

Saint Mary School Newsletter

Fall 2011

for Alumni, Parents and Friends
from the Advancement Office

25 Years Later, The Time Capsule Revealed

October 2011 ... a time I had been looking forward to for 25 years! A time in which I'd have all the freedoms life had to offer. I'd have a career, house, family, and my dream car a Porsche 911 Turbo. All this and I'd be back at St. Mary School witnessing the opening of the time capsule which had been buried along the school's Summer Street entrance. This was my thought and expectation as a 5th grader at St. Mary School back in 1986 – an era of new inventions and technologies like the Apple PC, the MS Windows platform, cell phones, and the disposable camera. It was also a time of memorable films, great music, bad style, and even worse hair. Today I have a phone that is my computer, it takes my pictures and records my videos, and plays all my movies and music – today's fashion trends have been sent back to the future, and to top it off... I'm bald! These

flashbacks and fast forward moments were ever present at the St. Mary School Gala last month, which celebrated 50-years of St. Mary School, the contributions and service of several of its members, and the opening of the school's time capsule. I traveled to the Gala that night with my best friend, Mark McCormack – a friendship that started in first grade at St. Mary School. We sat with another classmate and long-time, very close friend, Allison Leahy. Together we represented the class of 1990. More were

scheduled to come, but unfortunately Mother Nature had other intentions and “blessed us” with a snow storm.

Regardless of the weather, the event was well attended by many former grads of the '86 time capsule era. All night, folks were trying to remember the contents that were placed inside the concrete box and the letters they wrote to their adult self all those years ago. At the end of the evening I had the distinct pleasure of being the person to open the time capsule. It took a couple solid hits with a hammer and a little prying with the chisel, but the lid came off

and oh boy... mold, dust, a once leather bound photo album melded together, a VHS tape partially wrapped in plastic, some news articles on the school celebrating its (then) 25th anniversary, and a packet of those old blue



JT Kelly '90, Mark McCormack '90 and Brian Donovan '88

books filled with messages from each student of all the classes that year. Many messages on the outer ends of the booklets were illegible, but fortunately many were preserved just enough to enjoy. Personally I wrote that I had hoped “to marry a nice girl” and “be a hockey referee.” I'm happy to say all these years later that I got the girl and I'm still involved in hockey coaching at my other alma mater, St. John's High School.

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From Our Principal

Dear Alumni,

This issue gives you an insight into the celebration of our 50th Anniversary with the Gala celebration on October 29th and the Alumni Mass on Sunday the 30th. Who would have ever thought a northeaster would hit that weekend? It was wonderful that many were able to make it. Once we made it to Charter Oaks, we could forget about outside for awhile and have a good time. I am glad though that some made the decision to turn around and be safe. I so enjoyed meeting the many alumni and former alumni's parents who helped to build the wonderful spirit and



richness of Catholic education here at St. Mary School.

As I reflect on the stories I heard that evening and the memories of significant moments in their grammar school experience it validated the dedication and commitment of the Sisters of Notre Dame who began the school and the lay faculty who have followed in their footsteps. It was such fun to watch a group of alumni gather around the time capsule and find their letter, a bit tattered and wet. Our honorees and their families are such strong examples of the commitment of Catholic education "Love to Learn and

Learn to Love."

Many of you have established ties with your college, I would like to encourage you to become more connected to St Mary's. As we continue to celebrate our 50th Anniversary we will be posting events on the parish website and on our Alumni Facebook. I encourage you to check both out and do come to our upcoming activities. You never know which of your classmates may also be there.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and health, happiness and peace in the New Year.

Warm regards,

Joan T. Barry

(Continued from page 1)

The Gala was a wonderful time to reconnect with teachers, former grads, as well as parents of past and present students. It was amazing to hear stories of lasting friendships and support. St. Mary School truly is a fraternity with deeper roots than I ever imagined; seeing the bonds and hearing about the accomplishments of today's classes really rekindled a sense of pride with the school. My only wish was that more people could have been present to witness it, but hopefully all who read this still feel it and will continue to support its mission!

P.S. I still do not have the Porsche.

J.T. Kelley '90



Former Principal Joanne Gannon and her husband Paul.

