



1782

# SAINT MARY MESSENGER

The Newsletter for Alumni, Parents and Friends of  
Saint Mary Interparochial School

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!



**Back Row:** Devon Swain, Aubin Dobie, Charles Krakauskas, Patrick Vezza, Xavier Donahue, Oscar Briskin

**Middle Row:** Miller McCloskey, Pete Bradford, Andrea Azuelo, Paolo Bonaccorso, Angelo Derito

**Front Row:** Giancarlo Pilla, Adam Charrafi, Angel Arroyo, Olivia Lopez, Charley Scheving, Jayden Howlett, Tyler Bradford, Otis Shenk

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Congratulations to the Class of 2022! Our most recent graduates will continue to shine their St. Mary light as they embark on their new adventure of high school. The faculty and staff are confident that each student in their uniqueness is prepared to be a Christ-Centered leader in all that they do. In addition, it should be noted that members of this class received over \$1,300,000 in scholarships for the next four years of their high school careers.

*Congratulations to our class of 2022 – your futures are so bright!*

*Challenging our diverse student body to grow morally, academically and socially into passionate, confident, and Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.*

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Dear Parents, Guardians, Alum, and Supporters of St. Mary Interparochial School,*

The 2021-2022 school has been an incredible year of growth. The landscape of education has changed dramatically due to the pandemic and schooling does not feel completely back-to-normal just yet. The way we have pivoted together through every challenge and change is admirable. What remains constant is the resiliency, adaptability, creativity, patience, and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and families at St. Mary Interparochial School! And with that said, there is much to acknowledge and celebrate.

We are proud to share that we have had an academically astonishing year. St. Mary Interparochial School scored in the top 15% nationally in every subject area on the Terranova assessment. Because of this, St. Mary Interparochial School qualifies for the prestigious National Blue Ribbon recognition through the U.S. Department of Education. We will be in the process of completing and submitting our application to the U.S. Department of Education this school year. St. Mary Interparochial School received National Blue Ribbon recognition in 2016 and is eligible to reapply for National Blue Ribbon recognition every five years.

This year, we have seen our St. Mary Storm Athletics program grow with several new offerings for students in grades K-8. Thank you to our athletic directors, Kevin Barmann and Howard Briskin, our numerous volunteer coaches, our families, and most of all our student athletes for their hard work and dedication. We are looking forward to another fantastic Storm season!

St. Mary Interparochial School continued with our school-wide Mindfulness initiative. Mindfulness is the ability to be fully present and aware of where we are and what we are doing. And, to not be overly reactive or overwhelmed by what is going on around us. We are fully committed to supporting the physical health, mental health, and emotional regulation of our students. We are excited to announce that our partnership with Thomas Jefferson University will continue in the 2022-2023 school year. Through this partnership, students will continue to strengthen their understanding and view of their own health, and how to positively build their bodies, minds, and hearts through a faith-based lens.

As you may know, St. Mary Interparochial School transitioned to “STREAM” (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programming during the 2019-2020 school year. This curriculum shift was the result of current research which suggests that in order to prepare students for the twenty-first-century future workforce, students need to be complex problem-solvers, critical-thinkers, creative, empathetic, and collaborative team members. This program shift was supported through a generous two-year grant from the Ambassador’s Fund for Education. To strengthen our STREAM program, we are so excited to share that St. Mary Interparochial School was recently awarded an additional grant from the Ambassador’s Fund for Education for \$67,500 to use during the 2022-2023 school year. This grant supports the development of a middle school entrepreneurial service leadership program and supports the school in becoming an K-8 Innovation Hub for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our 8th grade students will be taking a new

elective called “Entrepreneurship.” In this elective, students will be using their STREAM-based competencies to build businesses through the design thinking model. St. Mary Interparochial School has partnered with 901 Education to support the school in the development of this new program. In addition to this, the school will be receiving two new MakerBot 3D Printers, a Glowforge laser engraver, items to refresh the STREAM carts as well as equipment to develop a broadcasting club to conduct video morning announcements and school news segments. We are so excited to share updates about this innovative programming in the coming months and are grateful for the support of the Ambassador’s Fund for Education.

St. Mary would also like to share a special thanks to the Connelly Foundation for its continued partnership. Our school is fortunate to continue our experiential learning program for our middle school students and professional development learning opportunities for staff members through the partnership with the Philadelphia Outward Bound School. These opportunities were made possible through the generous support and funding from the Connelly Foundation.

