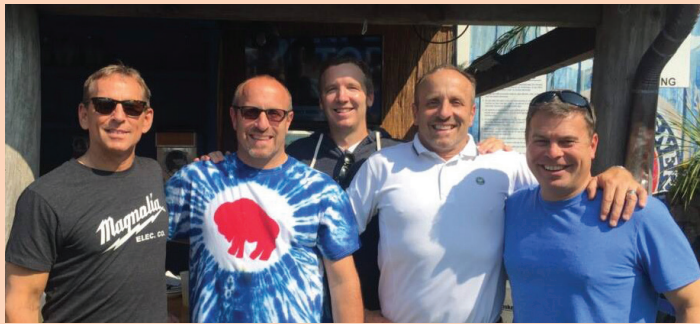


## Alumni Visits



▲ The St. Mary's team with Peter Kamsyz '46



▲ Head of School, Kevin Kelleher '89 with the SMH-New Jersey contingency

## St. Mary's on the Road

### Grand Junction, CO

Over the summer, Board of Trustees Chair Nick Fiume, Head of School Kevin Kelleher, and Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations Amanda Rebeck, spent a great morning in Grand Junction, CO visiting with Class of 1946 alum Peter Kamsyz.

### Belmar, NJ

Let's go Bills! Take a look at the SMH edition of a "Bills Backers" bar in New Jersey. Pictured left to right are: Jamie Hynarowski '81, Mark Aquino '81, Jason Swiatek '91, Mike Aquino '81, and Head of School Kevin Kelleher '89.

### Naples, FL

While in Florida this Spring, Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations Amanda Rebeck and Head of School Kevin Kelleher went to see local Naples vocalist and guitarist, Ron Benbynek '68 perform at Tommy Bahama. Ron performs weekly at this local hot spot. If you're ever in Naples, make sure you stop by and see a fellow Lancer alum on the stage.

## Event Recap



### Golf Tournament

St. Mary's held its annual Golf Tournament at the Lancaster Country Club just a couple of weeks ago. A sell-out crowd turned out for a beautiful day on the course, which was followed by dinner at the club chosen by last year's winner and awards.

### Classic Car Show

Last August, St. Mary's held another successful Classic Car Show & Chicken BBQ to benefit our students. It was a record year for registrants, with well over 200 cars on the lot. Over 80 special awards and handmade trophies were given out, making the event a favorite among car enthusiasts. Join us for this year's show on August 19th!

Thank you to Richard '64 and Karen '65 Penfold and Bob Waligora for their continued support of this event. A special thanks also goes to the 13 alumni that entered their cars into the show!

### Lancer Dinner Auction

On Friday, February 2, 2018, St. Mary's High School held its annual Lancer Dinner Auction. This year's event was quite the success, raising money to support St. Mary's and its students.

Thank you to all of our attendees and donors, and a special thank you to our auction committee, gift gathering party hosts, and the sponsors (listed to the right).



▲ Paul Mueller, Class of 1986



## Annual Appeal

We need all our alumni to support St. Mary's! Please submit your gift today! Visit [smhlancers.org/support-smh](http://smhlancers.org/support-smh).

## Athletics

### Women's Volleyball Takes States



The number of championships may sound like a lot – 16 state titles is unheard of for any type of program in any sport - but, as Coach Pieczynski says, each new season and new team brings its own challenges and personalities that make it special, and the road to number 16 was no exception.

At States, the Lancers triumphed, 25-16, 25-20 and 25-20 over Kellenberg Memorial in the championship.

### Men's Federation Hockey

St. Mary's beat St. Joe's to win the Federation Championship in their first season in the highly competitive league.



### Seniors Sign Letters of Intent to Division I Schools

Summer Slade '18 will play volleyball at Duquesne University in the Fall, and Christian Szablewski '18 will head to St. Bonaventure and join the baseball team.



