



COVID: ONE YEAR LATER

▶ 19 things we've learned, 2-3

OBSERVING LENT

▶ Sacrifices, special prayer service, 4



THE GAVEL

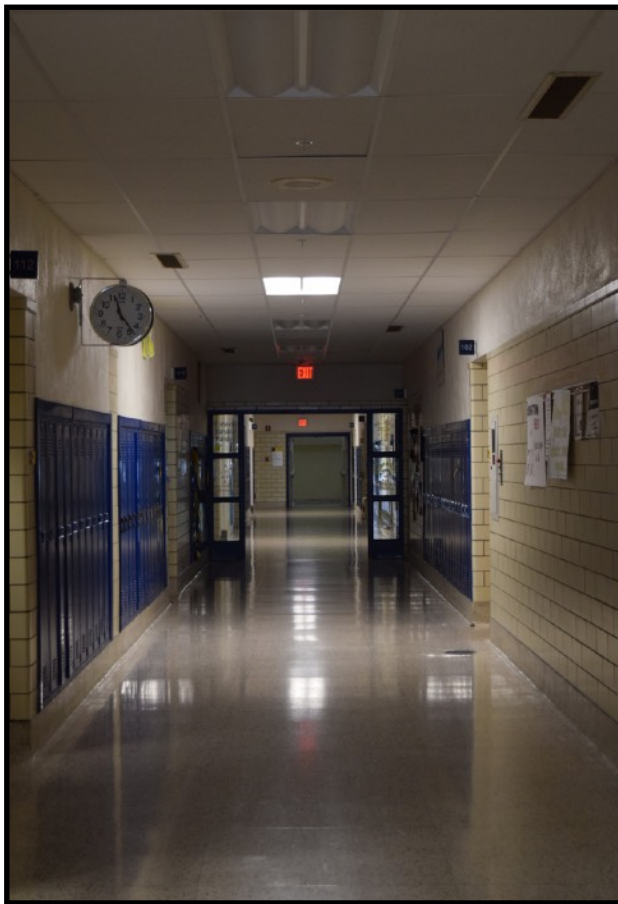


NDA students turned out in force to support the basketball team in its thrilling 53-50 victory over Ryle in the semifinals of the Ninth Region tournament Saturday, March 27 at Holmes. NDA meets Dixie for the title Monday.

IT'S MARCH PANDANESS!

- ▶ Basketball overcomes obstacles and Ryle to roll into Ninth Region final. 6-7
- ▶ Our Lunch Madness bracket reaches a sweet (and savory) 16. 5

Covid a year later: What we've learned



Hilton Hall as seen March 20, 2020 (left), contrasted with this March with students back. In the first photo, what usually was a flurry of activity was eerily dark and quiet after the campus was closed because of the coronavirus. (Annie Judy photos above; cover photo of empty Longshore Dining Hall by Anna Tranter '20.)

Publications staff report

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all of our lives for the past year, with more than 126 million worldwide cases and more than 30 million and 548,000 deaths in the United States, according to Johns Hopkins University. Notre Dame Academy, like other schools in Kentucky and across the country, moved to remote learning last spring and resumed this school year with masks, distancing and other mitigation strategies in place. NDA publications students reflected on ways in which their lives have been affected over the past year.

1. Relationships strengthened. We became closer to family.
2. As we saw less of our friends, we appreciated their friendship even more.
3. We missed being in school in person, students and teachers alike.
4. But we learned new ways to do school. Remote learning proved to be a workable option when in-person learning wasn't possible. Masks, which we weren't wearing at the beginning of the pandemic, helped us return to school.
5. Kroger Clicklist is a great way to shop.



Dr. Laura Koehl, NDA President, speaks to seniors during the first mass. Seniors were able to physically distance in the gym, and the Mass was livestreamed throughout the building. *(Annie Judy photo)*

19 takeaways from our year of Covid-19

6. We had time to reflect and learn about ourselves, like how to be independent.

7. We missed dressing up and going out, but at the same time, learned to appreciate nature and taking our pets for walks.

8. Modern communication can be a wonderful way to stay connected. Google Meets kept our classes together, and texts, Facetime, and Snapchat helped keep us in touch with each other afterward.

9. We appreciated small things: A song, a book, a home-cooked meal, a sunrise. Time with siblings who would be leaving in the fall.

10. We learned not to take things for granted, because life can change in an instant.

11. We watched the news more to keep up with a rapidly changing situation.

12. For two semesters, we had no exams.

13. Streaming services helped pass the time.

14. New family traditions, like game nights, long

hikes or time around the fire pit, took hold.

15. We grew in appreciation for essential workers, like those on the front lines in medical fields or public safety, but also those who just helped make our lives better. Junior Kennedy Oak, who worked at Chick-fil-A, said a woman called her a hero.

