

# Always a Saint



St. Mary's High School Alumni Newsletter Vol. 3

## Hannoush Family chairs Green & Gold Gala

### 7 From 57 to receive first SSJ Medal of Honor

The Hannoush Family will serve as Honorary Chair and Gold Sponsor of St. Mary's High School's inaugural Green & Gold Gala.

The first-ever Sisters of St. Joseph Medal of Honor will be awarded at the event to the 7 From 57, a group of alumni from the Class of 1957. The Gala is March 4, 2023 at Tekoa Country Club.

Nabil and Julie Hannoush chose St. Mary's High School to educate their four children — Marie, Monica, Marissa and Matthew. The alumni

have continued their education after graduation, have successful careers and families, and credit St. Mary's for helping them along the way.

"We are honored to support the Green & Gold Gala and represent our alma mater," said Monica ('12). "We hope to continue the legacy created by the Sisters of St. Joseph."

The family owns Shortstop Bar & Grill as well as several other local businesses.

The 7 From 57 alumni are Anne Marie Buikis, John



The Hannoush Family is the Honorary Chair/Gold Sponsor of the Green & Gold Gala.

"Jack" Daly, Joyce Morrissey James Shea, Donohue, Gail Duso, Eileen Florek, Marion Moreau and

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## Students receive prize from DA's contest

St. Mary's High School students earned an Honorable Mention this year in the "Stop the Swerve" competition to raise awareness of the dangers of drunk driving. The competition was hosted by Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni and the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance.

Students created a billboard campaign and received \$1,000 to purchase technology for the school. The award was given during a night out at the Basketball Hall of Fame.

## Maura O'Neill, '22, featured in art exhibit

Maura O'Neill, '22, was a featured artist in the Emerging Young Artists 2022 Juried Exhibition, an annually held art competition run by the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Maura's "Creepy Doll" drawing was among the selected works. STMHS Art Instructor Ellen Farley said "this is the first time a student from STMHS has gotten into a juried competition over the years I've been here. Maura is such a sweetheart and I've had her as an art student all the way back to when she was in 4th grade when I ran an



Art Instructor Ellen Farley with Maura O'Neill, '22.

after-school art program. I can't think of a better person to get into a competition and I'm so proud of her."

# Saints Updates

**Tom Barthelette, '69**, is living the retired life in Myrtle Beach, SC.

**Meaghan O'Neill Charette, '09**, has joined STMHS as Office Manager and welcomed a daughter, Charlotte.

**Drew Collins, '17**, is an Academic Success Coach for TECCA Academy.

**Joyce Donohue, '57**, retired in August after 25 years working for the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Division in Washington, D.C.

**Stephen LaBrecque, '14**, a Boston attorney, married Nina Sullivan Sept. 24.

**Dr. Mary Ellen Lane, '84**, dean of the UMass Chan Morningside School of Biomedical Sciences and professor of neurobiology, recently received an Endowed Chair Medal from the Manning Endowment Fund.

**Will Lucardi, '17**, is working in Washington D.C. as a litigation assistant and attends law school.

**Sr. Jane Morrissey, '50**, was named a national Ambassador of Peace by Pax Christi USA. She was also its Peacemaker of the Year in 1994.

**Lee Mulligan, '71**, participated in the August Pan Mass Challenge to raise funds for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute for the ninth year. Lee has raised more than \$60,000 since 2015.

**Mike Walsh, '66**, is a member of the Whip City Wordsmiths and has published 13 books.



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For admissions info, contact Admissions Director Cara Grasso at 413-568-5692, [cwaterman@stmsaints.org](mailto:cwaterman@stmsaints.org), or visit [stmsaints.org](http://stmsaints.org)

## Win-Win Calendars



Win-Win Calendars will be on sale Nov. 25-Dec. 20 for \$10 each.

A prize worth a minimum of \$50 will be drawn every day in January.

