



1782

# SAINT MARY MESSENGER

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!



### NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

**Front Row:** Ida Jacob, Nico Conner, Leo Daly, Emerson Barnosky, John McKenna, Scotlynn Campbell, Lucia Cipparone

**Second Row:** Elizabeth Scherneck, Vincenzo Bonaccorso, Gabriella Screnci, Starr Williams, Nolan Kaplan, Claire Zdanavage

**Third Row:** Mrs. Jayda Pugliese, Emma Sheridan, Julian Loke, Sadie Gromelski, George Squilla, Noelle Hofmann, Mrs. Judy Crossan-Sanicky

**Back Row:** Mrs. Denise Pimpinella, Grace Rachubinski, Gabriel Balchunas, John Koger, Erich Swerling

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Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Our most recent graduates will continue to shine their Saint Mary light as they embark on their new adventures in high school. The faculty and staff are confident that each unique student 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 \$950,000 in scholarships for the next four years of their high school careers.

*Congratulations to our class of 2025 - your futures are so bright!*

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

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Dear Saint Mary Interparochial Community,*

My name is Denise Pimpinella and I am currently the Acting Principal. I have had the pleasure of serving this community

for the past eighteen years in various roles, including middle school honors math and Spanish teacher, instructional coach, and most recently Assistant Principal. My education experience includes an MA in Theology from Villanova University and an MA in Education from La Salle University, in addition to a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Chicago. Personally, I have just celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary this July with my husband Eric. We are parents of two busy New Jersey middle school students, Antonio (13) and Elena (12).

This year I hope to celebrate our continued success as a school community. First, I am happy to report that the hard work of our students as measured on the Terra Nova Exams

this past Spring has earned the Saint Mary Interparochial School recognition from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a School of Distinguished Instruction for the category of growth. We hope to continue to encourage academic growth in our school community by meeting students where they are. We look forward to developing more personalized learning enrichment opportunities for students through our use of the IXL platform and continued diagnostic testing. This platform will allow students to access grade level skills assigned by teachers and provide the challenge of system-identified skills targeted to each student's specific learning level. Our teachers will spend a good portion of their summer professional development training in August on the IXL platform in order to maximize this resource for all our students in grades K to 8.

Finally, I look forward to another successful year working with our community partners as we make plans to help our students, faculty, and staff grow. As a small, but mighty school, we will continue to foster rich learning experiences that supplement our academic program thanks to the collaboration with Dancing Classrooms Philly (Latin and ballroom dancing in grades 4 and 5), 901 Education

(Entrepreneurship in grade 8), Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement (mock trial in grades 3 and 7), World Affairs Council of Philadelphia (Model UN program in grade 6) and Bioeyes program (zebrafish life cycle and genetics in grades 2 and 7). These programs have become hallmarks of the multifaceted education we provide our students. They supplement the dynamic work of our talented faculty and staff. Additionally, it is in partnership with our families and the greater community that we foster a rich academic and social environment to help form the Christ-centered leaders found in our classrooms.

I thank you all in advance for your warm welcome and support this year. I am very excited to continue to work in partnership with all of you as we enter the 2025-2026 school year. It is going to be a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Denise Pimpinella  
Acting Principal

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



*Dear Saint Mary Interparochial School Community,*

My name is Christina Ruskey Haciski, and I'm very grateful to serve the Saint Mary community as your

Executive Director. Working in unison with Denise Pimpinella and Susan Koger, we're excited to launch our new strategic plan, a comprehensive roadmap that will guide Saint Mary Interparochial School toward a successful and sustainable future. This plan is the culmination of incredible collaborative effort, and my sincere thanks go out to everyone who completed surveys, participated in focus groups, and worked tirelessly on our seven task forces. Your invaluable insights enabled us to thoroughly assess our current school programming and thoughtfully plan for what's ahead.

We're also thrilled to report that we are at maximum capacity for the 2025-2026 school

year, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming over 260 students through our iconic stained-glass doors very soon! This remarkable milestone is a testament to our vibrant community and the unwavering dedication of our staff.

Our campus has been a hub of activity this summer, with many exciting building updates designed to enhance our learning environment. The entire school has undergone a thorough deep-clean, and we're immensely grateful to Tom McCloskey Painting for once again providing in-kind painting services. His team has beautifully refreshed the seventh-grade classroom and all our bathrooms. You'll also notice new desks and chairs in the seventh grade, several light fixtures replaced throughout the building, a power-washed exterior, and a new video and fob security system installed for enhanced safety. Plus, our gym floor has been stripped and waxed, ready for action! We're diligently putting the finishing touches on everything to ensure a smooth and successful start. We eagerly anticipate opening our doors on September 3 for the new school year!

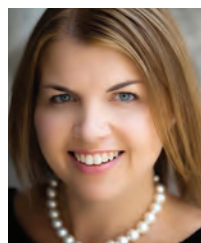
We're also incredibly proud to announce that we have been awarded over \$400,000 in tax credit designations. This significant achievement will make an outstanding Catholic education possible for even more of our students, and we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to this vital program. We strongly encourage all families to participate in the TuitionCare program, which directly benefits all our families. Please reach out to me directly to learn how you can take part and help us continue to provide exceptional educational opportunities.

