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**Merry Christmas from St. Mary's**

“Glory to God in the  
highest heaven, and on  
earth peace to those on  
whom his favor rests.”

*Luke 2:14*

From our family to  
yours,  
Merry Christmas!



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL  
LANCASTER • NEW YORK

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**Letter from the Editor**

Dear Readers,

I sincerely hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas this past Monday! As 2018 continues to approach, I hope that we all find a happy medium between embracing the moment and optimistically looking forward to the new year.

If you're in need of any New Year's resolutions, we are always looking for new writers! As previously stated, feel free to send an article idea or a finished article to my email: 19bpropis@student.smhlancers.org. Who knows— it could be the start of a new hobby or simply reinstate the current love you may already harbor for writing.

It seems that at the start of every new year, practically everyone has a “new year, new me” mindset. Of course, most of you already know this mindset fades within a few weeks (or perhaps a month or so) into the next year.

I believe the overall importance of the “new year, new me” mindset boils down to merely doing one's best to improve upon overall health and wellbeing, while continually maintaining a sense of one's self and their core beliefs. Borderline corny and hypocritical, yes, but it's most suitable to cherish the few weeks or months people are attempting to change. Perhaps someone will stick to their resolution longer than expected, and you can become inspired yourself.

In this upcoming year, I anticipate growing closer to the ones I love and proceeding to receive inspiration from the many traits and actions I find admirable in them. I'm not sure what 2018 will hold (though it's practically a guarantee that it will contain both heartaches and delights), but I plan to cherish the time I spend with the people who truly matter in my life and figure out even more about myself.

May each of you reading this strive to make 2018 your year, considering it seems that many people falsely believe that the year itself has the power to make or break a person's triumphs and tribulations. Like everything else, a good year can't be obtained simply because a person wants or hopes for it.

Maybe you won't stick with your resolution for too long, or maybe you'll achieve it in every way, shape, and form. Regardless, I hope each of us give 2018 our all and enter the year with our heads looking up and focusing on everything that's truly important in our hearts. A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,  
Brianna Propis

**Calling all writers!**

Do you like to write? Are you passionate about St. Mary's? Do you have a particular interest you'd like to share with an audience?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then come join us at *The Marian Gazette!* We are currently looking for student writers for all of our news sections. If you are interested, please contact Student Editor Brianna Propis, Mrs. Roberson, or Miss Kawa.

## School News

### St. Mary's Student to be Featured as City Shaper

On December 20th, WGRZ (Channel 2) came to St. Mary's to film their weekly segment, "City Shapers," featuring St. Mary's senior Andrew Wargo.

Wargo was nominated for the piece after taking into consideration all of the things he does for the St. Mary's community, his parish community, and the greater Buffalo community.

At just 17 years old, Wargo is a captain with the Bowersville Volunteer Fire Association's Explorer Program, certified as a

first responder, a member of the Lancaster Youth Bureau Hall of Fame, Altar Server of the Year in the Diocese of Buffalo, and all-around "go-to guy" at St. Mary's.

WGRZ filmed the piece, asking Wargo questions about what being a City Shaper means to him and what drives him to make such a big impact on the community.

You can check out the entire piece on the January 1st or 2nd edition of the 6:00 p.m. news on Channel 2.



Wargo leads members of the Lancer First Responders on a drill as a cameraman from WGRZ films.

### St. Mary's Pilots Adjunct Professor Program

St. Mary's is beginning a new Adjunct Professor Program that involves bringing in accomplished professionals and college-level professors to guest lecture in certain classes throughout the semester. The goal of the program is to take the theories and concepts students learn in the classroom and expose them to the next-level thinking and application from someone who has real-world experience in the appropriate fields.

Mr. Kelleher is excited about its potential: "There is really no limit to ideas for a program like this because we have such a knowledgeable and successful alumni and friends base here at St.

Mary's with experienced professionals in so many different fields, ranging from college professors and judges to wealth management professionals and neurologists. The possibilities as to what our students can learn are endless and will hopefully give them the edge when it comes to gaining extra experience and maybe even choosing a career path." St. Mary's will work various adjunct professors into different departments throughout the spring semester, growing the program each year.

