

# The Lance

St. Mary's High School • Lancaster, NY  
Spring/Summer 2022



*Now Presenting...*

## The Academies at St. Mary's High School

In an ongoing effort to innovate and advance the school's college-preparatory curriculum, St. Mary's High School is proud to announce the development of **The Academies at St. Mary's High School**, which will launch at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

This pioneering initiative will allow students to participate in focused areas of study during their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years with the end goal for them to achieve a deeper understanding of the potential career paths and majors that colleges and universities offer. Freshmen will automatically be enrolled in The Academy of The First Year, giving them the tools to succeed over the next four years of high school.

The Academies will be managed by St. Mary's dedicated faculty, under the guidance of the Dean of Academic Affairs, Mr. Keith Junik, and enhanced by adjunct professors and guest lecturers, including professionals from the school's passionate alumni base, parents, and local and national experts in their fields. The Academies will meet twice weekly for 80 minutes and co-exist with the gold-standard New York State Regents Curriculum and Lancer Life Curriculum currently offered at St. Mary's. St. Mary's High School currently ranks seventh in *Buffalo Business First's* rankings of 131 high schools in Western New York.

"We are always trying to be innovative and creative when it comes to our curriculum," said Dean of Academic Affairs, Keith Junik. "A few years ago, we instituted the Lancer Life Curriculum, which mandates students take courses that teach important life skills, like public speaking, leadership, personal finance, and our award-winning senior portfolio capstone project. The Academies at St. Mary's High School takes that initiative even further, giving our students a real advantage as they head off to college, already having a background in majors they may want to pursue or crossing things off the list they're no longer interested in," Junik concluded.

"It is the overall student experience and the desire to make it a rewarding, positive, and practical one that motivates the Administration at St. Mary's High School," said Head of School, Kevin Kelleher. "We want to make that student experience second to none, and programs like this – that are a forward-thinking way to educate – allow us to do just that. A new initiative like this gets our students, faculty, and staff even more excited about our future. Our families are thrilled with the concept. We're looking forward to developing The Academies at St. Mary's High School into an academic tradition of unparalleled excellence," Kelleher said.

See more about The Academies at St. Mary's High School on p. 2-3

### *The Academies of...*

**Business/Entrepreneurship/  
Finance**

**Education**

**Engineering & Experimental  
Design**

**Global Citizenship/  
International Relations**

**Health & Science  
Professionals**

**Hospitality/Event Planning**

**Journalism & Marketing**

**Law & Criminal Justice**

**Performing Arts**

**Visual Arts**

**The First Year**

*"We're looking forward to  
developing The Academies at  
St. Mary's High School into an  
academic tradition of  
unparalleled excellence."  
- Kevin Kelleher, Head of School*

## A Message from Head of School, Kevin Kelleher '89

Dear St. Mary's Family,

These are certainly exciting times at St. Mary's High School. As we move carefully into a post-pandemic time and close out the 2021-22 school year, we will continue to honor our past, and we are ready to blaze new trails into the future.



We will begin the next school year with our largest enrollment in decades thanks to our continued success academically, extra-curricularly, and through innovation. After consulting many, we are proud to introduce **The Academies at St. Mary's High School**. You will be able to read a great deal about this exciting new initiative throughout this edition of "The Lance." The Class of 2022 has earned **\$14 million in scholarships**, and our athletic teams have won **championships and earned countless accolades** this year. We are extremely proud of our "**Elite Eight**" - eight senior girls who signed their letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers at Division I programs across the country (*full story on p. 5*). Their athletic excellence is certainly worthy of applause, but most importantly, their combined GPA is 97.87.

This continuous rise in enrollment brings with it the rise in future and current student expectations. To this effect, we have embarked on capital improvements to our building and classrooms. We are pleased to announce that we will be adding to our faculty in order to meet this student demand as well.

I am so blessed to work with nearly 450 amazing students and their families as well as our outstanding faculty and staff. To continue our growth, there is much more work to be done. It is our goal to make our alumni and supporters proud in all that we do. We hope you enjoy this look into all the great things happening at St. Mary's!

Keep safe, keep the faith. Go Lancers.

Kevin Kelleher '89  
Head of School



## > Academies 101

> **The Academy of The First Year** is designed as an introduction to St. Mary's High School and our expectations and values. The goal is to identify ways in which students will feel confident and driven within the academic setting and beyond, engaging them with a variety of resources and activities. All Freshmen will be automatically enrolled in this Academy.

### **The Business, Finance, & Entrepreneurship Academy** <

prepares students to pursue a business or financial-related major in college by providing an overview of the principles associated with each topic. These principles will then be put into practice through the development and management of several on-campus initiatives, including The Lancer Fund Stock Market Challenge, concession stand management, and more, bringing the concepts of small business management and accounting to life.

### > **The Engineering and Experimental Design Academy**

teaches students the fundamentals of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Through a combination of theory and hands-on projects, students will be introduced to different fields in engineering. Students will also engage in the process of experimental design, used by science professionals, to collect, analyze, and present their own scientific data.

### **The Journalism & Marketing Academy** <

will further develop the skills needed to pursue careers in the fast-paced world of media. This writing-intensive academy will create the foundation for students to be successful in any avenue of these fields, including print, social media, newscasting, podcasts, web, and video production and editing. In this hands-on environment, students will also dive into the current journalism and marketing efforts of the school.

> In **The Law & Criminal Justice Academy**, students interested in law, governance, justice, and public service will build a strong foundation of the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to pursue careers in these fields. Few fields combine theory and practice so effectively, opening diverse avenues for applying the tools of intellect to the problems of society and combine the liberal arts advantage with the lens of Catholic understanding.

## **The Academies at St. Mary's High School A Student's Perspective**

1. Register online for a specific Academy at 8 a.m. on a specified date (starting with seniors)
2. Attend lectures/speakers/field trips with your Academy twice a week
3. Complete assigned work/projects throughout the year
4. Decide if you want to continue on in an upper level of the same Academy or register for a new one the following year



## > Academies 101

- > **The Hospitality & Event Planning Academy** will be extremely hands-on, as students will work to plan, execute, and manage various events and functions. Rooted in tourism and travel, hospitality and event planning give students a taste of what the industry can be like on a global scale, taking them all over the country, and even the world, if they choose to pursue careers in these fields.



*Students in this Academy will help plan St. Mary's events, like Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito Returns Home (event recap on p. 14)*

- > **The Health & Science Professionals Academy** is designed to give students a greater understanding of the healthcare, science, and mental health fields. After receiving a background in biology, chemistry, and psychology, students will conduct research and perform experiments in a laboratory setting, simulating work done by healthcare and science professionals. The goal of this academy is to provide students with a base level of experience so they can go on to pursue careers as doctors, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, social workers, lab technicians, psychologists, and more.

*Kamryn DeMarzio '22 visited Prodigy Surgical to partake in a real human anatomy lab with her AP Biology Class. Students in this Academy will have similar hands-on opportunities.*



- > **The Visual Arts Academy** is open to students who want to add to their artistic portfolios and gain more experience with different mediums. The Academy is also open to students who see the Visual Arts as more of a hobby and enjoy looking at and creating beautiful artwork.



*Students will have the opportunity to expand their minds and actually have the time to work on art projects or creative media they never dreamed of.*

- > **The Global Citizenship & International Relations Academy** will create an international understanding among students, acknowledging the presence of multiple cultures, languages, and ways of living across the globe and the current needs and political, social, and economic issues in different countries. In the tradition of St. Francis, the Lancers in this Academy will develop a "citizen of the world" mentality, learning their place on a global scale and things they can do to make the world a better, more peaceful place - both in their local communities and the world at large.



