



Dear Friend of St. Mary's,

On behalf of Father Cibelli and myself, Greetings from St. Mary Catholic School in historic Hagerstown as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week!

In our last letter to you we quoted His Excellency, Baltimore's Archbishop William Lori, in his call for a renewal in the mission of forming disciples of Christ:

"Every member of the archdiocese has a role to play in re-vitalizing the Church's life and mission."

Since 1874 St. Mary Catholic School has lived-out its role in the Church's life and mission through the Catholic educational tradition. We are proud to be an integral part of the Church's mission to form disciples for the 21st Century, and today I invite you to renew your own role in this great mission through your prayers and financial support.

This is both a challenging and exciting time in the history of our great school. Throughout Covid, we have kept our true purpose, our mission as a Catholic school, at the forefront. In fact, we are committed to lead with mission as we prepare for our 2022 five-year Strategic Plan, by strengthening our understanding and alignment with the Catholic educational tradition.

To that end, we have developed a vision to renew our school in this tradition by embracing the Catholic Classical Liberal Arts tradition. Also called *Catholic Liberal Education*, it is the time-tested system of education that has formed the greatest minds, heroes, and saints in history. Archbishop Lori has given his blessing to our vision for renewal, and we are excited to join numerous Catholic schools nationwide who are thriving in the same renewed focus on mission.

Please consider supporting our renewal through a financial donation. Although our enrollment went up 7% this past year, we still have many empty seats. Tuition has become prohibitive for so many families, especially because of Covid, so we are prioritizing tuition assistance in our Annual Fund this year. Please help make it possible for more families to come and flourish in our renewed mission of forming joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lastly, please come for a visit and have a conversation with me about Catholic education!

God bless you and your family.

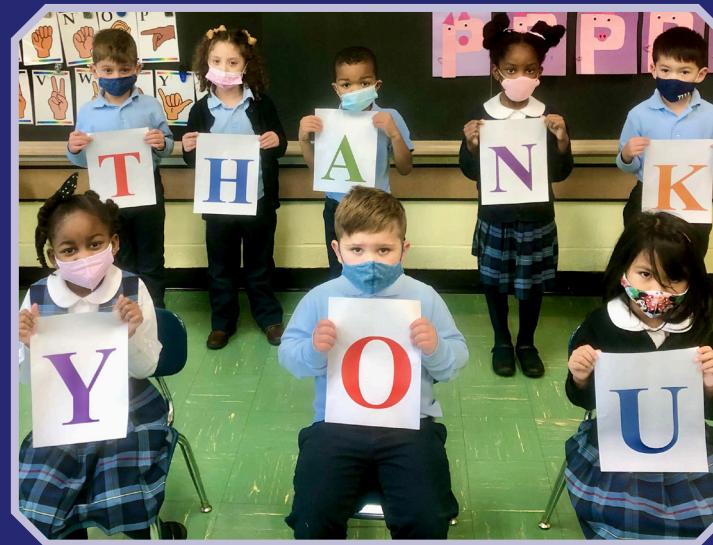
In Christ,

Frank Nicely

Frank Nicely
Principal

Father Cibelli

Father Cibelli
Pastor



And now it's your turn, your generosity can make a difference in the lives of the children at St. Mary Catholic School. On January 30th we will have a special day of giving, we are encouraging all families to share your support for our school on (or before) this day. We are asking all families to participate in any way possible.

First, **pray** with and for us. Next, **learn** more about our great school and share something positive with someone you know. Finally, **participate** – we are encouraging everyone to make a commitment to prayer and, those that are able, to financially support our school. You can mail in your gift, drop it off at the office, use the enclosed envelope and drop in this week's offertory, or give online by scanning the QR Code below. If you have any questions about our programs please contact the school office.



St. Mary Catholic School

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(301) 733-1184 | www.stmarycatholicsschool.org

Proudly accredited by the Accreditation Association of
the Local Diocese & State Municipality



"FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

St. Mary Catholic School's 17th Annual Fund

The Mission of St. Mary Catholic School:

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 nurturing community.

**St. Mary
Catholic School**
HAGERSTOWN, MD

History

This is our 17th Annual Fund! For 17 years, generous donors have supported St. Mary Catholic School through this important fund raiser. Here are just a few of the projects supported by past Annual Funds:

- **Science Lab.** Donations helped us remodel our beautiful lab, complete with lab tables, sinks, models, and equipment: all to help our students explore the wonders of God's creation!
- **Technology.** Donations helped us procure SMART boards, computers, tablets, robotics, 3D printers, and more: all used as tools to aid our students in learning through diverse methods and mediums!
- **Tuition Assistance.** At least a small portion of every Annual Fund has directly supported tuition assistance. Our students are most important to us and past donations have helped them to be here.