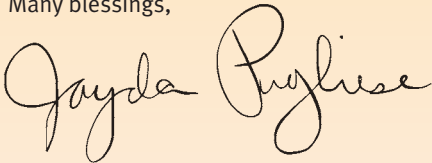
St. Mary Interparochial School is pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Global Philadelphia Association and their Sustainable Development Goals Mural Arts Project. The United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for action to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. Seventeen fundamental goals have been identified. Collectively, they address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. St. Mary Interparochial School has selected to focus on Goal #17: Partnerships for the Goals. This mural will be placed on the 5th Street side of the school building and will be available for public viewing for two years. At the end of this initial period of display, artwork for all 17 SDG’s will be showcased at an exhibition sponsored by



Global Philadelphia. Other locations hosting an SDG mural include the Academy of Natural Sciences, St. Joseph's University, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, Friends Select School, Glenmede Trust Company, and TD Bank. St. Mary Interparochial School has integrated the United Nation's SDGs within its curriculum since 2019, in congruence with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. More details to follow!

Whatever the mode of learning required, in-person, hybrid, or virtual, with your support, we are able to continue to offer an outstanding Catholic education to families from various parishes and zip codes while remaining a crown jewel in the historic heart of Philadelphia. Our most sincere thanks to you for your investment in Saint Mary Interparochial School and the Christ-centered leaders you are helping to shape for today, and tomorrow!

Many blessings,



Mrs. Jayda Pugliese, ABD  
Principal

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF LIMITED JURISDICTION



As much as it is a time for rest, the summer provides the entire St. Mary's Community the opportunity to recharge and regenerate. The Board at St. Mary Interparochial School is no exception. We are already formulating our Board-level objectives for the 2022-2023 school year.

We as a Board are spurred and motivated by the achievements of the school in the past year. For example, in terms of Terra Nova testing scores, St. Mary School earned scores that are within the top 15% nationally. This achievement allows the school to re-apply for Blue Ribbon status, a Board objective for the upcoming school year. The Board is working with Principal Jayda Pugliese and members of the faculty to complete this process. The school is a recipient of the Ambassadors Grant as a result of the students' high math grades and scores. Accordingly, eighth grade students will receive an Entrepreneurship course throughout the school year. (This course will be delivered as part of the STREAM program). We are especially enthusiastic about future academic achievements owing to the stewardship of our Academic Committee chaired by Alana Lee, Vice Principal of the Gesu school, who has comprised a committee of individuals who are able to provide varying K-8 perspectives from different vantage points across the Philadelphia and Catholic School landscapes.

The Advancement Committee, under the leadership of Susan Koger, continues to excel in generating the funds necessary to provide the school with its various opportunities. Once again, through events such as the Hoedown Harvest, Soiree, and Walkathon, the school raised monies in excess of the goals set at the beginning of the year. The EITC program continues to grow, and the number of applicants remains high, reflecting the Community's recognition of the school as a Blue Ribbon school that provides a stellar education at tuition rates markedly less than other schools in Philadelphia. The Advancement Committee

is pushing to set the bar ever higher in the 2022-23 school year.

Owing to the Finance Committee, led by Rich Autieri, the school remains as financially healthy as it has ever been from a budgetary perspective. We cannot thank Rich enough for the hours upon countless hours he devotes to the financial well-being of the school.

This year marked our first year with Jeannette Howell as the chair of the Buildings and Ground Committee. Not surprisingly, she did an exemplary job in identifying those areas of the school's infrastructure that needed to be addressed and followed through on addressing repairs and replacements, as needed. Thanks to the efforts of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, repair and replacement plans are underway for flooring on the 3rd floor, landings, and most of the first floor flooring. Looking forward, the Buildings and Grounds Committee looks forward to improving security measures, such as upgrading the Public Address system and security cameras.

As stated in my last letter, a Catholic Identity committee was formed to foster the Catholic identity of our school. We are blessed to have former principal Jeanne Meredith chair this committee, ensuring the school continues to develop compassionate, Christ-centered leaders. The Governance Committee, chaired by the Honorable Judge Savage, continues to aid in the oversight of the various Committees from a procedural, oversight perspective.

I am proud to be associated with this Board and those talented and selfless individuals who serve on it. As you can see, they have accomplished a great deal, but there is no resting on laurels or celebratory laps with this Board. The Board members are already working hard on plans for a successful 2022-2023 year and will collaborate with the Administration as the school works towards another successful school year.