*Eric Pfalzer '21 poses with a young boy from an orphanage in Guatemala. Select St. Mary's students visited this orphanage on a mission trip with the Work, Play, Love Foundation in the summer of 2019.*

- > **The Performing Arts Academy** welcomes performers of all skill and experience levels to further develop their abilities on the stage as well as foster a greater appreciation for the creative process of staging a production as a whole. A combination of theory-based and hands-on exercises will be utilized to dive into all aspects of a performance - from singing, dancing, and acting on stage to set and costume design and more.

*Ashley Cruz '19 sings and dances in St. Mary's production of The Addams Family. Students in The Performing Arts Academy will hone in on their crafts with more time to sing, dance, and act.*



- > **The Education Academy** is designed for students who would like to start their career path toward becoming a future educator. The goal is to empower the next generation teaching force, building the skills necessary for strong teachers. Students will learn by watching different teaching techniques and then put those into practice through creative lesson planning, innovative educational technology, and cooperative educational experiences that will give future teachers a foundation for success.



*Future teachers will learn all the ins and outs of the profession from some of the best at SMHS.*

## Attention SMHS Alumni!

We want YOU to become a part of one of these academies! Share your expertise and experiences with us and enhance the education of our students.

Contact Doug Buczak '94 Director of Development & Alumni Relations at [dbuczak@smhlancers.org](mailto:dbuczak@smhlancers.org) or (716) 683-4824 ext. 325 to learn about opportunities or tell us how you can help.

## > School News

### 2021-22 School Year Shows True Lancer Spirit

The past two years brought challenges and changes unlike anything anyone has ever seen. Despite a pandemic and just about every school in the country switching to hybrid or virtual learning, St. Mary's used that family spirit and banded together to continue **in-person learning five days a week, all year long in 2021 and 2022.**

The start of this school year brought a renewed sense of hope. All of the things that make St. Mary's such a special place to be returned - dances, class competitions, fans in the stands at home games, liturgies, and so much more. With the return of Regents exams this Spring, St. Mary's will look to continue our ascent up the rankings of the best high schools in Western New York, where we are **currently ranked 7th out of 131 high schools (Business First).**

We're ready for whatever the next school year has in store because of the faculty, staff, administration, and amazing families we have at St. Mary's and their ability to **work together to do what is best for the students of Lancerville.**

Juniors let out a big cheer after a Spelling Bee win during Spirit Week



Freshmen taking on the Sophomores in an epic tug-o-war battle

Campus Minister Deacon Robb Ciezki gives ashes during Ash Wednesday Liturgy



### National Honor Society Induction

Congratulations to the 35 newest inductees into the Marian Chapter of the National Honor Society. These students must have at least a 95.00 GPA and display exemplary service, leadership skills, and character.

The members are: Olivia Altman, Vincent Bargnesi, Bridget Barr, Bella Becker, Luis Bermudez, Braden Callahan, Tim Campbell, Emilia Clausen, Danielle Day, Claire DeAngelis, Jarett dePerio, Magdalene Dziadosz, Amelia Fontaine, Alexys Friol, Amy Hamilton, Shane Henning, Max Laistner, Lindsay Luksch, Mya Maher, Ashleigh McCoy, Cecelia Mineo, Tyler Nowicki, Kaylyn O'Grady, Jenna Paler, Bella Persico, Kristin Pronobis, Eric Ridolfi, Caleb Ross, Michael Vealey, Stefan Vukas, Alex Walter, Tyler Warmington, Tyler Wass, Paige Wentland, and McKenna Zaleski.

### Congratulations, Class of 2022!

St. Mary's held the **118th annual Commencement Ceremonies** for the Class of 2022 on **Thursday, May 26th**. The ceremonies were held right on campus in the Athletic Center with a huge party that followed on the school's front lawn, including food trucks, music, and lots of photos!

As is the case every year, St. Mary's is incredibly proud of our graduates, as they have received **over \$14 million in scholarships** to some of the best colleges and universities in the country. Our Lancers are continuing their education at schools close to home, down South, on the West Coast, and even in Hawaii.

Check out some of the places our seniors are heading off too:



Sophomore boys give a thumbs up and are ready for the Walk-A-Thon

### Enrollment Sees Strategic Growth

Over the past five years, **St. Mary's is one of only two private schools in Western New York to see a growth in enrollment and is now the third-largest private school in the area.** As a whole, enrollment is up over 35% over those five years (324 students vs 450 students). With over 450 students currently in the building and that number expected to grow with a large incoming Freshmen class, many factors have contributed to this growth: the implementation and marketing of an innovative curriculum (The Academies at St. Mary's High School), academic success in being ranked 7th of 131 high schools in WNY (*Business First*), success on the athletic fields and stage, the enthusiasm and involvement of talented, connected, and successful alumni, the diligence of Dean of Student Life & Admissions, Andrea Drabik and her team, and keeping in-person learning going amid the pandemic.

"We're filling the building with the best students and families, and that creates a kind of cycle. Our students do great things, people see that, and then more people want to become a part of what we're doing here," said Head of School Kevin Kelleher.

St. Mary's is widely recognized as the best-value private school in the area, committed to working with families to ensure a St. Mary's education is affordable, while offering the highest quality, most innovative education possible.

If you know a student looking to become a part of the St. Mary's Family, contact Andrea Drabik Dean of Student Life & Admissions at [adrabik@smhlancers.org](mailto:adrabik@smhlancers.org) 4





## St. Mary's Wins Signing Day Putting the "Scholar" in "Scholar Athlete"



From left to right: Shay Ciezki, Bella Farina, Gabby Gambino, Jordan Hummel, Lily Lauck, Charlie Pawli, and Shae O'Rourke

St. Mary's High School is home to 105 seniors in the Class of 2022, and eight of those students signed letters of intent to play Division I sports at some of the best universities in the country. It is impressive for a school to have one Division I athlete, but eight? And all of them have GPAs in the top 10% of their class and seven are also National Honor Society students? That's unheard of.

"It was a really special day for us," St. Mary's Head of School, Kevin Kelleher said. "These girls are the whole package - fantastic in the community, in the classroom, and obviously on their preferred athletic fields. They're amazing leaders to their younger teammates and schoolmates as well. They embody the opportunities that can lie ahead of you with a St. Mary's education, hard work, and dedication to your craft. We've been blessed to have them for four years."

Take a look at these young ladies' stacked resumes and where they will be headed in the Fall.



**Shay Ciezki**  
**Penn State Basketball**

- National Honor Society (98.53 GPA)
- #10 PG in ESPN's 100
- #55 in ESPN's Class of 2022
- 4x All-WNY
- All-WNY POY
- 4x All-Catholic
- 3x MMHSAA
- Player of the Year
- 2,000 Point Club
- Leading Scorer in SMHS History
- 3x Team Captain

**Bella Farina**  
**Houston Softball**

- National Honor Society (99.60 GPA)
- All-Catholic
- 32nd ranked player in Class of 2022
- 15th ranked CF in Class of 2022
- 3x MMHSAA Champion
- Team Captain

**Gabby Gambino**  
**Clemson Soccer**

- National Honor Society (98.62 GPA)
- 2x All-Catholic
- MMHSAA League MVP
- 100 Point Club
- WNY Flash Academy
- 2x MMHSAA Champion
- Team Captain



**Jordan Hummel**  
**Davidson Volleyball**

- National Honor Society (99.75 GPA)
- 2x All-WNY
- 2x All-Catholic
- 2x MMHSAA League MVP
- 4x MMHSAA Champion
- 2x NYS Champion
- 2x Team Captain
- *Buffalo News* Scholar Athlete Selection

**Lily Lauck**  
**University at Buffalo Softball**

- National Honor Society (99.41 GPA)
- All-Catholic
- National Travel Team
- 3x MMHSAA Champion
- Team Captain

**Margaret Nawojski**  
**Niagara University Cross Country**

- 94.16 GPA
- 2x All-Catholic
- Cross Country & Track participant
- NYS Federation Championship participant
- St. Mary's individual record holder

**Shae O'Rourke**  
**South Carolina Soccer**

- National Honor Society (96.96 GPA)
- Gatorade POY
- All-American
- USA Today POY
- 3x All-WNY
- 4x All-Catholic
- MMHSAA MVP
- 300 Point Club
- Leading scorer in SMH history
- WNY Flash Academy
- 2x Team Captain

**Charlie Pawli**  
**Albany Soccer**

- National Honor Society (95.89 GPA)
- 3x All-Catholic
- WNY Flash Academy
- 2x MMHSAA Champion
- Team Captain
- Track & Field High Jump State Champion
- Track & Field 400m State Qualifier

## St. Mary's Partners with Buffalo Jr. Sabres

This program brings elite youth hockey players from Western New York, and, in some cases, around the world to live and learn at St. Mary's High School while competing at the highest level of boys' hockey in the country.