Mission Statement

St. Mary School Saint Mary School, Grades Preschool – 8, provides a QUALITY EDUCATION in an atmosphere permeated in RICH CATHOLIC TRADITION and STRONG CHRISTIAN INTEGRITY.

Our students develop their UNIQUE GIFTS, work through challenges by using CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, and seek answers through PRUDENT DECISION-MAKING.

We send forth graduates to function as INTELLIGENT, MORAL LEADERS in a constantly CHANGING GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

From Our Pastor

Dear Alumni, Families, Parishioners & Friends,

October 29th was surely a night to remember as almost 300 people stepped into an unwelcomed Nor'easter and drove to Charter Oak in Hudson for St. Mary School's 50th Anniversary Gala. Thank-you for your presence that evening and for braving the storm. We certainly missed those who were planning to attend. Our Gala was a most fitting occasion to celebrate these past 50 years as we look ahead to continuing the mission of Catholic school education here at St. Mary School. This evening was all about celebrating the memories, reconnecting with classmates and school parents, honoring the founding families and expressing gratitude to the Sisters of Notre Dame and the lay faculty who have helped to make St. Mary School the vibrant and excellent 21st century school that it is today.

More than fifty years ago St.

Mary's pastor, Fr. Edward Lynch, was working with architects on plans for the construction of a new church when Bishop John Wright encouraged him to consider also establishing a parish school. As more families were moving into Shrewsbury and the parish, Fr. Lynch welcomed the opportunity to include a school as part of the overall parish ministry of education. He enlisted the Sisters of Notre Dame to staff St. Mary School as they enjoyed a wide reputation as dedicated religious and excellent educators. The successive generations of faculty members have continued that tradition of dedication and excellence.

St. Mary Parish has supported the school throughout the years and benefited from the vitality that a school brings to a faith community. Parishioners who have chosen St. Mary School for their children have worked tirelessly to

continue this ministry through challenging times.

Education at St. Mary School has grown and expanded in so many ways through the 50 years, but the core values and mission of our school remain the same. The daily work of educating students for life and deepening their values are the foundation for all that we do. Celebrating 50 years now gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to providing students formation in Christ's Gospel and our Catholic faith. We look to the future with confidence knowing that with continued support and generosity from so many, St. Mary School will flourish for generations to come.

God's Peace and Blessings in this holy Advent season.

Msgr. Michael F. Rose

Pastor



Mary Brennan '07, Jose Yarzebski '08, Jenny Sex '08 and Mary Grace McGinn '08



Fr. Edward Lynch Founder's Award and Saint Julie Billiard SND Award Recipients

As part of the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary celebration, the school's first **Fr. Edward W. Lynch Founder's** award and **Saint Julie Billiard SND** award have been presented.



The Founder's award is established in memory of Fr. Edward W. Lynch who served as pastor of St. Mary's Church from 1950 to 1980 and was instrumental in the opening of St. Mary School in 1961. St. Mary School bestows the Fr. Edward W. Lynch Founder's award upon an individual for their longstanding support and involvement at St. Mary School.

The Saint Julie Billiard SND award is established in honor of Saint Julie Billiard SND who as founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame dedicated herself to the education of children. This award is presented to a loyal friend of St. Mary School to honor exceptional support and service to the school while reflecting the faith-learning-service values of Catholic schools.

Congratulations go to **Dr. Robert D. Blute** as the recipient of the St. Mary School, Fr. Edward W. Lynch Founder's award and to **Mrs. Ann E. O'Connor** as the recipient of the St. Mary School, Saint Julie Billiard SND award.

The awards were presented at the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala in October.

"I am happy to support this school so that other children can experience the same high caliber, faith-oriented education provided to my children and grandchildren by St. Mary School and I am especially honored and grateful to St. Mary School for bestowing on me the first Fr. Edward W. Lynch Founder's award. I appreciate your committee for choosing me for such a wonderful honor."

Dr. Robert Blute

"I am grateful and honored to be presented with the Saint Julie Billiard award, but I only accept on behalf of my family, my husband, my neighbors, and my friends, because together we all made St. Mary School a priority in our lives and in the lives of our children."

Ann E. O'Connor

Principal Joan Barry, Dr. Robert D. Blute, Monsignor Michael Rose at the Award Ceremony

1986 SMSTime Capsule



The O'Connor Family at the SMS 50th Anniversary Gala.