Best regards,  
**Michael Detweiler, Esquire**  
*Board Chair and President*

## Board Members for 2022-2023

MICHAEL L. DETWEILER  
Board Chair and President

JAMILA ABERDEEN  
Parent '16 and '20

RICH AUTIERI  
Parent '18 and '19

JEANETTE HOWELL

SUSAN KOGER  
Parent, '25

ALANA LEE

UDAI PURAMSETTI  
Parent '26

JUDGE TIMOTHY SAVAGE  
United States District Court  
Board Vice President

VICTORIA RODGERS, ESQ

MICHAEL SHAPSON, ESQ  
Parent, '20 and '24

MARIA WALKER  
Parent, '08 and '12

AD HOC MEMBERS

JAYDA PUGLIESE  
Principal  
Alumna, '01  
Parent, '27

CHRISTINA HACISKI  
Executive Director of Advancement and  
Strategic Initiatives

## SPECIAL BOARD SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REGINA GRIFFIN-KELLY  
Alumni Parent, '08 and '13

Thank you to Regina Kelly who graciously served the St. Mary community for over ten years on our inaugural Advisory Board and Board of Limited Jurisdiction. As our Finance Committee Chair, Regina provided sound financial planning to help St. Mary remain fiscally independent as well as expand the academic and spiritual offerings for our students. She spent countless hours working with leadership to ensure a healthy financial outlook for our school through intentional budgeting planning sessions. Regina was essential in the fiscal sustainability of our school! We wish Regina and her family all the best in their future endeavors!





## 20TH ANNUAL WALKATHON:

*Supporting Art, Music, Language, Culture Education for our Children*

*Presented by Ann B. Zekauskas Family Foundation; Center City Orthodontics; City Plumbing; Harman Deutsch Ohler Architecture; the Grandizio Family; the Koger Family; Ralph and Barbara Novotney; and the Tigano Family*

The 20th annual Walkathon on Friday, May 20, 2022, raised more than \$53,000 to support the art, music, and language programs at Saint Mary! Thank you to our sponsors and to those many friends, families, loved ones, and businesses for supporting our students and embracing this essential fundraising effort.

In recognition of the many medical “firsts” in Philadelphia, the theme of this year’s Walkathon was “Celebrating the Art + Science of Medicine.” Our Walkathon route took us by both Thomas Jefferson University, our 2022 Partner in Academic Excellence, and Pennsylvania Hospital -- the nation’s first hospital. Throughout the week leading up to the Walkathon, students learned of Philadelphia’s rich and important history in medical innovation.

Congratulations to our top fundraiser, John Koger, Grade 5, and to nine runner-up prize winners: Emme Grandizio, Grade 6; Elizabeth Novotney, Grade 3; Ryan Hilser, Grade 6; Victor Tigano, Grade 6; Lucia Cipparone, Grade 5; Stephen Wiley, Kindergarten; Kellen Ohler, Grade 2; and Arlo Ohler, Kindergarten.

On behalf of our students who benefit from this fundraiser, thank you to the entire St. Mary community for making this campaign so successful! Please scan the QR code below to view our 2022 Walkathon Event Book.



**Thank you to all of our 2022 Event sponsors!**

Presented by our sponsors who support our school:



Cultural Champion Sponsors:



SAVE THE DATE

**Our 21st Annual Walkathon**  
**Friday, May 19, 2023**

It will recognize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, and celebrate a forthcoming commissioned artwork at Saint Mary representing SDG17, Partnerships for the Goals.

## THANK YOU TO OUR HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD!

Our H&S mission is to assist in educating parents about school programs and events and to foster the participation of families in the St. Mary school community. Our Home and School members come together as one group, one voice, one school to benefit our children – our greatest asset.

We have many exciting events planned for our 2022-2023 school year including a new Trunk or Treat event in October, Holiday Skate is back at Dilworth Park in December and we are excited to share that our Daughters and Sons of St. Mary's events will be back this year, as well.

Thank you to our outgoing Home and School Board members for their volunteer service to St. Mary Interparochial School during our 2021-2022 school year and welcome our new Home and School Board Members:



### Home and School Board 2022-2023

Tara Murphy, President  
Trish Vezza, 1st Vice President  
Liz Barmann, 2nd Vice President  
Liz Colussi, Treasurer (Past Giovanna Lukash)  
Ann Scheving, Events  
Jamie Wolf, Corresponding Secretary (Past Lisa Shapson)  
Katie Andrews, Fundraising

H&S membership registration forms will be distributed in the upcoming weeks, along with a full events calendar for the upcoming school year.