The Adjunct Professor Program will begin in January, with Dianna Cichocki, Clinical Assistant Professor in Management Science and Systems at the University at Buffalo

School of Management and St. Mary's parent, joining the SMH Mathematics and Finance Departments. Cichocki teaches Statistical Decisions in Management and Statistical Foundations in Analytics with a focus on incorporating technology into her curriculum.

Professor Cichocki really wants to add a new dynamic to the typical high school classroom: "Most of my lectures at UB are set up online, so I would love to set up something similar to an online lab for St. Mary's students to get them exposed to a different kind of classroom setting," Cichocki said. "...and to really introduce them to [Microsoft] Excel because there is rarely any time to learn these skills in a regular high school stats or precalculus

curriculum. Just having a basic working knowledge of the program can really give St. Mary's students a leg up in college."

Mr. Junik says that the ultimate goal of St. Mary's as an academic institution is to leave students as well prepared as possible for life after high school, and this Adjunct Faculty Program will only bolster this goal: "Academically, we want to expose our students to as many things as we can, so that the things they try in the future won't seem so abstract and they have confidence to not only succeed in college but also in life beyond the classroom," Junik concluded.

## School News

### Student's "Ornaments for Elderwood Drive" is Huge Success

St. Mary's junior Matt Rosinski has made Christmas merrier for so many people this holiday season. Rosinski took it upon himself to put together an "Ornaments for Elderwood" drive at St. Mary's to honor his late grandmother, Ruth Pearce, who was a resident at Elderwood for a few weeks before her passing. Matt noticed many residents did not have Christmas decorations and thought bringing some ornaments to them could ring in some holiday cheer.

The ornament drive at St. Mary's High School ran from November 27-December 8, and what started off as a goal of collecting 20 ornaments quickly blossomed to over 200 new and handmade ornaments thanks to the generosity of the students at St. Mary's. Mr. Kelleher is thrilled to see Matt

take such initiative to make a difference in the community: "We always tell our students how important service is and the amazing feeling you get by giving more than you receive," Kelleher said. "To see our kids put that theory into practice is all we can hope for. We're so proud of Matt and the entire student body's response."

Matt himself was the mastermind behind the cause for one simple reason: "To give back to Elderwood," he said. Matt doesn't necessarily love all the attention that has come with doing good deeds like this, but that won't stop him from continuing to make a difference in the future: "I want to continue the drive next year, and say a big thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas so special for the residents of Elderwood," Matt concluded.



Elderwood in Cheektowaga created this festive wall to display many of the donated ornaments, with others going directly to some residents or on the residence's main Christmas tree.

Picture courtesy of Mrs. Cindy Rosinski

### St. Mary's Makes the Season Bright for 23 Family Members



St. Mary's students wrapped the donated gifts for the families during religion classes. (left)

The collection of gifts—look what generosity can do! (below)



Throughout the month of December, St. Mary's "adopted" four families as a part of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy's Family to Family Program.

The Religion Department saw to it that each class — the Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors — took it upon themselves to fill the Christmas wishes of a specific family.

Through the donations of students, their families, faculty, staff, and administration, we were able to fill every wish of the four families. Thousands of dollars worth of gifts were donated throughout the drive, and

the generosity and enthusiasm our students had for this project was infectious!

There is no better way to get into the holiday spirit than by giving so selflessly to others. Thank you so much to the St. Mary's community for bringing some Christmas spirit to those who need it most!

Merry Christmas!

## Faculty Spotlight

### Faculty Q & A with Mr. Schu

Last month's "Guess the Teacher" featured a few facts about Mr. Schu, so here's a deeper interview with one of SMH's favorite teachers...