## The Lance



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL  
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142 Laverack Avenue, Lancaster, New York 14086

2018

## The Lance

2018



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL  
LANCASTER • NEW YORK

Preparing young men and women for college and beyond

### Men's Soccer Wins Title



St. Mary's finished off an incredible regular season with a 6-1 victory over Cardinal O'Hara to take home the Monsignor Martin title. Luke Szablewski and Liam Regan scored two goals each and Anthony Larosa and Brendan Murty had single tallies for the Lancers, who captured their second straight division championship and finished with a 16-1-3 record for the season.

### Weiss '07 Named Coach of the Year



St. Mary's Wrestling had its finest season in recent memory, as a record number of student athletes came out for the team (19) and had successful seasons on the mats. Head Coach Zach Weiss '07, was honored as Coach of the Year in the Monsignor Martin thanks to the momentum he's built with the program and the success of senior captain, Jake Fay - St. Mary's all-time single season wins record holder.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

When I became Head of School in 2016, St. Mary's was in the midst of a tremendous transformation, reflecting changes in our administration, curriculum and enrollment. It has been a challenging – and exciting – time for St. Mary's High School and its students, and I am glad to work with the dedicated faculty and staff who are together writing the next chapter of St. Mary's history.

We are currently ranked 7th academically out of 134 public and private high schools in Western New York. Additionally, our enrollment continues to increase, and we are currently the area's fastest-growing private Catholic high school. We just graduated 88 wonderful scholars and are excited to announce that we have 110 freshman students registered for the 2018-2019 school year. We are nearly finished with the renovation of the Peter Kamysz, Sr. '46 and Vilma Kamysz Finance Center, a multi-use space that will help to enhance our 'Life Major' curriculum focused on giving our students the tools they need to be successful during their time at St. Mary's and beyond.

Amid the momentum we are experiencing, there still remains a need. We need your support through a financial contribution to our annual appeal. We have been working hard to implement strategies to increase giving, so that additional funds can provide student scholarships, programming and facility upgrades that are necessary for us to remain a competitive option for current and prospective students.

St. Mary's has made great strides to strengthen its position as one of Western New York's leading private high schools. With your support, I have no doubt that we will continue to make a difference in the lives of our students for generations to come. Thank you for all the ways you support St. Mary's. You can make a gift to our annual appeal with the enclosed envelope or by visiting [smhlancers.org/support-smh](http://smhlancers.org/support-smh).

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelleher '89  
Head of School

## More School News

### Lancers Win School Pride Food Drive

In the Fall, St. Mary's participated in the first annual School Pride Food Drive. Over the course of a month, St. Mary's took part in a friendly competition with Lancaster and Depew High Schools to see which school could donate the most non-perishable food items to three local food pantries: Tri-Community Food Pantry, St. Martha's Food Pantry, and Trinity Food Pantry. Despite the large size differences in student populations, St. Mary's came out on top! We can't wait to participate in this year's competition in the Fall. Alumni are encouraged to help out and donate as well!

## Save the Date

October 20th  
Bash for Cash

St. Mary's High School

February 8th, 2019

Lancer Dinner Auction

St. Mary's High School





## School News, Current Events and Student Accomplishments



▲ Pope Francis shakes hands with Erin Hufford '17

### Students Take Trip of a Lifetime

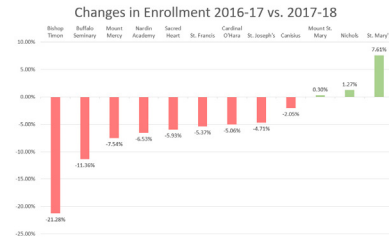
Over the summer, some members of the St. Mary's softball team and other students went to Italy. While some softball was played, the trip was really about the amazing life experience that comes with visiting a foreign country.

While in Italy, students visited the typical "hot" spots, like the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, and Venice, spent a day doing community service at Caritas Forlì-a local shelter for people in need, and took in Mass at the Vatican. Some students and their families received the thrill of a lifetime, when Pope Francis greeted them with a handshake!

### Enrollment Upswing Continues

In a recent edition of *Buffalo Business First*, St. Mary's took its place as the fastest-growing private Catholic high school in WNY. Check out SMH in "the green," as this trend shows no signs of slowing down with an incoming freshman class that keeps growing by the day. St. Mary's also ranks 7th out of 134 high schools in WNY in *Business First*'s rankings of area high schools for the 2017-18 school year. The future sure is bright in Lancerville!