The partnership provides young men with an incredible opportunity to receive a high-level private school education and optimizes the potential to achieve their goals of becoming high-level college and professional hockey players.

Buffalo Jr. Sabres student athletes attend school at St. Mary's from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., taking all of the core classes required to graduate from St. Mary's, following a NYS Regents curriculum and taking part in St. Mary's Lancer Life Curriculum. Then, in a true Academy-like setting, the student athletes head to LECOM Harborcenter at 1:00 p.m. for on and off-ice training with Academy of Hockey coaches, Tim Kennedy and Nick Tuzzolino, and Impact Sports Performance coaches, Kevin Phengthavone, MS, CSCS, CSAC and Brian DeLuca, PT, MBA, CSCS, CAFS. The players have a mandatory, supervised study hall period woven into their schedule at the LECOM Harborcenter.

St. Mary's is thrilled to have around over 30 Buffalo Jr. Sabres enrolled for the 2021-22 school year and expects that number to grow heading into 2023 as well.

## AP Biology Visits Prodigy Surgical

Mrs. Walh-Henshaw's AP Biology Class recently visited Prodigy Surgical, where current and alumni parent, Tom Bestpitch, is the owner and president. Tom is also the husband of Kara Schaller-Bestpitch '96. Students toured the company and laboratories and were given their own lab stations to perform dissections under the watchful eye of Mr. Bestpitch and his team.



Mr. Tom Bestpitch walks students through a human anatomy lab





## > Athletics

### > Football

#### Football Wins League Championship

For the second year in a row, St. Mary's defeated Bishop Timon to capture the Monsignor Martin B League Championship. The Lancers rolled over their opponents all season, finishing the season with an 8-1 record and a 39-point average margin of victory.

St. Mary's defeated the likes of Cardinal O'Hara, Cleveland Hill, and St. Joe's on their road to eight wins.

Head Coach Matt Ard and his staff have certainly turned this program around in just three short years.

The Lancers finished the season ranked 7th in *The Buffalo News*' Small School Poll and 25th in Class B in the Sportswriters' Poll.

QB Jayden Wilson '22 leads the team onto the field.



#### Christian Lewis Breaks League Rushing Record

Senior Christian Lewis broke the Monsignor Martin single-season rushing record after piling up 2,141 yards in St. Mary's nine games this year.

Lewis broke the record in the championship game against Bishop Timon, running for an astonishing 245 yards in that game alone.

"My line played phenomenal this season, and I wouldn't have done this without them," said Lewis. "I have a great quarterback throwing the ball and getting me open for runs, and I love everyone on this team. We all did the record. I didn't just do it. We all did it."



#### The Nicholas Pilipauskis Scholarship

Pilipauskis was a graduate of Lancaster High School's Class of 1999 and an integral part of the Lancaster Football Team. He then went onto Purdue, studying Business and Finance and was also a walk-on on the Purdue football team.

Sadly, Pilipauskis passed away on February 4, 2020, at the age of 39, leaving behind his mother, Paulette (nee Kolyer), a member of the St. Mary's Class of 1965.

Paulette has established a scholarship to keep Nick's legacy alive of motivating others through action and example. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Junior member of the St. Mary's Football Team who lives out this spirit.

If you would like to donate to the scholarship, visit [smhlancers.org/support-smh/](http://smhlancers.org/support-smh/).



### > Women's Soccer

#### Lancers Take Monsignor Martin Title Finish Season as State Runners-Up

The Women's Soccer Team defeated rival Nichols 4-2 in the Monsignor Martin Division A Championship this Fall for the second time in three years. The St. Mary's win avenged an earlier season loss to the Vikings. The Lancers got shots on goal early and often, and senior Shae O'Rourke scored twice in the first 21 minutes, finishing the game with a hat trick. The Lancers then moved onto the State Championships, where they won a thrilling six-round penalty-shot game in the semifinals before falling to a tough St. Anthony's team in the final.

##### > All the Accolades for O'Rourke

Senior Shae O'Rourke isn't just a good soccer player, she's other-worldly. As the most decorated player in St. Mary's Soccer history, take a look at the South Carolina-commit's resume:

- Gatorade NYS Player of the Year
- All-American
- USA Today NYS Player of the Year
- WNY Flash Academy
- 4x All-WNY
- MMHSAA League MVP
- 300-Point Club
- Leading Scorer in SMHS History
- 2x Team Captain
- National Honor Society



### > Cross Country

#### Cross Country Finishes Banner Year

For the first time in decades, the Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams finished their seasons ranked in the Top 10 in *The Buffalo News*' Small School Polls. Both teams had stellar years with runners placing in several meets.

##### > Nawojski Races to States

Senior Margaret Nawojski placed third in the All-Catholic race this year to move onto the NYS Federation Championships downstate. Margaret has had an exemplary running career at St. Mary's.







## > Athletics

### > Women's Volleyball

#### Volleyball Takes Home League and State Titles

St. Mary's Volleyball is no stranger to State Championships, but as Head Coach Don Pieczynski always points out, each year's team is different and each season brings along its own set of challenges. This year, the team battled through injuries and pandemic protocols, but the result was still the same - for the 18th time.

St. Mary's defeated Sacred Heart in a raucous Nardin gym in straight sets to bring home the Monsignor Martin Title and earn a spot in the NYS Championships on Long Island. The Lancers never dropped a set in the state championship, defeating Fontbonne Hall 25-18, 25-12, and 25-19 in the final to capture their 18th NYS Championship.

### > Men's Basketball

#### Men's Basketball Wins Class B State Championship

In Head Coach Ryan Gallo's first season at the helm, St. Mary's won the Manhattan Cup Class B Title Game against Nichols 71-68, affording them the chance to represent the Monsignor Martin in the Class B State Catholic Tournament.

In the game against Nichols, senior standout Massimo Moretti (*right*) led the way with 27 points and 15 rebounds. Moretti is a senior international student from Italy and averaged a double-double over the course of the season at over 20 points and 15 rebounds a game. The team staged a fourth-quarter comeback to put Nichols away and advance to the State Tournament. Moretti was named First Team All-Catholic and First Team All-WNY Small School.



This year's Class B State Title Game was held in Western New York at ECC, giving the Lancers a bit of a home-court advantage over down-state Cathedral Prep. After a tight first half, the Lancers opened the third quarter on a 10-0 run and never looked back, defeating Cathedral Prep 60-53 to win the Class B State Championship (*below*).



The St. Mary's Men's Basketball Team also finished first in final rankings of *The Buffalo New's* Small Schools Poll.