**Q:** When did you start teaching at St. Mary's and what has been your fondest memory?

**A:** In the mid-1980's. I started teaching in 1973.

One year while teaching PIG, I had my students actually participate in government, which resulted in them doing a variety of really cool things. The assignment was a group effort of 3-4 students, in which they had to physically get involved by interviewing someone, contacting/volunteering for someone/a group, and then visiting and working for a group... My kids did everything from interviewing politicians and police officers, visiting the Buffalo Quarry, participating in voting registration of the class (Kelleher), and talking to drug counselors. Their work was amazing.

**Q:** Who is your personal hero and why?

**A:** That's a tough one. Since so much of my life centers on my church with committee work and Praise Band, I'd have to say Jesus.

Even if you question the veracity of some of the details of His story, they are

truly amazing and the lessons are inspiring. Just think of the countless writings, sermons, prayers, and personal insights that have touched people over the ages.

**Q:** Knowing all that you do now, if you could give your high school students any words of wisdom, what would you say?

**A:** Think ahead. Look at consequences. Try to imagine what will happen in the future by the actions you take today. What happens if you study (not just looking over your notes), go to practice and really work, take that chance to volunteer...? Now think about if you do the opposite. If you can't see different outcomes, you're in trouble. Don't live a life of regrets and void of fulfillment.

**Q:** Any piece of advice for students struggling to decide on a college Uni-

**A:** Do lots of things in high school so you have an idea as to what you would like to do. Keep in mind that flexibility and ability to adapt will be key to your success and happiness. You will undoubtedly have numerous jobs/careers in your life, ideally sustained by outside interests that help others. Also, work for the environment so all of you have a world to live in.

**Q:** Anything else you'd like to share with the Marian Gazette readers?

**A:** "It's time everyone."



### Mr. Fay's Corner

#### A limerick to start the new year:

*At the beginning of this brand new year,  
May it be graced by God's holy cheer.  
May your faith in Christ grow,  
Mercy and love may you know,  
And the Word of Our Father to bear.*

**A blessed new year to you and your family.**

### Guess the Teacher

Each month, *The Marian Gazette* will feature a different person in our "Guess the Teacher" section. If you think you know who this month's teacher is, submit your guess to Student Editor Brianna Propis at [19bpropis@student.smhlancers.org](mailto:19bpropis@student.smhlancers.org).

Limit one guess per student and the first to submit the correct answer wins. **The winner will receive a Tim Horton's gift card!**

- This staff member isn't exactly a teacher and is new to the St. Mary's family.
- She is a Disney expert and helps friends and family plan their trips. She even runs her own website called *Dreams on Main Street* (check it out!).
- This staff member is a member of *The Marian Gazette* team and has also taken the reigns as NHS moderator.
- Her family has quite the SMH legacy. Her twin cousins graduated from St. Mary's in '01 as valedictorians, her sister was valedictorian in '06, and she followed in their footsteps as St. Mary's valedictorian in '11.

## Sports

### Monsignor Martin Women's Hockey is Ready to Roll

Lancer parent and coach, Chris Malicki, is back for a second stint as coach for the Monsignor Martin Women's Hockey Team and has high expectations for his squad this year. Those expectations are turning into reality, as the team is off to a 6-0 start with wins against some major public school powerhouses.

The Monsignor Martin team is made up of girls from all of the schools in the Monsignor Martin, including St. Mary's, which has three girls on the team this year. Malicki has noticed the growth in the women's game: "When I coached the first time around, there

was only one girl from St. Mary's on the team, and now there are three, so you can definitely see growth there." Riley Malicki, Claire Rahuba, and Caleigh Pfalzer are the three Lancers that play on the Monsignor Martin team. Each of the three players are solid contributors to the team's success thus far in the season.

Malicki knows how to get the best out of his team and has noticed two main themes this year that differ from the last time he coached: "There is a tremendous amount of parity in the league this year, where the top four teams are all outstanding, and on any given day, any one of us could win the whole thing," Malicki said. "Each team also has really good

goalkeepers, so any goalie could steal a game or two for a team, and we have two great goalies ourselves, so that's exciting," he added.

