

# THE BELLS

of St. Mary

St. Mary Parish - Elyria



## Faith of Our Fathers



ST. MARY PARISH  
In the Heart of the City  
Since 1845

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As we begin making preparations for the 175th anniversary celebration of the founding of our parish, the year 2020 will be a time of grace as we remember and celebrate the rich gift of faith that has been handed down to us. What an incredible legacy! We have a long list of the sisters and priests who have served our parish down through the years. How do we count the number of students who were educated in our school and made an impact on our world? As the faith was the center of family life, so the family was the center of our parish life. Let us make our anniversary celebration a time of gratitude for all that we have received and work together to hand on this tradition.

In the coming months, our 175th committee will plan the various events for the coming year. Fr. Tom has been researching the archives to write a history that will be included in our parish pictorial directory. I am sure that he would appreciate any pictures or information you may have

about our history. We are scheduling several events through 2020 culminating with a Mass and formal dinner with Bishop Perez on October 17th.

Let us take this time to renew our own gift of faith. The Eucharist is the heart and soul of our parish. Think of all who have gathered around our altar down through the years. We are drawn into communion with them. We need to pass on the gift that was given to us. Let us strive to pass on the faith to our children whether it is in our school or Parish School of Religion. Take advantage of our newest resource, 'FORMED.' Go to [stmaryelyria.formed.org](http://stmaryelyria.formed.org) and click 'register' to enter your email address and desired password. There is a tremendous selection of videos and readings, for both adults and children. Please check it out.

The strength of the family circle depends on the depth of our faith. Let us not lose this opportunity of grace that is ours in the coming year.

*Fr. Charlie*

### St. Mary Parish - Website

Go to [www.stmaryelyria.org](http://www.stmaryelyria.org) to visit our web site. It is user friendly and helps you access useful information. We hope that you will look to it for updates on future events and programs along with inspirational words throughout the week. **If you are not receiving the weekly Bells and would like to, send an email to [stmaryelyria@aol.com](mailto:stmaryelyria@aol.com) so we can update our records.**



# Faith Formation

~ Sister Mary Dorothy



## CONFIRMATION

As part of our day school and PSR programs we prepare our 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. This year the Sacrament was celebrated by Bishop Gries on March 21st. Those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year are: Frederick Camron Wayne Peter Brown, Brianna Marie Elizabeth Ehrke, Haley Michele Phoebe Kapalin, Dmitry Alexander Zachariah Lipert, Cullen Michael Patrick McLaughlin, Kiley Vivian Emily McLaughlin, Hunter Luke Martin Meszes, Brooklynn Ann Joan Neal, Lauren Frances Katherine Nix, Nathan Emile Jerome Peloquin, Lauren Ashley Adelaide Ripley, Ty Cole Nicholas Roark, Autumn Grace Marie Schmotzer, Joseph Wayne Sebastian Tansey, Sierra Skye Abigail Wood, Candy Lynn and Elizabeth Sexton. They are now full members of the Catholic Church having received all the Sacraments of Initiation. Let us continue to pray that they will be filled with the Gifts of the Spirit as they continue their journey of faith.



## FIRST EUCHARIST

What a wonderful day of celebration when we see our second grade children receive Jesus for the first time. Our tradition has been to celebrate this sacrament during the Easter Season so this year we celebrated it on Saturday, May 11 at a special 11:00 Mass. Part of their preparation included the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation which occurred on March 4th, at a Family Reconciliation Service. Although a little nervous at the beginning, the children were filled with joy with their experience of receiving Reconciliation and of knowing God's love for them.

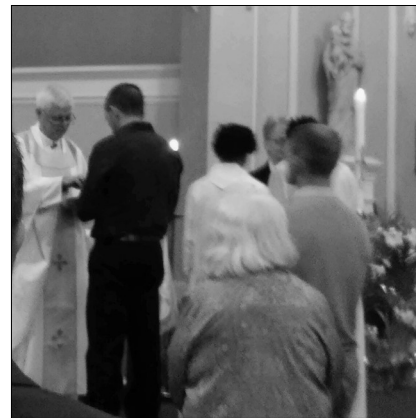
Please pray for Yanessa Amador Ramos, Zachariah Amador Ramos, Tara Frabotta, Connor Hickey, Gabriel Homza, Amelia Kirchner, Davis Lin, Thomas Lockyer, Samantha McCann, Dominic Neal, Samantha O'Neill, Dominic Quinn, Kendyl Quinn, and Charlotte Taylor, that they come to know the precious gift that God gives us in the Eucharist and that they may continue to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist frequently.





