

# T JASON LEE CLASS OF 2004

"I joined the St. Mary of the Woods Church and Trinity High School family as an incoming freshman in the fall of 2000 when my family was preparing to move to Whitesville from Owensboro. I can remember being nervous about the school year because I was the new guy joining a small class of close-knit kids from St. Mary and Mary Carrico. All those nerves faded quickly as I immediately felt welcomed into the family by a great group of classmates and teachers. During high school, I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I "grew up." I always had the dream of becoming a police officer, because my dad worked for OPD most of my childhood. I wasn't sure if the job was for me, and I wasn't old enough yet, anyway, so I considered other options. I had many great teachers at Trinity, but none were better than Mrs. Williams. She was tough, taught me a ton, and may have even threatened me a few times if I didn't stop talking in her class. I was also good at and enjoyed math, so ultimately I decided that I would go to college as an accounting major. I went to U of L for one semester and knew that the business world wasn't going to be right for me. I decided to follow my childhood dream of becoming a police officer. I knew it would be more exciting and that every day would bring a different adventure. I transferred to Eastern Kentucky University and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Police Studies in 2008.

I moved back to Whitesville and worked at the Daviess County Detention Center for about a year until I was hired at the Owensboro Police Department in 2009. I attended the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Police Academy in Richmond, KY, where I graduated with the highest average in academics and in firearms proficiency, and I was named a Recruit of Distinction. My career at OPD has provided me with the adventures I sought, but more importantly with endless opportunities to help those who are living their lowest moments or who are unable to help themselves. I was promoted to sergeant in 2017, and my new position as a supervisor has given me the opportunity to teach our new officers in many areas of policing. My hope, in any interaction with my officers, is that I am able to influence them to go about their business in the right way. I always strive to set the best example for my officers to follow and do not ask anything of them that I am not willing to do myself.

I was not a perfect student and was sometimes a worse teenager, but I know that I grew up a lot during my years at Trinity. I believe my education and experiences at Trinity were a big part in forming the strong moral and ethical foundation of the man I am today. Soak it all in and follow the examples set by your teachers and staff at Trinity. Know that your dreams are attainable if you are willing to put in the work, and don't forget where you came from."