We look forward to a wonderful 2022-2023 school year.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR



**Thursday, September 1**  
Stationery Sale  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Tuesday, September 6**  
Back to School Night  
Honors Math: 4:30 PM  
Grade K: 5:00 PM  
Grades 1-4: 5:30 PM  
Ms. Pugliese: 6:00 PM

**Stationery Sale**  
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Betty Montgomery

**Wednesday, September 7**  
First Day of School Grades K-8  
1:00 PM Dismissal (Grades 1-8) / 12:45 PM (K)  
No Afterschool Programs

**Thursday, September 8**  
Middle School Back to School Night  
Ms. Pugliese: 5:00 PM  
Grades 5-8: 5:30 PM  
1:00 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:45 PM (K)  
No Afterschool Programs

**Friday, September 9**  
1:00 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:45 PM (K)  
No Afterschool Programs

**Monday, September 12**  
First Full Day of School  
3:00 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 2:45 PM (K)  
CARES Begins

**Wednesday, September 14**  
Open House  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Thursday, September 15**  
Home and School Parent Social

**Monday, September 26**  
First day of Hot Lunch

**Monday, October 10**  
No School for Students / Faculty and Staff Retreat Day

**Saturday, October 15**  
16th Annual Harvest Hoedown on Locust Street  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM / Rain or Shine!

**Thursday, October 27**  
Progress Report Conferences  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
No Afterschool Programs

**Friday, October 28**  
1:00 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:45 PM (K)  
Progress Report Conferences  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
No Afterschool Programs

**Tuesday, November 1**  
No School for Students / All Saints Day, Holy Day of Obligation

**Thursday, November 17**  
Home and School Mom's Night Out Event

**Wednesday, November 23**  
1:00 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:45 PM (K)  
No Afterschool Programs

**Thursday, November 24 - Friday, November 25**  
No School / Thanksgiving Holiday

**Wednesday, November 30**  
Open House  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Sunday, December 4**  
Home and School Dilworth Park Ice Skating Event

**Thursday, December 8**  
No School / Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Friday, December 9**  
No School / Faculty and Staff Development Day

**Monday, December 12**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Benefactors Mass

**Friday, December 23**  
Las Posadas Pageant  
1:00 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:45 PM (K)  
No Afterschool Programs

**Saturday, December 24 - Tuesday, January 3**  
No School / Christmas Holiday



## CLASS OF 2022 PERSONAL PROFILES

St. Mary's celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2022! Every year we ask the graduating 8th graders to share a few of their personal stories, goals, memories and influences. Read through their words of wisdom; these are good messages for us all!



### Angel Arroyo

**High School:** Trinity Catholic High School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Boys CYO basketball, Ran in the Jingle Bell Run, Theatre, School Ambassador,

U.A.E. Ambassador for Model UN, Chess Club, Sewing Club

**Fondest Memory:** When we learned about the battle of Gettysburg and then went on a trip to Gettysburg to see what we had learned about in real life.

**Future Goals:** To be top of my class in high school, perform great in athletics, and become a pediatrician.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents

**Words of Wisdom:** "Take God's hand and he will take you there."



### Andrea Azuelo

**High School:** Merion Mercy Academy  
**Activities and Achievements:** Volleyball, Theatre Tech Crew, School Ambassador, Big Sister

**Fondest Memory:** When we did the cake project in fourth grade

**Future Goals:** To see the world, experience other cultures, and meet new people.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents

**Words of Wisdom:** "Failing is part of learning, true failure comes when you don't try."



### Paolo Bonaccorso

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Participated in Reading Olympics and won twice, National Junior Honor

Society

**Fondest Memory:** The Pennsylvania cake project we did in fourth grade.

**Future Goals:** Either to become an Architect or a professional soccer player.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents, because they taught me to be who I am today.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Don't always think of the right answer, think of the best answer."



### Peter Bradford

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Honors Math, National Junior Honor Society President, Chess Club,

Reading Olympics, Big Brother, School Ambassador

**Fondest Memory:** Playing soccer during gym class with my class.

**Future Goals:** To eventually become a doctor.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom for always being supportive of me and for setting a good example of how I should act as an adult.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Success isn't achieved by doing nothing."



### Tyler Bradford

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
**Activities and Achievements:** National Junior Honor Society Vice President, Honors Math, Big Brother,

Ambassador, Chess Club

**Fondest Memory:** Our class trip to Gettysburg.

**Future Goals:** To find something I enjoy while in high school and to stick with it.

**Greatest Influence:** My Dad because he is always so friendly to everyone he meets and he always does his best to help me whenever I am struggling, whether that is with school work or something else.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Every day is a new day for you to improve and for you to make somebody else's day."



### Oscar Briskin

**High School:** Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti Catholic High School

**Activities and Achievements:**

School Ambassador,

Boys on the Run, Big Brother, Honors Math, National Junior Honor Society Secretary, Basketball Three Time Regional All-Star, Archdiocesan All Star

**Fondest Memory:** The last week of school in 7th grade.

## Class of 2022 Personal Profiles, *continued*

**Future Goals:** to be happy with whatever I decide to do with my life.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom.

