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# SAINT MARY MESSENGER

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!



**Top 2 Rows:** Ciela Ermilio, Zoe DePaul, Dami Charrafi, Anaia Neris, Michael Rachubinski, Madison Detrick, Lindsay McGinley, Emily Montgomery, Eamon McDermott, Sienne Ciurlino, Natalie Schaffer, Adriana Albergo, Sasha Leader

**Middle Row:** Mrs. Judy Crossan-Sanicky, Isabelle Baute, Sofia Ruoco, Paul Ricchiuti, Malaika Bhullar, Maren Muller, Mrs. Jayda Pugliese

**Front Row:** Ryan Smith, Samantha Weston, Luciano Palumbo, Sydney Lamb, Rieley Golarz, Anthony Viola, Jaiden Tucker, Patrick Holahan

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Congratulations to the Class of 2021! 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 from this class received over \$600,000 in scholarships for the next four years of their high school careers.

*Congratulations to our class of 2021 – 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 2020-2021 school year was incredibly unique. Masking, social distancing, and cohorting regulations, combined with simultaneous in-person and virtual instruction, presented many changes and challenges. What has and does remain constant is the resiliency, adaptability, creativity, patience, and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and families at St. Mary Interparochial School. And even though this year has looked and felt much different than prior school years, there is much to acknowledge and celebrate.

St. Mary Interparochial School began 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. Especially during the pandemic, we are fully committed to supporting the physical health, mental health, and emotional regulation of our students. From this initiative, St. Mary fostered an academic partnership with Roots2Rise (for yoga and mental mindfulness) and Greener Partners (for nutritional mindfulness). Additionally,

both our homeroom teachers and school counselor, Ms. Jamie Cross, led students in daily spiritual and religious mindfulness. These initiatives have positively supported our students and their management of age-appropriate struggles such as fear, anxiety, and depression. We are excited to continue with our mindfulness initiatives and daily mindfulness practices in the 2021-2022 school year. We are also excited to focus on health-based mindfulness with our partnership with Thomas Jefferson University. Through these initiatives, we as a school will continue to strengthen our students' understanding and view of health and will continue to support the faith-based and positive development of our students' bodies, minds, and hearts.

This year, we continued to provide weekly "STREAM" (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programming which replaced our technology curriculum. 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 has allowed students to begin to develop these skills through hands-on, project-based, design thinking approaches that emphasize STEAM learning with the added Religious approach. This program shift was supported through a generous two-year grant from the Ambassador's Fund for Education (formerly known as the Archdiocesan Educational Fund). This grant has helped support our STREAM mobile maker spaces (STREAM Carts), and the mindfulness STREAM-based nutritional programming provided through the Greener Partners program.

St. Mary Interparochial School has made a significant investment in technology this school year. Through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grant, we purchased brand new SmartBoards for every homeroom. And, we are pleased to report that all of our teachers

received their SmartBoard certification this school year. Through the Health and Safety grant, we purchased replacement Chromebooks for ones damaged and broken due to increased usage during in-person, hybrid, and remote learning. In addition to this, the school invested in iPads, tripods, and document cameras to support the simultaneous in-person and virtual instruction occurring throughout the year. All of these devices will continue to be utilized as we move forward into this coming school year.

St. Mary Interparochial School is pleased to announce that we have been officially re-accredited by the Middle States Association. A very special thanks to St. Mary Interparochial School's former principal, Jeanne Meredith, and to our Honors Math and Spanish teacher, Denise Pimpinella, who acted as our internal coordinators throughout the Middle States process. St. Mary Interparochial School also officially finalized our third strategic plan. A special thanks to our Director of Advancement, Christina Haciski, for organizing and leading this important process that ensures the success and sustainability of our school.

