

St. Mary Catholic School  
218 W. Washington St.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

301-733-1184  
www.stmarycatholicsschool.org



Alumni Newsletter  
Summer 2020

# St. Mary Catholic School

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

In February, Mrs. Patricia McDermott announced her plans to retire as principal of St. Mary Catholic School on June 30. A lot has happened between now and then! We are grateful for Mrs. McDermott's tireless work, with the faculty, to give our students the best possible education in very challenging circumstances. We also began the search process for the next principal in the midst of those challenging circumstances.

I am happy to announce that Mr. Frank Nicely will serve as the next principal of St. Mary Catholic School. Mr. Nicely has served as a teacher, dean of academics, assistant principal, principal, and headmaster at four different elementary schools, Catholic, private, and public, over the past thirty years. A native of Rochester, NY, and having served in the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, for the past three years, Maryland was home for more than twenty years as he completed his education and began his teaching career. Mr. Nicely earned a BA in Catholic Theology, with a liberal arts concentration, from Christendom College, K-8 Certification Credit Count Program from University of Maryland Baltimore County, and an MS in School Administration and Supervision from the Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Nicely comes to us highly recommended, not only by his previous employers and coworkers, but also as the top recommendation of our search committee, comprised of a catholic school principal and members of our parish and school community, including parents of recent alumni. I ask you to join me in welcoming Mr. Nicely as he takes up this important role in the formation of our children.

Please also join me in thanking Mrs. McDermott for her dedicated service these past years, especially in these last few challenging months. Most importantly, please pray for the entire community, our students in particular, that the Holy Spirit guide and the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph watch over the "passing of the torch" from Mrs. McDermott to Mr. Nicely. With trust in God's providence, St. Mary Catholic School will continue its 145-year commitment to empowering children in their faith journey and promoting academic excellence and life-long service inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nurturing community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Rev. Ernest W. Cibelli  
Pastor



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 and Distance Learning....	2-3
Mrs. McDermott's Retirement.....	3
Celebrating SMCS Class of 2020.....	4-5
SMCS Class of 2016, graduating HS seniors in 2020.....	6
16th Annual Fund Online Day of Matching Gifts.....	6
Annual Fund 15 Honor Roll of Donors.....	7
Keep in Touch.....	8



# LEARNING NEVER STOPPED...

## SMCS & DISTANCE LEARNING

March 12, 2020, Governor Hogan announced the two-week closure of schools, effective March 16—March 27, 2020. As a school, we anticipated a significant announcement that evening from the Governor. In fact, each student was sent home with all books and materials on that Thursday, the 12th, just in case schools would not be open on the 13th. However, schools were open on Friday the 13th and it provided the teachers and students another opportunity to practice logging into Google classroom. Due to daily use, our middle schools were already familiar with Google classroom. Similarly, it didn't take very long for our elementary students to quickly acclimate and become experts as well!

Effective March 25, 2020, Governor Hogan announced the extended closure of schools for another four weeks. Since SMCS was prepared and ready to kick off distance learning on Monday, March 16th, our students never missed a day of learning! It was decided that during this four-week extension, SMCS would take Easter break as planned and no work would be assigned during this break. We really encouraged our families and students to completely “unplug” and fully enjoy time with family during the Easter break. We were looking at the possibility of school resuming on Monday, April 26, 2020.

As you know, that April 26th date was postponed until May 15th. While many neighboring states had already announced the closure of schools for the remainder of the academic year, knowing that there was still a possibility to return to SMCS physically, even for just a few weeks, provided the motivation to keep studying and engaging in distance learning. Although that date, too, would be pushed back until the inevitable announcement that schools would be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, we are thankful to the Governor for his strategic decisions.

*When we face challenges in the life, we have the opportunity to grow and expand our abilities. Instead of listing a number of events and traditions that had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, here is a highlight reel of some of the ways SMCS came together during this challenging time...*

### **Morning Prayers & the Pledge of Allegiance:**

Each morning Mrs. McDermott posted a video of her reciting morning prayers, announcements, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. McDermott embraced the iMovie app and was nothing short of a pro for her [Final Remarks](#) video on June 12, 2020.

### **National Junior Honor Society (NJHS):**

At the beginning of the school year, the NJHS voted to offer an after-school tutoring session called “Homework Help.” Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 1/2 hour after school, NJHS members assisted other SMCS students of all grades with their homework. After the COVID-related school closure started in March, the NJHS students carved out time to send encouraging notes and messages to their Homework Help friends. NJHS members also wrote cards and messages of gratitude and prayer to workers in the medical field. These were distributed to area urgent care facilities.



