



YOUNG OBSERVER

### Marian student wins full-tuition caddie scholarship

WOODSTOCK—Marian Central Catholic High School student Owen Jager '22 was awarded the Evans Scholarship by the Evans Scholars Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Glenview. The scholarship covers full tuition and housing for students with strong caddie records and high grades.

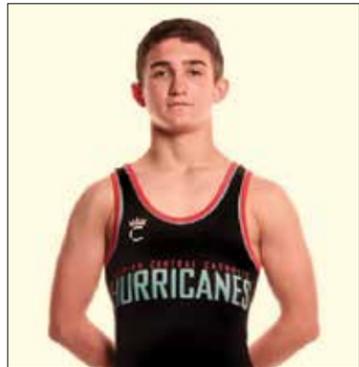


(Photo provided)

Owen Jager

### Marian students named Athletes of the Month

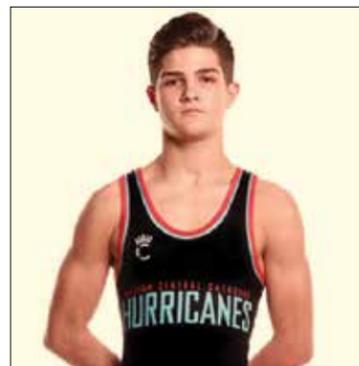
WOODSTOCK—Marian Central Catholic High School students Vance Williams '25 and Kaden Harman '23 were named Athletes of the Month by the school's Athletic Booster Club.



(Photos provided)

Kaden Harman, wrestling

Kaden Harman battled back from an early loss in the Class 1A state tournament to finish fifth. The junior capped the year with a 37-12 record.



Vance Williams, wrestling

Vance Williams closed his freshman season by finishing fourth at the Class 1A state tournament. Williams won a regional title and capped the season with a 39-12 record.

—Information provided by Marian Central Catholic High School and Hurricanes Wrestling.



(Photo/ Allan F. Benson)

### Mamma Mia! Here ACC students go again

AURORA—Hannah Bartlett of Aurora and Christian Reynolds, Sandwich, rehearse "Super Super" from "Mamma Mia!" The show will be performed at Aurora Central Catholic High School March 25-27. For ticket information, see page 4.

## Breaking news

High school seniors have until April 9 to apply for NINA's annual scholarship for future journalists.

Info: visit <https://ninaonlinedotorg.wordpress.com/2020-scholarship-rules/>

Editor's note: The contest is up-to-date, although the website name appears outdated.

The Observer and El Observador are members of the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association.



# Brr...aving the cold

## 'Ice Mass' on frozen Minnesota campus lake draws hundreds of students

What started during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to lift spirits and provide something unique to the students at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., is turning into a Diocese of St. Cloud tradition.

On Feb. 20, the weekly 9 p.m. Sunday Mass for students at the neighboring institutions was celebrated on frozen Lake Sagatagan on St. John's campus in Collegeville.

Several hundred students attended the "Ice Mass."

"This is a unique experience, as we are not aware of any other university that holds this type of student Mass," said Margaret Nuzzolese Conway, executive director of St. John's University Campus Ministry.

"We are lucky to have such a dedicated and dynamic chaplain in Father Nick (Kleespie), who motivates us to do some really creative, fun and adventurous work for practicing faith," she said.

According to a news release posted on [www.csbsju.edu](http://www.csbsju.edu), the schools' website, St. John's University Campus Ministry periodically has Mass outdoors when the weather is nice, but this was just the second time on a frozen lake.

"Beyond COVID, it draws students to a place they love and connects them to creation," Father Kleespie said.

"A freshman from just outside Chicago told me that



(CNS photo/courtesy College of St. Benedict and St. John's University)

Students from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn., and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., lead music during the Feb. 20 Mass held on the frozen Lake Sagatagan on St. John's campus.

when he saw the news of the 'Ice Mass' last year, he was especially inspired to make the decision to come here" for college, Conway said.

Organizing an outdoor winter event of this

magnitude takes a lot of planning, time and energy, she noted.

"This is a huge event for our staff and requires intense hours of labor, setup and cleanup," Conway said.

Taking everything downhill to the beach at the lake "also means that everything must come back up," she explained. "But when we saw students approaching the space and their faces upon receiving hats and hand warmers, everything was clearly worth it. Students really seemed to have fun with it."

"The centrality of the Mass is that it brings us together, despite differences, disagreements, whatever we are carrying," Conway said. "It's a special experience to bring people together on the ice, some who are from Minnesota and ice-fishing pros and others for whom this is an especially novel experience even just walking on the lake."

"In the Mass," she added, "we can put differences aside and celebrate our connection to the Gospel and how it propels us forward. We can level with the fact that we were all freezing! My hope is that all who attended know that wherever they are at in their faith, they are welcome."



(CNS photo/courtesy College of St. Benedict and St. John's University)

Father Nick Kleespie bundles up with a hat and gloves to celebrate the "Ice Mass."

### Seniors: What do your new schools offer?

An experience like the "Ice Mass" is uncommon at most schools, but that doesn't mean that staying connected to your faith has to be boring and "lukewarm." Check out the campus ministry or Newman Center website for the school you're planning to attend, or even try emailing the campus ministry team to ask about what faith-centered activities they plan during the year. They'll be excited to hear from you — seriously! Between outdoor Masses to retreats to mission trips, you may find something that surprises you.