We would like to share a special thanks to the Connelly Foundation and two of our partner programs! This school year, Carpenter's Hall, in partnership with the Philadelphia Education Fund and Tildie's Toy Box, developed a very special program for our 3rd grade students to learn about architecture and engineering through the Carpenters' Hall Toolbox Project. And, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, we will begin a two-year partnership with The Philadelphia Outward Bound School for an experiential learning program for our middle school students and professional development learning opportunities for all staff members. These opportunities were made possible through the generous support and funding from the Connelly Foundation.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

We know that this was a difficult year for our 8th grade class, as many of their annual traditions were modified, reimagined, and/or canceled. But, we at St. Mary were so happy to be able to celebrate with some old and some new traditions! This year, our 8th grade received a St. Mary “first” and held a pool party at the Philadelphia Sports Club. We sincerely thank the Philadelphia Sports Club for this special opportunity for our 8th grade students. We are so proud of you, Class of 2021! We wish you the best of luck in high school. Remember to always shine your St. Mary’s light!

As we close the chapter on the 2020-2021 school year, we also close the chapter on the end of an era, with the retirement of our beloved Art Coordinator and Teacher, Mrs. Donna Bridy. Mrs. Bridy, we wish you much love and well-deserved rest in your retirement. With that said, we look forward to welcoming one of our former students, Ms. Morgan McCoy, as our new Art Coordinator and Teacher.

Whatever the mode of learning required, in-person, hybrid, or virtual, with your support, we are able to continue to offer a quality Catholic education to families from various parishes and zip codes while remaining a crown jewel in the historic heart of Philadelphia. It is our sincere hope that you will continue to share your time, talent, and treasure with our children. My 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



The challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic affected all sectors of society, but perhaps no sector was challenged more than the academic sector. Within the academic sector, one would be hard-pressed to find more pressing challenges than those presented to the K-8 urban school, which thrives on face to face learning and interpersonal communications inherent in a close-knit school community. The 2020-21 school year was one that could have presented insurmountable challenges to St. Mary. Instead, St. Mary responded stronger than ever, based largely on the strength of its school community, technological prowess, and its core values.

Indeed, St. Mary stood at the vanguard of virtual and remote learning when the pandemic first struck society in March 2020 in the second-half of the 2019-2020 school year. Following the lead of Principal Pugliese and the school’s emphasis on 21st technology and the importance of the STREAM curriculum, the school seized the challenge presented by virtual learning and quickly transformed this challenge into a strength. While other schools in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties missed valuable time or struggled to implement a virtual curriculum in the remote learning age, St. Mary pushed through—advancing its Blue Ribbon academic curriculum and core mission of developing Christ-centered leaders without missing a step.

St. Mary implemented its remote curriculum and experience from the 2019-2020 school year into the new school year of 2020-2021. Using the remote learning experience as a platform, the school expounded and implemented a program that led to a safe and effective hybrid model of remote and in-person learning, using the latest technology in terms of preventing the spread of the pandemic and ensuring the safety and peace of mind of students and faculty alike. Of course, this would not have been possible without the cooperation and collaborative efforts of the entire school community, including the support of the families and parents of our students.

And now, a new school year awaits, and we appear to return to school life as we once knew it: the entire student body present as the crisp Autumn air marks the beginning of a new school year, the classes full with students and faculty eager to learn, to teach, and to lead. It would be easy to sweep the memory of the pandemic under the figurative rug and press on into the future as though the pandemic never happened. But to do so would overlook one of St. Mary’s finest hours, when students, faculty, and the community at large first embraced and then flourished under the challenges presented by remote learning and the other restrictions caused by the pandemic.

Please join me and the other Board members for our open meeting on October 12th as we build on our past accomplishments and resilience, and look forward to continued growth in the future. I look forward to seeing you then.

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

## Board Members for 2021-2022

MICHAEL L. DETWEILER  
Board Chair and President

RICH AUTIERI  
Parent '18 and '19

REGINA GRIFFIN-KELLY  
Parent, '08 and '13

JEANETTE HOWELL

SUSAN KOGER  
Parent, '25

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  
Director of Advancement



## BITTERSWEET GOODBYES

St. Mary Interparochial School Board of Limited Jurisdiction says goodbye with a heavy heart to loyal board members **Kristin Ricchiutti** (Parent '21), **Christian Aument** and **Father O'Donnell, OSF**.

Kristin has served the St. Mary Community for nine years in several different capacities. She has played an instrumental part in our overall Advancement initiatives as the Hoedown Chair, Annual Giving Chair, and in her most recent role as Advancement Committee Chair. In addition, as a member of the Academic Committee, Kristin built long-lasting relationships with several integral educational partners which enhanced the learning experience for our student body. Kristin also implemented our first ever Junior STEAM programming which provides after-school enrichment in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math to our K-Fourth grade students. Kristin instructed and directed this program with parent volunteers and minimal resources.