## **CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**

On Saturday, April 20, at the Easter Vigil we welcomed into our church community with the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist: Jasmine Bednarski, Layla Newcomb, Joshua Yergin, Sunil Green, Augustus Green, and Gab'Brielle Norfus. Zak Morey, made a profession of faith in the Catholic Church and along with Ray Schmitz and Tate Smith, who were baptized Catholic, received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Three year old Bradley Watkins and six year old Bri'Lee Watkins received the Sacrament of Baptism. Having received the gift of faith by God, may they continue to nourish that faith through frequent reception of the Sacraments, prayer, and participation in the St. Mary Church community.



## ***Check out Faith Direct***

Are you enrolled in Faith Direct? We are and have found it to be helpful to ourselves and St. Mary Parish. Whether we're out of town or unable to attend church due to weather or illness, our gift is always received. There's no longer the need to find the envelope, write a check or use on-hand cash to make our contribution. We have the security of knowing that our information is protected, every transaction is secure and that our donations are automatically transferred to St. Mary.

Creating a Faith Direct account is simple. You can enroll online or by mail and choose to use a credit/debit card or a bank account for payment. You have the option of scheduling your own monthly recurring gift or making a one-time gift at any time and a list of special collections are included. The easy online system allows you to manage all aspects of your account.

We've also found that using a credit card for our donations gives us the added bonus of perks offered by our credit card company.

Customer Service is available to respond to your needs by email, phone and online chat and each month we receive an email with a summary of upcoming donations. Annual statements are sent for tax purposes. Information about Faith Direct is available on our parish website: [www.StMaryElyria.org](http://www.StMaryElyria.org). Check it out!

*Dave & Joan Patchin*





*St. Mary School: Making a Difference Every Day since 1859*

*160 Years and Still Going Strong!*

# Testimonials from SMS Alumni

My name is Andrew Copa. I was a student at St. Mary School from 2002 to 2011. As a student at St. Mary, I was amazed by the community that I was a part of every day. St. Mary instilled in me the study skills that allowed me to move on to study at St. Edward High School. Thanks to the faith development and religious education at St. Mary, I have been inspired to serve others in all that I do. Thanks to my strong development at St. Mary School, I will be completing my bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering from Ohio State this spring. I will always be thankful for my time as a cougar!



My husband and I attended St. Mary School from 1946-1955. Our Mothers also attended together and graduated in 1919. My 5 children and several grandchildren are SMS Grads. Great education by Sisters of Notre Dame and many happy memories!

Mary Brigid St. Mary, (Mrs. Leon J. St. Marie)



St. Mary School provided me with such a loving foundation to my education. The students from my class will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am full of gratitude for my wonderful teachers.

Laura St. Marie Jackson  
8th Grade Class of 1992

I attended St. Mary School from 1968-1976. At St. Mary, I learned about faith, family and community, and the importance of all 3. St. Mary provided a very disciplined learning environment and the teachers and staff had high expectations for every student and sought to help each student become the best person they could be.

Carol (Schubert) Wiehe

I graduated from St. Mary's in 1980 after 8 years of school there. St. Mary's will always hold a special place in my heart. Some of the friends I made in 1st grade are still my good friends today. I learned to read in Mrs. Chew's class. Mrs. Moya taught us how to act like young ladies and gentlemen. In 4th grade, Miss Hist taught us about cold-blooded animals while we enjoyed snacks of peanut butter and celery. She loved peanut butter so much she named her dog Peanut butter! 5th grade camp with Sister Linda was a blast! Mr. Dostell in 7th grade and Miss Szabo in 8th grade prepared us for high school with geography, speech, and math. Religion was woven through each day and year at St. Mary's and laid a foundation of faith that I would carry with me for the rest of my life. Go SMS!

Michelle St. Marie  
Class of 1980

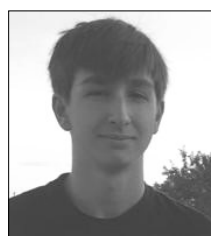
My name is Audra Waters (maiden name, Dill) and I attended St. Mary School from Kindergarten through 8th grade (1990-2000).

The benefits of attending St. Mary School and receiving a Catholic education are immeasurable. I was well-prepared to attend Elyria Catholic High School ('04), which I feel was cultivated through my entire education and experiences at SMS from day one. And while I did not choose to attend a Catholic university, I still feel that I was exceedingly prepared to excel during my time as an undergrad at Youngstown State University ('08). Currently, I am pursuing my Masters of Science in Information and Communications Technology, Project Management through the University of Denver, while working full-time at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.



St. Mary's instilled a strong faith that I still continue to practice while at Xavier University. I feel as if St. Mary led me down the path to success.

Andy Brown  
2004-2014



I enjoyed my experience at St. Mary's school very much, I met some life time friends and made many memories I will never forget. The family-like community makes St. Mary's always feel like home once you are a part of the parish.