Thank you once again to all our families, supporters, alumni, and friends for continuing to support our mission to prepare Christ-centered leaders.

Respectfully,

Christina Ruskey Haciski  
Executive Director

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF LIMITED JURISDICTION



### *Dear Saint Mary Community*

I am honored to write to you as the new Board Chair and President of Saint Mary Interparochial School. As I step into this role, I want to extend my

heartfelt gratitude to Michael L. Detweiler, Esq., Past President, Chair Emeritus, and our 2025 Legacy Leader, for his exceptional leadership and years of dedicated service. His steady presence, thoughtful counsel, and unwavering commitment guided Saint Mary through tremendous growth and meaningful change.

On a personal note, this transition also marks a new chapter for my family. With our son John graduating from Saint Mary and beginning his next academic and athletic journey at St. Joe's Prep, I am now a grateful alum parent and will continue my commitment as a champion of Saint Mary's mission. I'm excited to continue giving back to this extraordinary community that has given so much to our family.

This summer also marks the completion of our 2025-2030 strategic planning process, a major milestone made possible by the hard work of our dedicated volunteer task forces, school leadership, faculty, students, and families. I look forward to sharing more about our strategic priorities as we head into the new school year. I am also thrilled to welcome Christina Ruskey Haciski in her new role as Executive Director, serving alongside Denise Pimpinella in her new role as Acting Principal. Together, they bring outstanding leadership experience and a shared commitment to excellence in Catholic education.

And finally—mark your calendars! We are excited to announce that our annual gala will be held on November 20, 2025, at The Lucy by Cescaphe. It promises to be a wonderful evening of celebration and support for the future of Saint Mary.

Thank you for all you do to support our students and uphold the mission of Saint Mary Interparochial School. I look forward to the coming years with gratitude, hope, and enthusiasm.

Warm regards,

Susan C. Koger, MS  
Board Chair and President

### Board Members for 2025-2026

SUSAN C. KOGER, MS  
Board Chair and President  
Parent, '25

JUDGE TIMOTHY J. SAVAGE  
Board Vice President  
United States District Court

MATTHEW MORANO  
Board Secretary  
Parent, '29 and '28

REV. PAUL GALETTO, OSA., PhD  
Pastor Delegate

JEANETTE HOWELL

ALANA LEE

UDAI PURAMSETTI  
Parent '26

MICHAEL SHAPSON, JD, MBA  
Parent, '20 and '23

MARIA WALKER  
Parent, '08 and '12

CHRISTINA HACISKI  
Executive Director

DENISE PIMPINELLA  
Acting Principal

## A HEARTFELT FAREWELL AND IMMENSE GRATITUDE TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD CHAIR, MICHAEL DETWEILER, ESQ.



On behalf of Saint Mary Interparochial School, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt farewell to Michael Detweiler, who is stepping down after an incredible 12 years of dedicated service

as our Board Chair. Michael's unwavering commitment and visionary leadership have truly been instrumental in shaping Saint Mary Interparochial School's success and sustainability for over a decade.

Michael's time as Chair has been marked by remarkable achievements. He notably guided our school through three strategic plans. These comprehensive blueprints not only helped

us navigate the ever-changing educational landscape but also laid a strong foundation for our future growth and continued excellence. His foresight and tireless efforts ensured each plan was carefully crafted and effectively put into action, directly contributing to the thriving learning environment we have today.

Beyond strategic planning, Michael has always been a steadfast champion of our mission. His leadership consistently put the well-being and academic success of our students first, all while fostering a strong, supportive community. He's been a pivotal force in sustaining our school's success through various initiatives, always upholding our values and guiding us with integrity.

On behalf of the entire Saint Mary Interparochial School community—our students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters—we extend our sincerest thanks to Michael Detweiler for his unparalleled dedication, selfless service, and profound impact. While we'll certainly miss his presence as Board Chair, his legacy of leadership and commitment will undoubtedly continue to inspire us.

We hope you will join us on Thursday, November 20th, at our annual gala, where we will have the opportunity to celebrate Michael Detweiler as our Legacy Leader!



## 23RD ANNUAL WALKATHON:

### *Celebrating the Sounds of Philadelphia: Musical Firsts & Legendary Musicians*

*Presented by Ann B. Zekauskas Family Foundation, City Plumbing, Esposito-Flaughter Family, Gifting Brands, Harman Deutsch Ohler Architecture, Jefferson, Marie & Jay Lynch, Ralph and Barbara Novotney, Tom McCloskey Painting & Restoration, Inc., SEPTA*

Our 23rd Annual Walkathon on May 16, 2025, raised \$61,000 to support Saint Mary's art, music, and language programs—thank you to our sponsors, families, friends, and local businesses for your incredible support.

