

"The Raging Wind Stopped, and the Seas became Calm..."

Amid unseasonably warm, spring-like temperatures and bright shining sun, the St. Andrew Rowing Family gathered Saturday morning on the banks of the Chattahoochee River for a beautiful dedication and the ceremonial blessing of 3 new boats.



2018 ended as the second wettest year in history and the spring rains have continued to impact the Chattahoochee water levels causing flooding up and down the river. At this point, the entire St. Andrew community is water logged. High waters have caused a lot of flooding, evacuation of equipment and shifting of practices to alternate indoor facilities. The St. Andrew Catholic Church parking lot, the beautiful Stations of the Cross, the newly erected Grotto, and other areas of the campus have been underwater, and the property has continued to struggle with high water for weeks.



But despite the forecast, Saturday was a beautiful day. The St. Andrew Rowing Club invited friends, family and other members of the community to share in the celebration. Father Dan Fleming, Pastor of St. Andrew, presided over the ceremony. Wearing rain boots and rain gear, and wading through mud and puddles, the community of over 100 rowers joined to celebrate the addition of the new boats to their fleet for the upcoming Spring season regattas. Reading the story of Jesus calming the wind and seas, from the Book of Matthew, Father Dan blessed the boats, the rowers and families, and prayed for their health and continued success.

Among the three boat is a new eight-man rowing shell to be used by the Men's Team. In recognition of the 30+ years of collaboration between the St. Andrew Rowing Club and St. Andrew Catholic Church, the Men's team voted to name the new boat the ***Spirit of St. Andrew***, or simply, the "SOSA". In addition to the SOSA, two more boats were dedicated on Saturday afternoon.



The Women's team also added an eight-man shell, the ***Valkyrie***, to the fleet. ***Valkyrie*** is a group of noble women who guided fallen warriors from the battlefield and were recognized as beacons of strength. Valkyrie is synonymous with the term "victory women". This title is well-deserved, as the St. Andrew Women's team has proven to be top performers and respected for their national accomplishments.

After winning a fundraising event, the Men's Team was awarded the right to pick the name for the new shared four-man shell. The ***McNair*** was named in recognition of Coach Dan McNair who coached the St. Andrew Team between 2002 and 2010, and who has made a tremendous impact on countless athletes over his years of service.

The entire team is thankful for this special collaboration, which affords the athletes the ability to train on a beautiful stretch of the Chattahoochee River. St. Andrew's coaches embrace an athlete-centric training philosophy, encompassing not only the physical aspects of athletic training but also the developmental needs of young adults. The SARC coaches are focused on developing athletes through hard work, positive relationships, and constant encouragement, an approach well aligned with the teaching of the Church, and a common goal for continuing a strong partnership well into the future.

If you are interested in knowing more about the St. Andrew Rowing Club, please contact Renee Stevens at President@standrewrowing.com or 678-428-2767.