Calendars can be purchased at St. Mary's High School 8 a.m.—2 p.m. when the school is open. Or to arrange purchase, contact [htremblay@stmsaints.org](mailto:htremblay@stmsaints.org).

**Calendars are a great Christmas gift!**



# Scholarships make a difference for students

With four children and a family tradition of education at St. Mary's, the Ramos family knew there would be sacrifices to make when they enrolled their children at St. Mary's Parish School and High School.

They were willing to do whatever it took to ensure their children received the best, well-rounded education and they were thrilled to receive affordability scholarships for tuition assistance from alumni to help continue their family legacy.

"It was a huge help to our family," said Erin Ramos. "My kids are the fourth generation from my mom's side of the family to attend STM. It was so important to us that our children attend St. Mary's for the faith-based education and small, family atmosphere. Financially we would have never been able to do that. The reason our four children have been able to attend is because of all of the generous donors who have given money for different scholarships."

The Ramos family received the 7 From 57 affordability scholarship, created by members of the Class of 1957. Erin said "God always put some generous person in our path who was able to help. I am eternally grateful for that."

Two of her children have graduated and both have stated that one day they hope they are able to give a gift to a student at St. Mary's High School.

"Because of the education they have received at St. Mary's High School, they will be able to pursue further education and be financially stable enough to do so," said Erin.

If you are reading this newsletter because it was sent to your parents' home or you are seeing it online, please send us your current address and email! Send your contact info to [htremblay@stmsaints.org](mailto:htremblay@stmsaints.org)



Colin Ramos, '22, receives the Jim Romani Memorial Scholarship presented by Principal Matt Collins, '92, during Class Night.

In addition to tuition assistance scholarships, the Ramos family received generous Senior Scholarships on Class Night. One of her children received a scholarship this year named for alumni Jim Romani, who passed away early in 2022. Jim's wife Michele created the scholarship and selected Colin Ramos to receive the gift.

"My husband Jim was part of the St. Mary's school community for 12 years, graduating in 1978," said Michele. "His sons Kevin and David attended St. Mary's and I taught one of their Pre K classes for 14 years. A quality education was important to Jim.

"Since his passing, I feel strongly about

keeping his memory alive and what better way to do that than by establishing a memorial scholarship in his name and give it to a member of the graduating class who also attended for 12-plus years."

Erin said her son did not expect to receive any scholarships on Class Night – let alone one named for a fellow Saint – and was very grateful. He used the funds to buy a laptop for college. Her daughter also received several Senior Scholarships that helped with her tuition costs for freshman year.

Scholarships both for tuition assistance and graduating seniors are an integral part of the experience at St. Mary's High School. For recipients, there is a feeling of knowing that they are part of a large community that cares. They know that someone they don't even know has so much confidence in their abilities and the education offered at St. Mary's High School that they are willing to financially support them. That is a powerful gift that will last a lifetime.

To establish a scholarship with \$100 or more, or make a donation to assist a student in need, visit [stmsaints.org](http://stmsaints.org), click Give Online and select from the giving options.

Or, contact [htremblay@stmsaints.org](mailto:htremblay@stmsaints.org), 413-568-5692.



This year the Cameron Marshall Memorial Scholarship was established following the death of Cam, a member of the Class of 2012, and was presented by his classmates to Nathaniel Knowlton, Jacob Dilley, Cameron Cusack, Brady Collins and Jordan Panniello,





# What's your Saints legacy?

Dear Friend of St. Mary's High School,

Since 1899 St. Mary's High School has met the needs of students and families, starting with our first graduate, Nellie Roache.

Nellie was in eighth grade when the elementary school opened in 1898. When the school year ended, Nellie persisted in her desire to continue her education at St. Mary's, even though there was no high school. The Sisters of St. Joseph stepped up and established St. Mary's High School for Nellie, creating a legacy that continues today.