Special thanks to Matthew and Susan Koger (Parents, Class of 2025) for eight years of dedicated service as Walkathon Co-Chairs. We also welcome Christopher and Natalie Soltis (Parents, Classes of 2031 & 2032), who will begin serving in these roles in 2026.

Congratulations to our top student fundraisers:

John Koger  
Elizabeth Novotney  
Evan Wiley  
Stephen Wiley  
Hunter Esposito-Flaughter  
Georgia McCloskey  
Connor Marshall  
Lucia Cipparone  
Marcello D'Amato  
Mia Augustine

On behalf of our students who benefit from this fundraiser, thank you to the entire Saint Mary community for making this campaign so successful! Please scan the QR code below to view our 2025 Walkathon Event Book.



*Thank you to all of our 2025 Event sponsors!*

#### PRESENTING SPONSORS



Marie & Jay Lynch

Esposito-Flaughter  
Family



Ralph & Barbara Novotney



SEPTA



SAVE THE DATE

**The 24th annual Walkathon  
will be held on May 15, 2026.**

It will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America.



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Since the 2022–23 school year, 901 Education has partnered with Saint Mary Interparochial School to design and implement a dynamic Entrepreneurship curriculum, initially made possible by the generous funding of the Ambassador's Fund for Catholic Education. The program has evolved into a mutually beneficial partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Philadelphia, where 8th grade students create personalized Welcome Kits to support families they serve. Through hands-on design, community engagement and real-world collaboration, students act as startup entrepreneurs while developing confidence, professional communication and critical thinking skills. 901 remains intentional about advancing educational opportunities that empower students to lead with empathy and contribute meaningfully to the greater good.

## Student Challenge:

As a startup product design company, create a Welcome Kit for families served by RMHC Philly. The final Welcome Kit prototype will reflect aspects of entrepreneurship (general business skills), service leadership (growth mindset/power of partnerships), technology (3D printing/laser printing/graphic design) and creative problem solving (design thinking).

This year, 22 students created 22 unique Welcome Kits. Our community raised \$1,199 to assist the funding of these projects! Our students also had the support of 48 volunteers and 29 business, universities, and non-profits.

Throughout this partnership, students participated in a number of events and individual lessons that heavily emphasized real world connections to concepts, and helped the students focus on whether to pivot or progress, and had the students justify their course of action with the feedback they received. It was exciting to see each team have a very unique take on their Welcome Kits this year!

At the end of the partnership, the students commented that they felt more confident in their public speaking skills, more knowledgeable about starting a business, and more empathetic. We hope our 8th grade entrepreneurship students are able to apply all of these skills and more as they enter high school!

Thank you to all of the many volunteers and donors that have made these projects come to life, and a special thank you to our community partners, including Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House Charities, Covenant House PA, The Monster Milers and the PA National Guard. We also thank Jefferson University for hosting our students' final showcase event. We are looking forward to another great partnership next school year!



## THANK YOU TO OUR HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD!



**ST. MARY  
HOME &  
SCHOOL**

The Saint Mary Home and School Association brings the community together in

support of our school's mission by organizing events that foster spirit, connection and fun for families throughout the year. From school dances and parent socials to favorites like Trunk or Treat and skating at Dilworth Park, these dedicated volunteers help create lasting memories for students and families alike.

Membership dues and fundraising efforts directly benefit the school community by funding classroom grants, student and teacher appreciation gifts, Catholic Schools Week activities, 8th grade graduation celebrations and more.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Katie Andrews for her four years of dedicated service on the Home and School Board, including the past two as President. We're excited for another great school year ahead!

### Home and School Board 2024-2025

Jamie Wolf: President

Megan Dever: Vice President

Danee Root: Fundraising

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)

## STAFF AND FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Our faculty and staff have been busy this spring and early summer attending professional development demonstrations! This spring, Saint Mary faculty attended two training sessions with IXL and Renaissance, educational platforms that offer learning and assessment tools for students, to learn about benchmark and enrichment data. This data provides insights into students' knowledge levels and helps track progress over time. Based on the results, IXL generates personalized action plans with skill suggestions, tailored to each student's needs, guiding them to specific skills to maximize their progress. By utilizing these programs, our faculty can better identify students needing support and organize intervention plans. These programs focus on empowering teachers with assessment data to personalize learning paths, rather than using a single data point for automatic assignments. We will extend these training sessions with additional training during our August Professional Meetings!

In addition to this training, our faculty also attended an AI in Education training from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Technology Team in April, along with a Defibrillator and Heart Safe training in conjunction with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia this past June. We are

excited to extend this partnership with CHOP through this upcoming school year!



Mr. Jacob Bridy, our 6th grade teacher, attended the National Science Teachers Association Conference that was held in Philadelphia from March 26 through March 29, 2025. It showed off plenty of material and programs to

enhance science education, as well as plenty of workshops. Through this Professional Development, Mr. Bridy was given the opportunity to see a variety of examples of how to incorporate hands-on science teaching and demonstrations into his own classroom, while also getting a better sense of science education as a field! To learn more about the National Science Teachers Association, visit [www.nsta.org](http://www.nsta.org).