I was so pleased when my mom called to invite me to the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary celebration. I looked forward to honoring her and Dr. Blute, who, with their spouses, lovingly supported their children and so many others, as well as the whole school and parish, for so many years. On the weekend itself, it was great to see the many family members, neighbors, former schoolmates, and current staff members, parents, and

supporters who braved the uninvited Nor'easter to gather at the festive dinner dance and the celebratory Mass the next morning. The lively music performed by former students before dinner, the detailed centerpieces on each table crafted by current students, and the class pictures and other photos spanning the years collected in a slide show and commemorative program awakened wonderful memories. They also showed

that St. Mary School is still a thriving, caring, and spirited community at 50 years old. When I walked in and saw Mr. Keegan lugging his camera and taking photos just as he did when I was in second grade, I thought for a moment that past and present had been joined in one celebratory flash!

Kathleen O'Connor '70

The Maloney Family Celebrates the 50 year Anniversary of St. Mary School

When my sister Sue told me about the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary School, my first thought was 'what a wonderful celebration for the Maloney family to be involved in'. St Mary's was such a major part of our lives.

Nine out of ten of us (Marie, Bob, Mike, Sue, Nancy, Joni, Carol, Patti and John) attended St. Mary School. The oldest, Donnie, was not able to because his grade was not yet open. My Mom volunteered at the school in numerous capacities. She could be found working in

the library, the lunch room or on the playground as a recess monitor. My Dad sang in the Church choir for as long as I can remember and still does today. Some of us were altar servers, cheerleaders, worked the Sunday morning coffee hour, participated in youth groups, etc. My parents have remained very active in the Church and its community. The 50th Gala weekend was a great celebration and reconnection of old neighbors and friends. It was also a time



Patti Maloney Nelson '78 and Ann O'Connor Iaccarino '77 at the Alumni Mass Reception

to reflect on the past and realize how truly blessed we all are. My siblings and I are eternally grateful to our parents, Don and June Maloney, for providing us with an exceptional, spiritual education.

Carol Maloney Nelson '75

A Night for all to Enjoy, the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala. When we first heard that this event was taking place it was a “no brainer”; we were going because an opportunity to support our long association with St. Mary School *though our kids are long gone*, plus the prospect of a good night out was all the incentive we needed. The fact that I was escorting two women to the event (wife Bernie and daughter/alumna Jenny) even added some spice to the occasion.

Of course notwithstanding the distant location, which turned out to be

beautiful, and the deplorable weather, being at an event surrounded by our St. Mary’s community of friends is where we feel a belonging. In Ireland, where we grew up, community is everything and normally education and faith are the epicenter for facilitating this. Whatever people think about the Irish and their reputation for drink, it’s not true. Pubs facilitate community first (especially when it’s raining!) and then while you’re there, you may as well have a drink.

And so it is with our family and our continued association with St. Mary’s; it is our community. It’s where

we go, minus the drink except for events like the Pub Quiz. Though our kids are now alumni, Bernie continues to feed the school kids with her culinary delights, so there is also the physical presence that maintains our association.

As long as we live in Shrewsbury, St Mary’s will continue to be a focal point for us. Yes the people change a bit but the community nucleus remains and will always be there. We are thankful for all the friends we have made and will continue our association as long as you will have us!!

Bill Sax

Former School Parent



Fr. Paul O’Connell, Msgr. Michael Rose and Fr. Marcin Nowicki



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Favulli at the Gala.

The “Coin of Doom”



Its name sounds ominous, but on the contrary, Mr. Michael Moakley’s ‘Coin of Doom’ has inspired scores of 8th graders to work hard and excel in Science class. It began as a simple way to recognize achievement in science among the St. Mary School graduating 8th graders, but over the years has grown into a very exciting and friendly competition for the coveted prize. The current ‘Coin of Doom’ is an authentic 1896 silver dollar piece. The coins are

generally over 100 years old, including both Morgan and Peace dollars and are valued at approximately \$35.00. Mr. Moakley carries the coin daily, producing it periodically as: support for a science lesson, a way to decide if a quiz should be open notes, or a simple yet enticing reminder of its existence.

