why they are pro-life, Duzanne said. Among the people they interviewed were seminarians from the Diocese of Nashville who talked

JPII TO HONOR BISHOP CHOBY AT ANNUAL GALA

Pope John Paul II High School will honor Bishop David Choby, one of the school's founding board members, at its annual gala on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Bluegrass Country Club in Hendersonville.

Bishop Choby was serving as pastor of St. John Vianney Church in Gallatin when the diocese began making plans to build the school, which opened in the fall of 2002. He was appointed to the board of trustees to oversee the construction and opening of the school.

Bishop Choby was born in Nashville and baptized at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. After graduating from Father Ryan High School in 1965, he attended what was then Aquinas Junior College for one year



JPII junior Elizabeth Gray, left, and her cousin Shelby Hostettler traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 40th annual March for Life. They were part of a delegation of students and teachers from JPII who participated in the march.

about how important it is for men to understand the issues surrounding abortion and their responsibility as fathers, Duzanne said. "I thought that was very important and it's not usually talked about," she said.

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before entering the seminary at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa. He also studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., before being ordained as a priest by Nashville Bishop Joseph Durick on Sept. 6, 1974, at St. Henry Church in Nashville.

Among his assignments after his ordination were serving as associate pastor at St. Joseph Church in Madison, administrator of St. Ann Church in Nashville, and three years in residence at Christ the King Church in Nashville while working at the diocesan tribunal.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE

FRIDAY FEB. 22

JPII to host Career Fair for alumni

The Alumni Relations office is hosting its first Career Fair this spring and we need the help of current and past parents! JPII wants to provide an opportunity for our alumni to meet business professionals in Nashville. Networking is a key part of the job search and we want to provide that foundation for our alumni.

We want to reach out to our alumni who are graduating college and beginning the job search or those still in college but are interested in internship opportunities. If you are a part of an organization or business that would be interested in hosting a booth at the Career Fair, please contact Megan Forester at (615) 590-6005 or Megan.Forester@jp2hs.org.

The Career Fair will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

View Points

BISHOP FLORES TO VISIT JPII AS DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, Texas, will be the featured speaker in the next installment of the Distinguished Lecturer Series at Pope John Paul II High School.

Bishop Flores, who serves on the subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will speak on the topic of "Immigration and the Mission of the Church in the United States." The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 4, in the school's Ann and Monroe Carell Theater.

"He's been a vociferous person discussing the issue of immigration in the United States" and the Catholic Church's response to immigrants, said Brad Peper, the coordinator of the Distinguished Lecturer Series and a theology teacher at JPII. School officials chose the topic of immigration for this year's lecture because it has been an issue much discussed and debated, Dr. Peper said. The issue takes on even more timeliness now as members of Congress have announced plans to work on a bipartisan effort to reform the nation's immigration laws.

The issue is particularly relevant in an area like Nashville where there is a large immigrant population that is growing, Dr. Peper said. "Given the demographics of the immigrant population, many of the immigrants coming to Nashville are Catholic," he noted.

Bishop Flores was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Corpus Christi in 1988. He has served as a professor and administrator at several seminaries, and was appointed as an auxiliary bishop of Detroit in 2006. In 2009, he was named as the Bishop of Brownsville, which is located in the Rio Grande Valley at the southernmost tip of Texas.

The Distinguished Lecturer Series was established several years ago to bring to JPII individuals to speak on pressing topics that have both religious and cultural importance, Dr. Peper said.

Previous speakers in the series have been George Weigel, the biographer of the school's namesake, Blessed Pope John Paul II, and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam.

Bishop Flores' lecture is open to the public. "We see this as a service to the community," Dr. Peper said, "the Hendersonville community, the religious community and the academic community."

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

St. John Vianney School

When Olivia Zimmer and Tyler McCormick arrived on JPII's campus in August for the start of their freshman year, they found a new home. "It's one big family," Olivia said. "Once you stepped through the door you're a Knight. It's like welcome home every Monday. It's like my second house."

"I like the way they do things," added Tyler. "They try to make the transition to high school easy for freshmen."

Olivia and Tyler joined a handful of their classmates at St. John Vianney School in Gallatin in this year's freshman class at JPII. But they weren't the only familiar faces they found at JPII. Tyler knew several people who had graduated from St. John Vianney ahead of him already at JPII, and Olivia got to meet some folks at JPII when she had a part in the school's production of the musical "Beauty and the Beast" while she was still in grade school.



Tyler McCormick

Both Tyler and Olivia have been meeting new people and making new friends at JPII through their involvement in extra-curricular activities. Tyler is involved with the Science Olympiad team at JPII, an activity he did at St. John Vianney as well. "I made a lot of good friends" on the bowling team, Olivia said, and she was involved in the College Model UN program at JPII.