**Words of Wisdom:** "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated."



### Adam Charrafi

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:**

Basketball, Big Brother, Reading Olympics, School Ambassador

**Fondest Memory:** The last week of 7th grade.

**Future Goals:** To keep playing hockey, make a lot of money, and graduate from a good college.

**Greatest Influence:** My friends.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Every moment is a new beginning." - T.S. Elliot



### Angelo Derito

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Morning and Afternoon Prayers, Honors Math, National Junior Honor Society

**Fondest Memory:** Playing on the roof with my friends. **Future Goals:** Become successful and be able to live comfortably.

**Greatest Influence:** My friends and family.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Although you should try to look at the bigger picture, it's good to pay attention to the smaller things too."



### Aubin Dobie

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** School Ambassador

**Fondest Memory:** Making friends.

**Future Goals:** To get into my high school's wrestling team, become an officer of the U.S. marine corps, and learn at least two other languages.

**Greatest Influence:** Military veterans.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Dreams only become a reality when you make them one"



### Xavier Donahue

**High School:** Central High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Chess, Boys on the Run, Basketball

**Fondest Memory:** Playing

football on the roof.

**Future Goals:** To become a wealthy husband with a loving family.

**Greatest Influence:** My friends. My friends have helped me through every struggle in my life and I don't know what I would've done without them.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Never give up until the end."



### Jayden Howlett

**High School:** The Haverford School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** JV and Varsity Basketball, MathCounts, National Junior Honor Society,

Honors Math, School Ambassador

**Fondest Memory:** Football on the roof at recess.

**Future Goals:** To go to college for free.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Do not take anything for granted."



### Charles Krakauskas

**High School:** Roman Catholic High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Chess Club, Basketball, Model UN, Captain of the 5th Grade Ballroom Dancing

Team at the Dancing Classroom Finals

**Fondest Memory:** When we had an assembly, a scientist from the Franklin Institute taught us about dry ice. He showed us how it can freeze almost anything by putting a blue rubber ball in with the ice, and when he took it out he threw it on the wall and it shattered. It was very loud and startled everybody in the gymnasium, and later we found pieces of the ball at lunch.

**Future Goals:** To maintain a 4.0 in high school, go to college, play a sport in college, and get a PhD.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents. They inspire me to be the best version of me I can be. They also teach me how to not make the same mistakes as they did.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Making a mistake is the best way to learn."



### Olivia Lopez

**High School:** The Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Third Place Ballroom Dancing

Competition, Jr. Model UN, Basketball, Two Time Volleyball Championship, Industrial Design, Theatre Tech Crew, Softball, Big Sister, School Ambassador





**Fondest Memory:** My sixth grade volleyball season. It was the first time I ever got to play in a real game and it helped me to find my forever sport.

**Future Goals:** To seize every opportunity I'm given in high school, to challenge myself and try new things, and to live my life to its fullest potential.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom because she has helped me through every challenge I've ever faced, pushed me to try new things, and helped me to be the best person I can be.

**Words of Wisdom:** "If you're weird you shouldn't hide it but you should own it. Being weird is what makes you different, it makes you unique, it's what makes you, and you should never let anyone take that away from you."



### Miller McCloskey

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Science Fair Winner, Carver Science Fair Competition, Two-Time Christmas

Tournament JV Basketball CYO Champions, National Junior Honor Society. Undefeated Varsity Basketball Season, MathCounts Gold Level Club and National Quarterfinals, Two-Time First Place Reading Olympics, Piano, Minas Brazilian Adventure, Chess Club, Theatre

**Fondest Memory:** Having the experience of being a safety when my little sister Georgia was in Kindergarten.

**Future Goals:** To succeed at The Prep, make amazing friends, and have amazing experiences. I want to attend a top university for Architecture.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents, who always support me with school and all of my activities.

**Words of Wisdom:** "If you don't have fun then you're not living life!"



### Giancarlo Pilla

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Honors Math, National Junior Honor Society, Ecological, Industrial Design,

Chess Club, Reading Olympics, School Ambassador, Big Brother

**Fondest Memory:** Making friends on the roof in third grade, my first year at St. Mary.

**Future Goals:** To do well in high school so that I can get into the college of my choice so I can eventually acquire a well-paying job that I enjoy working at.

**Greatest Influence:** My mother.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Do things that you should, not that you can."



### Charley Scheving

**High School:** Academy of Notre Dame de Namur  
**Activities and Achievements:** National Junior Honor Society, Chess, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball,

Yearbook, Big Sister, Safety, Theatre, School Ambassador

**Fondest Memory:** The maroon and white day in 4th grade when my team won and everyone screamed so loud I couldn't talk for 3 days.