### > Women's Basketball

#### Women's Basketball Takes Home Monsignor Martin Class A Title

Not to be outdone by their male counterparts, the St. Mary's Women's Basketball Team won the Class A Championship with a 75-68 victory also over the Nichols Vikings (*below*). The entirety of the game went back and forth before the Lancers were able to pull away at the end with some timely free throws. Penn State-commit Shay Ciezki led the way with an incredible 51 points in the championship game.

The team then went onto Long Island for the State Tournament Semifinals to face Holy Cross. Unfortunately, the Lancers were unable to advance to the finals, but still had a season to be proud of!



#### > Ciezki Wraps Up Incredible Lancer Career

Since the moment she stepped onto the court as a Freshman, it was no secret how talented Shay Ciezki was. In just four years, she has shattered the St. Mary's record books, led her team to a Class A Title, and is off to Penn State University. Let's dive a little deeper into all of Shay's accomplishments:

- 4x All-WNY
- 3x MMHSAA POY
- 4x All-Catholic
- 3x Team Captain
- 2,000 Point Club
- National Honor Society Student
- #55 in ESPN's Class of '22
- #10 PG in ESPN's Class of '22
- St. Mary's All-Time Leading Scorer



Shay Ciezki (*right*) poses with Asst. Coach Raeann Stilwell '11 after breaking Stilwell's SMHS All-Time Scoring Record

## Sports Schedules Online

St. Mary's Athletics offer a full array of men's and women's teams to catch in action every season of the year! Catch our Softball Team winning championships, watch our Baseball Team chase a Georgetown Cup, follow Volleyball's quest for State Title #19, or take in a Lancer Duals Wrestling match in the winter.

All schedules can be found on [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org).

\*Please note that rain-outs/rescheduled games may take time to update.



## Summer Camps - Register Now!

St. Mary's Summer Camps are run by our highly-respected and decorated coaching staffs and assisted by our outstanding student athletes. Learn skills and techniques in a supportive, encouraging environment designed to build confidence as well gain a competitive edge. Register at [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org) or contact Athletic Director Zach Weiss at [zweiss@smhlancers.org](mailto:zweiss@smhlancers.org).

**NEW THIS YEAR** - St. Mary's is also offering Academic Camps! More information can be found at [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org).



## Athletics

### Hockey



The St. Mary's Girls Hockey Team gets ready to take the ice for their first game. (Ended in 2-2 tie)  
Photo: The Buffalo News



Starting lineups are announced  
Photo: The Buffalo News

## Men's Hockey Team Takes Home Monsignor Martin League Cup

St. Mary's has three men's hockey teams - that's right, three whole teams!

The Men's Federation Hockey Team competes against the best schools in Western New York, including other private Catholic high schools and public schools. The team finished the season with a 12-3-1 overall record, beating the likes of St. Joe's, Lancaster, Canisius, and Amherst.

The team clinched the Monsignor Martin League Cup for the first time in school history with a thrilling 6-5 overtime victory against Nichols on February 6th.

Unfortunately, their quest for a second Niagara Cup fell just short, as the team lost to a tough St. Francis team 1-0 in the semifinals at HarborCenter.

The Varsity Blue and White Hockey Teams also had great years, finishing with wins and playing time for a lot of young men who love the game of hockey.



The Men's Federation Hockey Team's starting lineup:  
Cole Young '22, Ben Indelicato '22, Connor Payne '22, Austin Deitz '23, and Connor Miller '22

## St. Mary's Forms First Stand-Alone Girls Hockey Team

This year, St. Mary's joined the nine-team Western New York Girls Varsity Ice Hockey League as the only team made up of girls from a single school.

"As a coed school, it is so important for us to not only talk the talk but also walk the walk when it comes to gender equality in all facets - particularly in the world of sports," said St. Mary's Director of Athletics, Zach Weiss. "As one of the premier hockey programs in the state, our men's team won the Catholic State title in 2020, this just adds another level to what we will be able to do on the ice, and everyone is really excited about it."

Head Coach Mae Roberts, also a Social Studies teacher at St. Mary's, is a former SUNY Oswego club hockey player and was instrumental in getting the WNY Girls Varsity Ice Hockey League off the ground throughout her high school days at West Seneca West. She was able to play in the league as a senior and worked with St. Mary's Director of Hockey Operations and the Head Coach of the Men's Federation Hockey Team, Mark Dantonio, to get the girls on the ice this season. Coach Roberts has a young team, but they're experienced on skates and ready to show the league what they can do.

The girls finished their season playing well and, most importantly, together as a team, and with an incoming freshman class bringing in even more talented players, the future is bright for the Lady Lancers Hockey Team!

## Wrestling

### Senior Trevor Sheehan Gets 100 Wins



Trevor Sheehan '22 (above) is the first Lancer wrestler in history to reach 100 career wins. He got to the century mark with a pin against Akron on January 24, 2022. Sheehan had a five-year Varsity wrestling career, including his eighth grade and sophomore years at Lancaster High School, but had his Sophomore year cut drastically short when the league was essentially put on pause because of the pandemic. Reaching 100 career wins is quite the accomplishment and something future St. Mary's wrestlers will aspire to.

### Women's Wrestling Grows

St. Mary's Women's Wrestling continues to be a force to be reckoned with. Seniors Grace Monheim and Bridget Martin and sophomore Ashley Burns wrestled in several important matches this year - against boys and girls alike.

Ashley Burns won All-Catholics at the 102 weight class, and Grace Monheim graduated as the winningest women's wrestler in school history. These ladies also continue to make history, as Monheim and Martin are the first girl wrestlers ever to be named *Buffalo News*

Scholar Athletes - Monheim was named a finalist and Martin was named to the honorable mention team.



Left to Right: Ashley Burns '24, Grace Monheim '22, and Bridget Martin '22 make up St. Mary's Women's Wrestling Team

### St. Mary's hosts CHSAA Wrestling Championships

For the first time ever, St. Mary's hosted the CHSAA Wrestling State Championships. February 13, 2022 was a great day for the sport and a true testament to how far Coach and St. Mary's Director of Athletics, Zach Weiss has brought this program in the past five years.



## Senior Signings

In addition to the Elite Eight, several other student athletes have announced their commitments to continue their academic and athletic careers at Division II and III schools across the country.



**Will Rhodes** has signed his letter of intent at Clarion University where he will play football for the Golden Eagles.



**Griffin Dempsey** will be off to Mercyhurst University to study Cyber Security and play soccer.



**Massimo Moretti**, an Italian foreign exchange student, has really found a home in the U.S., so much so that he will be playing basketball with the D'Youville Saints next year.



St. Mary's Wrestling's all-time wins leader, **Trevor Sheehan**, will take his talents to St. John Fisher College this fall.



**Jack Bestpitch** will also head to St. John Fisher next year to study Business and continue his football career.



**Ethan Farrar** will be heading to paradise and Hawaii Pacific University to study Computer Science and play soccer for the Sharks.

## Softball

The Lancers Softball Team finished another stellar season. After winning the back-to-back Monsignor Martin Championships, but losing a few key games to start to the 2022 season and rain-outs galore, the girls were able to come together and rally behind coaches Kevin and Missy Hufford to win the 2022 championship!

The team steamrolled Sacred Heart in the semifinals 13-2 and faced the #1 seed Nardin Gators in the finals. In a best-of-three series, sophomore pitcher Alex Packard kept the Nardin bats at bay, pitching 13.1 scoreless innings over two games before turning the ball over to senior Anna Dovey in the circle to record the final two outs. The Lancers took game one 2-0 and game two 8-0 to capture their third straight Monsignor Martin Championship. With the win the Lancers earned a spot in the State Championships on Long Island.