Olivia would tell students considering coming to JPII in the future, "It's a wonderful school, wonderful people," she said. "Although there's a lot of studying, it prepares you for college, for life."

"A lot of people expect the worst. It's not really like that," Tyler said. "You'll meet a lot of good people. They're probably going to be lifelong friends."

JPII people ... Olivia Zimmer and Tyler McCormick!



Olivia Zimmer

WRESTLERS BRING HOME MEDALS

Three JPII wrestlers have been adding to their medal collection this season. At the Sycamore Invitational on Jan. 12, seniors Cody Burchwell, left, (170 pounds) and Cody Patterson, center, (195 pounds) and sophomore Jacob Telli (138 pounds) all finished second in their respective weight classes.

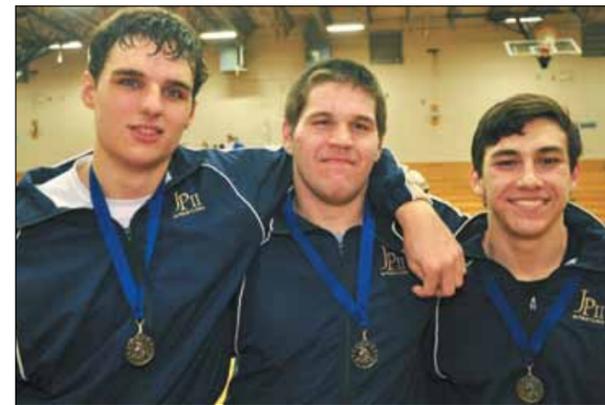
That followed medal winning performances at earlier tournaments. At the prestigious Father Ryan Invitational on Jan. 5, Patterson took fifth place and Burchwell sixth. At the Christian County, Ky., Invitational tournament in December, Burchwell, and Cody Patterson both won their weight classes and Telli finished second.

At the Knoxville Catholic Invitational, the first tournament of the season for the Knights, Burchwell took home second place and Patterson sixth.

Burchwell, Patterson and Telli serve as captains of the team, which is heading toward the state individual tournament Feb. 15-16 at the Williamson County Ag Expo Center.

Burchwell, who finished fourth at last year's state tournament, recently recorded his 100th career win, making him only the fourth wrestler in

the school's history to reach that mark. Congratulations Cody!



JPII wrestlers Cody Burchwell, left, Cody Patterson, center, and Jacob Telli have medaled at several tournaments this year. The three are team captains.

JPII SWIMMERS PLACE AT REGIONALS

Congratulations to the JPII swimmers at the regional meet held recently. Many set personal best times and several of our swimmers made it to finals during the evening session. The girls placed 6th overall in the meet and the boys placed 21st. More than 500 of the region's best swimmers competed in this massive meet. Overall, JPII finished in 12th place out of 44 teams.

Here are the results of the Top 16 finishers and the relays:

Women's 200 medley relay, sixth (Paige Scheriger, Maddie Kolbe, Allie Riley and Ilinca Sipos).

Men's 200 Medley relay, 21st (Nick Massa, Angelo Calvo, Ben Geist and Jacob Buda).

Women's 200 free, Allie Riley, 10th.

Women's 200 individual medley, Paige Scheriger third and Maddie Kolbe seventh.

Men's 100 free, Nick Massa, 10th.

Women's 500 free, Allie Riley, ninth.

Women's 200 free relay, 19th (Ilinca Sipos, Carlie Campbell, Sarah Brau and Evelyn Southard).

Men's 200 free relay, 21st (Nick Massa, Ben Geist, Angelo Calvo and Jacob Buda).

Women's 100 breaststroke, Paige Scheriger second, Maddie Kolbe eighth.

Men's 100 breaststroke, Nick Massa, 12th.

Women's 400 free relay, fifth (Allie Riley, Paige Scheriger, Maddie Kolbe and

Sarah Brau).

Congratulations to Nick Massa and Allie Riley for breaking two JPII records at the meet. Allie broke the 500 free record and Nick beat his own 100 breast stroke.

The following swimmers will be headed to the State Championships later this month. Paige Scheriger, Maddie Kolbe, Allie Riley, Sarah Brau and Nick Massa.

Earlier in the season, JPII's women's and men's swim teams were crowned Sumner County champions for the fourth year in a row.

Among the first place finishers were: freshman Allie Riley in the women's 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke; senior Nick Massa in the men's 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke; senior Ben Geist in the men's 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle; junior Paige Scheriger in the women's 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard backstroke; junior Maddie Kolbe in the women's 100-yard freestyle; junior Ilinca Sipos in the women's 500-yard freestyle; JPII relay teams that finished first include the men's 200-yard medley, women's 200-yard freestyle; men's 200-yard freestyle.

