



8001 West Belmont Avenue  
River Grove, IL 60171-1096  
Phone 708.453.6233  
Fax 708.453.6296  
[www.guerinprep.org](http://www.guerinprep.org)

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Sr. Dawn Tomaszewski, SP  
Director of Communications & Public Relations  
708-453-6233, Ext. 4708

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### **GUERIN PREP TO MARK GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

Commencement exercises for 165 members of the Class of 2010 of Guerin College Preparatory High School, River Grove, will be held Thursday, May 20, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Guerin Prep Auditorium. Of these graduates, 74 were honored as members of one or more of the eight different honor societies recognized at Guerin Prep and wore a special tassel on their graduation caps.

Nadia DiNunno of Roselle is this year's valedictorian.

A graduate of St. Walter Elementary School, Nadia is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and the Art Honor Society. She earned the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Award and was named the outstanding student in painting and the outstanding senior in English.

She has also distinguished herself as an athlete, both a member of the girls' basketball team for three years and a member of the cross country team for two years. She was a member of the All-Academic team in 2008-2009.

She hopes to attend the University of Florida with a future career goal to be a surgeon. She would like to be part of Doctors Without Borders or the Peace Corps.

There are two salutatorians: Taylor Greene of River Grove and Natalie Gwizdz of Chicago. Taylor and Natalie are both Illinois State Scholars and members of the National Honor Society. Taylor is also a member of the Quill and Scroll Honor Society.

Taylor, a graduate of St. Cyprian Elementary School, also received the coveted Mother Theodore Guerin Award for outstanding leadership and service. She is the 2010 winner of the Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student Essay Contest sponsored by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. She won the Sister Jean Margaret Kaindl Science Award and the Science Fair Award plus a Campus Ministry Award. She was one of the top winners in the Word Masters competition and brought home a ribbon from the Triton Art

**(MORE)**

## 2—Guerin Prep Graduation Activities

Show contest. She has served as a Guerin Ambassador, a Senior Mentor and a member of the Tech Team.

Taylor has received scholarships from the University of New England, Eckerd College and Roger Williams University. She plans on attending Eckerd where she is hoping to major in marine biology.

Natalie, who graduated from St. Ladislaus Elementary School, has served as a Guerin Ambassador. She has also been a Lead Tutor and a peer mentor.

Natalie has received the Loyola Scholarship, the Catholic Heritage Award and the Director's Scholarship from Loyola University plus the presidential scholarship from Dominican University. She plans on attending Dominican University and majoring in pre-med. She would like to become a doctor.

The graduation speakers will be two members of the Class of 2010 chosen expressly for this honor by Guerin Prep faculty and administration.

Gypsy-Lee Bilenda and Rebecca McManamon, both of Chicago, were selected from among the students who auditioned. Gypsy-Lee is a graduate of St. Bartholomew Elementary School; Rebecca attended Edison Public School.

Gypsy-Lee is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. A four-year athlete, Gypsy-Lee earned SCC all-conference honors for volleyball. She was selected to the all-conference academic team for Soccer and Volleyball. She was also a member of the dance team her junior and senior years and served as co-captain. She has also been a Senior Mentor and a volunteer at Shriner's Hospital.

She has received the National Scholars Award from the University of Iowa, the Catholic Heritage Award from Loyola University and is the Guerin Nominee for the Drs. Krsihna & Dilip Patel Scholarship, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. She plans to attend Illinois State University and hopes for a career in medicine.

Rebecca, an Illinois State Scholar, is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She earned the Patrick S. Gilmore Award for Band. She was also one of the top winners in the Word Masters competition.

Rebecca has earned the Hermann Muelder Scholar from Knox College, which she plans to attend and to major in creative writing. She would like to become a successful writer.

### ***Other Ceremonies***

In addition to commencement exercises on May 20, Guerin Prep will celebrate a Baccalaureate Mass for the graduates that morning with the entire student body. The Reverend Bernard Kennedy, OFM, former Holy Cross and Guerin Prep Campus Minister, will preside at the liturgy.

### 3—Guerin Prep Graduation Activities

To honor Guerin Prep's founding schools, at the end of the liturgy, the McManus and Davenport Awards will be presented to outstanding graduates of Mother Theodore Guerin High School and Holy Cross High School in honor of the founding principals of those schools.

Ms. Kathy Halvax '67 of River Grove will receive the McManus Award; the Davenport Award will be given to Michael Miller, currently of Elmwood Park, as the outstanding graduate of Holy Cross High School.

(See separate release for more information on these award winners.)

#### ***Alumni Induction & Senior Awards***

The day before graduation, on May 19, the graduates will be inducted into the alumni association, followed by the Senior Awards Ceremony.

The highlight of the awards ceremony is the giving of the Mother Theodore Guerin Award to a senior girl and the Spirit of Holy Cross Award to a senior boy who have shown outstanding leadership and service. The winners are chosen by members of the senior class, the faculty and administration.

Two senior girls will receive the Mother Theodore Award: Taylor Greene of River Grove (achievements are listed above) and Megan Romberg of Chicago. Rodolfo Gomez of Chicago will receive the Spirit of Holy Cross Award. Megan is a graduate of Bethlehem Lutheran Elementary School. Rodolfo is a graduate of St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary School.

An Illinois State Scholar, Megan is also a member of the National Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the International Thespian Society. She has been named the outstanding thespian for 2010. In addition she earned the American Choral Directors Association award and an Archdiocesan Leadership Development Award. Megan has served as a Kairos Leader, a Lead Tutor and a Senior Mentor.

Megan has been awarded the Springfield Scholarship from Carthage College and the Centennial Scholarship from Northern Illinois University. She plans on attending Illinois State University where she has received the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver.

In nominating herself for this honor, Megan referred to her future career. "A saying of Mother Theodore that has inspired me is 'love the children first, then teach them.' This will be a saying I can live by for the rest of my life as I accomplish my dreams of becoming a teacher and impact the lives of many in the years to come."

Rodolfo Gomez a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and won the Patrick S. Gilmore Award for Band. A Guerin Ambassador, Rodolfo has also served a class officer during his sophomore, junior and senior years. He has been an integral member of the student tech team since he was a sophomore.

#### 4—Guerin Prep Graduation Activities

He has received the Merit Scholarship from East-West University. He participated in DePaul University's CDM summer academy in 2009, which is where he also plans to attend college and major in computer science with a goal to be a computer or video-game programmer.

In the essay that accompanied his application for this honor, Rodolfo explained, "I believe I am worthy of this award because I have been a valuable asset toward the newly expanded technology department here at Guerin. I helped repair the laptops and helped with the school's network infrastructure. With my help, the other tech students' help and the IT Department's help, we made the school a very technologically advanced learning environment."

#### ***College-Bound Students***

Of the 165 Guerin Prep graduates, approximately 96 percent of them will pursue a college education in a two- or four-year college; another three percent will be attending a proprietary school.

To date, Guerin Prep seniors have been offered approximately \$3.1 million in scholarship monies to finance their higher education.

In addition to various scholarships offered Guerin Prep students,

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