Proud winners of the ‘Coin of Doom’ include Jeremy Canfield ’11, Georgia Eisenmann ’10, Emma Winslow ’09, Anders Johnson ’08, Katherine Kelly ’07, and Jonathan Gilbert ’06.

Our St. Mary School Journey

Our St. Mary School journey started sometime in the fall of 2001. My husband was working in Massachusetts and looking for homes for our family in Shrewsbury when he came upon St. Mary's Parish and in his words, "**The nicest little school!**" He met with the preschool teacher Mary Rohanna (St. Mary School '68), toured the preschool, and loved what he saw. He then toured the "big school" with principal Joanne Gannon and school secretary Kathy Brookhart. He left St. Mary School that day with a smile on his face. The atmosphere and the overall school environment mirrored his parochial school years at Sacred Heart in Quincy, Massachusetts; a two story brick building across from his church. His enthusiasm while describing St. Mary School to me peaked my interest, especially, since I was a public school kid. I liked my husband's thoughts about our catholic religion being a large part of our boys' daily lives and I liked the thought of uniforms.

One of our main reasons for choosing Shrewsbury as our hometown was the reputation and record of its public schools. I was a bit hesitant, wondering if it was necessary to pay for private school when the Shrewsbury public schools were so highly ranked. In the end we decided to take a chance on St. Mary School and enrolled our son, Patrick, in January 2002. Patrick was part of the first St. Mary School preschool class. Our lives from then on began to weave into this wonderful school and church community. We have grown up here and have made life long friends and wonderful memories here. We have never questioned our school decision made back in 2002. Patrick graduated this past June after ten years at St. Mary School and is a



freshman at St. John's High School. His first quarter is over and he has done very well. Our second son, Justin, began in the preschool program with Mrs. Rohanna as well and is now in the 7th grade.

I find myself thinking... WOW...we are almost at the end of our St. Mary School journey...time flew... what a blessing it has been and we have enjoyed it all! Our fondest memories are of monthly masses ministered by a different class each month, the many community service projects, class trips, class parties, classroom volunteering, Halloween Parades, precious Christmas shows, Easter Passion Plays, Family Festival Weekends, Winter Balls, morning prayer, Science Fair, Art Show and Music. I have learned more about my religion from my boys and how to live my faith more fully because of this school and church.

This is HOME for us...safe, wonderful, inspiring, challenging, and faith filled. The prayer the students pray

at the end of each day, in unison, sums up the strong foundation our boys have been given here to build their lives upon... Thank you...thank you.

God Made Us a Family.
 We Need One Another.
 We Love One Another.
 We forgive One Another.
 We Work Together.
 We Play Together.
 We Worship Together.
 Together We Use God's Words.
 Together We Grow In Christ.
 Together We Love All People.
 Together We Serve Our God.
 Together We Hope For Heaven.
 These are our Hopes and Ideals.
 Help us to Obtain Them Oh God.
 Through Jesus Christ Our Lord
 Amen.

Mike & Sue Storer

Patrick Storer Class of 2011
 Justin Storer Class of 2013

St. Mary School Alumni News

Here comes the Bride(s) Three St. Mary School alumnae will share 2011 as their wedding anniversary year.



Brigid McKenna Carlson '94
married her husband David in July 2011.



Ellen Daly Burden '94
Shown here with her sister Kathleen Daly Sayles, married her husband Richard in August 2011. The two are now living in London.



Jennifer Gorsuch '94
will wed her fiancé Brian Vocino on New Year's Eve!

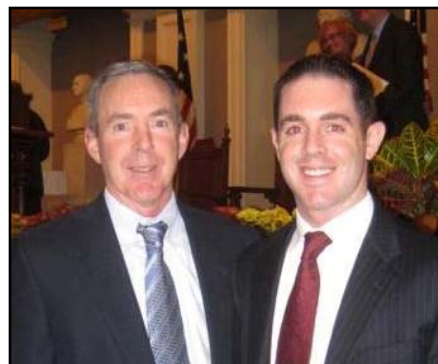
Congratulations to **Karina Naras '11** and **John Nguyen '11**. Competing against almost four hundred "Mathletes" the two St. Mary School Math Team members scored perfect scores at the 2011 Diocesan wide math competition. The competition was held at St. John's High School last spring.