**Future Goals:** To travel around the world, learn another language, and live to see Halley's Comet.

**Greatest Influence:** My mother because she is the strongest, kindest, and smartest person I have ever known. I want to be like her when I grow up.

**Words of Wisdom:** "See the world through rose-colored glasses, so that you will always see the good."



### Otis Shenk

**High School:** Roman Catholic High School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Storm Basketball, Storm Track, Storm Cross Country

**Fondest Memory:** The last week of school in 4th grade.

**Future Goals:** To work as hard as I can and be successful so that I can leave a legacy for my children.

**Greatest Influence:** God because he has guided me in life and saved me from many really bad situations.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Sometimes it's better to dive head-first through your problems instead of taking the easy way out."



### Devon Swain

**High School:** Cardinal O'Hara High School  
**Activities and Achievements:** Basketball, Big Brother, School Ambassador, Junior Model UN

**Fondest Memory:** The last day of seventh grade.

**Future Goals:** To be successful on whatever path life takes me on.

**Greatest Influence:** My siblings Donavin, Lavon, and Dj, along with my father.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Life is all about decisions and each one is the right one."



### Patrick Vezza

**High School:** St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
**Activities and Achievements:** 3rd Place Chess Competitor PECO Tournament, CYO All-Star Basketball Player,

Two-Time Christmas Tournament Winner, National Junior Honor Society

**Fondest Memory:** Going up on the roof and playing games like football and soccer up there.

**Future Goals:** To Graduate College and become a successful businessman and/or baseball player.

**Greatest Influence:** David Ortiz because he is my favorite baseball player, he is a fellow lefty, and he showed me that when your career ends you can still work hard and do more to help people.

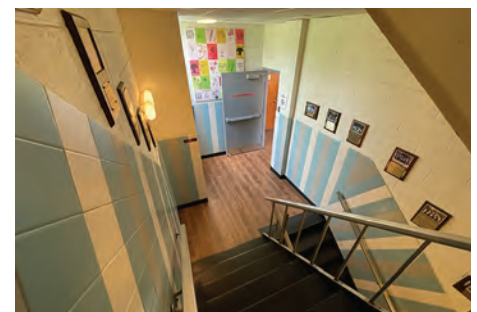
**Words of Wisdom:** "Rest at the end, not in the middle."

## Class of 2022 Photos



## THANK YOU SPONSORS AND DONORS!

Thanks to the generous donations made by our Saint Mary Soirée Sponsors and Supporters, along with the efforts of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, our students, faculty, and staff, will enjoy brand new flooring throughout the school on the third floor, landings, and most of the first floor. The second floor floors were replaced recently thanks to previous sponsorships and donations. It is thrilling to see our students' physical learning environment improve thanks to the generous donations made by our Saint Mary Soirée sponsors and donors. Thank you for supporting continuous improvement at St. Mary Interparochial School! To learn how you can support physical improvements to our building, please visit [www.saintmarys.us/support](http://www.saintmarys.us/support).





# IMPACT GIVING CAMPAIGN

## TO OUR GENEROUS ST. MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL SUPPORTERS

Each gift to Saint Mary makes a transformative difference in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. Your continued and dedicated support allows the Saint Mary light to brightly shine in Historic Philadelphia, an extraordinary example of an innovative, empowering, and nurturing Catholic educational program.

As you plan your giving for 2022-23, kindly consider these fundraising efforts as part of our Impact Giving campaign. Your voluntary donation is sincerely appreciated and makes a lasting impact within our school community.



### November 2023

An evening to fund our facility to build heart, minds and futures!



**YOUR DONATION GOES TO:**  
Improving our physical space to support our Students Academically and Spiritually



## ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

**YOUR DONATION GOES TO:**  
An Exemplary Faith-based Academic Program, Financial Tuition Assistance, General Operating Expenses, Professional Development for our Staff and Educators, Building Maintenance



Saturday, October 15, 2022  
Rain or Shine

**YOUR DONATION GOES TO:**  
STREAM Education  
(Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, Math)



Friday, May 19, 2023

20th Annual Walkathon:  
Supporting Art, Music, Language & Culture Education for our Children.

**YOUR DONATION GOES TO:**  
Art, Music, and Language Enrichment

### PA Tax Credit Program for Tuition Assistance

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Opportunity and Scholarship Tax Credit (STC) programs offer businesses and individuals the opportunity to contribute tuition assistance for families who wish to provide their children a Catholic Education at St. Mary.