Head of School, Kevin Kelleher, couldn't be more excited to have such a strong St. Mary's presence on the team: "We are thrilled to have three student athletes participate in women's hockey and to have a Lancer parent behind the bench — to have such strong ties to the league is tremendous," Kelleher said.

Want to see the girls in action? Head to [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org) to get their schedule. Go Lancers!



### Men's Basketball Off to Great Start

St. Mary's men's basketball has been firing on all cylinders right out of the gate this season, crushing rival Lancaster in the ADPRO Sports Public vs. Private Challenge, hosted at St. Mary's.

The Lancers defended their home court in the backyard battle, defeating the Legends 73-58.

The Lancers also took home the championship in the Depew Holiday tournament, beating Cheektowaga and the hosting Wildcats in the process. Senior Christian Szablewski was also named tournament MVP.

Led by a core group of talented upperclassmen, including seniors Szablewski, Frank Propis, Matt Ciezki, and Eric Brown, St. Mary's looks to repeat as league champs this year as they begin league play after Christmas break.

Check our [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org) for the schedule to come support your Lancers!



The men's basketball team walks off the court with a convincing win over Lancaster.

## Sports

### St. Mary's Wrestling Looks to Build Program

Lancer wrestling has begun to take its place among the other powerhouse sports in the St. Mary's arsenal, and a huge part of that is simply having enough wrestler to field a successful squad: "I think the momentum has carried over from the past couple years," St. Mary's coach Zach Weiss said. "We're starting to turn the corner. We have some good leadership. Our captains Jake Fay and Jake Flading carry the program name very well. The guys who are returning are spreading the word around about the program."

The team is currently

made up of mostly sophomores, so the young team is still a work in progress, but the main goal is to continue to build and remain competitive, which the Lancers have been very successful at thus far in the season. Coach Weiss knows that some of his wrestlers will take their lumps in the first part of the season, but hopes to see each one of them grow both on and off the mat to really see what they can do: "We're always wrestling as a varsity team," Weiss said. "Whether you are ready to be a varsity wrestler or not, you're competing and

practicing with us because the end goal is to be one. You get thrown to the wolves right away. You're going to compete against some really good schools. But after a while, you start to learn what to do when and figure out what works for you. It starts to click about halfway through the season and then we go from there."

The future is looking brighter than ever for St. Mary's wrestling!

Quotes from *The Lancaster Bee*.



### Women's Basketball Makes Championship Run in Franklinville Holiday Tourney

The Lancers defeated Portville 66-32 in the first game of the Franklinville Holiday Tournament to advance to the championship against the hosting team. Unfortunately, the Lancers couldn't pull off the comeback and fell to Franklinville in a heartbreaker, 60-57.

Sophomore Myla Kline and junior Caroline Zanghi were named to the all-tournament team.

This past week of games puts the Lady Lancers at 5 wins for the season, with the team looking to build momentum for the Depew Holiday Tournament (results not available at press time) and league play, which will begin after Christmas break.



Picture Source: SMH W Basketball Twitter account

## The Arts

### "Inside the Director's Studio" with Musical Director Miss Ruhland

We sat down with Miss Ruhland as she prepares for St. Mary's next musical adventure to get her thoughts on all things performing arts...

**Q: Why did you choose *Once on this Island* for this year's musical?**

A: This musical is something different from shows St. Mary's has done in the past. It has a Caribbean flare. This show includes elements of *Romeo and Juliet* and elements of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale *The Little Mermaid*. It revolves around a peasant girl on a tropical island, who uses the power of love to bring together people of different social classes.

**Q: With auditions coming up, what are some specific things you look for from students trying out to know they'll be successful on stage?**

A: I am always looking for stage presence — the ability to transform themselves into a character, read lines as a different character, and then to actually make it believable. Personality is huge. Confidence goes a long way.

**Q: The St. Mary's Performing Arts Department has been incredibly successful in the past, with three recent Kenny Award nominations and countless memorable performances. What would you say are the reasons for such success given the limited resources available at a small school?**

A: Well, we are at a great disadvantage when it comes to budgets and resources available to us in comparison to large schools. However, those disadvantages are made up for with countless hours of dedication from the directors, cast and crew. The success of our shows is solely driven from the creative vision the directors have and are able to pass onto the students, who then make this vision their own.