16. We saved money by not eating out, not driving as much, doing haircuts at home.

17. We learned that school wasn't the only institution we could attend virtually. Parents worked from home. Easter Masses were livestreamed. Doctors offered televisits. Many took part in virtual exercise programs.

18. We grew in optimism with positive developments, like the development and distribution of vaccines.

19. We learned to admit things were different, and that was OK.



NDA students gather on the soccer field for a Holy Week prayer service on Monday, March 29. It was the first time all students and faculty were together in person (aside from fire drills) during this school year, and the first outdoor prayer service at NDA since May Crowning in 2008, when ground was broken on the field.

We're observing Lent in prayer, sacrifice

BY AVA MIDDENDORF

Gavel staff writer

Lent: It is a 40-day period in which we as Catholics prepare for the celebration of Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we take these 40 days to commemorate Jesus' fasting in the desert for 40 days. But how?

One of the main ways we do this is by fasting, or giving up something that we like in our daily lives. It's a tiny bit of sacrifice for Christ, who gave his life for us.

In a Publications survey, 60 percent of the students who responded stated that they will be giving up something for Lent, while 40 percent stated that they were going to take something on.

Those who said they were giving something up had many ideas as to what they were doing. 50 percent said they were giving up junk food/sweets, 22 percent said they were giving up social media,

and about 14 percent said they were going to give up soda. Other students said they were going to take a different avenue. Sophomore Riley Maddox said she was going to give up procrastination. Sophomore Madison Russell said that she would give away an item of clothing each day.

As for those who stated that they were taking something on this Lent: 51 percent said that they were taking on a more positive attitude. About 30 percent stated they planned to pray more and set time aside for God. Other observances: senior Gracie Dorning said she wanted to spend more time on service. Sophomore Keira Schneider planned to read a chapter of the Bible each night and write a reflection about it.

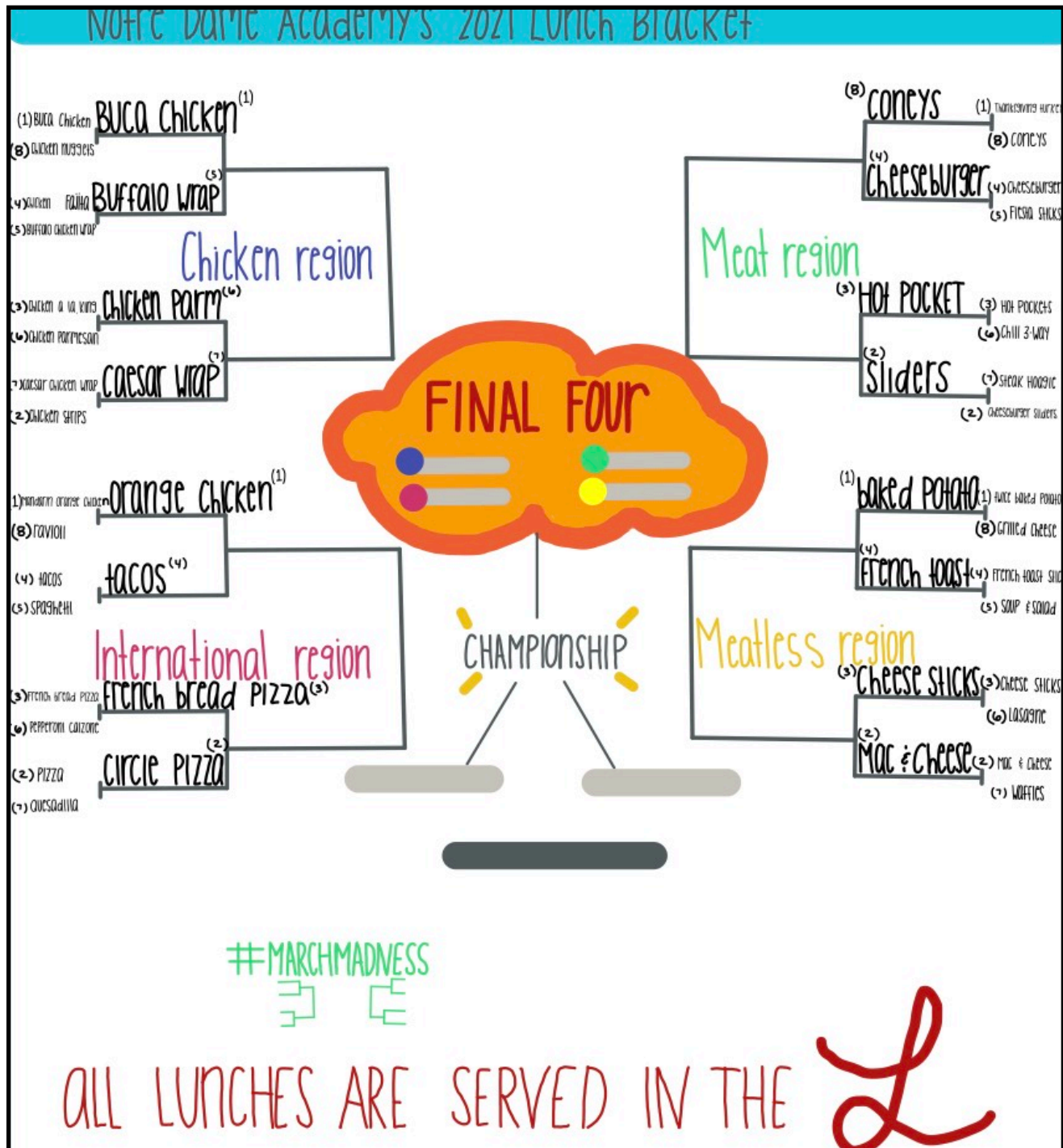
So for these 40 days, not only are we as Catholics preparing and fasting, but as NDA students we are striving to challenge ourselves when it comes to the season of Lent.