In the State Semifinals, the Lancers took on the Mavericks from Moore Catholic. Behind yet another stellar performance from Sophomore pitching-sensation, Alex Packard, St. Mary's advanced to the State Finals with a 6-1 win. Perennial powerhouse, St. Anthony's waited to take on SMHS in the Championship. Unfortunately, the Lancers ran into a buzz-saw and couldn't take down St. Anthony's. St. Mary's had nothing to hang their heads over, as the State Runners-Up brought home hardware from the State Championships for the first time in school history.

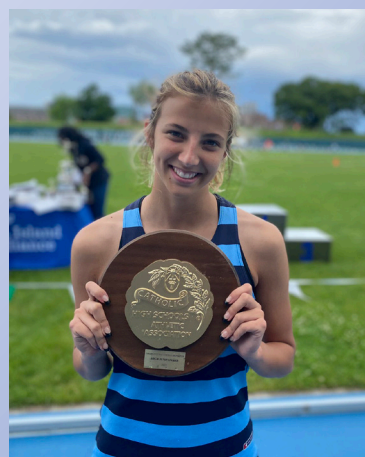


The 2022 Monsignor Marin Champions  
St. Mary's High School Softball Team

## Track & Field

The St. Mary's Track & Field Team finished off a strong season with several student athletes qualifying for the CHSAA State Championships after good showings at the All-Catholic meet.

Senior Charlie Pawli broke the St. Mary's school record in the 400m at the All-Catholic meet with a time of 1:01:64 and then qualified for the State Meet in the same day in the high jump. Charlie is now the state champion after clearing 5.0' in the high jump and broke the old school record in the process of capturing the title as well. Charlie is now off to the University of Albany to play Division I soccer.



Charlie Pawli '22 poses  
with her State Champion  
High Jump plaque



## > Performing Arts

### Cast of Little Shop of Horrors

Seymour..... Dylan Gurnari\*  
 Audrey..... Allison Krawczyk\*  
 Mr. Mushnik..... Alex Walter  
 Orin..... Alex Sylvester\*  
 Audrey II..... Nick Cox\*  
 Audrey II Puppeteer..... Mya Maher &  
 Bridget Martin\*  
 Ronnette..... Lizzy Jankowski  
 Chiffon..... Ruby Nowak  
 Crystal..... Ashley Black  
 Bernstein..... Liam Dunne  
 Mrs. Luce..... Bridget Barr  
 Patrick Martin/  
 Skip Snip..... Michael Georger  
 Interviewer..... Emilia Clausen  
 \* *Kenny Award nominees*



Seymour tries to pacify Audrey II

Crystal, Chiffon, and Ronnette look on as Audrey sings



Mr. Mushnik, Audrey, and Seymour make some renovations

Seymour learns Audrey II can talk!



The ensemble sings "The Meek Shall Inherit"

Patrick Martin tries to make a deal with a defeated Seymour



## Little Shop of Horrors Premiered Nominated for Kenny Awards

The St. Mary's Performing Arts Department brought *Little Shop of Horrors* to the Gus Galasso Auditorium Stage March 17, 18, and 19, 2022.

Led by directors Heather Ruhland '01 and Ryan Kaminski, the cast and crew worked for over three months to bring the production to life. *Little Shop* also marked the return of a live, maskless production at St. Mary's for the first time in over two years.

*Little Shop* tells the story of Seymour and his love of obscure plants. One of those plants just so happens eat some... interesting... plant food, which takes Seymour on a journey from poor, flower shop employee to fame, fortune, and love - but at what cost?

St. Mary's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* also participated in the Kenny Awards, which honor the best of the best in WNY high school theater. St. Mary's was nominated in five categories, including Best Ensemble Performance, Showstopper, Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Male Role (two nominations), and Outstanding Performance in a Lead Male Role. Senior Dylan Gurnari has been nominated twice in the Lead Actor category, previously for his work as Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family* as a Freshman in 2018. What a feat!

Kenny Day took place on May 21st, where students participated in all-day workshops run by professionals. St. Mary's won the Best Ensemble Performance Kenny with the voice work of Audrey II (Nick Cox '24) and the puppeteers (Mya Maher '23 and Bridget Martin '22).

## Meredith Latour '02 Performing Arts Memorial Scholarship

Dylan Gurnari '22 was named the first recipient of the Meredith Latour '02 Performing Arts Memorial Scholarship at The Lancer Cabaret in November. Meredith Latour was a member of the St. Mary's Class of 2002 and lost her life too soon to cancer in 2017. Meredith was such a light on the St. Mary's stage, and this named scholarship will ensure that her memory lives on for generations of Lancers to come. Meredith was also inducted into the St. Mary's Performing Arts Hall of Fame.



Dylan Gurnari '22 receives the scholarship from Meredith's mother.

Through a generous match grant, an anonymous donor will match donations made to this scholarship fund up to \$5,000. You can make a donation at [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org). The scholarship will be awarded each year to a graduating senior who has left their mark on St. Mary's Performing Arts.

This year's winner, Dylan Gurnari, was nominated for two Kenny Awards and has performed in just about every show at SMHS, and his talent, dedication, and humility guarantees his own legacy will live on here at St. Mary's.

## Broadway Performers Come to St. Mary's for Workshops

The first workshop, held this past winter, focused on audition prep and acting, including how to follow stage directions, conquer stage fright, and do scene work. Actress **Tracie Lane** was this workshop's special guest. She attended Julliard, performed in Lincoln Center and off-Broadway, and currently is the Director of Education at Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo.

The second workshop was entitled "Performing on Purpose" and ran this spring. This workshop focused on how to be in-tune with your body - mentally and physically - to succeed on stage and in life. Broadway performer and Buffalo-native, **Beth Polito** was the special guest. Polito is also a wellness coach, which she uses to facilitate personal healing and transformation.

## Lights, Camera, Action!

Xylograph Productions filmed portions of a short film at St. Mary's High School, starring some SMHS students. In a recent effort to increase student exposure to the worlds of TV and film, St. Mary's has been encouraging students to book acting roles through the various connections of St. Mary's alumni, including VP of Institutional Advancement, Mark Tramont '77 and Director of Development & Alumni Relations, Doug Buczak '94.

St. Mary's has also started a Film Club, under the leadership and enthusiasm of Junior Mya Maher, where she and her fellow students work together to go through the entire process of movie-making - from script writing, acting, and directing to filming and then editing the final product.





## General Alumni Updates

- After college at UB, **Dennis McGarry '65** joined the Peace Corps and served in both Guatemala and Ecuador. Dennis was then a Peace Corps Recruiter, and after, spent 25 years working in the private sector in South Florida construction sales. He is now a FEMA Reservist as a Site Inspector Crew Lead.
- **Alissa Schmidt (Tartick) '06** recently started her own mental health counseling practice, Alissa Schmidt Counseling PLLC. Alissa and her husband have a son (Landon) and a young daughter (Charlotte), and they live in Orchard Park.
- **Lori Roman-Genovese (Rutkowski) '85** is the Senior Staff Attorney for Family Law at The Volunteer Lawyers Project and Director of the Family Court Help Desk serving the Eighth Judicial District. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the desk has offered over 3,000 attorney consultations to low income clients with Family Court issues. Lori personally offers both consultations at the desk and full representation in court for low income grandparents seeking custody or visitation with their grandchildren. Lori also recruits and mentors law students interested in a career in public interest law.
- **Barbara Astri (Kocher) '66** and her husband, Paul just became great grandparents on February 2, 2022 with the birth of their great-granddaughter, Remi Rose.
- **Melissa Musialowski '14** recently graduated with her Masters in Financial Crime from Utica College and now works at M&T Bank in financial crimes.
- **Joe DiGesere '16** works at Time Release Sciences (who makes the Magic Clean Eraser!) as an Engineer Technician. Joe coaches a travel volleyball team and plays beach volleyball and golf during the summer for fun.
- **Brian Walkowiak '78** is a permanent Deacon and recently celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination. Brian retired after 25 years as Chaplain of Wyoming Correctional Facility and will now continue his ministry at Infant of Prague in Cheektowaga. Brian has been married for 34 years and has a 28 year-old old son, James who is now a GED teacher at Wyoming Correctional.
- **Andrea Seeloff '17** got engaged in January '21 and is due to wed her fiancé, Christian Archilla at the Gallagher in Medina in September '22. Andrea graduated from Medaille College with her Bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Business. For the past six years, she has also owned and operated her own business, Seeloff Photography.