**Q: What do you hope students get from participating in the school's musical each year?**

A: I hope that each student takes away a sense of pride. Not only in their performances but in their hard work and dedication to something that becomes bigger than life. The musical season is a time in their high school career where new friendships are formed and memories are made.

Every year there is a first-time musical senior, and by the end of the show, always, without fail, they say to the cast, crew, and directors that they wished they would have done the musical all four years.

### Auditions

**The St. Mary's Performing Arts Department will hold auditions for this year's musical, *Once On This Island*, Tuesday, January 2nd and Wednesday January 3rd right after school in the Gus.**

**Auditions will be open to all students looking to take their turn in the St. Mary's spotlight. Lead roles and spots in the ensemble will be up for grabs! Sign up outside Miss Ru's classroom.**

### Art Class Spotlight



You can find these beautiful pieces of artwork created by St. Mary's students in the hallway that leads to the art room.

## Alumni News & Updates

### Alumni Spotlight

#### Will Marks '05



Here's a flashback to Will's senior picture, circa 2005.

Will has just completed his PhD in Neuroscience at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. His work on the effects of HIV on the central nervous system has 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 including the 2017 annual meeting of Society for Neuroscience. Will is moving to Dallas, Texas in January where he will begin working on a project involving the neural circuitry allowing for the perception of time.

### Alumni Quick Hits

- Feeling hungry? Nick Ananiadis '04 recently opened a new restaurant— Nick's Place Express in Kenmore! So, get some delicious Greek-inspired food from a Lancaster grad, today! *(below)*
- Please keep Coach Woj in your prayers. He has been in the hospital and the long-term prognosis isn't the best. Coach is still sharp as a tack, but any prayers you could send his way are appreciated by the St. Mary's community and his family. *Update: Coach Woj is currently out of the hospital and back at The Green Fields on Broadway in Lancaster, doing his best to keep his spirits up! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.* *(right)*



### Alumni Updates

Know any alumni who have moved, had a baby, celebrated an engagement, just got a promotion, or experienced another exciting life event?

Let us know at [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org) or by contacting Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations Amanda Rebeck at [arebeck@smhlancer.org](mailto:arebeck@smhlancer.org) or 716-683-4824 ext. 237.

## Student Beat

### Public Speaking Classes Give Presentations

Mr. Herr's public speaking classes gave their end-of-semester presentations this month on topics ranging from everything from Love Canal and global warming to Christmas traditions and social media use.

The presentations were 10-15 minutes in length, with each member of the group taking the helm for a specific portion of the presentation. The group as a whole were then challenged to a round of questions from the audience to see how much they really knew about their chosen topics.

Public speaking has become a mandatory class for all students at St. Mary's as a part of the new "life curriculum," which focuses on teaching students actual life skills they will need in college and beyond, along with other classes like personal finance and college writing 101.



Public speaking classes give their presentations on various topics of their choosing.

### Senior Sound Off: A Senior Lounge

By: *Jacob Bloom*

A senior lounge is often something that we (as seniors) dream about. We have taken to blaming the athletes from the hockey team as the reasons we are without such a privilege. Although it may be easy and fun to blame others, they have rightfully invested in it, therefore it's there.

As seniors, we have privileges. While we are thankful for the ones we do have, it doesn't seem like we have enough compared to years before. It feels as though we are the only school in Western New York without a lounge for seniors, deeming it unfair to most of the class who want to spend their last year at St. Mary's spending time with classmates, and what better way than to have a room where we can relax and have leisure time during study halls and lunches, rather than sitting in the cafeteria or room 108?

Now, here is my appeal to the underclassmen:

This request does not only pertain to the Class of 2018. Sure, it may seem like we are asking for too much now, but think about it; in the future, your class is going to expect more and more privileges when you become seniors. Reality will hit, and you'll be asking for just as much as we are, so think about it, and continue the push for a senior lounge!