Joe Tagman '95 is married to Cristen Houlihan Tagman and it wasn't your ordinary wedding. Joe and Cristen were participant's on the OWN Network's Don't Tell the Bride reality show. The premise of the show is that the groom and his groomsmen have three weeks to plan the complete wedding with **absolutely no** input from the bride; the two are not allowed to have any contact what so ever. Among his other groomsmen Joe leaned on his fellow SMS alumni Nick Latino '95 and Chris DeSantis '97 who served as best man and usher. The men planned every last detail of the September wedding that "went off without a hitch" said groomsmen Chris Desantis '97. "The best part was seeing how happy Joe and Cristen were at the wedding. I've been friends with Joe since 1st grade at St. Mary School and it absolutely meant a lot to me to see him so happy on his wedding day" said Chris. The couple took a Caribbean cruise honeymoon.



Congratulations to **Ryan Leonard '08** who competing for Shrewsbury High School won the Demand Tec Retail Challenge. Ryan received a \$2,500 scholarship for developing and presenting a pricing plan in a simulated retail environment. He will move onto the Northeast regional competition where he will face other area winners for an opportunity to qualify for the National competition in New York City, and a chance for a \$10,000 scholarship.

Thomas M. Dolan III '99, shown here with his father, received his Juris Doctor degree from Boston College Law School in May. On November 15th he was recommended to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for admission as an attorney. The formal group ceremony was held at Faneuil Hall.



Congratulations Tom!

Dear Parents, if your child has moved from your home, please notify the alumni office with their current address so that we may invite them to upcoming Alumni events. 508-842-1601 or advancement@stmaryparish.org.

To stay connected, fri end the official St. Mary School facebook page.

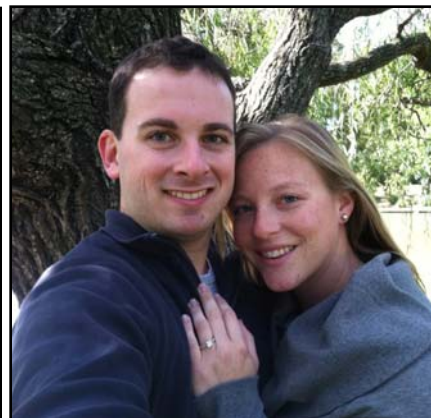
Saint Mary School Alumni News



Kerrie McAdam Topi '90 is still practicing what St. Mary School preached. She and her husband are the proud co-owners of The Mill Restaurant on 185 West Boylston Street in West Boylston. Kerrie describes The Mill as "an eclectic, comfortable place for family dining with a great menu, a large outdoor deck, and a really fun lounge where you can often find live music." "As the restaurant has been doing very well we wanted to give back to the community. My husband started working with the West Boylston Food Pantry to get a feel for where we could help the most and a special *West Boylston Food Pantry Dinner Buffet* fundraiser was held last month. The event went perfectly;

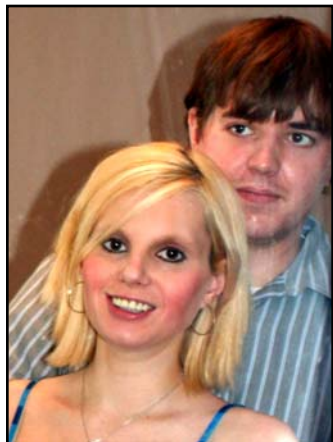
there was a great turn out, and we were very happy with the money raised for the food pantry. Our plan is to continue to give back to those in need" said Kerrie.

When Kerrie is not helping with the restaurant, *or* working her full time job as a Medicare Appeals Supervisor for UMass Medical, *or* volunteering at the American Red Cross, she enjoys being with her 3 year old son Kelton.



Jeffrey Hudson '00 is engaged to Lisa Bodenhorst. Jeffrey is a Process Engineer for Celgard LLC in Charlotte, NC. A fall 2012 wedding is planned.

Robyn Elizabeth Thayer '96 is engaged to Chris Pond. A fall 2012 wedding is planned.



James Goljan '09 returns for a second year to work in the St. Mary School After School program. The program which averages 40 children daily is purely a community service effort for James. Whether he's playing basketball with the students or helping



them with their Spanish homework, it is clear that James enjoys his work with the children as much as they enjoy having him around.

