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### ***St. Augustine Cathedral School Introduces New Logo, Inspired by a Moment of Divine Intervention***

August 7, 2025 (Kalamazoo, Michigan):

St. Augustine Cathedral School has unveiled a new logo, following nearly two years of development. The “St. A” symbol is a monogram of the cathedral’s patron saint, St. Augustine, in a Gothic revival font utilizing two tones of the color forest green.

The new logo will be unveiled on the school’s new exterior sign, to kick off the new school year, which begins on Wednesday, August 20.

The design process began in the fall of 2023 when a committee of staff, students, and families began a two-phased study that started with a general evaluation of the school’s branding, followed by a more focused look at the school’s visual image, facilitated by the Catholic consulting firm *Partners in Mission*.



The committee first explored visual ideas with students’ drawings that reflected the mission of the school: “St. Augustine Cathedral School, in partnership with parents and the Catholic Church, welcomes and shapes young people as they grow in faith, knowledge, and stewardship.”



When committee chair and St. A’s parent, Sarah Morgan, struggled to generate ideas later during the ideation process, she looked up during Mass one Sunday to see the “St. A” monogram on the Cathedral’s wallpaper in its sanctuary, among the other featured symbols of the diocese. She described that as “a moment of divine intervention.” The top of the “T” in the St. A’s monogram represents a Christian cross while a shepherd's staff (also a bishop's crozier) emerges out of the base of the cross.

Morgan brought the Gothic revival monogram back to the logo redesign committee, and later they added the outlines of a book, referencing the Bible, outside of the monogram. Below the monogram, the committee also added the full name of the school to finalize the new logo. Sarah Morgan worked with committee members Sarah Kennedy, Alicia Ochoa, and Erick Marmolejo to bring their vision to fruition.

“Our school’s ‘brand’ and values are inextricably connected with St. Augustine Cathedral, so we are thrilled that the source of our new logo comes directly from its sanctuary,” said Dr. Andra Zommers, principal. “Our teachers work exceptionally hard to deliver a high-quality education

to our students. And this logo, designed by a world-class architect, definitely reflects that. We invite our community to visit our Cathedral to see the context of the St. A monogram, set among the iconography of our diocese.”

### **The Renovation of St. Augustine Cathedral**

As such, the story behind the source of the new logo goes back to 2020 when the Cathedral was restored and redesigned by Duncan G. Stroik’s architectural firm. (He also teaches architecture at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture and is a founding editor of the *Sacred Architecture Journal*.) Stroik worked closely with EverGreene, one of the largest specialty contractors in the U.S., which focuses on the preservation of historic buildings, artifacts, and works of art. EverGreene produced and installed the final wallpaper in the Cathedral’s sanctuary, utilizing Stroik’s design renderings and drawings. Prior to the renovation, the sanctuary had white plaster walls with patches crumbling off.

The St. Augustine Cathedral wallpaper design invokes the cathedral's patron St. Augustine, remembers its French and Irish history, and includes a tribute to the first bishops of the diocese. This style of diagonal or "diaper" pattern, as it is called, is common in Gothic revival architecture.

In addition to the St. A monogram, the five other symbols featured in the wallpaper include:

- IHS, the monogram of the name of Christ
- A cross with four fleurs-de-lis, which refers to the French heritage of the diocese, having originally been part of the Archdiocese of Detroit
- A burning heart symbol of St. Augustine, which refers to the quote, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."
- An inscription of "Tolle Lege," a Latin phrase meaning "take up and read," with a three-leaf clover, which invokes St. Augustine's conversion and remembers the early Irish influences in the parish.
- A shell and a triangle: The triangle is a symbol of the Trinity and refers to St. Augustine's Trinitarian writings, such as *De Trinitate*. The shell is a symbol of St. Augustine's baptism by St. Ambrose and also refers to the story of St. Augustine asking a young boy why he was trying to use a shell to move water from the ocean into a hole in the sand. The boy replied that just as it was impossible to move the ocean into a small hole, it was also impossible for a human mind to comprehend the mystery of the Trinity.



Also featured in the wallpaper are the four coats of arms of the first four bishops of the Diocese of Kalamazoo:

1. The Most Rev. Paul J. Donovan (1971-1994), "To serve rather than be served"
2. The Most Rev. Alfred J. Markiewicz (1994-1997), "An instrument of your peace"
3. The Most Rev. James A. Murray (1998-2009), "Rejoice in the Lord always"

4. The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley (2009-2023), "Waiting in joyful hope"

For more information about St. Augustine Cathedral School, please visit its website:

<https://stakzoo.org/>

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