► SMH (far right) stands alone when it comes to an increase in enrollment compared to other high schools in the image to the right from "Buffalo Business First".



▲ SMH faculty and staff take a break for a quick photo.

### Faculty and Staff Lead by Example

St. Mary's faculty and staff participated in the annual Day of Caring. One group of faculty and staff members went to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and another went to the Buffalo City Mission to help these amazing organizations with whatever tasks were needed for the day. At St. Mary's, in the Franciscan tradition, we emphasize the importance of service to others, and what better way to show our students the wonderful feeling you get when you give than by leading by example?

### Beloved Teachers Retiring

Two favorites in the St. Mary's faculty world are retiring at the end of this school year.

Mr. Gary Schulenberg will retire after 45 years as an educator and leave St. Mary's after 33 years of teaching Social Studies and serving as the school librarian.

Mrs. Linda Aures has taught freshmen Earth Science and Physics at St. Mary's for the past 41 years.

Both Mr. Schu and Mrs. Aures have built legacies at St. Mary's that will live on even after their last classes are dismissed. There are no words to describe the gratitude of the entire St. Mary's community for four years of service and the profound influence these two remarkable educators have had at St. Mary's for nearly four decades.

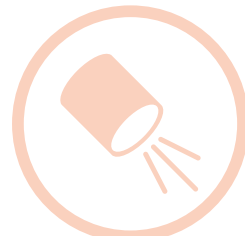


Mr. Gary Schulenberg



Mrs. Linda Aures

## Alumni Spotlight



### Joseph Persichini '72



Joe Persichini Jr. was hired as the Executive Director of the National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues. Previously, Joseph served as Executive Director of the Washington DC Police Foundation from 2010-2017, and was prior to that, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Assistant Director in charge of the Washington Office. Celebrating its 75th year in existence, the National Association of Police Athletics/Activities Leagues, Inc. exists to prevent juvenile crime and violence by providing civic, athletic, recreational and educational opportunities and resources to all PAL Member Chapters.

### Will Marks '05



Will Marks '05 just completed his PhD in Neuroscience at Virginia Commonwealth University. His works on the effects of HIV on the central nervous system have received national and international recognition by the American Society for Neurochemistry and the International Society for Neurovirology. He has also been invited to speak on his findings at several major scientific conferences. Will moved to Dallas, Texas in January, where he will begin working on a project involving the neural circuitry allowing for the perception of time.

### Hayley Lampart '12



This year, Hayley Lampart '12 began her journey as Nicola in the National Touring production of "Kinky Boots". The show will make stops in major cities in the U.S. and Canada. The tour brought "Kinky Boots" and Hayley to Shea's Theater in Buffalo, where her family and some Lancers were able to watch her star on stage this past Winter.

### John Bruso '77



John Bruso '77 won the 8th District County Legislator position in this past November's elections. After retiring from UPS in 2017, after 30 years of service, John now serves his hometown of Lancaster. He currently resides there with his wife of 34 years, Linda and two children, Sean and Megan. John and several other St. Mary's alumni and friends founded Families Touched by MS, and they hold their annual fundraiser each year at St. Mary's. The foundation has raised thousands of dollars in over a decade of service to the MS community.

## Alumni Updates

### Shannon Connors '88

is an elementary education teacher and CEO of Shannon Connors Fitness - a personalized fitness studio in the Lancaster-Depew area.

### Colleen Helak '03

moved to Baltimore and is working as the Guest Experience Manager for the Baltimore Ravens.

### Justin Grzyb '03

was promoted to Assistant Regional Inspector General for Audit for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General.

### Jake Windnagle '04

was married in 2009 to his wife, Angie. They have four children - 3 boys and 1 girl. Jake has been serving in the United States Coast Guard for 5 years as an Electronic Technician.

### Jessica Runk '09

graduated in 2013 from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in ACMS (Applied and Computational Math & Statistics) and landed a job as a Quantitative Risk Analyst at M&T Bank.

In 2016, she went back to ND and earned her Masters of Science in Business Analytics degree. She received the John R. Malone Academic Achievement Award for the highest GPA in her program.