We still strive all these years later to meet the needs of our students and families while offering an affordable, faith-based education. It's not always easy, but it is our mission and our passion. When St. Mary's High School became a diocesan school in 2019, our funding sources shifted. We no longer receive parish contributions toward operations, instead we rely solely on support from the Diocese of Springfield, tuition, and school based fundraising.

Let me be clear, St. Mary's High School is going strong. Our doors continue to be open, as they have been for 123 years, and we are growing. Enrollment is up 37% in the last four years. We are financially stable and we have plans to continue to evolve to meet student needs. But, we need your help to sustain us and help us grow so that these plans can come to fruition.

Right now, it costs about \$15,000 a year to educate each student at St. Mary's High School and tuition is \$9,425. That leaves a \$5,575 gap to cover.

St. Mary's has always been a family, and we are asking for your help in supporting our Saints community with a donation to the St. Mary's High School Annual Fund and/or our Endowment Fund. These funds help us to enrich students' lives, assist with tuition for those in need, provide the tools students need in the classroom, and more.

This may seem like a daunting request, but any gift to our school is meaningful -- whether it's \$25 or \$25,000 - we appreciate your support and our students are grateful. And while financial contributions are crucial to our sustainability, we also need your prayers for our faculty, staff and students.

Thank you for all you do for our Saints. Many of you are also Saints and know that Once a Saint, ALWAYS a Saint. If you are not an alumni, but support our school, know that you ARE part of our Saints family.

Contributing to our Annual Fund and Endowment Fund is simple – make a check payable to St. Mary's High School, 27 Bartlett St., Westfield, MA 01085 or donate online by visiting [stmsaints.org](https://stmsaints.org), select the high school, click Give Online and choose your fund.

Thank you.

**Matthew Collins, '92**

*Principal, St. Mary's High School*

## How to Give to the Annual Fund

- Send a check payable to:  
St. Mary's High School  
27 Bartlett St.  
Westfield, MA 01085
- Visit [stmsaints.org](https://stmsaints.org) and select High School, click Give Online, then select a fund.



Photos by 2022 Yearbook Staff





# Alumni Spotlight: Peter DellaLuna, Class of 1936

**Peter DellaLuna, Sr., age 102, graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1936 and currently lives in Fort Myers, Florida.**

***Tell us about your post-STMHS life . . .***

After graduating from STMHS, I attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester where I received my BS in Chemistry in 1940 and Masters in Chemistry in 1941.

I worked summers in the tobacco fields to help pay my college education. I met my future wife, Ruth Syriac, there. Ruth was attending Westfield Teachers College (now Westfield State University) and working in the tobacco fields to pay for her tuition. We were married in 1944. We have two children, a son, Peter Jr., and a daughter Mary. My wife died in January 2013 at the age of 95. I have one grandson, Peter III and two great-grandchildren, Charlie and Kaelie.

When I graduated with my Masters Degree, I fully expected to be going into the military to fight in WWII. I took what I thought was a temporary job at Stevens Paper Company in Westfield as director of their laboratory. I soon found out that the paper made there was vital to the war effort and I received a deferment from the military to continue the improvements in their capacitor papers.

In later years, I worked at Millers Falls Paper Company as general manager and vice president. I ended my career as president of Rising Paper Company in Housatonic, MA. I have participated in many

paper trade association events both as moderator and key note speaker. I have also testified at Congressional hearing representing the paper industry.

***What makes you proud?***

My family. My wife and I have been fortunate to see our family grow and thrive well beyond my parents' dreams. My parents were both immigrants from Italy. They came to the United States to give their children the opportunities that were not available in Italy. They certainly succeeded. All of my children, grandchild and great-grandchildren are the beneficiaries of my parents' decision to leave all that they knew and go to a country that would offer difficult times but great opportunities.

Most importantly, I am most proud that all of my family remain faithful communicants of the Catholic church.

***Do you have hobbies?***

Until my mid 80's I enjoyed playing golf. Presently, I enjoy reading, keeping up with the stock market and trying to keep up with all the virtual reality games my great-grandchildren play.