Alex Brown  
2006-2017

I attended St. Mary School from 1982-1990. St. Mary School provided my platform for success in life-a focus on faith, family, fitness and friends. I have attained my Doctorate of Physical Therapy, and I attribute much of my success to my family and the life foundation that I received at St. Mary School.

Linda Seber

I attended St. Mary School from 1982-1990. St. Mary School offers an excellent faith based education. The school sets high standards for student achievement and helps students to succeed. In addition, St. Mary School focuses on the values that parents look for in a quality education: faith formation, the building of character, and a safe and caring community.

Laura Seber, PT, DPT



### Memories from Mary Stillwell Haupt - attended St. Mary School 1956-1964

Sister Mary Cleo handing out holy cards on the last day of third grade.

Sister May Paulin seventh grade class on the third floor of the Guardian Angel building. She was young, fun, and very, very tall.

Sister Joan of Arc's class on Ohio history actually made me want to learn more about it.

Grilled cheese sandwiches in the cafeteria on Fridays.

Monsignor Newton posing with us for our class photos. He always wore his cassock.

"Aristotle class" - a handful of us were asked to take part in weekly discussions with a local attorney about philosophy. (seventh grade, I think)

Being asked to help classmates who had difficulty reading (our desks would be put in the cloak room so we would work quietly, undisturbed).

The playground, kickball in particular - and how cold our legs would get in the winter (we girls had to wear skirts and dresses).

Being sent home early one day when the heat went on the blink. They gave us all hot tomato soup before they sent us on our way.

Having 45 kids in my fifth grade class. How did teachers cope?



## ALTAR AND ROSARY NEWS

St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society is alive and well and looking forward to another season of prayer and friendship.

Our purse sale in March was very successful, raising almost \$1100 which will pay for church expenses of candles, wine, hosts, vestment cleaning and much more. Thank you to all who donated purses and stopped by to check out the great selection of new and like-new items.

May 9 was our instillation of officers with myself returning as president, Peggy Russell as vice-president, Kathy Freeman as secretary and Rose Freeman's appointment as treasurer. We attended the 8:30 Mass followed by brunch, a short meeting and the instillation. We won't be meeting in June or July but will hold our annual audit in August with our regular meetings beginning in September.

Our Day of Recollection was held on May 17 with Donna Humphrey as our speaker. The day began with Mass, a May Crowning by St. Mary's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and then Donna's presentation. Our day wouldn't be complete without a luncheon catered by Jennifer Ehlke and of course the recitation of the rosary. Women from the area churches were invited to join us for this special day.

As in past years, A&R will be holding a bake sale at the parish feast day celebration on August 15. All funds donated at that time are presented to the parish. Because this sale is just for one evening, only half of our members are contacted to bake so please don't be offended if you aren't called! We'll be having our annual bake sale the weekend before Thanksgiving and all members will be asked to donate goodies at that time. Those funds remain with A&R to cover altar expenses.

As always, new members are invited and encouraged to join us. Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of the month except for during the summer and are always listed in the parish bulletin. We gather in the Weigand Room just before 11:00 and then head to the Lower Chapel to recite the rosary with Fr. Charlie celebrating Benediction. A short meeting and refreshments follow in the Weigand Room. What a great way for ladies who are available one Thursday morning a month to easily become more active in the parish, pray together and develop lasting friendships. Please feel free to contact me at [JoanP821@aol.com](mailto:JoanP821@aol.com) if you have questions.

Enjoy your summer months!

*Joan Patchin*

## Calendar of Events

**May 28**

STREAM Event

**June 5**

Preschool & Kindergarten Celebration

**June 6**

Honors Assembly

**June 6**

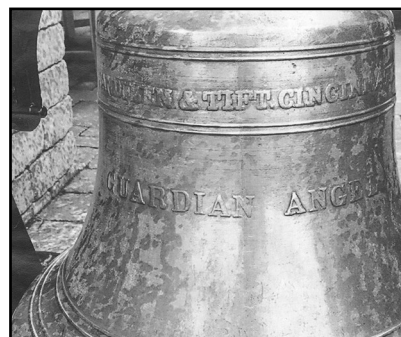
8th Grade Graduation

**June 7**

Last Day of School

**June 8**

200 Club Dinner



Picture of the bell that was in the tower of the Guardian Angel building. Look closely you will see that "Guardian Angel" is clearly stamped toward the top of the bell. Other markings provide manufacturing history for the metal masterpiece.

# Thoughts From Three Twelve

*Fr. Tom*



I wrote about my reflections about going to school here at St. Mary's in the last edition of The Bells. This article will be a short history of the school on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the school.