## > Alumni/Personnel News

### St. Mary's Names Two New Members to Board of Trustees

St. Mary's has named Justin Reid, CPA CHFP and Mark Wood, CPA to the Board of Trustees. A swearing in ceremony will take place on June 6, 2022.



**Justin Reid** is a Partner with Bonadio's Healthcare/Tax-Exempt Team and serves as Team Leader of the Buffalo Healthcare/Tax-Exempt team. He has serviced the tax-exempt industry for more than 25 years, providing both audit and consulting services. Justin's experience in both the financial and operational aspects of tax-exempt organizations has helped many clients achieve their missions. He is primarily responsible for the planning and completion of audit engagements for tax-exempt clients.

On the Agency engagement, Justin would have the direct responsibility for supervising all fieldwork performed by our Buffalo-based audit team.

Justin graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a B.S. in Accounting. He is a member of the NYSSCPA's Healthcare Committee and the Healthcare Financial Management Association. He is an active member of the NYS Health Facilities Association and Leading Age New York. Justin is the past treasurer of the Community Charter School and current treasurer of Susan G. Komen of Upstate NY, Leadership Buffalo, and the World Weather Center.

Justin also has some Lancer blue in him, as his parents are both alumni- Kathy Appel Reid '63 and Johnstone "Buck" Reid '61.



**Mark Wood** graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1977. He earned his BS in Accounting and MBA from Canisius College and is a CPA. His first accounting class was with Mr. Woj! Mark currently serves as a Senior Vice President with M&T Bank in the Risk Management Division in their Buffalo head office. He previously held senior financial positions with a number of WNY manufacturing companies, including Leica Microsystems, American Precision Industries and Carborundum Company.

Mark has two brothers who also graduated from St. Mary's, Steve and Bryan.

He has many fond memories of his friends and experiences at SMHS and continues to remain in contact with a number of his classmates. Mark is looking forward to becoming even more involved in the St. Mary's community! His wife, Mary, grew up in Lancaster and attended St. Mary's Elementary. They have two children, Thomas and Ashley, and reside in East Amherst.

## > Dr. Kelby Maher '93

While growing up, **Dr. Kelby Maher '93** always wanted to be a Pediatrician, and today, he accomplished that dream. Working with Highland Pediatrics in Fall River, Massachusetts, Dr. Maher finds joy in helping parents and their children. Kelby was always a St. Mary's student who was admired by his peers, respected by teammates and favored by his teachers.



Kelby also serves as the site leader for the Neonatology Department at Charlton Memorial Hospital. He is one of five siblings, all of whom graduated from St. Mary's High School, and Kelby's niece, Mya, is currently a junior. Mya just took home the Kenny Award for Best Ensemble Performance in *Little Shop of Horrors* (more on p. 9). Kelby is the proud father of two children, and he enjoys kayaking, running and skiing.

## Alumni News

### Birth Announcements

• Chelsey Zoyhofski (Kelchlin) '07 and her husband welcomed the birth of their 2nd child in the summer of 2021.

• Dan Rosati '04 welcomed his first child, Miss Eliza Luisa Rosati to the world on Sept. 10, 2021 (R)

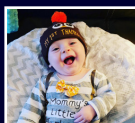


• Mrs. Katherine M. Wasielewski '08 and her husband Daniel, celebrated the birth of their first child, Madeline James, in January 2021.

• Brad Gibson '07 and his wife welcomed Eloise Reign to the world on April 25, 2021.

• Kelsey Rademacher '10 celebrated the birth of her son, Grayson Elwood, on May 3, 2021.

• Shannon Kline (Nowak) '11 and her husband, Mark welcomed their son, Owen to the world this past August. (R)



• Jake Denz '12 and wife, Brittany welcomed Andrew Jacob to the world on July 31, 2021.

• Christopher Fiume '00 and his wife Julie celebrated the birth of their daughter, Nora, during the summer of '21.

### General Alumni Updates

• **Chris Gresham '16** was a member of the Groundskeeping Crew for the Buffalo Bisons and the Toronto Blue Jays this past summer.

• **Sean Wilson '15** is a newly hired Officer in the East Aurora Police Department.

• **Bryan O'Neill '13** recently graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and is starting a career as a US Customs and Border Protection Officer and is currently residing in Plattsburg, NY.

• **Geoffrey Butlak '03** and his spouse, Lindsey Torrance relocated to College Grove, TN in 2020, and Geoff currently works for US Customs and Border Protection.

• **Jordan Hokaj, Class of 2008**, married Adam Laquier on June 26, 2021 at St. Mary's of the Assumption in Lancaster, NY and currently works as a Paralegal for William Mattar Law Offices and continues to perform as a recording artist and vocalist. (R)



• **Gabby Mauro '16** (daughter of Bill '78) recently bought her first home and is a first-year elementary school teacher in the Williamsville CSD.

• **Frank Mauro, from the Class of 1981**, is proud to share that his son Daniel is studying to be a priest for the Arch Diocese of Kansas City. Frank's daughter, a cloistered nun, Sister Mary of Jesus, recently professed her permanent vows at her Mother House in Brooklyn NYC.

## Christopher Roberson '97

Chris is currently a healthcare attorney with a Master's in Public Health and Works for the Indiana Hemophilia & Thrombosis Center, which is a non-profit organization that provides care to patients with blood disorders. As the years go on he proudly shares, "I have become more and more appreciative of the education and supportive environment I had at St. Mary's." Chris also adds, "I have been super fortunate to have had the opportunity to help start a separate non-profit medical genetics clinic, the Community Health Clinic, serving the Amish community, and to have helped start a blood disorder clinic within the AMPATH Program in Kenya, Africa, where he has regularly traveled since 2010.



Chris currently resides in Indiana with his 4 children, Amelia (17), Cate (14), Brennan (10), and Brigit (7). Chris, who is a proud Penn State and Indiana University alum, also offers to host and meet with anyone looking to visit and explore college options in Indiana. Chris is also the brother-in-law of Mrs. Nicole Roberson, member of the SMHS English Department.

Chris looks forward to becoming a guest professor in St. Mary's Health & Sciences Professionals Academy.



## Ellen Horst '67

Ellen will be forever grateful to Fr. Gabriel Stapleton for giving her her first role as Portia in Cinderella and instilling in her a strong work ethic and love of theatre. It fueled the beginning of a career as an actor, and Ellen has never stopped acting since.

After graduating from Fredonia, Ellen was part of the Dee Jay Players, which initiated Dinner Theatre in Buffalo and led to the rise of the Table-top Players and Melic & Mime, which she also worked with for years.

Eventually, Ellen started getting work in Toronto, Halifax, and Newfoundland, which led to a 14-year residency in Toronto. She was fortunate enough to work in regional theaters in Canada, including three seasons at the Stratford Festival.

She was part of the Toronto Company of Hal Prince's Show Boat and went on to tour with the Broadway Company for two years and did a five-month stint with the show on London's West End. After the tour ended, Ellen lived in New York City for eight years and continued doing regional theatre and a bit of television, including several episodes of Law & Order SVU and Criminal Intent.