For more alumni updates, please visit: [smhlancers.org/alumni-updates-2018](http://smhlancers.org/alumni-updates-2018).

To update more information and tell us what you have been up to, please visit: [smhlancers.org/alumni-updates/](http://smhlancers.org/alumni-updates/).

### St. Mary's Loses a Legend

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of legendary Western New York sports figure and pioneer of St. Mary's High School, Richard (Dick) Wojciechowski (Woj) after a long battle with cancer on March 2, 2018. He was 90 years old.

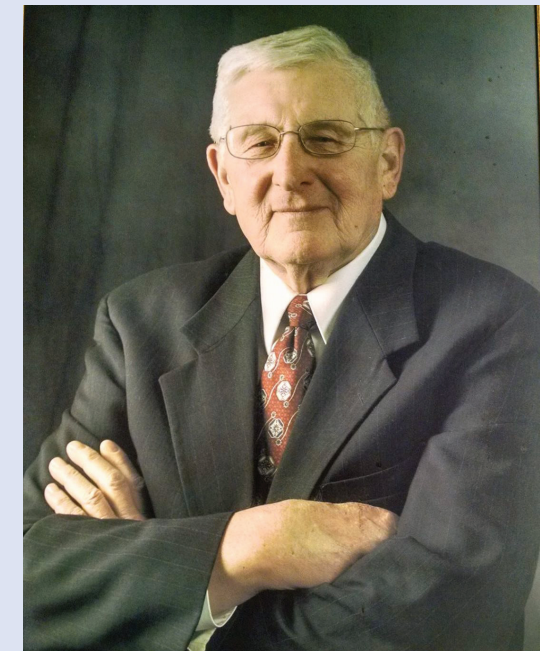
Born on October 8, 1927, Woj lived in the world of sports, playing football, baseball, and basketball at Depew High School before being drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1951. While in college, he received his Bachelor's degree in business.

After college, Woj served in the Korean War, and it was within this time frame that he met his wife, Lillian. The two shared 46 years of marriage before Lillian's passing in 1998 and had three children together - Phyllis, Pat, and Rick - all graduates of St. Mary's High School.

Woj, himself, spent over five decades of his life in service to St. Mary's. He was hired in the Fall of 1954 to teach business and accounting classes and coach at the school. He coached football, baseball, and basketball at St. Mary's, bringing many championships to the school during his tenure. Woj was also the St. Mary's Athletic Director for 35 years, through 1999, and was instrumental in developing the St. Mary's outdoor athletic complex as well as the state-of-the-art Athletic Center that opened in 2004. After his "retirement," Woj remained a fixture in the St. Mary's hallways, serving as Financial Director of the school and assisting in the Development Office and with alumni relations.

"He was truly a great man. This is not only a loss for St. Mary's, but all of Western New York," said Kevin Kelleher, Head of School at St. Mary's. Kelleher was also a student of Woj's at St. Mary's and later worked with him at the school. "All of us are together in our sadness, mourning, and honoring his life. We are all Lancers, and he was the most profound Lancer of all."

The legacy of a man like Dick Wojciechowski is one that lives on years after his death. He is remembered as a man having a warm sense of strength, and an aura of both fairness and discipline. He was a



▲ Mr. Richard (Dick) Wojciechowski 1927-2018

giant within the Lancaster-Depew community and Western New York at large, and his guiding hand in the athletics arena will continue to prevail.

A scholarship fund has been set up in Mr. Woj's name at St. Mary's High School. For those who would like to honor the memory of this great man, donations can be made at [smhlancers.org/support-smh](http://smhlancers.org/support-smh).

## Reunion Recap



We are fresh off of the 2018 All-Class Grand Reunion! We celebrated all alumni and specifically classes ending in 3 and 8.

If your grad year ends in 4 or 9, we are celebrating you next year! Save the date for June 28 and 29, 2019, and contact Amanda Rebeck at [arebeck@smhlancers.org](mailto:arebeck@smhlancers.org) or 716-683-4824 ext. 237 if you're interested in being on the planning committee.