***Did you have a favorite high school teacher?***

While all the teachers at STMHS were instrumental in my education, it is Sister Thomasine that shaped my future. Sister Thomasine had arrived at STMHS my senior year as the new principal.

A benefactor to the parish had left a large sum of money to be used by a STMHS student as scholarship money to the College of the Holy Cross.

This scholarship was given once every four years. My graduating class was not to receive this money and I had no intentions of going to college.

The boy that had received the scholarship had left Holy Cross after his junior year, leaving one year of scholarship money unused. It was Sister Thomasine, along with the Pastor, Rev. Curran, who insisted that the college must award the remaining year's money to the top graduating boy of the class of 1936.

They went to Worcester -- a long trip in 1936 - and successfully argued their case. I was given the one-year scholarship with an agreement that if I maintained a high academic standard, the college would grant me a partial academic scholarship for the remaining four years. In addition to the scholarship, I worked summers in the tobacco fields and at the college during the academic year to pay for my tuition.

I graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1940. Sister Thomasine's intercession on my behalf literally changed my life. She had taken a student that arrived in first grade in St. Mary's elementary school unable to speak English (I spoke only Italian) and given him the opportunity to have a college education.

I remember Sister Thomasine as being very smart and very formidable. You did not want to stand in front of her for disciplinary reasons...I would know!!!! I will always remember her as the principal that went out of her way to give me a life changing opportunity.



***How did STMHS influence your life?***

STMHS taught me how to analyze problems and to reason to a correct solution. Most importantly, STMHS gave me a great appreciation and understanding of Catholic theology.

***What's your advice for present STMHS students?***

Use your time at STMHS to learn to think critically. Learn to express your ideas clearly while respecting opposing thought. Make up your own mind. Do not let others dictate your beliefs.

Remember that life is full of opportunities. Do not fear the changes that these opportunities will bring. When faced with adversity, you alone will dictate the outcome.

Do not be afraid to fail. You can learn and move forward or become disillusioned and discouraged. Always choose to learn from your mistakes and move forward. You will grow as a person and open up new possibilities.

Finally, enjoy your time at STMHS.



**Class of '71, '72 celebrate 50th reunions**

**1971**



**1972**



The Class of 1972 made a memorial donation for tuition assistance in honor of classmates Sandra Engell, Michael Farrell, Kevin Harraghy, Thomas Mulvenna, James Oberther, James Sullivan, Lawrence Tobias and John C. Wright.



**CALENDAR**

**Dec. 3**  
**Christmas Bazaar**  
St. Mary's High School  
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

**Oct. 15 & 18**  
**Open House**  
St. Mary's High School  
Saturday, 10 a.m.  
Tuesday, 6 p.m.

**Jan. 31**  
**National Catholic School Day of Giving**  
Visit [ncea.org](http://ncea.org) and search for St. Mary's High School

**Nov. 25**  
**All Alumni Reunion**  
Sons of Erin, Westfield  
6 p.m. \$10 cover

**March 4, 2023**  
**Green & Gold Gala**  
Tekoa Country Club  
5-10 p.m. \$80 in advance

**Nov. 26**  
**Class of '11 & '12 Reunion**  
Shortstop Bar & Grill, 6 p.m.

**Class of 1957 Reunion**  
High School tour, 2:30 p.m.;  
Mass at 4 p.m.

**Safety First!**

*Thanks to ASignature Fence and the Arena Family for installing our new fence in time for school. Student safety is our priority and it has been enhanced with their generous assistance!*



**In Memorium**

- |                     |                      |                         |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Henry Bannish '60   | Brian Howard '77     | James Romani '78        |
| Harvey Benoit '53   | Francis Gutkowski    | Frances Sasur '48       |
| Mary Eaton '58      | Cameron Marshall '12 | William J. Sullivan '68 |
| Shannon Furioni '88 | Evelyn Moquin '53    | John Teahan '62         |