Ellen returned to Buffalo in 2006 to help take care of her mom. She has been fortunate to continue her acting career, working with the Kavinoky Theatre, Irish Classical, and Jewish Repertory Theatres. She continues to pursue her acting career both locally and in regional theatres. Ellen is a proud member of Actors Equity and thankful for a career she never could have imagined as a kid!

## Leah Iudice '91

Having always had an interest and passion for travel, Leah recently took that love and started her own business in 2020 and has seen that business bloom as the travel industry has come back to life. Trova Travel Group helps travelers choose, plan, & book customized travel itineraries that best suit their own personal travel style. Whether it's domestic or assist you. Leah says she'll do anything she can to go above and beyond to help and "hook up" any fellow Lancers who reach out to her...wink, wink...with winter now here, it's best you reach out and book your getaway today. Visit Trova Travel Group on Facebook or at [trovatravelgroup.com](http://trovatravelgroup.com). Leah currently resides in Raleigh, NC.



Leah is looking forward to working with our current students as a guest lecturer in St. Mary's Event Planning Academy.



## > Alumni News



### > Dr. David Hangauer '70

Dr. Hangauer graduated in 1980 from the University at Buffalo (UB) with his PhD in Organic Chemistry. He then began his impressive career at the pharmaceutical giant, Merck, before returning to UB to join the faculty as an Associate Professor of Chemistry in 1989. As a professor at UB, he led research on a new approach to discovering specific protein kinase inhibitors,

which led to the development of Mimeticas – a patented technology that would prove monumental to Hangauer's success in later business pursuits. His UB laboratory subsequently launched a basic research program into unraveling the energetics behind drugs binding to their receptors.

From his work and research at UB, Dr. Hangauer put academic science and drug design into actual practice with the creation of drugs that would benefit cancer patients. Hangauer has been deeply affected by cancer, as his father and father-in-law passed away from the disease, while his youngest son is a cancer survivor. Therefore, his mission to develop novel drugs for oncology and immune-modulatory diseases has been a very personal one throughout his career. Out of his UB Chemistry Lab then sprung Athenex (formerly known as Kinex) – a company which he co-founded and of which he later became the Chief Science Officer.

In a landmark facilities-use agreement with UB, Hangauer was able to bring in early Athenex employees to his lab to work. As Athenex grew, and the discoveries made there continued, Athenex built its headquarters in the Biomedical Corridor in downtown Buffalo. Athenex also established additional facilities around the world and has now grown to over 600 employees.

Since its initial opening out of Hangauer's UB Lab, Athenex has raised hundreds of millions of dollars, including a \$225 million investment from New York State to foster job development in Western New York, and carried out a successful IPO on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange in 2017.

Hangauer's contributions to science in developing drugs to help treat cancers and other ailments are his true legacy, which is cemented in the dozens of awards he has received throughout his career and since his retirement in 2016. His abilities as an entrepreneur add to that legacy. He is now a mentor to a series of new biomedical start-up companies in Buffalo to share his expertise.

Dr. Hangauer participated in St. Mary's' Adjunct Professor Program last year, where prominent alumni and community members in various fields teach classes at the school a few times a semester. Dr. Hangauer gave a Zoom presentation to AP Biology and AP Chemistry classes entitled, "How University Research Can Benefit Patients and the U.S. Economy: Athenex Inc., A Buffalo Example."



### > Scott Chapman '00

After receiving his BA in Theatre Design/Technology from SUNY Buffalo and his MFA in Stage Design from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, Scott has been very busy designing for the theatre both academically and professionally. He is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), a Member at Large for USITT Chesapeake, and Co-chair of the Design & Technical Division for the Virginia Theatre Association. His recent professional designs include Lighting Design for the 2017 NYC Off-Broadway Premiere and the 2015 World Premiere of *Kris Kringle The Musical*. In addition to designing, Scott was the on-site Company Manager for the 2019 Schenectady, NY production of *Kris Kringle The Musical*, starring Eve Plumb from *The Brady Bunch*.

Currently, Scott is the Lighting Designer for Wolfbane Productions in Appomattox, VA and is the Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer and Associate Professor of Theatre at Longwood University in Farmville, VA. Prior to joining Longwood University, Scott taught and designed at Ashland University in Ashland, OH. His other designs include Set, Lighting, and Technical Direction at the University of Wisconsin-Stout; Set Design for Iowa Central Community College in Ft. Dodge, IA; Sets and Lighting for MDC in Miami, FL.

As an educator, Scott has taught several courses in Theatre Design, including Scenic, Lighting, and Sound Design, Drafting for the Theatre, Stage Properties, Computer Drafting for the Theatre, and more.

## General Alumni Updates

- **Sue Rozler (Meiler) '72** moved to South Pasadena, CA to be with her two youngest adult children and their families. Sue is happy and grateful to be making music out there but missing what she left behind. She is doing some singing and guitar playing at Oneonta Congregational Church, performing family shows and teaching at Encore Music in San Marino. She also just finished assistant directing a musical in South Pasadena and is hoping to get back into voiceover work. She voices many of the Cellino Law commercials!

- **Mark Lepczyk '88** retired from the NYS Police in August '20 after 26 years. His son is a sophomore at the University of Michigan and plays trombone in the Michigan Marching Band. His daughter is a junior in high school and plays soccer and lacrosse. Mark also started substitute teaching back at St. Mary's this past school year.

- **Judith Little (Witkowski) '68** is retired from massage therapy and moved to Clarkdale, AZ a little over a year ago.

- **Henry Dubel '77** has been married to his wife, Kathy for 32 years. They have two grown daughters, ages 27 and 30. Living in Eustis, Florida on just a little more than five acres, they have five goats, 35 chickens, and a miniature donkey named Jeager. Henry and Kathy are both landscapers with Henry working at UCF and Kathy for a private company.

- **Shelia De Rosa (Robinson) '85** is a CPA and opened up her own practice in 2013 after several years working in Corporations and Public Accounting Firms in Westchester County, NY. Shelia and her husband have been married since September 27, 1997 and live in Putnam Valley, NY.

- **Michael Storms '82** has taught Culinary for 22 years at ERIE 1 BOCES. He and his wife have 3 children.



## Ciao Italia Returns Home

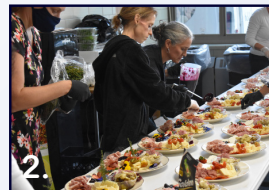
Chef Mary Ann Esposito (Saporito) '60, joined by her husband, Dr. Guy Esposito '60, returned home to St. Mary's High School to host a live cooking demonstration in front of a crowd of fellow alumni, family, local media personalities, and St. Mary's families and supporters. After her cooking demonstration, the audience enjoyed a delicious five-course meal prepared by a team of local chefs to Mary Ann's exact specifications.

Mary Ann is the host of cable television's longest-running cooking show, *Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito*, and she has written 13 cookbooks throughout her career that dive into her love of Italian food and her adventures in Italy.

Ciao Italia Returns Home is planning a sequel, so mark your calendars for October 2022, and stay tuned to [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org) for more information!



1. Mary Ann Esposito and her husband, Dr. Guy Esposito, both members of the Class of 1960, take the stage to put on a live cooking demonstration at St. Mary's High School.



2. Chef Marleta Stansberry from Pacific Underground Catering prepares one of the courses to match Mary Ann's recipe.



3. Junior Jarett dePerio serves a happy attendee the pasta course.



From L to R: Mrs. Tytka, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Tripi, Mrs. Bukowski, Mrs. Junik, and Ms. Voit holding down the teacher fort at Paint Night

## Paint Night with St. Mary's Own Bob Ross

On a snowy night in December, St. Mary's very own Art teacher, Mr. Rich Christian, transformed into painting legend, Bob Ross! He led a St. Mary's Paint Night for alumni, parents, teachers, and friends. Painters tried their hand at a winter scene, originally done by Buffalo-native artist, Charles Burchfield, all while sipping and snacking on refreshments. At the end of the night, guests had a one-of-a-kind canvas to take home. Now, where those paintings might be placed in our guests' homes might have a little to do with how well they turned out!