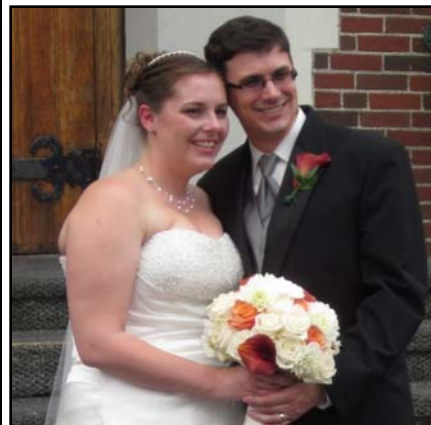


Matthew Zybert '99 is engaged to Allison Renaud. Matthew is an HTML Developer for Sally Mae. A fall 2012 wedding is planned.



Robyn Towner '88 recently became a Director for Scentsy Wickless Candles. She has been an Independent Consultant with Scentsy Wickless Candles since 2009 and leads a team of 20 (and growing) from all over New England. "We do home parties, catalog shows and fundraisers, in addition to online shopping. The company is amazing and I am really proud to be a part of it" said Robyn. Robyn received her undergraduate degree from Assumption College and her Master's Degree in Education from Anna Maria College. She has been teaching in Worcester for the past ten years and is currently a Kindergarten teacher at Elm Park Community School.

Visit www.roblyntowner.scentsy.us/ for more information on Robyn and Scentsy Wickless Candles



Jay Cote '96 married Laura Macaro at St. Rita's Church in Lowell in October. The two honeymooned in St. Lucia.

St. Mary Alumni News

Hi there. My name is Brian Donovan from the St. Mary School Class of 1988. My sister Mariah and I had just moved to Shrewsbury in September of 1986, when we began our 5th and 7th grade years, respectively at St. Mary School.

After attending the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala in October and witnessing the opening of the 25th Anniversary time capsule, I realized that I had only been an SMS student for two months when the time capsule was buried. I honestly had lost sight of that; I was sure the time capsule event was a full year later when I was in the 8th grade. I remember the excitement of the event; I remember that it felt like we as a community were sharing something very special. Could I have already felt like a member of the St. Mary School community after only two short months?

I see now that indeed, I had.

In 1986, I was none-too-thrilled with my parents' decision to uproot my family from Milford, MA and move me away from my friends. I still remember getting out of the car with my sis on the first day at St. Mary School and wondering if we'd be welcomed and embraced. That concern was quickly dropped as kids and teachers went out of their way to learn about "the new kids." In hind site the reason I so quickly gained comfort at my new school in my new town becomes obvious - *the St. Mary School community was a family.*

Very quickly, it was clear that my parents' decision for us to move was one of the best in my life. I formed truly life-long friendships with great kids at St. Mary School. I was encouraged to always give my best effort in the classroom, in the parking lot during gym

class, and in the arts. Doing "what is right because it IS right" was constantly reinforced and helped me to form a solid Christian core of treating others as I'd want to be treated.

These two "junior high" years for me at St. Mary School prepared me well for an incredible four years at St. John's High School where I was engaged in many activities ranging from track, cross country, student government, and yearbook staff to a week-long charitable mission in Orangeburg, SC. Following St. John's, I studied Marketing at Georgetown University, where I served as Advertising Manager of *The Hoya* which is one of the oldest student-run newspapers in the country.

Since college, I've enjoyed a career in Marketing. I worked at Digitas for twelve years before taking a Senior Vice President role at Allen & Gerritsen, which was recently recognized by *Advertising Age* as the best advertising agency at which to work in the country!

I've been happily married for six years, and my wife Corinne and I welcomed the arrival of our newborn son, Declan, on October 4, 2011. Our journey to parenthood was no easy one, and we are forever grateful to Declan's birth parents for choosing us to raise him. God bless them!

Corinne, Declan, and I live in an historic home in Natick Center and are joined by our water-and-fetch-loving Chocolate Labrador Retriever, Bob.

Clearly, my parents made a good call by moving us to Shrewsbury and enrolling us at St. Mary School. I look back and realize I learned a lot about transitions, collaboration, mutual respect, facing fears, and forging new relationships through that process. This all prepared me well for the past twenty five years and for the future.