We look forward to seeing how our faculty and staff incorporate what they have learned through their professional development throughout the upcoming school year!





# CLASS OF 2025 PERSONAL PROFILES

*Saint Mary celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2025! 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!*



## GABRIEL BALCHUNAS

HIGH SCHOOL  
St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor Society; Basketball; CYO Basketball All Star; Future

City Competition; Honors Math; Chess Club; Track & Field; Baseball; Math Counts; Tech Club; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life are my parents because they always push me to become the best version of myself.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to college and play basketball, travel the world, become a professional basketball player in the NBA or overseas or become a wealthy businessman.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams." - Henry David Thoreau



## EMERSON BARNOSKY

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
Volleyball; Basketball; Softball; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influences in life are my parents.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are college and becoming a model.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

If you wouldn't trade brains with someone, you don't have to care what they think.



## VINCENZO BONACCORSO

HIGH SCHOOL  
St. Joseph's Preparatory School  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor Society Co-Treasurer; Vetri Cooking Lab; Honors Math;

Harvest Hoedown STEAM Haunted House; Suzy Davis Scholarship Award; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my brother.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to a good college and pursue a career in the culinary arts.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

You can never move on to the future while holding on to the past.



## SCOTLYNN CAMPBELL

HIGH SCHOOL  
Padua Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
Musical Theater; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mom. My mom has taught me many important lessons in my life and has set me up perfectly for the future. She is my best friend and she will always help me no matter what.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are studying medieval history in England, famous queens in history, studying medical education, receiving many degrees and awards, and attending a HBCU.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." - Mark Twain



## LUCIA CIPPARONE

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor Society Archivist; Basketball; Softball; Honors Math; Track & Field; Future City

Competition Co-Captain; National History Day; Illustrations; Unsung Hero Competition Finalist; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mom.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to compete at a high level in either ice hockey or track, go to an Ivy League college, and travel to at least 20 foreign countries.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Nothing is given to you. Everything is earned. You have to have that mindset that you have to work every single day. Learn every single day." - Saquon Barkley



## NICO CONNER

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor Society; Musical Theater; Honors Math; Altar Server; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mom. She has shown me how to be strong throughout my struggles. She gives me advice when I'm going through a rough time. I know that she will support my decision no matter what. She has helped me become the person I am today and the person I will be in the future.

## Class of 2025 Personal Profiles, continued

### FUTURE GOALS

If someone were to ask me what my future goal is, I would say becoming a doctor. If someone were to ask me profoundly, I would say to become a mom and to be able to do what I love. My parents have told me ever since I was little to do what I love. I want to be a doctor because I love helping people. That is something very important to me.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"There is only one way to succeed in anything, and that is to give it everything." - Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi



### LEO DALY

#### HIGH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Preparatory School

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society; Honors Math; Math Counts; Cross Country; Track and Field; Basketball;

Chess Club; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my dad, who helps me be the best person I can possibly be.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to continue playing football, work as hard as I can in high school, and to always have respect for everyone.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."



### SADIE GROMELSKI

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Merion Mercy Academy

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society Co-Secretary; Honors Math; Unsung Hero Competition Semi-Finalist; Ambassador; Big Buddy;

Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence in my life is my mom.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to enjoy high school, go to college, find a job I love, and live life to the fullest!

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Never be so kind you forget to be clever, never be so clever you forget to be kind!" - Taylor Swift



### NOELLE HOFMANN

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Merion Mercy Academy

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society; Volleyball; Softball; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my dad because he teaches me valuable lessons.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to college and to start a career in the real estate or interior design field.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." -Dr. Seuss



### IDA JACOB

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Eustace Preparatory High School

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society Vice President; Honors Math; Illustrations and Design; Fabric Arts;

Pickleball; Millay Scholar; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCES

The greatest influences in my life are my mom and dad. They inspired me to become the person I am today.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to a University abroad and to learn Arabic.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Sometimes you won't know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." - Dr. Seuss.



### NOLAN KAPLAN

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Joseph's Preparatory School

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society; Cross Country; Track & Field; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my dad.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to a good D1 college and play soccer there and hopefully go pro.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Talent without working hard is nothing." - Cristiano Ronaldo



### JOHN KOGER

#### HIGH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Preparatory School

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society President; Varsity Basketball; Future City Competition Co-Captain;

Honors Math; Hardest Math Problem Competition National Semi-Finalist; Millay Scholar; Ignatian Scholar; Vetri Cooking Lab; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life are my parents.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to join the crew team at Prep and go to college.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela



### JULIAN LOKE

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Joseph's Preparatory School

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

National Junior Honor Society Co-Treasurer; Honors Math; Basketball; Ambassador; Big Buddy;

Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my Dad.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to college, graduate, and get a degree.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Dedication makes dreams come true." - Kobe Bryant



### JOHN MCKENNA

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Paul VI High school

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

Basketball; Chess Club, Future City Competition; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook

### GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence in my life is my dad.

### FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to graduate high school and get into a good college for a degree in business.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

Be good and do well in school.