The second pastor of our parish, Rev. Robert A. Sidney, started our school in 1859, the year he became pastor. The only parish building was a frame church on the southwest corner of the 4th St. and Middle Ave, where Jim Deery's offices are now. Fr. Sidney arranged a room in the church to serve as a classroom and for the next several years we had a one room school. Until the fall of 1886 lay women taught the students. They were Mrs. Tompkins, Miss Hinds, Miss Tierney, and the Cassidy sisters.

The fifth pastor, Rev. Louis Molon, saw the need for a larger school. His first solution was to enlarge the church in 1865 and make more classrooms. When that didn't suffice, and seeing the need for a larger church building, he bought two large lots on the northeast corner of 4th and Middle, where our church now stands. The first Elyria public school was on the second floor of the village hall on Court St., facing Ely Square. The parish bought this "yellow" building and moved it to one of these lots in 1867.

The next pastor, Rev. John Shaffeld, went about building the present brick church. It was opened in 1886. The "yellow" building was torn down and hauled away. The old frame church was converted into classrooms and became the school. Fr. Shaffeld arranged for sisters from the Congregation of St. Joseph to begin teaching in the school. The first convent stood on 4th St., west of the frame church, approximately where my house now stands. The Sisters of St. Joseph taught here from the fall of 1886 to the spring of 1897. That September the Sisters of Notre Dame began teaching here. Over the years that these good women served here there were 275 assigned to our school.

The next big changes to our school occurred during Fr. Shaffeld's pastorate. The school census kept growing and a larger building was needed. In 1901 the Guardian Angel building was erected, complete with a school bell in the tower. As the tower aged and became structurally unsound the bell could no longer be used. It was removed in the late 1950s and now sits on a porch on Catawba Island. In 1907 a new convent was built to the east of the Guardian Angel building, where the Marian building now stands.

In 1915 there were 10 teachers and 410 students in the school. In 1912 a high school was started as part of the parish school. It was a three part program. It was closed in 1923 to make more room for the elementary program.

The next major changes took place shortly after Msgr William Newton was named pastor in 1945. One of his first tasks was to help get a Catholic high school off and running. As part of this the Marian building was erected and in 1949 became the first Elyria

District Catholic High School. When the present EC was completed the high school students moved there. The Marian building became our junior high. To make room for this new building the stone convent was moved further east, to where the St. Joseph building is now.

The baby boom was being felt in the school and in 1952 Msgr Newton arranged for the purchase of the Stang Motor building on 3rd St. This was modified into classrooms and given the name Pius X building. The primary students went to school there and if my memory serves me correctly the old show room was used as a gym until the St. Paul Presbyterian church was purchased. This was used as gym and parish hall until the present hall was built on its site. The convent was torn down and hauled away when the St. Joseph building was erected. Sadly, we did not have nuns teaching and staffing the school anymore.

This was pretty much a nuts and bolts history of our school. As I said this year we are celebrating the school's 160th anniversary. Next year we will be celebrating the 175th of our parish. There is much more to history than nuts and bolts. We would like to include these stories in our celebrating and reminiscing. We would like to include stories of our history in the weekly online Bells. If you have memories of our school and/or parish please get them to me or the church office so we can include them as we remember these two anniversaries.

*Remembering the past...*



# St. Mary Parish

Our Lady of the Assumption



320 Middle Avenue - Elyria, Ohio 44035  
Phone: 440-323-5539 - Fax: 440-322-2329

If you are no longer a member of our parish, please send us an email at [stmaryelyria@aol.com](mailto:stmaryelyria@aol.com) or call the Parish Office at 323-5539 and your name will be removed from our roster. Thank you

## Join us in our Celebration of the Eucharist!

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 8:30 a.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.

### HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

8:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.



## ~Parish Mission Statement~

*As people of God on the pilgrim journey to the Kingdom, we the people of St. Mary, benefiting from a rich tradition of faith, are a Christ-centered community blessed by a diversity of talents and gifts.*

*As a Catholic, Christian Community, we value the teaching of Jesus Christ and the Sacraments of the Church, which call us to live in justice and love.*

*As people of hope led by the spirit, we continue the mission of building the Kingdom. Through our ministry, service and outreach, we strive to welcome all into a warm, caring parish family.*

## We are here for you! Come on home!

If you are interested in having someone visit you to talk or to bring Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office at 440-323-5539.

## Check us out on the Web!

Our website can answer many of your questions.

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

Daily Devotions  
Parish Hall Rental  
Ministries  
Parish Wellness  
Who to Pray For

teen JaM  
Calendar Organizations  
School Link  
PTU  
Sports Committee

JustGive.org  
Call to Faithful Citizenship  
Heritage Society  
Funeral Preparation  
St. Mary PSR Program