Christian initially served our St. Mary Community for several years as an Advisory Board Member and was also an official member of our charter Board of Limited Jurisdiction. Serving as the Academic Committee Chair, Christian's extensive educational leadership background helped elevate our academic and technology programs. He supported the efforts in achieving National Blue Ribbon status as well as the reinstatement of our Middle States Accreditation.

Father O'Donnell served on our Board of Limited Jurisdiction from 2016-2020. We are very grateful for his contributions on the Academic Committee and for presiding at special school masses.

On behalf of the St. Mary School Community, we thank Kristin, Christian, and Father O'Donnell for their dedication to Catholic Education and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors!





# 19TH ANNUAL WALKATHON:

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

*Presented by Center City Orthodontics; City Plumbing; the Koger Family; Ralph and Barbara Novotney; and Stogie Joe's Tavern*

The 19th annual Walkathon on Friday, May 21, 2021, raised more than \$56,000 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.

As with so many things in the last year, the 2021 Walkathon looked different. Traditionally, the Walkathon recognizes a historical Philadelphia “first” — but throughout the last year, our students experienced so many “firsts” in real time. In recognition of their extraordinary experiences, and because of their

remarkable resilience, the 2021 Walkathon celebrated each and every Saint Mary Student — Mind, Body, and Spirit. We celebrated how our students adapted, evolved, and thrived; how they stayed curious and creative; and how they protected themselves and our community through wearing masks, hand washing, and social distancing.

On Walkathon day, students departed directly from the school and walked with their cohorts to one of the many beautiful parks in our school’s neighborhood. There, they engaged in a mindfulness activity; enjoyed the fresh Spring air; and took some time for reflection and prayer. They also had



time to have fun with their classmates — to run, to laugh, and to play. It was a beautiful day for the Saint Mary community.

Congratulations to our top fundraiser, John Koger, Grade 4, and to nine runner-up prize winners: Elizabeth Novotney, Grade 2; Kellen Ohler, Grade 1; Gabrielle Leuzzi, Grade 6; Gia Leuzzi, Grade 6; Cody Carobus, Kindergarten; Ryan Hilser, Grade 5; Adriana Albergo, Grade 8; Victor Tigano, Grade 5; and Emme Grandizio, Grade 5.

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 to view our 2021 Walkathon Event Book.



**Thank you to all of our 2021 Event sponsors!**

Presented by our sponsors who support our school:



Cultural Champion Sponsors:



SAVE THE DATE

**Our 20th Annual Walkathon**  
**Friday, May 20, 2022**

Celebrating the “Art and Science of Medicine,” it will honor all those working to help and heal within health care and celebrate the many historical Philadelphia “firsts” in the history of medicine.



## THANK YOU TO OUR HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD!



Each year, H&S members sponsor school dances, Lunch with Santa, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and several fundraisers designed to raise money for important projects. Our Home and School members come together as one group, one voice, one school to benefit our children – our greatest asset!

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

To learn more about our Home and School Association, please visit [www.saintmarys.us/family-resources/home-school](http://www.saintmarys.us/family-resources/home-school).

Lori Panza, *First Vice President*  
Carrie Jamison, *Events Committee Chair*

We also welcome our new Home and School Association Members and look forward to all of the events to come during our 2021-2022 school year!

### Home and School Board 2021-2022

Tara Murphy, *President*  
Trish Vezza, *First Vice President*  
Liz Barmann, *Second Vice President*  
Giovanna Lukash, *Treasurer*  
Lisa Shapson, *Corresponding Secretary*  
Alexis Allegretto & Ann Scheving, *Events Committee Co-Chairs*  
Katie Andrews, *Fundraising/Volunteer Coordinator*



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR



**August 31, September 1**  
Packet Pick Up and Stationery Sale  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Daily

**Tuesday, September 7**  
Kindergarten Parent Orientation 5:00 PM

**Wednesday, September 8**  
First Day of School for K (Group 1) and 1st Grade - 8th Grade  
12:40 PM Dismissal (K)  
12:45 PM Dismissal (1-8)