### Personalized Giving:

Please consider supporting these areas of need throughout the giving year at the level that is right for you. If you prefer to create your own personalized giving plan, please contact Christina Haciski, Director of Advancement at 215-923-7522 or [advancement@saintmarys.us](mailto:advancement@saintmarys.us) to schedule a giving meeting.

**Thank you for supporting St. Mary Interparochial School!**

Our light continues to shine brightly as a beacon for outstanding Catholic education in the historic heart of Philadelphia.  
Fifth and Locust Streets • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • [www.saintmarys.us](http://www.saintmarys.us) • 215-923-7522 • [advancement@saintmarys.us](mailto:advancement@saintmarys.us)

## TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESS OWNERS WILL HELP CHILDREN BECOME “CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”



EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credits) & OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits) are available to both individuals and companies in the state of PA who are subject to tax liability. The Tax Credit program, which allows both individuals and businesses to redirect their state tax liability to fund scholarships for students and families in need, living in the Philadelphia region and across the state of PA.

### Personal Tax Credit - Special Business Partnerships Utilizing The Pennsylvania Educational Tax Credits for Personal Taxes

A special-purpose limited liability company established to provide tuition assistance scholarships to low-income families through the use of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit

(OSTC) programs. These programs allow members to receive up to a 90% tax credit against their personal PA state tax liability. Essentially, you turn your PA tax liability into scholarships!

### Business Tax Credit

Businesses in Pennsylvania can receive up to a 90% tax credit by designating tax dollars through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. By directing tax dollars your business will already be paying, you can help provide a quality education for children who otherwise would not be able to afford it. The EITC & OSTC PA tax credits allow businesses to make these donations for pennies on the dollar.

St. Mary Interparochial School is happy to announce that students who qualify for tuition assistance will receive over \$250,000 in EITC/OSTC funding through BLOCS, Foundation of Catholic Education, the Bridge Educational Fund, and the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia organizations.

St. Mary is grateful to the organizations and individuals who have designated tax dollars to make an outstanding education accessible to many of our students.

Thank you to our EITC partnering scholarship organizations for helping to provide financial aid to our students and their families!

### Business Schools Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS)

### The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP)

### Foundation for Catholic Education

Please consider designating your personal taxes or business taxes to make quality education possible for our St. Mary students in the historic heart of Philadelphia!

If you are interested in this unique way of giving, please contact Christina Haciski at 215-923-7522 or email [advancement@saintmarys.us](mailto:advancement@saintmarys.us).







## SAINT MARY'S STORM YEAR 2021-2022

*Year in Review*

This Saint Mary Storm season, 134 Students participated in at least one of our twelve Storm Teams! We were fortunate to have 26 volunteer coaches dedicate their time to help these student athletes. Saint Mary's Boys Varsity Basketball were the CYO Region 6 Season Champions. The team had a 21-3 overall record, during their 12-0 regular season. They also won the first ever Archdiocesan CYO Basketball tournament game, in Saint Mary's Boys Basketball history. We are fortunate to have access to Murphy Recreation Center, Shot Tower, EOM as facilities for our teams. We look forward to 2023. Go Storm!



We invite our St. Mary Families to view our full roster of Storm offerings by scanning the QR code below. Any questions, email [storm@saintmarys.us](mailto:storm@saintmarys.us).





## ALUMNI CIRCLE NEWS

*The Alumni Circle is an informal alumni community connecting former classmates and St. Mary School in a fun and easy way.*

### Class of 2022: Welcome to the St. Mary Interparochial School Alumni Circle!

We welcome the entire Class of 2022 into our Alumni Circle! We are very proud of our newest Alumni Circle members and all that they have achieved, and look forward to hearing all about their high school accomplishments! Best of luck!

**Alumni Circle:** The Alumni Circle is an informal alumni community connecting former classmates and school in a fun and easy way.

### Alumni Service Opportunities

Each year, we invite our high school-aged alumni to receive service hours through our Annual Harvest Hoedown! Stay up to date on all volunteer opportunities by following our social media accounts!



### Alumni Good News Spotlight:

*Would you like to be featured in an Alumni Spotlight? Share your good news with us! Email [alumni@saintmarys.us](mailto:alumni@saintmarys.us) and provide a brief description of any milestones or achievements that you would like to share with the St. Mary community.*

## ST. MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL “LEGACY SCHOLARS”



### Celebrating the Class of 2022 Legacy Scholars

Each of our Legacy Scholar Students is dedicated and committed to St. Mary's mission and values. We congratulate these students who have attended St. Mary Interparochial School for 9 years.

They have exemplified sacrifice, purpose, and determination.