Others who placed include: the women's 200-yard medley relay, freshman Sarah Brau, senior Caroline Vaughn, junior Bailey Pate, sophomore Jacob Buda, senior Reece Dempsey, senior Henry Moore, sophomore Michelle Moore, sophomore Luke Whittington, senior Evelyn Southard, senior Kristen Wieber; senior Griffin Smith, freshman Holly Houdeshell, junior Victoria Dolan, sophomore Rachel Leonard, junior Angelo Calvo, senior Daniel Weber, freshman Emma Grace Evans, junior Natalie Cannella, freshman Sarah Callahan, senior Shelby Locke; freshman Gregory Cannella, junior Joe Tan, junior Courtney Baldrige, the women's 400-yard freestyle and the men's 400-yard freestyle relay.

JPII LOSES AN ORIGINAL TEACHER, GINGER FARRY

Pope John Paul II High School recently lost one of its founding teachers, Ginger Farry, who joined the staff as the foreign language chairperson and Spanish teacher for the school's opening in the fall of 2002. She died Sunday, Jan. 13, after battling cancer. A funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 2 at St. Stephen Catholic Community.

"She was perpetually optimistic. Excited about what she was doing in the classroom. Creative and really enjoyed her students," recalled Karen Phillips, assistant head of school and a colleague of Ms. Farry's.

"She was there for her students," added Betty Mayberry, JPII math department chair who was on the first faculty at JPII with Ms. Phillips and Ms. Farry. "If you asked her to do something, she was always happy to do it and did it with a smile."

Ms. Farry was living and teaching in the New York metropolitan area before moving to Nashville to be closer to her son, Ms. Phillips said. During a panel discussion marking the 10th anniversary of the school's opening, Hans Broekman, JPII's founding headmaster, recalled that when Ms. Farry sent her application to JPII, she included in her cover letter that "God told me I should work at your school." He added, "I thought we need to see this woman."

"Ginger was like that," said JPII Librarian Joan Lange. "She had a direct communication with God and was in tune with his will. She was also very

tenacious, while having a great sense of humor ... she could laugh at herself."

Besides teaching Spanish at JPII, she also organized adult studies classes that were open to people in the community and helped with JPII's summer camp. She also was a published author, writing "A Teacher's Prayerbook," "A Single Mother's Prayerbook" and "Through Family Times: A Conversational Prayerbook For Today's World," all of which were inspired by her own experiences. "She had such a strong faith," Mrs. Mayberry said.

Not only was Ms. Farry a teacher, but she also was a professional singer and as a teenager appeared on the "Ted Mack Amateur Hour" television show, winning for three weeks in a row. In 2009, she performed with her son, Michael, as a finalist in the HealthSpring Silver Stars contest. You can see a video of her singing at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hz5Xl9uickY>.

Ms. Farry was the daughter of Rocco and Margaret Laieta. She is survived by her son Michael, daughter, Eydi, and grandchildren Bella and Graham.



Ginger Farry

ALUMS MAKE A SPLASH IN COUNTRY MUSIC

A pair of JPII alums are making a splash in Country Music. Ashley Turner, a 2006 graduate, played the lead female role of the bride in The Band Perry's "Better Dig Two" music video, and Michael Nelson, a 2010 grad, recently released his first single "Country Boy Swag."

"Acting is something I do on the side, for fun," said Ashley, who earned a BFA in painting from Washington University in St. Louis. "My main focus is on my artwork, for shows and commissions. ... You can see (it) at ashleyturnerart.com. I also do wedding calligraphy and write articles about Nashville's vintage fashion for the Examiner.com."

Acting is a fairly new interest for Ashley. "It is something that has always interested me, but until recently, I lacked the confidence to pursue it," she said. "My first experience with acting was at JPII. I was in 'No, No Nanette' and 'Cinderella,' and I loved it!"

The "Better Dig Two" video wasn't her first. Ashley also had a part in the video for Steve Holy's song "Love Don't Run."

Michael's music career started his senior year at JPII when he taught himself to play guitar on-line, won a top prize at a school talent show playing an original country song, and opened up for singer Laura Bell



Ashley Turner

Bundy at the Country Music Fest.

He went off of Xavier University in Cincinnati, where he is a junior and in the Army ROTC program. Two summers ago, he was offered the opportunity to record a CD of his original songs with musicians in country star Jason Aldean's band. The result is "Country Boy Swag," with 11 tracks, including the title song, which is now available on iTunes.

Michael called on former JPII classmate Johnny Drennan and Johnny's sister Olivia, a senior at JPII, to sing back-up vocals and harmonies on the CD. Johnny and Olivia are a singing duo who recently made it

through the early pre-TV stages of "American Idol." The final touches on the CD should be complete in a few weeks and then the entire CD will be available for buying or downloading.