**Thursday, September 9**  
First Day for Kindergarten (Group 2)  
12:45 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:40 (K)

**Friday, September 10**  
First Day for ALL Kindergarten Students  
12:45 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 12:40 (K)

**Monday, September 13**  
First Full Day of School for All Students  
2:45 PM Dismissal (1-8) / 2:40 (K)  
CARES Begins  
First Day of Hot Lunch

**Wednesday, September 15**  
Open House 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Thursday, September 16**  
Back to School Night 5:30 PM  
H&S Parent Social 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 16**  
15th Annual Harvest Hoedown - Rain or Shine!

**Wednesday, October 27**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, October 28**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences, No School for Students

**Friday, October 29**  
No School for Students

**Monday, November 1**  
All Saints Day, No School for Students

**Thursday, November 25 -  
Friday, November 26**  
Thanksgiving Holiday

**Friday, December 10**  
No School for Students

**Wednesday, December 23 -  
Friday, December 31**  
Christmas Holiday





## CLASS OF 2021 PERSONAL PROFILES

St. Mary's celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2021! 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!



### Adriana Albergo

**High School:** The Shipley School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Debate, Theater, Mathcounts, NJHS, Ambassador, Big Sister, and Best Debate

Speaker Award

**Fondest Memory:** Making great friends and growing up with my classmates.

**Future Goals:** To be happy with whatever I do whether it be with my job or just my life in general.

**Greatest Influence:** My family because they love me for who I am and don't fail to make me smile.

**Words of Wisdom:** "It's about making sure everybody is having a good time and loving and living and enjoying life." - Snoo Dogg



### Isabelle Baute

**High School:** Cheltenham High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Science Fair Honorable Mention, National History Day

**Fondest Memory:** When

the school won the blue ribbon.

**Future Goals:** To work harder in school as I progress.

**Greatest Influence:** My peers

**Words of Wisdom:** "The time is always right to do what is right." - Martin Luther King Jr.



### Malaika Bhullar

**High School:** Central High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Science Fair: 5th - honorary mention and 2nd place in Carver, 6th - honorary

mention and 2nd place in Carver, 7th - first place and 1st in Carver, placed in Delaware Valley, made to Broadcom MASTERS Nationals; Roller Coaster Engineering, Piano Lessons and Recital

**Fondest Memory:** Seventh Grade when our class made the Cell songs.

**Future Goals:** To continue writing piano pieces and finish researching more about tidal currents. Also, when I am older, I plan to live in a car with my sister and write books together.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom

**Words of Wisdom:** "We are so busy watching out for what's ahead of us that we don't take the time to enjoy where we are." - Bill Watterson (Calvin and Hobbes)



### Dami Charrafi

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

**Activities and**

**Achievements:**

Volleyball, Theater, Big Sister, Yearbook, Ambassador, Ecological

**Fondest Memory:** The hoverboard project

**Future Goals:** To graduate college with a teaching degree and become a special education teacher.

**Greatest Influence:** My Aunt Margie who was a teacher.

**Words of Wisdom:** "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." - Franklin D. Roosevelt



### Sienne Ciurlino

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

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Volleyball, Softball, NJHS, Ecological,

Ambassadors, Big Sister, Yearbook, Prayers and Announcements

**Fondest Memory:** Being able to go on the roof for recess and spending quality time with my friends and classmates there.

**Future Goals:** To get a part time job this summer or next school year and join as many clubs and/or sports as I can in high school, while maintaining good grades.

**Greatest Influence:** My pop pop. He immigrated to the United States from Italy with little to nothing in his pocket. He wanted to come here to start a new life. He worked very hard for my family and me. He is a huge inspiration to me.

**Words of Wisdom:** Do not let fear get in the way of what makes you happy.

Class of 2021 Personal Profiles, *continued***Zoe DePaul**

**High School:** Owen J. Roberts High School

**Activities and Achievements:**

Musical Theater, Future Cities, National History Day Competition

**Fondest Memory:** The 6th grade planets project.

**Future Goals:** To use my motivation to help others in fields that aren't as explored.

**Greatest Influence:** The problems of people as a whole, from minor arguments between people to major sociological problems. They make me worry, but at the same time motivate me to try to rectify them.