## GRACE RACHUBINSKI

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor  
Society; Volleyball Team  
Captain; Volleyball  
Maroon Team; Volleyball

and Softball Championship; Musical Theater;  
Basketball, Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook  
GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my family.  
FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to get into my dream  
college and to travel the world.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"It's always nice to be nice."



## ELIZABETH SCHERNECK

HIGH SCHOOL  
Paul VI High school  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
Volleyball; Softball;  
Basketball; Ambassador;  
Big Buddy; Yearbook  
GREATEST INFLUENCE

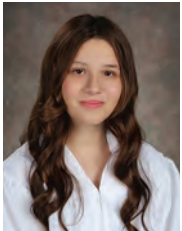
The greatest influence in my life is my dad  
because he works hard, but also supports me.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goal is to own an architectural  
business and be successful building for others.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You define your own life. Don't let people  
write your script."



## GABRIELLA SCRENI

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor  
Society; Volleyball;  
Honors Math; Fabric Arts;  
Illustration and Design;

Pickleball; Band; Ambassador; Big Buddy;  
Yearbook

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my dad  
because he inspires me, teaches me new  
things, and is kind and generous.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to a good college  
and become a fabric artist.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Life is what we can't expect, we can't just live  
with probability." - Kim Jisoo



## EMMA SHERIDAN

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
Track and Field; Basketball;  
Musical Theater;  
Ambassador; Big Buddy;  
Yearbook  
GREATEST INFLUENCE

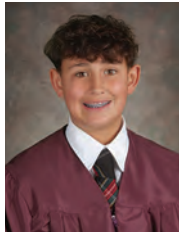
The greatest influence in my life is my parents,  
they have sacrificed so much in their life to  
make my life better. They are my biggest  
supporters and push me to excel.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to do well in high school  
and enjoy every minute as well as to go to a  
good college and play collegiate soccer while I  
get a nursing degree.

WORDS OF WISDOM

You are not defined by your past, your  
struggles, or your circumstances. You are  
defined by your strength, your kindness, and  
your ability to overcome.



## GEORGE SQUILLA

HIGH SCHOOL  
St. Joseph's Preparatory  
School  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor  
Society Co-Secretary;  
Baseball; Basketball; Honors  
Math, Ambassador; Big

Buddy; Yearbook

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is my mother because  
she is intelligent, strong, and is always by my  
side through thick and thin.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goal is to go to college and play  
baseball at the DI Level. After college, I would  
like to pursue a career in Sports Medicine.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase  
perfection we can catch excellence." - Vince  
Lombardi



## ERICH SWERLING

HIGH SCHOOL  
St. Joseph's Preparatory  
School  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor  
Society; Baseball;  
Basketball; Track &  
Field; Cross Country;

Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook  
GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life are my  
parents.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to a good college, try  
to start a business one day, and start a family.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Your past does not equal your future.



## STARR WILLIAMS

HIGH SCHOOL  
Saints John Neumann and  
Maria Goretti High School  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
Ambassador; Big Buddy;  
Yearbook  
GREATEST INFLUENCE  
My greatest influence is my

family

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to college and  
become successful in whatever field I choose  
to do.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"All dreams are within reach. All you have to do  
is keep moving towards them." - Viola Davis



## CLAIRE ZDANAVAGE

HIGH SCHOOL  
Merion Mercy Academy  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
National Junior Honor  
Society; Honors Math;  
Illustration and Design;  
Musical Theater; National

History Day; Ambassador; Big Buddy; Yearbook  
GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influences in my life are my family  
members.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to college and travel.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Just be yourself, there is no one better."  
-Taylor Swift

# ROOTED IN FAITH GROWING IN EXCELLENCE:

## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 - 2030



Saint Mary Interparochial School's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is rooted in our mission and is a vision for academic excellence, spiritual formation, and institutional sustainability. This plan, developed through the collaboration of school leadership, faculty, parents, board members, and community stakeholders, identifies strategic priorities across five core areas: Governance, Mission & Education, Advancement, Building & Grounds, and Finance.



Our five core pillars are the foundation of our strategic plan, guiding our mission to prepare Christ-centered leaders focusing on spiritual formation, nurturing academic excellence, and institutional sustainability.

