



My Dear Friend,

St. Mary Catholic School is 150 years old this year! For 150 years, St. Mary's has formed the business leaders, the teachers and the citizens of our city and county. Could you imagine Hagerstown without St. Mary Catholic School? No way!

Sadly, the future of Catholic education in Washington County is in jeopardy. St. Mary's is the last Catholic school in operation in this great county—as the economics have proven too tough for most schools to survive.

The tuition of Catholic schools in this area just does not cover the actual costs of education. To just break even each year, we would have to increase tuition by \$2,000 per child. And this just isn't possible in Washington County.

We have the best group of teachers in the world who work for 70% to 80% of what their public-school counterparts earn. So does our administration.

So, we have a solution...

This winter, we will go out to our talented Hagerstown Business Community and ask each business to Sponsor a Child to bridge the "tuition gap" of \$2,000 per year to help us operate at breakeven. And we will ask those talented businesses to come and share their expertise with our children. We want the best doctors, scientists, engineers, lawyers, professors, teachers and builders to help us shape our children to be the next generation of great Hagerstonians! In other words, we want our community to be part of our school.

Could you imagine how strong St. Mary Catholic School would be if our community was helping us shape the future generations? We would be a model for the country.

In the last year, we have made tremendous improvements to our school—as we promised we would last year. We added a daily Mass, a STEM lab for all our students, a Pre-K 3 Program, a bolstered Middle School program that includes the possibility of earning high school credits, a House System that promotes virtues and countless after-school clubs.

Now we need our community to Sponsor a Child. But before we can go to the business community, we need to show that our own community is invested in our children. Would you consider sponsoring one student for \$2,000 a year? Or a gift of \$1,000 to sponsor a child for a semester? Even a gift of \$500 sponsors a child for a quarter.

Everyone who sponsors a student will be recognized on our school website. And then, we will go out to the business community to get them involved too. Together, we will make sure St. Mary Catholic School is around for another 150 years.

We could not imagine Hagerstown without this school. We never want to imagine that.

God bless you and thank you for helping our children!

In Christ,

Fr. James Boric
Pastor

What is the School Annual Fund and what does it support?

The Catholic school financial model is founded on community, generosity, and philanthropy. The annual fund provides essential support for the core aspects of an independent school education including: creative programming, robust tuition assistance, inspiring faculty development, and innovative capital projects.

The annual fund is the bedrock of all school fundraising. Beyond closing the gap between tuition and the cost to educate each student, the annual fund provides an important vehicle for the community to support the school's mission. A successful annual fund allows our school to think beyond the day-to-day finances and dream big.

Connect with Us!

St. Mary Catholic School

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Hagerstown, MD 21740

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/stmarycatholicshagerstown

www.stmarycatholicshagerstown.org



@smcs_hagerstown

Rooted in Faith. Traditional Values. Academic Excellence. 20th Annual Fund



St. Mary Catholic School

2024 - 2025

Our Mission

Our primary goal is to make saints, equipped to go out into the world to transform our culture and bring souls to Christ. Through a rigorous, student-centered curriculum, we promote academic excellence in all subject areas in order to prepare students to grow in wisdom and be prepared for a college-preparatory or technical high school.

Our Philosophy

Our unique status as the only Catholic school in Washington County calls us to fulfill the mission of the Catholic Church, which is to teach love and service to the Lord and one another. This message is shared with students of all faiths. Our Catholic identity is affirmed by communal worship and by acting as a caring community comprised of students, staff, parents, and the priests of St. Mary Catholic Church.



Our Vision of Catholic Education

1. Prioritizes the integral formation of the whole person, body, mind and soul, in light of his or her ultimate end and the good of society.
2. Teaches objective reality, including Transcendent Truth, which is knowable by reason and faith and finds its origin, unity and end in God.
3. Promotes human virtues and the dignity of the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God and modeled on the person of Jesus Christ.
4. Emphasizes a synthesis of faith, life, and culture.
5. Develops a Catholic worldview in our students that fosters a deeper incorporation of the student into the heart of the Catholic Church.
6. Emphasizes Sacred Scripture and a strong understanding of the sacraments of the Catholic Church.

EXCITING CHANGES IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR

Rooted in Faith

Daily Mass for students
Campus Minister
Focus on lives of the saints

Traditional Values

Integration of virtues into the curriculum
Community service
Focus on the values of the Gospel

Academic Excellence

Ability to earn high school credits
Spanish class for K - 8
STEM program



Please Prayerfully Consider

- Giving financially
- Volunteering at our school-wide events
- Spreading the word about our school
- Inviting others to participate in our Annual Fund
- Praying for the St. Mary Catholic School community and the success of this year's Annual Fund

We humbly ask you to contribute to the 2024-25 School Annual Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, for over 150 years St. Mary Catholic School has provided students with an education rooted in faith, traditional values and academic excellence. Our Catholic school is a ministry to the students it serves, and our ministry needs your support – prayerfully and financially.

This year, we are asking all members of our community and beyond to show their support for Catholic education by contributing to our Sponsor a Child program. Be part of the ministry of Catholic education and contribute to St. Mary Catholic School's 2024-25 School Annual Fund TODAY!



Ways to Give



ONLINE GIVING

Sign up for Online Giving or update your current online gift amount at:
<https://osvhub.com/saintmarysonline/giving/funds/st-mary-catholic-school-annual-fund>



PLEDGE CARD

Fill out the enclosed Pledge Card and return it in the envelope provided or directly to St. Mary Catholic School.



QR CODE

Give Today! Scan the QR Code with your smartphone to initiate your giving and set up your frequency.