## Student Beat

7 Reasons You Should Watch...*Elf*

'Tis the season for some Christmas movies! Junior Nicole Gorny is back with her take on why *Elf* is already a classic.

By: Nicole Gorny

## 1. Will Ferrell's Performance

Will Ferrell first came into the spotlight during the 1990s — he starred in multiple films such as *Zoolander* and *Austin Powers* — and was already well known for his comedic personality (especially on screen). *Elf*, in which he plays a 30 year-old man who spent the majority of his life in the North Pole believing he's an elf (and a tall one at that), was his first Christmas film. When Ferrell's character, Buddy, finds out that he's actually a human, he travels to New York City in order to find his family that doesn't even know he exists. The true reason this film is so beloved by audiences of all different ages, in my opinion, boils down to the portrayal of Buddy. Stuck in the middle of one of the biggest cities known for harboring people with impatient tendencies, Buddy's innocent curiosity and good heart helps keep the spirits of others alive during the Christmas season. While most characters in the movie find Buddy insane, it's easy for the audience, especially younger viewers, to understand and root for Buddy's mindset, which really displays the brilliance of Ferrell's performance.

## 2. The Design of the North Pole

Now there are technically two North Poles in this film. The first one is where Santa Claus and his workshop are located, and the second one is a toy shop in New York City (Gimbels) where Buddy was temporarily employed— both are incredibly and intricately designed. The "actual" North Pole pays homage to the classic *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* film. From the costume designs to the snowman that talks to Buddy, *Elf* drew heavy inspiration from the Christmas classic.



Picture Source: New Line Cinema

On the other hand, Gimbels provides the audience with an equally stunning (and possibly more creative) Christmas visual. When Buddy finds out that "Santa" is coming to the store the next day, he wants to make the place as presentable as possible for his arrival, which results in Buddy staying up all night to decorate the store. In case you haven't watched the movie yet, I won't spoil the result by including any pictures, but I can ensure you that the design is unique and jaw-dropping.

## 3. The Jokes

A recurring joke used throughout the film involves the creation of kid-friendly swear words with a holiday twist. For example, when Buddy says, "I'm a cotton headed ninny muggin'," it's easy to assume that it's a foul phrase based on the reaction from the other characters. Later on, Buddy exclaims, "Son of a Nutcracker!" Since the movie is as popular as it is, you're bound to find at least one person familiar with these "swears words." The humor doesn't end in holiday swears though, since it's also strongly presented in practically every scene, like Buddy's mistaking of a man with dwarfism for an elf. This scene is definitely bound to receive laughs from the younger audience, but one can't help but cringe (as well as laugh) at the situation as an adult. Throughout the film, a ton of misread situations also contribute to the plot's advancement.

## 4. The Family Dynamic

Although it's been touched upon in other films, *Elf* provides a different spin on a neglecting parent and their eventual redemption. In the film, Buddy's biological father, Walter Hobbs, is completely dedicated to his work as a children's book publisher, and neglects his wife and younger son (Michael) in the process. Though this tends to make Walter appear to be the stereotypical "bad guy," he eventually makes amends for his past mistakes. One scene early on provides the audience with a glimpse into the true goodness of Walter's heart, in which he reflects upon a picture of Buddy's biological mom (Susan) and himself in their younger years before she died, which adds a nice touch to the film as a more serious and sentimental moment. *Elf* offers a plethora of comedy, but also incorporates romance and the perfect amount of tender family moments. Despite the ending arguably being considered "forced," it's also looked upon as a suitable finale since all loose ends are tied and a happy conclusion ensues, which fits the film's overall atmosphere.