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



GOVERNANCE	MISSION & EDUCATION	BUILDING & GROUNDS	ADVANCEMENT	FINANCE
<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p>To ensure strong, mission-aligned governance by supporting staff leadership and cultivating an effective, diverse, and strategically focused Board and committee structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish clear expectations for Board and committee membership and annually assess governance performance.</li> <li>Recruit members with skills and experience aligned to the school's mission and strategic needs.</li> <li>Support and structure standing committees and evaluate the relevance of ad hoc groups.</li> <li>Provide oversight of the school's organizational structure, staffing strategy, and succession planning.</li> <li>Offer strategic guidance to the Principal and Executive Director on academics, advancement, staffing, and school operations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p>To form students who achieve scholastically, spiritually, and socially by fostering academic excellence and lifelong learning within a Christ-centered community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance a rigorous, coherent curriculum rooted in Catholic values and national academic standards.</li> <li>Deepen Catholic identity through regular access to sacraments, student-led liturgies, and vibrant campus ministry.</li> <li>Expand partnerships with parishes, clergy, and local Catholic high schools and colleges to enrich spiritual life and community outreach.</li> <li>Strengthen teacher coaching, leadership pipelines, and collaborative planning aligned with mission.</li> <li>Support students through personalized instruction, positive behavior planning, and strong family communication.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p>To maintain and enhance the physical campus as a safe, welcoming, and mission-aligned environment that supports excellence in Catholic education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a full building systems assessment and create a detailed asset inventory.</li> <li>Establish a phased repair strategy prioritizing safety, urgency, and cost-effectiveness.</li> <li>Create an annual maintenance plan focused on preventive care, aligned with the academic calendar, and supported by fiscally responsible budgeting.</li> <li>Conduct a full security assessment using external consultants and current grant funding.</li> <li>Engage a design consultant to guide long-term space planning in collaboration with Advancement and Finance Committees.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p>To strategically propel the school toward enduring growth by unifying advancement efforts, cultivating community engagement, and securing necessary resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align and streamline fundraising efforts across all school-related groups for efficiency and clarity.</li> <li>Launch a branding campaign to communicate the school's distinct mission, value, and impact.</li> <li>Formalize an alumni association committee and expand alumni engagement and giving programs.</li> <li>Promote a culture of philanthropy rooted in mission, gratitude, and long-term sustainability.</li> <li>Begin formal planning for a capital campaign to support school facility needs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p>To ensure long-term financial health and sustainability, enabling consistent delivery of mission-aligned academic excellence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build a multi-year financial model and adopt a zero-based budgeting process.</li> <li>Regularly monitor the profitability and sustainability of auxiliary programs like CARES and athletics.</li> <li>Moderate tuition increases while expanding access through financial modeling and tuition assistance.</li> <li>Grow EITC donor participation and align aid awards with available resources through collaboration with Advancement.</li> <li>Support school facility needs through budgeting and planning</li> </ul>

Special thanks to our Executive Steering Committee for leading this charge.

<p><b>Executive Steering Committee</b></p> <p>Susan Koger, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Michael Detweiler</p> <p>Kim Gallagher</p> <p>Mary Claire Lewis</p> <p>Stephen Janczewski</p> <p>Jayda Pugliese</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p> <p>Brian Squilla</p> <p>Julie Wiley</p>	<p><b>Catholic Identity Committee</b></p> <p>Mary Claire Lewis, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Jacqueline Coval</p> <p>Allegra Esposito</p> <p>Father Paul Galetto</p> <p>Father John Large</p> <p>Jayda Pugliese</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p> <p>Maria Walker</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Grounds Committee</b></p> <p>Julie Wiley, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Frank Gentile</p> <p>Matt Hess</p> <p>Jason Massey</p> <p>Mary Ellen Penna</p> <p>Lucia Rizzio</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p>	<p><b>Advancement Committee</b></p> <p>Brian Squilla, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Megan Dever</p> <p>Isabella DiCampi</p> <p>Susan Koger</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p> <p>Natalie Soltis</p>	<p><b>Finance Committee</b></p> <p>Kim Gallagher, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Jill Leshner</p> <p>Matt Morano</p> <p>Udai Puramsetti</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p> <p>Chris Soltis</p>
<p><b>Governance Committee</b></p> <p>Michael Detweiler, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Howie Brown</p> <p>Susan Koger</p> <p>Honorable Judge Timothy Savage</p>	<p><b>Academic Committee</b></p> <p>Stephen Janczewski, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Denise Pimpinella</p> <p>Jayda Pugliese</p> <p>Meghan Rakus</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p> <p>Vincent Tarducci</p> <p>Brigid Visack</p>	<p><b>School Committee</b></p> <p>Joy Barnosky, <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Brittani Chambers</p> <p>Maya Cutia</p> <p>Maren Novotney</p> <p>Jayda Pugliese</p> <p>Susan Pugliese</p> <p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p>	<p>Christina Ruskey Haciski</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>advancement@saintmarys.us</p>	  <p>www.saintmarys.us</p> <p>P: 215-923-7522</p> <p>F: 215-923-8502</p>
<p>Saint Mary Interparochial School</p> <p>Fifth and Locust Streets</p> <p>Philadelphia, PA 19106</p>				



# IMPACT GIVING CAMPAIGN

## TO OUR GENEROUS SAINT 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 2025-26, 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.



Thursday, November 20, 2025  
A Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS:

Improving our physical space to support our students both academically and spiritually



### ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

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

### The Ultimate Soccer Experience Giveaway: Your Chance to Witness History!

The Ultimate Soccer Experience:  
Win Four FIFA World Cup Tickets!

Sunday, June 14, 2026,  
Lincoln Financial Field,  
Philadelphia

More details to follow in early 2026!