Lunch Madness: No. 1 seed turkey out!

It didn't take long for an upset in Publications' Lunch Madness bracket! With more than 200 votes submitted in the first round, Thanksgiving Turkey, the No. 1 seed in the Meat Region, was upset by No. 8 seed Coney's. The other top seeds — Buca chicken (Chicken Region), Mandarin Orange Chicken (International Region), and Twice-Baked Potato (Meatless Region) — advanced easily.

(International Region) and Twice-Baked Potato (Meatless Region) — advanced easily.

Voting is conducted by Google Forms. Voting in the Sweet 16 is going on now and closes Monday, March 29! We'll reveal the Elite Eight and begin a new round of competition on Tuesday.





Resilient Pandas one step from state

BY BRYNN THELEN

Gavel staff writer

The Notre Dame Academy basketball season that was paused twice has now become the season no one wants to see stop.

In a tournament that has now become win or go home, the 35th District champion Pandas beat rival Ryle, the most recent Kentucky state champion, 53-50 on Saturday night to advance to the Ninth Region championship game. NDA plays Dixie Heights on Monday night at Holmes for the region championship and a spot in the Sweet Sixteen in Lexington.

The Pandas ended a three-year Sweet Sixteen run by Ryle, which had defeated the Pandas in the regional tournament the past two full seasons. The team was locked down and more hungry than ever.

“I think this is our year to own the region and make a run for state,” junior Kylie Aytes said.

The Pandas, behind 22 points from junior Jillian MacKnight and 15 from junior Lacey Bradshaw, rallied from 10 points down in the first half to overtake Ryle. But the Raiders are hardly the only obstacle the Pandas have faced this season.

Back in November, when Notre Dame moved to remote learning for all students, the Pandas were forced to suspend practices. Then in February — coming off a big victory over the No. 2 team in the state, Sacred Heart, and with top-15 regional rival Dixie Heights and Ryle next on the schedule — NDA was forced to hit the pause button again.

The day after the big win against Sacred Heart, varsity players and managers were called out of class and informed that they had to quarantine for 10 days due a positive test among the team.



Junior Lacey Bradshaw reached 1,000 career points in NDA's 62-36 victory over Holy Cross in the District 35 title game. Lacey, junior Macie Feldman and sophomore Noelle Hubert made the all-tournament team. *(Bob Jackson photo)*

“This was the worst possible news with the timing and considering the upcoming games,” said senior captain Kate Moore.

It meant the Pandas would be missing five crucial games that would have carved the path for a successful postseason.

While many teams might see this as a disaster, the Pandas did their best to use the time to their advantage.



NDA players and managers celebrate their third consecutive 35th District title, beating Beechwood and Holy Cross. (Bob Jackson photo; players posed for the photo and immediately resumed distancing)

‘Ready to play every game like our last’

While at home, the team conditioned, watched film, and remained connected through video conferencing. When the team was able to return to campus, they were more dialed in than ever before.

“The 10-day quarantine taught us not to take our season for granted,” said sophomore Noelle Hubert, who was named Most Valuable Player of the 35th District tournament. “I feel like we are ready to play every game like it is our last.”

Coach Kes Murphy downplayed the potential impact of the lengthy quarantine.

“I don’t think that will affect us at all,” Murphy said.

NINTH REGION TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP

Notre Dame vs. Dixie Heights, 7 p.m. Monday, Holmes High School (tickets on sale in athletic office!)

SEMIFINALS

Notre Dame 53, Ryle 50
Dixie Heights 54, Highlands 42

FIRST ROUND

Notre Dame 61, Ludlow 16
Ryle 64, Newport Central Catholic 47
Highlands 59, Holy Cross 43
Dixie Heights 64, Cooper 55

“At the end of the day, we should be thankful we have a season because back in October and August we didn’t even think we would play.”