Thank you to all of those in attendance, and we look forward to hosting more of these types of events this summer and into 2023. Keep your eyes peeled for emails about the upcoming Bash for Cash and your chance to win \$10,000 and various virtual raffles for Ellicottville trips and Buffalo Bills tickets.



VP of Institutional Advancement Mark Tramont '77 mingles with the crowd



Grace Fuller '17 focuses on her painting



Mrs. Trish Connelly (Kelleher) '71 (right) poses with her friends and classmates



Mr. Rich "Bob Ross" Christian leads the painting instruction

To be placed on our email list, contact Doug Buczak, Director of Development & Alumni Relations at [dbuczak@smhlancers.org](mailto:dbuczak@smhlancers.org)

## St. Mary's Brings Christmas to the Village of Lancaster

Ho ho ho! Santa Claus came to town!

For the second year in a row, St. Mary's hosted St. Mary's Night in the Village in an effort to draw foot traffic to the Village of Lancaster during the holiday season. During two Thursday nights in the month of December, St. Mary's invited all of its families, alumni, and supporters to come down to the Village and do some Christmas shopping to really endorse and spur the "Shop Small/Local" initiative. After shopping, why not have a bite to eat or a drink at one of the great establishments down Central Avenue or along the new West Main Street corridor? St. Mary's resident Santa, Campus Minister Deacon Robb Ciezki, even made an appearance! There was so much to see and do!

"The Village of Lancaster is really experiencing quite the revitalization right now," said Kevin Kelleher, Head of School at St. Mary's High School. "Tom Sweeney, the lead developer on the project, has been such a friend to St. Mary's and has such a great vision for this space - new restaurants, apartment complexes, green spaces, and more. We really see this as a great opportunity for our families to have this right in our backyard - drop the kids off for practice and come down here to shop, grab some dinner. We know that so much of our appeal comes from the community we're in, and this is something to get really excited about for the future of St. Mary's," Kelleher concluded.

Keep your eyes peeled for more fun times in the Village throughout the summer and during next year's Christmas season!



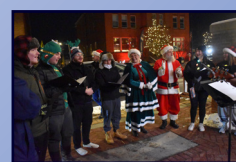
Dean of Academics Keith Junik meets Santa with his family



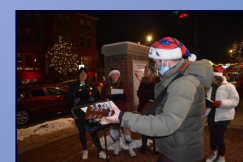
Santa meets an adorable little fan



Stores welcome St. Mary's families, alumni, and friends



St. Mary's own Varsity Chorus leads the crowd in some Christmas carols.





## Reunion Weekend Brings Everyone Together St. Mary's held the annual Reunion Weekend June 25-28, 2021.

**The Lancer Gala** kicked off the weekend on Friday, June 25th. St. Mary's biggest fundraiser of the year moved outside, allowing guests to explore the entire campus and still offered amazing auction items, food stations, a full bar, and more. The event raised over \$100,000 for St. Mary's students and programs.



Gala attendees take a look at the auction items up for bid



Head of School Kevin Kelleher '89 (right) poses with some guests



Dallas Beeman '22 serves up some food from Sto-Lat Bar

Saturday morning brought the first-ever **Scholars Brunch** to St. Mary's High School, welcoming back all class valedictorians, salutatorians, class officers, and Marian Award winners. The brunch also included a State of the School discussion with Head of School Kevin Kelleher '89 and Dean of Academics Keith Junik. After breakfast, a group of alumni headed off on an incredibly entertaining **Double-Decker Bus Tour of Buffalo**.



Scholars Brunch attendees chatting



The Double-Decker Bus Tour is ready to see some sites



Former class president, Daniel May '20, at the Scholars Brunch

On Saturday evening, we kicked off the **All Years Reunion Celebration** at the school, welcoming alumni - young and not-so-young - back home. The night featured amazing musical acts, including The Boys of Summer and alums, Tom Lorentz '70, Paul Weisenburger '86, Jeff Hypnarowski '86, and Christina Federico '18, games for the kids, tours of the schools, a delicious catered dinner by Frank's Grille, and lots of reminiscing about the good old days. The night concluded with a fireworks spectacular right over the school.



The Boys of Summer



Tom Lorentz '70



Jeff Hypnarowski '86 & Paul Weisenburger '86



Members of the Class of 1970



Fireworks Finale



Members of the Class of 2020

On Sunday morning, some alumni played **pick-up basketball and volleyball games** in the St. Mary's Athletic Center. Sunday evening brought the **Athletics Hall of Fame Induction** at Lancaster Country Club. St. Mary's golfer Nick Cutaia '02 and members of the 2001, '02, '03, and '04 football teams were enshrined in the St. Mary's Athletic Hall of Fame in a wonderful ceremony surrounded by their family and friends.



HOF inductee Nick Cutaia '02 poses with his former Golf Coach, Mark Rzemek



HOF inductees from the '01, '02, '03, & '04 St. Mary's Football Teams

Finally, the festivities wrapped up on Monday with the annual **St. Mary's Golf Tournament** also at Lancaster Country Club. Alumni, faculty, and supporters took their foursomes out on the course for one of everyone's favorite events of the year.



Members of the Wojciechowski Family - including the cutest golfer on the course - on the tee



Ladies from the Class of 1976 are all smiles on the course



Don Nichter '75 (far left) and some of his buddies pose for a quick photo. Don will also be inducted into the St. Mary's Athletics HOF on June 26, 2022

## BE THERE!

**This year's Reunion Weekend is  
June 24-27, 2022!**  
See page 16 for all the details and  
register at [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org)

## We want to hear from you!

Reconnect with former teachers and classmates, be a part of The Academies at St. Mary's High School, tell us how we can engage with Lancers throughout the country. We're here to listen.

Contact Director of Development & Alumni Relations Doug Buczak at [dbuczak@smhlancers.org](mailto:dbuczak@smhlancers.org).

# > Reunion Weekend



## St. Mary's High School Reunion Weekend June 24-27, 2022



Scan here to  
register for any of  
the Reunion  
Weekend events!

**ALL ALUMNI ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL EVENTS!**

**Spotlighting the years ending in 2s and 7s**

The following is a schedule of events to pick and choose from at your leisure:

### > Friday, June 24th

**6-9 pm** Lancer Gala - St. Mary's High School - \$150

### > Saturday, June 25th

**11 am** **Scholars Brunch** - St. Mary's High School -  
Valedictorians, Salutatorians, Class Officers,  
Senate Officers, & Marian Award Recipients

**1-4 pm** **Double Decker Bus Tour of Buffalo** -  
Departs from SMHS- \$35/person

**4:30 pm** **Performing Arts HOF Induction** -  
St. Mary's High School

**4:30-11 pm** **All Years Reunion Celebration** -  
St. Mary's High School- \$25/person

### > Sunday, June 26th

**11 am** **Alumni Volleyball Pick-Up Games** -  
St. Mary's High School

**6-9 pm** **Athletics HOF Induction Ceremony** -  
Lancaster Country Club - \$40  
(for non-HOF inductees)

### > Monday, June 27th

**7:30 am - 5 pm** **St. Mary's Golf Tournament**-  
Lancaster Country Club- \$150, \$600/foursome

*For more information, visit [smhlancers.org/reunion-weekend](http://smhlancers.org/reunion-weekend)*



**St. Mary's High School**  
**Lancaster, NY**

**142 Laverack Avenue  
Lancaster, NY 14086**