**Words of Wisdom:** You aren't going to be liked by everyone. Nobody is liked by everyone. You may not feel liked as much as the other person next to you, but you have to remember that there are 7 billion people on Earth, you just haven't found your people yet.

**Madison Detrick**

**High School:** Delran High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** President of the National Junior Honor Society, Honors Math, Big Sister, Basketball, Chess

Club, Cross Country, Ecological, Academic Bowl, and Ballroom Dance Competition

**Fondest Memory:** When we learned ballroom dance in fifth grade.

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

**Greatest Influence:** My father because he is a great role model and he has always supported me and my interests.

**Words of Wisdom:** "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." - Lao Tzu

**Ciela Ermilio**

**High School:** The Shipley School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Neumann Scholar, Ambassador, Big Sister, Ecological Club, Reading Olympics,

Theater, NJHS Treasurer, Mathcounts, Cross Country, GOTR, Heart and Sole, Debate, Chess, Honors Math, Caver Science Fair

**Fondest Memory:** Meeting many wonderful people who have substantially affected my life for the better and help me to be the best version of myself.

**Future Goals:** To be happy, whether it be through my job, or the people I surround myself with, I hope I can stay happy and be myself.

**Greatest Influence:** My family, and I am extremely grateful that they are so supportive and love me for who I am.

**Words of Wisdom:** "I want to be loved while I'm here. And the only way to get love is to give love" - Snoop Dogg

**Rielez Golarz**

**High School:** Radnor High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Ambassador, Big Sister, Track, Chess Club, Girls on the Run, Fit and Fun,

NJHS, Neman Scholar, Yearbook

**Fondest Memory:** A couple of years ago our class was at recess on the roof. It was drizzling and so that made the flooring a little bit slippery, and so you could slide on it. It was so much fun and everyone was just slipping and sliding on the roof.

**Future Goals:** To run track in high school and try my hardest in all my classes so I can get into a really good college.

**Greatest Influence:** My uncle, he served in the military for a long time as a trauma surgeon and is now working at temple as a vascular surgeon

**Words of Wisdom:** All ways be your best self.

**Patrick Holahan**

**High School:** Roman Catholic High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** 1st Place National History Day Competition, Debate, Math Counts

**Fondest Memory:** Staying after school to work on my history project in the library.

**Future Goals:** To become successful in whatever field I decide to go into.

**Greatest Influence:** My mother and father.

**Words of Wisdom:** "A sure way for one to lift himself up is by helping to lift someone else" - Booker T. Washington

**Sydney Lamb**

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

Goretti Catholic High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Softball, Basketball

**Fondest Memory:** When we would have sing-a-longs at snack.

**Future Goals:** To become an off the track thoroughbred trainer.

**Greatest Influence:** My dad because he pushes me when I need to get something done.

**Words of Wisdom:** "This is not about going back. this is about life being ahead of you and you run at it! Because you never know how far you can run unless you run." - Penny Cherry

**Sasha Leader**

**High School:** Cherry Hill East High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Reading Olympics, Girls on the Run, Fit and Fun, Big Sister

**Fondest Memory:** When it was raining at our recess and all the kids went on the roof and played in the rain and everyone and everything was all wet. Mr. Dave let us all





slide in the rain and if our clothes got all wet we were allowed to change from the lost and found clothes.

**Future Goals:** To end up going to a college in New York City because I love the city so much but I am not sure what I want to do when I grow up.

**Greatest Influence:** Probably my mom because she has been through so much in her life and she has been strong. When I grow up I hope to be strong like her.

**Words of Wisdom:** "You only live once."



### **Eamon McDermott**

**High School:** Bishop Eustace Preparatory School

**Activities and Achievements:** Big Brother, Neumann Scholar, NJHS,

Honors Math, Basketball, Yearbook, and Ambassador

**Fondest Memory:** My nine year winning streak of the Red and White Day games.

**Future Goals:** To do well in high school academically and athletically, then hopefully get a scholarship to play baseball at a D1 college to continue my learning and growing career.

**Greatest Influence:** Eric Sym because his quote is "lift heavy and throw gas" which is what I live by. **Words of Wisdom:** Self-motivation will evolve into success.