Brian Donovan '88

Art at St. Mary School



a week Mrs. Wiseman combines her skill and passion for art with the talented and eager St. Mary School students and the results often end up framed on the walls of school family homes. “I continue to teach at St. Mary School because I really enjoy working with the students. They are so creative and enthusiastic about exploring all types of art forms and mediums.” says Mrs. Wiseman.



critter pots are brought home with great and well earned pride. Some of Mrs. Wiseman’s favorite projects are the kindergarten’s ‘Michelangelo’ paintings, the third grade’s O’Keefe style paintings, and the fabulous splatter paintings done by the older grades.



Mrs. Wiseman is regularly called upon to lend her expertise outside of the classroom as well. From set design and construction for the SMS Christmas play to the wonderful centerpieces featured at the 50th Anniversary Gala and 2011 Senior Luncheon, Mrs. Wiseman is always there to help out, and not only

“Oh mom, it’s Thursday, it’s Thursday! That means we have art today!” What more could a parent ask for than to have a child be that excited on a school morning? I’m the parent who has heard these words on more than one occasion and I consider this one of the many blessings of St. Mary School.

For the past 14 years, with no more than a tiny closet and her *art on a cart*, Mrs. Lisa Wiseman has been generating a palpable excitement for art in the St. Mary School student body. Twice

Under the direction of Mrs. Wiseman, the most gorgeous watercolors, sketches, and pastels continuously grace the hallways of St. Mary School. Stunning three dimensional birds and animals are exhibited in the school’s bi-annual Art Fair while multi media masks and hand formed



does she roll up her sleeves whenever asked, she does so with a generous heart and a beautiful smile.

Sira Naras
School Parent



Mrs. Lavin, Mrs. Fontaine and Mrs. Hudson at the Anniversary Gala.



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Chiampa

A Night for all to Enjoy, the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala



We extend a special thank you to the St. Mary School alumni ensemble for their performance at the 50th Anniversary Gala.
 Deanne Duquette '11, Ashley Ruggiere '11, Lea Iodice '11, Ben Babbit '11, Caroline Kelly '11, Sam Palermo '11,
 (not pictured) Celine Mende '11, David Jefferson '98, Jeremy Canfield '11 and music director Paul Gannon Jr.

Attending the 50th Anniversary Alumni Gala was very special to me. I was a student at St. Mary School for what seemed like forever, and now I was an alumna. Performing at the cocktail hour was so much fun. I was able to reconnect with my ensemble friends. Even though I just graduated this past June, it had been several months since I had performed with the Ensemble group. We really enjoyed getting to practice together again and performing at the Gala. I felt honored that the school wanted us to play a special role at this

event. We all enjoyed dancing after dinner to a live band. St. Mary School is such a special place, that despite a Nor'easter, so many people felt strongly about being a part of this historic celebration. I'm glad to have been able to share in this event.

Seeing older alumni at the Gala, made me feel glad that I am a part of this amazing community. I went to St. Mary School for 10 years and was a part of the first preschool class to graduate. There are many special memories I have made there that I will treasure for the rest of my

life. St. Mary School is not just a school, it is a family. I feel so blessed to have been and still be apart of this wonderful family. A nice thing about St. Mary School is the many traditions. Whether you graduated last year or 50 years ago things like attending mass, service projects, or being a buddy to students will be a commonality that all graduates of St. Mary School share. I am grateful for my experience and am proud to be an alumna.

Caroline Kelly '11



Mr. And Mrs. Jerold Côte and their son Andrew '03 at the Anniversary Gala.



Mrs. Mary Leone Rohanna '68 and her daughters Lisa '99 and Mary Ann '02 at the Alumni Mass.

Praise for the 50th Anniversary Gala and Alumni Mass Planning Committees.

It was my pleasure to be a part of the Alumni Mass. I enjoyed every moment of it, thanks for putting it together for all of us alumni!

Brian Murphrey '88

Everything was wonderful on Saturday night (well, except the weather!). I think it was a great event, great turn out, and lovely setting.

Congratulations....

Tris Forte

Alumni Parent

I just wanted to let you know that you did an amazing job with the 50th anniversary celebration...everything was perfect!