Friday, May 24, 2026  
23rd Annual Walkathon:  
250th Anniversary of the  
Founding of the Country

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

### Additional Ways to Make a Difference:

- PA Tax Credit Program To Support Saint Mary Students
- Appreciated Securities
- Matching Gifts
- Planned Giving and Bequests
- In-Kind Gifts

### 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, Executive Director at 215-923-7522 or [advancement@saintmarys.us](mailto:advancement@saintmarys.us) to schedule a giving meeting.

Thank you for supporting Saint 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)



# SAINT MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL

## CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND



*A Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

6:30 PM

THE LUCY BY CESCAPHE

PHILADELPHIA

*Honoring*

MICHAEL L. DETWEILER, ESQ.  
PAST PRESIDENT AND CHAIR EMERITUS  
*Legacy Leader Award*

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRICAL AND TECHNOLOGY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL  
*Partner in Academic Excellence Award*

*Presented by*  
CITY PLUMBING



Individual Tickets



Sponsorship and Support

## The Saint Mary Gala 2025 Support Opportunities

### **\$20,000 Legacy Sponsor**

- Admission for 14 guests with premium reserved seating
- Highest profile event signage and priority placement for full-page advertisement in event program
- Speaking opportunity during gala
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and annual report
- Includes dedicated social media posts and sponsorship of the 2026 Walkathon

### **\$15,000 Blue Ribbon Sponsor**

- Admission for 12 guests with preferred reserved seating
- High profile event signage and prominent placement for full-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and annual report
- Includes dedicated social media posts and sponsorship of the 2026 Walkathon

### **\$10,000 Magnolia Sponsor**

- Admission for 10 guests with preferred reserved seating
- Event recognition and full-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications, social media, and annual report
- Includes sponsorship of the 2026 Walkathon

### **\$6,000 Doors of Saint Mary Sponsor**

- Admission for 8 guests
- Event recognition and half-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications, social media, and annual report

### **\$3,000 Heart & Rose Sponsor**

- Admission for 6 guests
- Event recognition and half-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications, social media, and annual report

### **\$1,500 Scholars & Leaders Sponsor**

- Admission for 4 guests
- Event recognition and quarter-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications, social media, and annual report

### **\$500 Shining Light Sponsor**

- Admission for 2 guests
- Event recognition
- Recognition in annual report

### **\$195 Individual Gala Tickets**

### **Event Program Advertisements**

Promote your business or honor a loved one with a vibrant ad in the Gala program. All ads will appear in full color and be distributed to all event attendees.

Support Level	Size	Dimensions
<b>\$750</b>	Full	7.75" x 4.75"
<b>\$500</b>	Half	3.875" x 4.75"
<b>\$250</b>	Quarter	2.5" x 4.75"
<b>\$100</b>	Line listing in event program for parishes, families, and individuals	
	n/a	

### **Ad submission deadline:**

**Monday, October 20, 2025.**

*Please submit high-resolution artwork (PDF or JPEG format) as you would like it to appear.*

### **Special Event Underwriting Opportunities Available**

Interested in sponsoring the evening's entertainment, décor, a specialty cocktail, or music? Please inquire for custom opportunities.

### **Important Dates**

Sponsorship Deadline:

**Monday, October 20, 2025**

Ticket Sales Close:

**Friday, November 1, 2025 (or until sold out)**

Event Date: **Thursday, November 20, 2025**

### **Contact Information**

For more information, to email your advertisement as you would like it to appear, or to make a payment by phone, please contact the Saint Mary Gala Committee: gala@saintmarys.us or 215-923-7522

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



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.

Saint Mary Interparochial School is happy to announce we have been designated over \$400,000 in EITC/OSTC funding through BLOCS, Foundation for Catholic Education, and the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia organizations.

Saint 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 Saint Mary students in the historic heart of Philadelphia!

### HELP PROVIDE A TUITION REDUCTION GRANT FOR ALL SAINT MARY FAMILIES

We encourage all Saint Mary Family and Friends to designate a portion of their tax liability to the TuitionCare Program. If we can grow the number of participants to match the total number of families whose children are enrolled in our school **the Tuition Reduction Grant this time next year could be \$1,000 per family!**

If you have any questions about the TuitionCare: Tuition Reduction Grant Program or how you can designate your tax dollars to increase the grant for every family, please contact Christina Haciski, Executive Director, at 215-923-7522 or [advancement@saintmarys.us](mailto:advancement@saintmarys.us).





# SAINT MARY STORM ATHLETICS UPDATE 2024-2025

## Year in Review

As we wrap up another exciting season, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Saint Mary community for your continued support. To the parents, guardians, families, and fans—thank you for getting our athletes to practices and games and for cheering them on throughout the season.



A special thank you to our dedicated coaches—your time, effort, and commitment are the key to our teams' success.

And to our incredible student-athletes: thank you for your hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship. You make us proud every time you take the field.

Let's go, Storm!

