



# CRUSADERNEWS

NEWS FROM BERGEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

January 1, 2024

## A Recap of December 2023 at Bergen Catholic



*The following are some notable news and events from December 2023:*

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## BC Service Leaders Meet Saquon Barkley of the NY Giants

Two of Bergen Catholic's top community service leaders, sophomores **Joseph Cabanita & Kevin Sweeney**, were each honored for their commitment to Covenant House and this year's "Sleep Out" event at BC by getting the chance to meet New York Giants star running back Saquon Barkley at MetLife Stadium.

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## BC Performing Arts Host Three Holiday Concerts

The Bergen Catholic Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble & Men's Vocal Ensemble each hosted their own holiday concerts and helped provide the sounds of the holiday season to appreciative audiences.



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## Yoel Zachariah '23 Speaks to BC Honors Research Class

Bergen Catholic's senior Honors Research class was joined by a special guest when recent Crusader alum **Yoel Zachariah '23** spoke to the class about his own unique experiences as a former BC student in the Honors Research class, as well his personal battle against testicular cancer upon graduating from BC last June.

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## ***Crusaders Against Cancer*** Raise \$500 for **Headstrong Foundation**

Students in BC's *Crusaders Against Cancer* club helped raise \$500 for the *Headstrong Foundation*, a non-profit which offers financial, residential, and emotional support to families affected by cancer.

The current BC students also honored recent BC alum Yoel Zachariah's successful battle with cancer by purchasing Christmas gifts and a recovery gift for him. It was a school-wide effort of support, as wristbands were sold to students, faculty & staff, who all showed their support for Yoel on his road to recovery. The BC Brotherhood in action!



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### **Eleven BC Student-Athletes Honored at December 2023 Commitment Day**

Eleven Bergen Catholic senior student-athletes were honored as part of the 2023 Bergen Catholic December Commitment Day Ceremony in Hoehl Gymnasium. The Crusader student-athletes who were honored included:

**Raymond Stelmark** (Delaware Swimming), **Luca Cuttita** (Carnegie Mellon Football), **Theodore Hughes** (Bryant Track & Field), **James Carey** (Stevens Lacrosse), **Anderson Chang** (Trinity Lacrosse), **Noah Kochman** (Duke Wrestling), **Nyier Daniels** (Georgia Football), **Elijah Kinsler** (West Virginia Football), **Kaj Sanders** (Rutgers Football), **Marcus Linder** (Johns Hopkins Football), & **Jack Tenaglia** (Stevens Lacrosse).

Congratulations to the BC student-athletes and their families for their commitment to excellence in the classroom and in their sports here in Crusader Country.



### **Crusader Entrepreneur Students Win 1st Place at Pitch Competition**

Bergen Catholic students in Mr. Saunders' Entrepreneurship classes recently attended a pitch competition hosted by St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel, NJ. Teams from 5 high schools competed in two categories: Business and Social Ventures, and the Crusaders took home 1st Place in the Social Ventures category.

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## **Sophomore History Class Hosts "The Enlightenment Salon"**

There was a true meeting of the minds at Bergen Catholic as Bergen Catholic sophomore students participated in "The Enlightenment Salon" as part of Mr. Giarrusso's sophomore US History class.

Each BC student portrayed one of the greatest thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries, and in a specific scenario assembled in the year 1756 to discuss various matters of that time. Students researched each of their historical figure's writings, accomplishments and beliefs in order to engage in proper discourse with other enlightened historical thinkers.

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### **AP Environmental Science Class & BC Green Club Enjoy Outdoor Classroom Experiences**

Members of Bergen Catholic's AP Environmental Science class & Green Club enjoyed field trips to the Ramapo Valley Reservation in Mahwah as well as to Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange.

At the Ramapo Valley Reservation, BC students hiked to several locations within the reservation and talked about ecosystems, geology, and impact of dam construction and removal on the environment.

The Crusaders then visited Turtle Back Zoo following their unit on biodiversity and conservation. This trip allowed the students to see up close the diversity of life on Earth and to learn about threats to various species.

In addition to the field trip to the zoo at night, the BC AP Environmental Science students & Green Club ran a successful school-wide coat drive and gave those donations to the Turtle Back Zoo holiday coat drive.



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## BC Hosts 2nd Annual Grandparents Mass & Brunch

On the first Sunday of Advent, the school had the honor of celebrating Mass and brunch with many of our Bergen Catholic Grandparents and families. It was wonderful to welcome our Celebrant, **Bishop Michael A. Saporito**, Campus Minister, **Br. Ben McDonough**, Campus Chaplain **Fr. Sam Monaco**, and Current Parent '25, **Deacon Ed Stoker** who all helped guide us through this special mass.



## BC Brotherhood Celebrates Advent Mass as a Community

The Bergen Catholic community came together to celebrate the annual Advent Mass.

We pray that during this season of Advent that our hearts are filled with hope, that God's grace inspires us in all our endeavors, and that we continue to spread peace, love and joy in all of our good works leading up to Christmas.

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### **Bowling Wins Big North United Division Preseason Title**

The championships keep rolling into Crusader Country as the BC Bowling team won the Big North United Division Preseason title in their first team event of the season.

The Crusaders were led by **Andy Lee '24** who won the individual title, and by **Calvin Villanueva '24** who finished second overall in the tournament.

And by the end of December, the BC Bowling team added another title to their trophy case when they won the Holiday Break-er Tournament at Montvale Lanes, outlasting a 24-team field to win the team title.

Congrats to Coach Larry Fierro and the Crusaders!

## **Crew Team Raises Over \$40,000 in Fundraiser**

Over 300 guests came out to Hoehl Gym for the Bergen Catholic Crew team's Handbag Bingo fundraiser. The event proved to be a great success, as the Crusader Crew program was able to raise over \$40,000 which will be used towards purchasing new boats for the upcoming 2024 spring season.

Some lucky winners went home with high-end designer handbags, gift cards to the area's finest restaurants, and other wonderful gifts. Thanks to everyone for helping support the Crusader Crew program!



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### ***Fomoowa* Wine Partners with Bergen Catholic to Establish New Scholarship Fund**

Bergen Catholic is proud to partner with *Fomoowa*, a local (DTC) Direct to Consumer wine company, specializing in small-production, natural wines. *Fomoowa* is dedicated to bringing some of the best natural and traditionally made wines, direct from small European producers to your doorstep.

By using the code CRUSADERS and shopping in their online store at *Fomoowa.com*, 10% of all sales will be donated to fund a new scholarship for BC students awarded through the BC Student Tuition Assistance Program. BC awards more than \$4 million annually in financial aid and scholarships to students.

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