## 5. Santa Claus

*Elf*'s Santa Claus provides the audience with a different approach to the iconic Christmas symbol and folktale, which definitely adds to the movie's originality. While not featured heavily, the portrayal of Santa Claus in this film is not the jolly old Saint Nick everyone is most likely used to — he comes off as a rather gruff and straight-forward person. Though his scenes are limited, it quickly becomes obvious that he's probably not the kind of person whose lap you'd want to sit on. After all, he's the one who delivered the bad news to Buddy regarding his dad's "Naughty List" presence. Now, I'm not sure if any other viewers were bothered by this, but during the ending after enough "Christmas spirit" was able to lift the sleigh off the ground, Santa basically left Buddy off the sleigh before

Continued on page F3

## Student Beat

## Junior Named Lieutenant with Bowmansville Fire Assoc.



Picture Source: Mohamed Family

Junior Athena Mohamed was sworn in as a Lieutenant with the Bowmansville Volunteer Fire Association Explorer Program. Athena is pictured here (fourth from the left), taking the oath under Father Joe Bayne. Athena is a member of the Lancer First Responders Club here at St. Mary's.

Congratulations to Athena and all of the new members of Explorer Post 56!

## Elf—Already a Christmas Classic

Continued from page F2

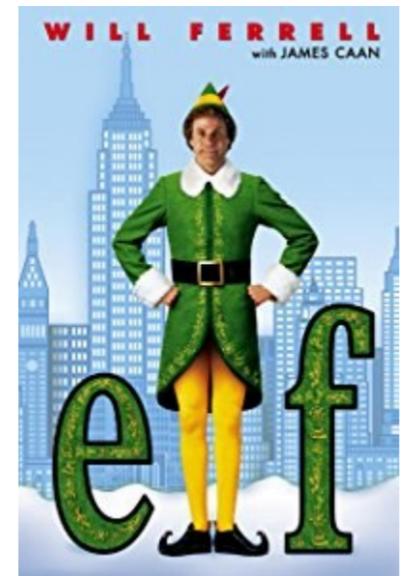
finally lowering the sleigh enough for Buddy to hop in. Seems like Buddy deserves some more love, am I right?

## 6. The Message

A film's message is always up for interpretation, but one of the messages that almost everyone agrees on for *Elf* revolves around the importance of family: hold your family close to your heart and make sure they're at the top of your priorities, especially during the holidays. A hidden message can also be found, which regards the importance of maintaining one's childhood innocence. Many people have memories of joyfully running into their living rooms on Christmas morning to see the presents left by Santa under the tree. As one ages, that concept seems to become more and more distant, therefore it's truly great for this movie to show that believing in Christmas and harboring childlike wonder never gets old.

## 7. Christmas

Who doesn't love a good Christmas movie? *Elf* is funny, heartfelt, entertaining, and simply impossible to resist. Every year, it's a tradition in my family to watch *Elf* at least once. If you don't own the DVD, the TV station *Freeform* (formerly known as *ABC Family*) plays it almost every day during the Christmas season and even has it available "On Demand" for Spectrum viewers. If you haven't seen the movie already (which I doubt), I highly recommend you take the time out to witness its innocent goodness for yourself.



Picture Source: Amazon

### Sports Photo Page



Lancer Hockey celebrates a goal



Looking to make a pass



Lancer Wrestling goes to the mat



Senior Frank Propis lays it up and in for 2

### SMHS Christmas Show on Tour

Throughout the month of December, St. Mary's took their annual Christmas Show "on the road." The show visited local grammar schools, including St. John Vianney, St. John the Baptist in Kenmore, OLBS, Notre Dame Academy, Immaculate Conception, Nativity in Williamsville, and St. Mary's Elementary. Our hand bell choir, ballet and tap dancers, and select choir dazzled all of the young students and helped everyone really get into the Christmas spirit.

The show culminated with a very touching performance at The Green Fields in Lancaster, where a group of residents were delighted to see our students sing some Christmas classics and bring so much joy into the residence. This audience was so gracious that it even brought some of our performers to tears. It seems as though St. Mary's has begun a new tradition that will live on for many many years to come!

Please enjoy some pictures from the tour below and others from the actual Christmas Show performed at St. Mary's on the next page.

From the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff of St. Mary's High School, we wish all of our Lancer families a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!