### **Lindsay McGinley**

**High School:** Archbishop John Carroll High School

**Activities and Achievements:** Mathcounts, Future Cities, Ecological, Musical Theater, Vice President of

NJHS

**Fondest Memory:** Going to Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station for Future Cities. It was a very fun trip and since there were only four of us, it was a very special experience that I am lucky to have.

**Future Goals:** To do well in high school, get new opportunities and make new friends.

**Greatest Influence:** My dad

**Words of Wisdom:** "We should not be ashamed of who we are."

- Marsha P. Johnson



### **Emily Montgomery**

**High School:** Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** NJHS, Ambassadors, Big Sister, Volleyball, Softball,

Reading Olympics, Musical Theater, Ecological, Girls on the Run, Heart & Sole, Fit and Fun, Neumann Scholar

**Fondest Memory:** Our 8th grade retreat day when we reminisced on our early years at school.

**Future Goals:** To live life to the fullest.

**Greatest Influence:** My older sisters.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will." - Suzy Kassem



### **Maren Muller**

**High School:** Merion Mercy Academy

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** National Junior Honor Society, Varsity Basketball, Neumann Scholar

Candidate, Chess Club, two time Science Fair Award recipient

**Fondest Memory:** When in 7th grade, Ms. Grossi put on All I Want For Christmas is You the day before Christmas break and we all sang along. My class always knows how to have fun, and I'll always remember it.

**Future Goals:** To work for NASA.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents because they work hard and teach me to always try my best and to be kind.

**Words of Wisdom:** "We can't always take the most obvious road in life." - Anne of Green Gables



### **Anaia Neris**

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

**Activities and Achievements:**

Ecological, Space Station 3D modeling, Honors Math, Ambassador, National Junior Honor Society, Mathcounts, Mathcounts Competition Team, Girls on the Run, Chess Club, Big Sister, Safety **Fondest Memory:** Pi Day in Honors math and everyone brought in Pie or Cake celebrating Pi Day.

**Future Goals:** For amazing success in high school and get into and excel in my dream college.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom

**Words of Wisdom:** "The best way to guarantee a loss is to quit." - Morgan Freeman



### **Luciano Palumbo**

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

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Debate and Theater

**Fondest Memory:** When we had the first theater

play

**Future Goals:** To go to college for a good a good education

**Greatest Influence:** My parents.

**Words of Wisdom:** If you try your best you will have the best success.



### **Michael Rachubinski**

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

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** Basketball, Track, Cross Country, Debate, NJHS, Neumann Scholar,

Reading Olympics, and Big Brother

**Fondest Memory:** Playing football on the roof with my friends.

**Future Goals:** To be successful, even though I don't know exactly what I want to do yet.

**Greatest Influence:** The environment I was raised in and the people I was raised around.

**Words of Wisdom:** Never let your emotions overpower your intelligence.



### **Paul Ricchiuti**

**High School:** Penncrest High School

**Activities and**

**Achievements:** National Junior Honor Society, Future Cities

**Fondest Memory:** My first Red and White Day.

**Future Goals:** To go to a good college.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents.

**Words of Wisdom:** Success is when preparation meets opportunity.

## Class of 2021 Personal Profiles, *continued*



### Sofia Rouco

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

#### Activities and

**Achievements:** Volleyball, Cross Country, Basket-

ball, Debate, Reading Olympics, Basketball Championship Winner, Debate Winner.

**Fondest Memory:** When it rained while we were on the roof and we were all sliding

**Future Goals:** To go to college and then go to law school and become a lawyer. In high school I plan to join many sports teams.

**Greatest Influence:** My parents because they both started with hard lives in different countries and worked hard to get to where they are now. With my mom being a nurse at Jefferson at the neuro ICU and my dad being the founder and CEO of a company in multiple countries and states.

**Words of Wisdom:** You only live once, so make every second count



### Natalie Schaffer

**High School:** Merion Mercy Academy

#### Activities and

**Achievements:** Ballroom Dance Finals

**Fondest Memory:** The cupcake sales.

**Future Goals:** To graduate NYU with a degree in pre-law and go on to graduate from law school and become a lawyer.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom because she always strives to do the best and even when things get hard she never gives up.