Paolo Bonaccorso  
Pete Bradford  
Tyler Bradford  
Oscar Briskin  
Adam Charrafi  
Xavier Donahue

Jayden Howlett  
Charles Krakauskas  
Olivia Lopez  
Miller McCloskey  
Charley Scheving  
Patrick Vezza







**Save the Date!**  
**SATURDAY, October 15, 2022**  
**11am - 3pm**

**This joyous autumn celebration is an opportunity to bring students, parents, staff, alumni, and friends together in the heart of historic Philadelphia.**

*All proceeds benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School through STEAM programs.*

*For sponsorship and ticket information, please visit [www.saintmarys.us/support/harvesthoedown](http://www.saintmarys.us/support/harvesthoedown).*

The Hoedown rallies and unifies the St. Mary's community around a common cause: to raise money to support our mission to challenge our diverse student body, to grow morally, academically and socially into passionate, confident and Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.

Our Harvest Hoedown donations support our STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) Education Programs! This year, we celebrate our Harvest Hoedown's 16th anniversary.

*For sponsorship and admission information, please visit [saintmarys.us/support/harvesthoedown](http://saintmarys.us/support/harvesthoedown).*

### **Nominate an Alum Today for the Eighth Annual Harding Alumni Award**

During the fourteenth Annual Harvest Hoedown, a graduate of St. Mary Interparochial School who exemplifies excellence in service to the community at large will be presented with The Harding Alumni Award. Nominations are now being accepted. Anyone can nominate an alum today by scanning this QR code:



**Nominate Here**

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Sponsor the 16th Annual Harvest Hoedown today! All sponsors will be listed in our Event Book, St. Mary website, and Facebook fan page. For a full description of all sponsorship levels, or to sponsor the Harvest Hoedown today, please scan the QR code below.



**SCAN ME**

### **Hoedown Admission: Purchase your tickets today!**

Day of Event Admission: Admission to the Harvest Hoedown is \$12.50. After October 7th, Admission to our Harvest Hoedown is \$15.00. Purchase your admission tickets today by filling out the form below. Online ticket sales will close on Friday, October 14 at 2:00 PM.

Admission to the Hoedown Includes 10 Hoedown Tickets to be used for food and activities. Scan the QR code below to purchase your admission tickets today!



**SCAN ME**

For more information visit <http://www.saintmarys.us/support/harvest-hoedown>



## Help us Kick off our ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2022-2023

The Annual Giving Campaign is a yearly fundraising drive for the purpose of raising much-needed funds to benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School. These essential funds assist in providing:

- A top-rated Academic Program
- Scholarship and Tuition Assistance for families in need
- Technology for the 21st Century
- Necessary building and physical plant maintenance

You will receive our Annual Report for 2021-2022 and our Annual Giving letter this winter. We are grateful for your generosity. We hope you will contribute once again along with our entire St. Mary School community. 100% percent of your contribution will be used to benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School. Thank you in advance for your donation!

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Donate online at [www.saintmarys.us/support/annualgiving](http://www.saintmarys.us/support/annualgiving), call 215-923-7522, or send cash or check donation to:  
Saint Mary Interparochial School  
5th and Locust Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 1906
- Double your impact by requesting a matching gift from your employer.
- Spread the word about our Annual Giving Appeal to others who, like you, believe in an excellent Catholic education for children of all religious, economic, and ethnic backgrounds.

This newsletter was designed and printed with the support of Alusiv communication design and Conner Printing, Inc



**Saint Mary  
Interparochial School**  
Fifth and Locust Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215.923.7522  
[www.saintmarys.us](http://www.saintmarys.us)

## History of Saint Mary Interparochial School

The rich academic and historic heritage of St. Mary Interparochial School dates to the early days of Philadelphia, as Catholics and Protestants engaged in a spirited debate over educational practices. Founded in 1782 by the Jesuit fathers of Old St. Joseph's Church, St. Mary is known as "The Mother School" of Catholic parochial education and is credited with influencing Catholic educational patterns in this country. Situated near Independence Hall and other pivotal sites in old Philadelphia, it served children for more than a century before closing in 1902 after a devastating fire. St. Mary reopened in 1968, again with a distinction: With students drawn from six different parishes, it was the first interparochial school in the nation. St. Mary Interparochial School is situated in Independence National Park and serves over 250 children from all over the City of Philadelphia and its suburbs.

## Open Houses 2022-2023

September 14, 2022 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
November 30, 2022 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
February 1, 2023 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
May 10, 2023 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Visit [www.saintmarys.us/admissions/visiting](http://www.saintmarys.us/admissions/visiting) to RSVP today. Any questions, please contact our Admissions Director at [admissions@saintmarys.us](mailto:admissions@saintmarys.us) or 215-923-7522.