# SMHS Christmas Show



For even more SMH photos, make sure to follow us on Facebook (St. Mary's High School, Lancaster NY)! We post a weekly photo album of all the exciting things happening at our school!

# School Calendars - December 2017



## January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	2 Classes Resume	3 Class Meetings Ext. Homeroom Schedule	4	5 Epiphany Liturgy	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17 Fac/Staff Meeting 2:30pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL End of Second Quarter	27
28	29 Freshmen Registration Night 6pm - 8pm Bookstore Open	30	31			



### ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL JANUARY 2018

Menu is subject to change.



Personal Touch Food Service  
Chef Manager:  
Ryan Covelli

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> HARD SHELL BEEF TACO Seasoned Corn V Pineapple Cup V	3 STUFFED SHELLS IN RED SAUCE V Side Salad V Garlic Bread V	4 Build Your Own FAJITA Chicken or Beef Assorted Toppings Seasoned Rice V Pears V	5 CHICKEN NUGGETS Tater Tots V Applesauce V
8 ITALIAN SAUSAGE HOAGIE WITH PEPPERS & ONIONS Potato Chips V Fresh Fruit Cup V	9 <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> TACO IN A BAG Spicy Mexican Rice V Refried Beans V	10 BAKED PENNE MARINARA V Side Salad V Dinner Roll V	11 Build Your Own CHICKEN SOUVLAKI SALAD Pita Bread V/WG Peaches V	12 BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH Coleslaw V Baked Apples V
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day NO SCHOOL	16 <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> TACO SALAD Cilantro Lime Rice V Mexican Corn V	17 BUTTER & GARLIC TORTELLINI V Caesar Salad Garlic Bread V	18 Build Your Own WAFFLE BAR Assorted Toppings Sausage Links Hash Brown Patty V	19 MACARONI & CHEESE V Side Salad V Roasted Vegetables V
22 SEASONED CHICKEN SANDWICH Herbed Roasted Potatoes V Seasoned Peas V	23 <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> SHREDDED PORK TACO Tortilla Chips & Salsa V/WG Seasoned Carrots V	24 CHICKEN ALFREDO Side Salad V Roasted Cauliflower V	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL
29 SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN OVER RICE Roasted Cauliflower V Mandarin Oranges V	30 <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> GRILLED CHICKEN TACO Seasoned Corn V Tropical Fruit Cup V	31 CHEESE MANICOTTI IN RED SAUCE V Side Salad V Garlic Green Beans V		

**SERVED DAILY:**

Entrées	\$ 3.50
Salad - Large V	\$ 3.25
Salad - Small V	\$ 2.15
Fresh made Soup	\$ 1.30
Cold Sub, Wrap	\$ 3.50
Intense Milk V	\$ 1.75
Milk 1/2 pint	\$ .80
Juice Cup V	\$ .60
Bottle Water V	\$ 1.00
Pizza, all varieties	\$ 2.75

**BREAKFAST A LA CARTE**

Breakfast Combo	\$ 3.50
Breakfast Sandwich WG	\$ 3.30
Breakfast Burrito	\$ 3.25
Bagel with Butter V	\$ 1.25
Cream Cheese V	\$ .60
Hash Brown V	\$ .75
French Toast Sticks w/V (5)	\$ 1.95
Greek Yogurt V	\$ 1.75
Fresh Fruit Cup V	\$ 1.95
Cereal with Milk V	\$ 1.40

**LUNCH A LA CARTE**

Fresh Baked Cookie V	\$ .50 or 2/\$1.00
Bag of Chips V	\$ 1.25
Hot Pretzel V	\$ 1.35
Fresh Fruit V	\$ 1.25
Vegetable of the Day V	\$ 1.15

**Complete Lunch Includes:**  
1 Entrée  
Choice of Side  
Milk or Bottled Water  
\$4.30  
With Intense Milk  
\$5.00

WG = Whole Grain  
V = Vegetarian\*  
\*Allows egg and milk  
Alyssa's Better Choice  
Healthy Entrées

For the latest school calendar updates, please visit [smblanders.org](http://smblanders.org).