**Words of Wisdom:** "Life is a gift. Wake up everyday and realize that."



### Ryan Smith

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

#### Activities and

**Achievements:** Attending St. Mary Interparochial

School for all nine years.

**Fondest Memory:** Every Red and White Day.

**Future Goals:** To play in the MLB.

**Greatest Influence:** My dad and my mom.

**Words of Wisdom:** Never be satisfied.



### Jaiden Tucker

**High School:** Timber Creek Regional High School

#### Activities and

**Achievements:** Ambassador, NJHS, Big Sister, Science Fair, Softball, First Place Science Fair Winner,

Theatre, and Ecological

**Fondest Memory:** Our trips to the Constitution Center.

**Future Goals:** To graduate high school and go to a good college, and eventually get a job at Boston Dynamics Robotics

**Greatest Influence:** My mom.

**Words of Wisdom:** Have fun, try to enjoy the time you have before it runs out.



### Anthony Viola

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

#### Activities and

**Achievements:** Ambassador, National Junior Honors Society, Basketball, Robotics

**Fondest Memory:** Enjoying my time with friends on the roof.



**Future Goals:** To be happy and spread positivity to everyone.

**Greatest Influence:** My mom

**Words of Wisdom:** "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt



### Samantha Weston

**High School:** Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls

#### Activities and

**Achievements:** Ecological, NJHS, Mathcounts, Mathcounts: Video Challenge, Ambassador, Theatre, Softball,

National History Day, Morning and Afternoon Prayers, Safeties, and Big Brothers and Sisters

**Fondest Memory:** When I was in the 6th grade and the students (5th-8th) had the chance to build a hovercraft and ride it. We were put in groups and had a competition. My group did really well, and on top of it all we had loads of fun.

**Future Goals:** To follow my passion, which is writing. Everyone enjoys movies, but before the editors and the directors, there's the script writers! I hope to one day write a script and create a movie that captivates the audience. I also would love to publish books. This is what I hope is in store for my future.

**Greatest Influence:** My mother. I've watched her day after day, for almost 15 years now, and it amazes me how strong she is. One day I'd hope to even be HALF the woman she is. Even during these tough covid times, my mother manages to keep her head up, move forward, and it's so empowering to witness. I love her more than anything and she's my biggest inspiration!

**Words of Wisdom:** "Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." - Will Rogers





# IMPACT GIVING CAMPAIGN

## TO OUR GENEROUS ST. MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL SUPPORTERS

Thank you for your continued dedication to our students, staff, and exemplary school program! Your donation prepares our students to become Christ-centered leaders while maintaining the intentional Catholic culture cultivated at St. Mary.

There are several fundraising opportunities throughout our Impact Campaign that will help sustain our school program. This information will help you plan for voluntary giving throughout the year.



**Thursday,  
February 3,  
2022**

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

SAINT MARY  
*Soirée*  
BUILDING HEARTS, MINDS  
& FUTURES

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



### ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

**July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

**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

*Harvest*  
**HOBOWIN**  
ON LOCUST

**Saturday, October 16, 2021  
Rain or Shine**

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



**Wednesday, May 20, 2022**  
20th Annual Walkathon  
"Celebrating the Art & Science of  
Medicine"

**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 donating 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 **\$200,000** in EITC/OSTC funding through BLOCS, Foundation of Catholic Education, 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 Catholics Schools (BLOCS)**  
**The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP)**  
**Foundation for Catholic Education**

Please consider designating your personal taxes or business taxes to make a 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).

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES AT ST. MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL

We are continually working on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, as it is one of our Middle States goals. More information will be shared with families later in the school year about our progress towards our goals. Thank you for being a part of our ever-growing community!





## THANK YOU MRS. BRIDY!

*Please join us in extending heartfelt gratitude and warm wishes to Mrs. Donna Bridy, who has retired from her position at St. Mary Interparochial School after 17 years.*



who helped install each of Mrs. Bridy's permanent art installations throughout the school over the past 17 years, among countless other projects.

We are so grateful for the Bridy Family, who will continue to live on in our school through the beautiful artwork that fills our building!