Dear Santiago and Samuel,  
I know things are different now, and we will not be back in school for close to a month, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be trying your best on your school work. Even though you won't be in homework help, try your best on your assignments and never give up. Santiago and Samuel, I believe that you can do this. I hope you have a great rest of your school year. Stay healthy and stay safe.  
Sincerely,  
Collin

and messages to their Homework Help friends. NJHS members also wrote cards and messages of gratitude and prayer to workers in the medical field. These were distributed to area urgent care facilities.

### **Virtual Open House:**

SMCS held its Spring Open House virtually on Sunday, April 26, 2020 from 3—5 p.m. Over the course of two hours, a series of videos were released visiting each classroom and meeting every Faculty & Staff member. Do you know someone interested in learning more about SMCS? Do you want to take a walk down memory lane and see some of your former teachers and classrooms?

[VISIT OUR CAMPUS TODAY!](#)



**Embracing New Technology:**

Our students engaged in a variety of learning platforms, such as Gimkit, Flippity, Khan Academy, Quizzez, and Quizlet Live. Teachers taught lessons via Google Meet, Zoom, and Screencastify. Mrs. Mentzer even turned her dining room into a classroom, having her students log in each day for a live Zoom classroom session!

**Virtual Art Museum Exhibit:**

For the past several years, Mrs. Renken has worked in close collaboration with the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (WCMFA) in partnering with several walking field trips each year as well as an annual Night at the Museum exhibit featuring the artwork of every single student at SMCS. Here is a link to the [full show!](#) Mrs. Renken suggests you watch the video while listening to classical music just like her students do in class (Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Bach).



**Fifth Grade Wax Museum:**



Mrs. Nitzell's 5th grade students picked their wax museum characters prior to school closing in March. Distance Learning provided a perfect opportunity to research these important men and women from history. Mrs. Nitzell stressed that each student should do their best putting together costumes and props with materials they could find at home. She didn't want anyone heading out to the stores just for this project. In

the end, the students put together informative and thoughtful presentations which were shared to the entire class via Flipgrid.

**End of the Year Parking Lot Awards Assembly:**

Typically, students and teachers gather in the gymnasium on the last day of school for our awards assembly. Should we have a virtual awards assembly? Well, we have to have families come back to exchange materials at some point! So, we planned a contactless pick-up/return of items and held an Awards Assembly simultaneously. Everyone remained in their vehicles and families honked and cheered for the students as their names were called!



**A RETIREMENT PARADE...**



On the morning of June 10, 2020, the SMCS community pulled a fast one on Mrs. McDermott. The Hagerstown Police Department blocked traffic on W. Washington for over five minutes so that the entire SMCS community, Faculty & Staff, parents, students, and Father Cibelli could wave and honk at Mrs. McDermott during her final days as Principal.



# CELEBRATING



**SMCS Class of 2020 graduated in person on June 5, 2020. Father Cibelli was celebrant at the graduation Mass. Graduates were invited to attend with two guests. Middle School teachers were invited to attend as well.**

**Family, friends, and other faculty members unable to attend in person due to social distancing restrictions were invited to view the mass and graduation ceremony via Facebook Live.**

**As Father Cibelli mentioned during his homily, this would be an 8th grade graduation ceremony that will never be forgotten.**



# SMCS CLASS OF 2020



OUR GRADUATES  
WILL BE ATTENDING  
THE FOLLOWING HIGH  
SCHOOLS:

*SAINT MARIA GORETTI  
HIGH SCHOOL  
3 STUDENTS*

*PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS  
4 STUDENTS*

*NORTH HAGERSTOWN  
HIGH SCHOOL INTERNA-  
TIONAL BACCALAUREATE  
PROGRAM  
4 STUDENTS*

*BARBARA INGRAM  
SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
1 STUDENT*

*PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
3 STUDENTS*

*OUT-OF-STATE HIGH  
SCHOOLS  
2 STUDENTS*



## SMCS 16TH ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE SMCS CLASS  
OF 2016

GRADUATING HIGH  
SCHOOL CLASS OF  
2020

Tureymar Camacho-Hernandez

Sofia Corsi

Kaitlin Dellaposta

Katharine Devine

McKenzie Foster

Evan Frantz

Alexander Gary

Avangeliya Giannaris

Charles Kane

Therese Martin

Aba-Ohenewaa Mitchual

Bridget Nooney

Rory O'Hanlon

Alice Poffenberger

Madison Ryan

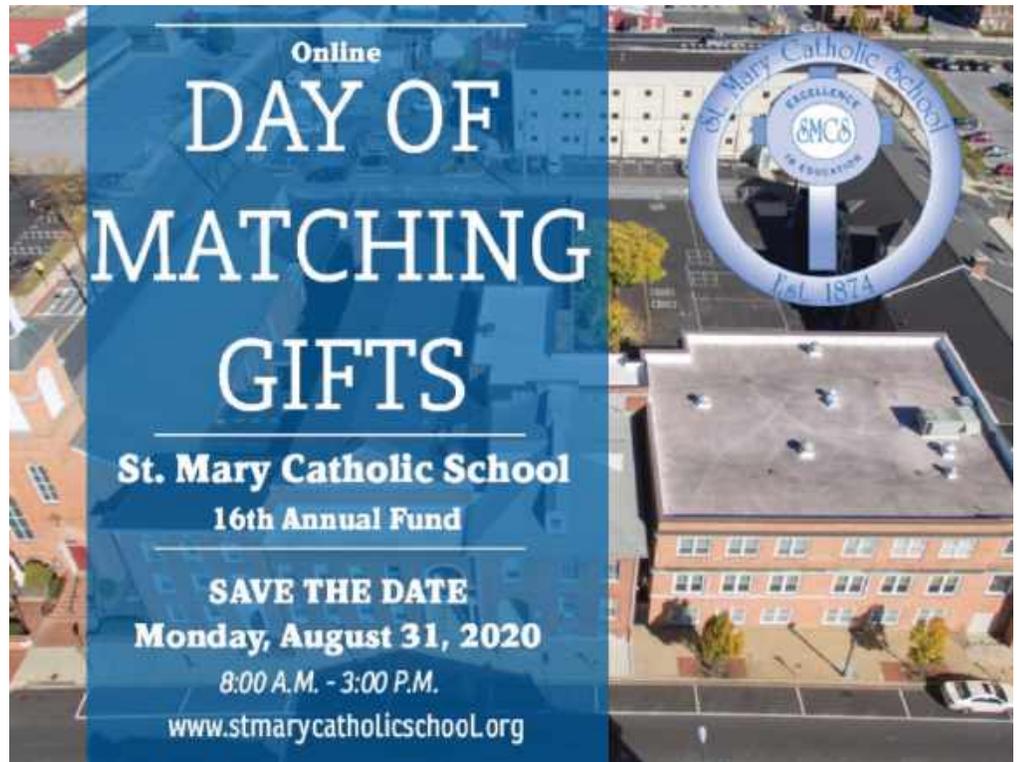
Gracen Sommerville

Andrew Stine

Samuel Strama

James Sword VI

*Each contribution to  
our Annual Fund  
should be considered  
a silent scholarship  
to each student.*



SMCS School Board members are challenging our community to support this year's 16th Annual Fund campaign. On the 1st day back to school, school board members will offer matching gifts as we reach a variety of goals. From 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m., there will be challenges to encourage financial participation at all levels of giving.

***Follow the event live on  
Facebook @stmarycatholicshoolhagerstown***

### WHAT IS THE ANNUAL FUND?

The St. Mary Catholic School Annual Fund is the “cornerstone” of all fundraising campaigns held at the school. This campaign extends to faculty & staff, current families, alumni, parishioners, and community members. The annual fund serves our SMCS families as the number one way we keep tuition affordable for all families. Tuition alone does not cover the school's operating expenses. We rely on our generous donors to help offset this difference. Gifts to the annual fund also benefit technology maintenance & support as well as other enrichment programs.

### Annual Fund Fast Facts:

- Goal (by June 30, 2021): **\$50,000**
- Raised during last annual fund: **\$53,918**
- **Annual Fund Cycle:** July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021
- Visit [www.stmarycatholicshool.org/support/annual-fund/](http://www.stmarycatholicshool.org/support/annual-fund/) for more information.