So, what's next? The past generosity of our donors has afforded St. Mary's a beautiful building, welcoming classrooms, desks and chairs, books and computers. These are all tools to support our mission: forming disciples of Christ in their faith journey through academic excellence. So this year, 100% of our Annual Fund donations will directly support tuition assistance. Let's increase the number of students who can enjoy the many blessings St. Mary's has received!



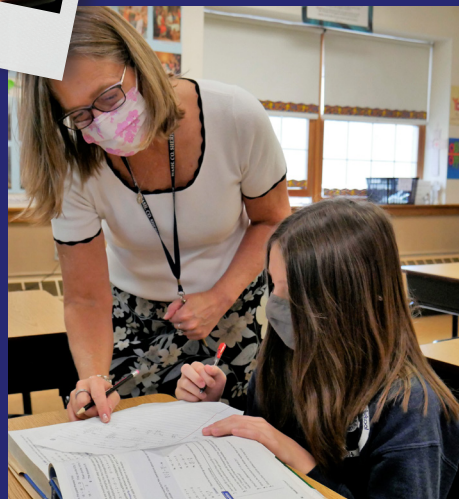
Why Tuition Assistance?

- Our cost to operate the school for the 20-21 school year was \$9,168 per student.
- We use a tuition model that establishes a full rate, then provides discounts to students for various circumstances.
- Our full tuition rate for the 20-21 school year was \$7,150 per student (already \$2,000 short of our cost to operate per student).
- Students receive many discounts and aid against the full tuition rate: multi-child discount, Catholic family discount, scholarship aid, Archdiocesan grant & aid, parish grant & aid, state-funded aid, and more.
- Some of the aid provided is "funded," meaning St. Mary's discounts tuition for students, but receives the funding from third-party sources, such as the Archdiocese, local parishes, or the state, to pay for the discount.
- However, most of the aid provided is "unfunded," meaning there is no direct funding source to pay for the discounts we give to our students.
- For the 20-21 school year, the total amount of "unfunded" aid was \$314,605. St. Mary's tries to make up for "unfunded" aid through fund raisers (including the Annual Fund!), grants, endowments, etc.
- Donations toward tuition assistance directly help fund the "unfunded" aid that makes it possible for many students to attend St. Mary's.

Help Us Support our Students

For many of our families, our full tuition rate is out of reach. St. Mary's tries to help meet families where they are through keeping operating costs down and being as generous as possible with aid.

By giving to our 17th Annual Fund, 100% of your gift will directly help our students through tuition assistance. You will be our partner in extending our many blessings to more families throughout our community.



Tuition Assistance at St. Mary's *Help fill our seats*



The Mother Seton Scholarship fund is for students of **Catholic families** who want to enroll or re-enroll at St. Mary's. Our scholarship committee will award scholarships based on genuine need and active membership at St. Mary's or a neighboring Catholic parish.



The General Tuition Assistance fund is for students of **any faith** who wish to enroll or re-enroll at St. Mary's. Our scholarship committee will award scholarships based on genuine need and sincere interest in Catholic education.

Suggested Levels of Giving for the 22-23 School Year

- Cost to educate one student: **\$9,142**
- Tuition for one year: **\$7,650**
- Tuition for half a year: **\$3,825**
- Tuition for one trimester: **\$2,550**
- Tuition for one month: **\$765**
- Tuition for one week: **\$191**



Testimonials

"I love SMCS because of the community- everyone is very caring."
-Dominic, 6th Grade

"It provides a good education and is very family friendly."
-Nina, 6th Grade

"Religion is a subject here that deepens our faith!"
-Emerson, 5th Grade

"I love going to Mass and praying for those who are in need that we care about. Our church feels welcoming."
-Philomena, 5th Grade

"I like the school because Mr. Nicely is really nice and my friends are important to me. My teachers are also very nice."
- Robert, 1st Grade

"Because I love learning in Kindergarten."
-Michael, Kindergarten

"For the past 13 years we have chosen St. Mary Catholic School because it supports and defends our mission as a family to form Catholic Christian disciples who are faithful to Jesus Christ and the teachings and authority of His Church. Alongside the parish community, St. Mary Catholic School celebrates that mission and faith and combines it with a rigorous and thoughtful approach to academics in order to help families form the most complete person in their children with regard to learning and vocation. We are thankful for the community and our hope is to remain a part of that tradition with our children for years to come."
-Jeff and Alison Ortiz

"We are very thankful for SMCS. Overall we are extremely impressed with the academics and culture surrounding the school and other families wanting the kids to succeed and do their best. Catholic values are taught and reinforced throughout each day and expectations are clear. We are happy to choose SMCS for our children!"
-Craig and Danielle Campbell