Donna Bridy's legacy will continue to shine through the countless lives she has touched and the numerous art installations that will grace our walls for years to come. We thank Donna Bridy for her dedication to St. Mary Interparochial School over the past 17 years and wish her the very best as she enters into retirement.

Donna Bridy has been an integral part of our school for the past 17 years, not only through her joyful presence in the classroom but also through her undying passion for making the arts accessible to every St. Mary student. Mrs. Bridy is also an alumni parent, whose children graduated from St. Mary Interparochial School in 2007 and 2012. We would also like to recognize Mrs. Bridy's husband, Mr. Joseph Bridy,





## 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 2021: Welcome to the St. Mary Interparochial School Alumni Circle!

We welcome the entire Class of 2021 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 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 Facebook Group

If you are a St. Mary Alum, please join our Alumni Facebook Group! To stay up to date on our monthly Alumni News and Alumni Events, please visit [www.facebook.com/groups/smipsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/groups/smipsalumni).



### Alumni Good News Spotlight:

*Would you like to be featured as 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 LIFERS:



### Celebrating the Class of 2020 "Lifers"

Each of the students in the Lifers Club is dedicated and committed to St. Mary's mission and values.

Being dedicated and committed is part of growing and transcending to the next level and we congratulate these students to have attended St. Mary Interparochial School for 9 years. They have exemplified sacrifice, purpose, and determination. Thank you St. Mary Lifers!

Adriana Albergo  
Isabelle Baute  
Malaika Bhullar  
Dami Charrafi  
Zoe DePaul  
Madison Detrick  
Ciela Ermilio

Patrick Holahan  
Sydney Lamb  
Sasha Leader  
Eamon McDermott  
Lindsay McGinley  
Emily Montgomery  
Maren Muller

Paul Ricchiuti  
Natalie Schaffer  
Ryan Smith  
Samantha Weston  
Anaia Neris  
Michael Rachubinski







Save the date:  
**SATURDAY**  
**October 16, 2021**

This fair-like event is held between **4th & 5th Streets**  
**on Locust Street** running from **11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

Join us for this great afternoon of fun!  
*Rain or Shine*

Visit [www.saintmarys.us/support/harvest-hoedown](http://www.saintmarys.us/support/harvest-hoedown)  
to purchase your tickets, view our sponsorship  
opportunities and to learn more about this  
St. Mary event.

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 15th 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

### Reunion Reception and Harding Alumni Award Presentation: Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12:00 PM

All St. Mary graduates are invited to attend the Reunion Reception and Harding Award Presentation to be held during our Harvest Hoedown from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Alumni who register for this event will receive one admission to our Harvest Hoedown. Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 1 by scanning this QR code:



RSVP Here

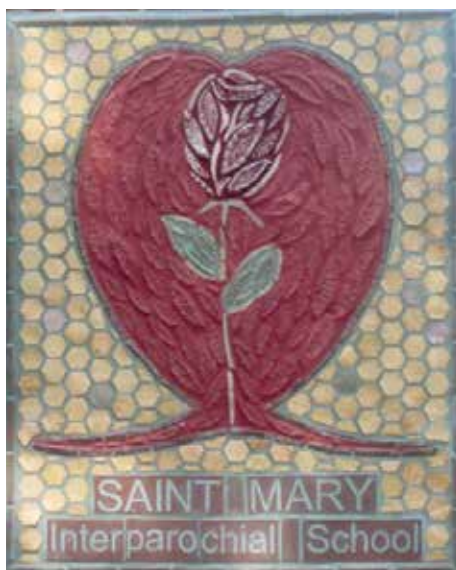
### Volunteer for Hoedown

St. Mary Alumni participation and support is vital to the Hoedown success! Please consider volunteering for this year's event! You can earn service hours, reminisce and reconnect with old friends and make some new memories while helping out at this special event. Fill out a volunteer form by scanning this QR code:



Volunteer Here

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



## Help us Kick off our ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2021-2022

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
- A K-8 Sustainable STREAM Program
- Necessary building and physical plant maintenance

You will receive our Annual Report for 2020-2021 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 a 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.

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**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 2021-2022

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 - 8:30 to 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, December 2, 2021 - 1:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 - 8:30 to 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 8:30 to 9:30 A.M.

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.

Saint Mary Interparochial School is an equal opportunity service provider and employer