# FIFTHTEENTH ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

## Honor Roll of Donors 2019



*Donors at the Pastor's Circle level of giving attended the Pastor's Circle Dinner during Catholic Schools Week at the Schindel-Rohrer Ballroom in downtown Hagerstown.*

### **Pastor's Circle** Gifts of \$1,000 & up

#### **Anonymous**

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin M. Beck *(in memory of Mary Beck, mother of Kevin)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Becker *(in memory of Robert L. Palla & Ron Kinsey)*  
Mr. Howard B. Bowen *(in honor of Sr. Maria Goretti)*  
Rev. Ernest Cibelli  
Mr. & Mrs. Franki Corsi  
Ms. Cindy Garland *(In honor of Cyril "Red" Hensel)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Rebecca Gillum *(in memory of Dr. Francisco "Kit" Japzon)*  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Ramsay Farah  
Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Jenny  
Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary  
Knights of Columbus, Pangborn Council 1365  
Monsignor Joseph S. Lazor, Jr.  
St. Michael Mission Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murray  
Dr. & Mrs. Neil O'Malley *(in memory of Mrs. Jean Jacques)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tedeschi *(in memory of Sister Corda)*  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilson *(in honor of Father Limmer)*

#### **Saints**

*Gifts of \$500 to \$999*

Ms. Teresa Angle *(in memory of Helen & Hubert Karn)*  
Ms. Candi Byrne *(in honor of Corrina & Jillian Byrne)*  
Ms. Laura Freid-Studlo  
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Litzinger *(in memory of Jennifer Anne Litzinger)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McDermott  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McGinley  
Drs. Tara Rumbarger & James Schiro

#### **Archangels**

*Gifts of \$250 to \$499*

Mrs. Jennifer Dankmeyer  
Ms. Marie Nowakowski  
Ms. Lois Potter *(in memory of William Potter)*  
The Family of Mr. Joseph Rafter  
Mr. & Mrs. John Reiter

#### **Guardian Angels**

*Gifts of \$100 to \$249*

Dr. & Mrs. Fleming Allaire  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bowers *(in memory of Debra Ann Bowers)*

Mr. & Mrs. William Breichner *(in memory of Ethel E. Breichner)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Butts  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Capone  
Ms. Loretta Carpenter *(in memory of Connie Susi)*  
Mrs. Mary Jane Collins *(in honor of John, Catherine, Peter, Philip, and Stephen Reiter)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Kamas  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kamas  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Keller  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kenny *(in honor of Annabella Kenny)*  
Ms. Debra May  
Mr. Michael McCoy  
Meritus Medical Center Auxiliary, Inc. *(Tree of Lights)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Moats  
Mr. & Mrs. David Moats  
Ms. Eileen Munson *(in honor of Chelsea (Munson) Alford & Nicholas Munson, in memory of Alfred Wigfield)*  
Mr. & Mrs. William O'Mara  
Ms. Dorothy M. Palla *(in memory of Robert L. Palla & Ron Kinsey)*  
Mr. John Pensinger *(in honor of Thomas R. McNeal)*  
Mr. James R. Ridenour, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Shives  
Mr. John Snyder  
Ms. Amy Sweeny *(in memory of Sr. Corda)*

#### **Cherubs**

*Gifts up to \$99*

Ms. Emily Dill  
Mr. Albert Evans  
Mrs. Frances M. Eves  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fahey *(in memory of Leo & Mary Fahey)*  
Mr. & Mrs. William Hamilla  
Mrs. Joanne Joseph *(in memory of Jackie Swarner)*  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Malejko  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Martin  
Ms. Rebecca Mason  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller *(in memory of Rita & Frank Gavigan)*  
Ms. Julie Murphy *(in memory of James Bussard, my father)*  
Mrs. Barbara Tisony

St. Mary Catholic School has a long and rich tradition dating back over 145 years.

Over the span of those years SMCS has taught generations of students exemplifying the dedication of our families to Catholic education. Several of those former students are past or present staff and faculty member of SMCS.

**We would love to hear from you.** Please send any news, photos, or updates to address below.

*Be sure to like our Facebook page: @AlumniSMCS*



## GOING ELECTRONIC...

**Future publications of this annual newsletter WILL ONLY be available electronically. Please send your updated email address to [cstumpf@stmarycatholicschool.org](mailto:cstumpf@stmarycatholicschool.org) to be sure you receive our future digital publications!**

### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Catholic School empowers children in their faith journey and promotes academic excellence and life-long service inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a

Phone: 301-733-1184

Fax: 301-745-4997

E-mail: [cstumpf@stmarycatholicschool.org](mailto:cstumpf@stmarycatholicschool.org)

[www.stmarycatholicschool.org](http://www.stmarycatholicschool.org)

Facebook: [@stmarycatholicschool.org](https://www.facebook.com/stmarycatholicschool.org)

Twitter: [@SMCSHagerstown](https://twitter.com/SMCSHagerstown)

Instagram: [smcs\\_hagerstown](https://www.instagram.com/smcs_hagerstown)



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5