2024-2025 CO-ADs

Volunteer coaches can be parents, Saint Mary alumni, relatives, friends, coworkers, or young adults who want to help impact the student athletes. All volunteer coaches will need to provide clearances (guidance will be provided). Please contact [storm@saintmarys.us](mailto:storm@saintmarys.us) for more information!



Let's Go Storm!





## ALUMNI CIRCLE NEWS

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

### Class of 2025 – Welcome to the Saint Mary Interparochial School Alumni Circle!

We welcome the entire Class of 2025 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!



### Samantha Weston, Saint Mary Class of 2021

Special thanks to alumna Samantha Weston, who graciously addressed our newest alumni on June 10 during our annual pinning ceremony and had these words to share with our new Saint Mary Alumni, “confidence in your abilities is key to success in high school. Be your biggest cheerleader... in life there will be people who



might doubt you, but one of those people should not be you.” Samantha encouraged the class of 2025 to never stop believing in themselves and working hard for what they want to achieve. Samantha will be studying film and media at Temple University this fall. We thank Samantha for joining us and continuing to be a shining light in our Saint Mary Community!

### Alumni 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 Saint Mary community.

### 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!

## 2025 LEGACY SCHOLARS

A Legacy Scholar is a student who has attended Saint Mary from Kindergarten to 8th grade.

GABRIEL BALCHUNAS  
EMERSON BARNOSKY  
VINCENZO BONACCORSO  
SCOTLYNN CAMPBELL  
LUCIA CIPPARONE  
NICO CONNER

LEO DALY  
SADIE GROMELSKI  
JOHN KOGER  
JULIAN LOKE  
JOHN MCKENNA  
GRACE RACHUBINSKI

ELIZABETH SCHERNECKE  
GEORGE SQUILLA  
STARR WILLIAMS  
CLAIRE ZDANAVAGE



# HARVEST HOEDOWN FAREWELL



**After 18 years, the time has come to bid a bittersweet farewell to our annual Harvest Hoedown celebration.**

Since 2006, this fall tradition has brought together the Saint Mary community in support of a shared mission: to challenge our diverse student body to grow morally, academically, and socially into passionate, confident, Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.

Thanks to the generosity of our parents, alumni, donors, and sponsors, Harvest Hoedown proceeds have supported critical areas of our school — most recently our STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) education initiatives. With your support, the Hoedown grew from a small fall gathering into a true harvest festival.

We are happy to announce that the tradition of honoring members of our community will continue. Each year, we will still celebrate two special awards:

- The Harding Award, which honors a Saint Mary graduate who exemplifies excellence in service to the community.
- The Saint Joseph the Worker Award, which recognizes an individual, family, or organization that has shown outstanding dedication and support to our school.

Stay tuned for information on how to submit nominations for these awards.

As we close this chapter, we are confident that our vibrant Advancement and Home and School events throughout the year will continue to strengthen our community, support our students, and uphold our mission.









## SAINT MARY SUMMER CAMP 2025: A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE!

Our Saint Mary Summer Camp was a resounding success, hosting over 60 campers each week for a total of seven weeks! Campers enjoyed a variety of activities, including swimming, field trips, live animal presentation, arts and crafts, hands-on culinary experiences, playing in the Magnolia and Rose Gardens, basketball in the gym, and much more. However, the highlight for everyone was the joy of being together and making lasting friendships!



A huge thank you goes out to our Camp Director, Mrs. Jenifer Rizzio, for organizing such a fun and engaging experience for both campers and their families. We are incredibly grateful to our fantastic staff, which included several Saint Mary Alumni, for ensuring that all campers were safe and engaged throughout the summer, and to Philadelphia Electrical and Technical Charter High School for their partnership through a 21st Century grant that helped support this program!

We would also like to express our special gratitude to our Camp Sponsors for their generous support.

### Our Camp T-Shirt Sponsors:

APlus Roofing and Contracting INC,  
AutoShow Collision Center, Ralph and Barbara  
Novotney Sunshine, Rizzio's, and Quality  
Appraisal Valuations, Rocco Luciano, CREA

Thank you again to everyone who made this summer camp unforgettable! Details for our 2026 Summer Camp program will be made available in January!





## HELP US KICK OFF OUR ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2025-2026

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

- A top-rated Academic Program
- Scholarship and Tuition Assistance for families in need
- Necessary building and physical plant maintenance

You will receive our Annual Report for 2024-2025 in late summer and our Annual Giving letter this winter. We are grateful for your generosity. We hope you will contribute once again along with our entire Saint Mary School community. 100% percent of your contribution will be used to benefit the students of Saint 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 is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.

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

**Open Houses 2025-2026**  
September 23, 2025 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
January 27, 2026 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
May 5, 2026 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

The rich academic and historic heritage of Saint 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, Saint 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. Saint Mary reopened in 1968, again with a distinction: With students drawn from six different parishes, it was the first interparochial school in the nation. Saint Mary Interparochial School is situated in Independence National Park and serves over 250 children from all over the City of Philadelphia and its suburbs.

### History of Saint Mary Interparochial School

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



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