**Honorary Chair/Gold Sponsor Hannoush Family**

**Green Sponsor Sons of Erin**

**GREEN & GOLD**  
**Gala**

March 4, 2023 - Tekoa Country Club  
\$80 per person in advance - Social Hour, Dinner, Auction

For tickets, visit [stmsaints.org](http://stmsaints.org)

**Join Advance Manufacturing, Bonkowski Dental, Westfield Gas & Electric/Whip City Fiber and Chrissy G's Bakery as a sponsor!**

Call 413-568-5692 or [htremblay@stmsaints.org](mailto:htremblay@stmsaints.org)



2021-2022

# Saints STATS



24

Graduates

\$15k

Senior  
Scholarships

\$103k

Affordability  
Scholarships

100

Students

3k

Community  
Service  
Hours

18

Athletic  
Teams

10

Clubs &  
Activities

32

Masses  
Celebrated  
Together



Photo by 2022 Yearbook Staff

# STM Golf Tournament 2022

Photos by Mike Neilson ('17)

Tekoa Country Club hosted the annual St. Mary's Golf Tournament in May. Golfers enjoyed a day on the course followed by a raffle and buffet dinner. At right is the Burke Construction team, including Alumni Chris Nagle ('90) and Brian Burke ('90). Below are members of the Advance Manufacturing sponsor team with Parish Campus Director Robin Jensen and St. Mary's High School Principal Matt Collins ('92), at left, and Parish School Office Manager Jessica Lopez and Principal Anne Pellan-Shea, at right. Below right is Golf Coach and Alumni Rick Labrie ('92) and members of the STMHS golf team.



**THANK YOU to our sponsors, golfers and volunteers!**



## Tickets, sponsorships available for Green & Gold Gala

*Continued from Front Page*

According to Donohue, their 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion in 2012 sparked the group of friends to reconnect.

“For some, this was a memorable event because distance, family responsibilities and employment had precluded attendance at the earlier class-organized reunions held at five-year intervals. Many of us had started at St. Mary’s in first grade with Sr. Ann Theresa as our teacher. Others joined us as high school freshman with Sr. Patricia James as our homeroom teacher,” stated Donohue.

Donohue and Buikus said the group began meeting for lunch and when their alma mater faced trying financial times, the classmates knew they could help by pooling their resources to offer tuition assistance to St. Mary’s High School families.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Medal of Honor award was established this year to honor the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary’s High School. The 7 From 57 embody the spirit of the Sis-

ters, joining together to support Catholic education and the greater community just as the Sisters of St. Joseph did in 1899 when St. Mary’s High School was established. Their generosity and dedication to St. Mary’s continues the legacy of the Sisters, said St. Mary’s High School Principal Matthew Collins.

“We owe so much to the Sisters of St. Joseph and the 7 From 57,” Collins said. “The 7 From 57 are a generous and loyal group of alumni that are honoring the traditions of the Sisters by supporting our students.”

Donohue said she and her fellow 7 From 57 members are honored to continue the legacy.

“As we approach the 65th anniversary of our graduation from St. Mary’s High School we were honored to learn that we would receive recognition for our 7 from 57 Fund from the school that provided the foundation for our familial and professional lives plus the friendships that motivated us to jointly help the school we love. The longer we live, the more we appreciate our fellow classmates as well as the principles,

knowledge and skills we acquired because we attended St. Mary’s High School,” said Donohue and Buikus in a written statement.

The Green & Gold Gala will include a social hour featuring a musical performance by students as well as a display of student art work, auction, dinner and awards ceremony.

Tickets are \$80. Visit [stmsaints.org](http://stmsaints.org), click on Give Online, then Green & Gold Gala, or call 413-568-5692. To sponsor the event, contact Hope Tremblay at [htremblay@stmsaints.org](mailto:htremblay@stmsaints.org).

*The Sons of Erin is the Green Sponsor in honor of longtime member Jim Shea who passed away in 2021.*

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