Katie Smith Palermo '79

Alumna and School Parent

I wanted to thank you for a wonderful evening Saturday night. I know how hard you've worked to make the night a success and looking around the room that night, it certainly showed. Mike and I are very proud to say our children attend St. Mary School and we are always happy to give our support. Before we know it our children will be alumni and they too will give back in appreciation of what the school has given them.

We were quite honored to be part of the 50th Celebration.

Paula Hayeck

School Parent

Congrats to you and the rest of your staff on what turned out to be a wonderful evening. All of your effort certainly paid off!

Brian R. Beaton '89

You did a marvelous job for the St. Mary School, 50th Anniversary Gala. Everyone was pleased. Congratulations!

Rev. Paul T. O'Connell

Former St. Mary's Church Pastor

The Gala was beautiful. So nice to see old friends and meet new ones!

John Maloney '78

Congratulations to St. Mary School on a wonderful Gala and beautiful Alumni Mass. All of your hard work paid off - big time!

Ann-Marie Blute '72

In Memoriam

On Thursday November 10, 2011, St. Mary School celebrated the 50th Day of School as part of the school's 50th Anniversary celebration. Among other activities, we began the day with a very special Morning Prayer. During prayer, we remembered by name each member of the St. Mary School community we have lost over the years.

We remember them here.

Mark Beauchemin

Julia Buckley

Father John Cahill

Paul Cappello

Father Roy Devaney

Jeffrey Doyle

Sr. Mary Ethel

Gregory Farley

Grant Fitch

Gerald Fleming

Father Bernard Gilgun

Sr. Mary Joan

Mary Colleen Kirby

Thomas Kocot

Father Edward Lynch

Frank Noel

Christine Perry

Ellen Donovan Samia

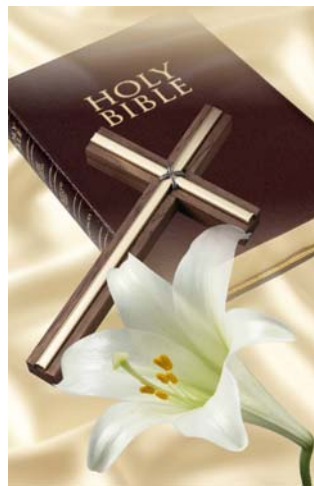
Carol Saulnier

Sebastian Slosky

Ryan Stevens

Sister Saint Francis Sullivan

Michael Wood



Our heartfelt best efforts have been made to honor everyone we have lost from our school family. Please let us know if there is anyone we have neglected to remember.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Edmunds and Mr. and Mrs. James O'Donnell enjoyed the Saint Mary School alumni ensemble's performance at the Anniversary Gala.



From The Advancement Office

They said “Yes.”

“Yes, I want to come back and be with you again.” Over one hundred St. Mary School alumni from the past fifty years said “yes” when we called. They said “yes” to the 50th Anniversary Gala, they said “yes” to the Alumni Mass, they said “yes” to St. Mary School.

When the Advancement Office opened five years ago, its declared mission was to build and maintain relationships with the school’s alumni. The idea of finding five decades of lost alumni was a

daunting one. I asked myself: “... *Lifetime friends* were made here in our *eight small classrooms*.”

“where are they now, how will I find them, and will they come back once found?” Following the recent St. Mary School 50th Anniversary celebrations, I feel extremely blessed to have received the answers to my questions. What I learned was: St. Mary School alumni are all over the world, they can be found with tedious yet hopeful

research, and when asked if they would join us at the 50th Anniversary Gala, if they would support the school financially, and if they would minister at the Alumni Mass – they would say “yes.”

When we talk to alumni about why they come back, the common thread in their stories is a three part one:

The first, is the place that St. Mary School holds in the hearts of our alumni. The school community is a **tight knit, supportive and familial**

community. Lifetime friends were made here in our eight small classrooms and many alumni have an emotional attachment to the school.

Secondly, the ‘*Do what is right because it is right*’ way of life has been a moral compass that our alumni continue to look to as adults. Their relationship with God was strengthened by their time

at St. Mary School. The selfless dedication to community service from so many of our alumni demonstrates over and over again that the ‘**strong Christian integrity**’ of which our Mission Statement speaks is alive and well.

Third, the sound **academic foundation** that St. Mary School has provided its alumni has repeatedly been described as the cornerstone of great academic and professional successes. The alumni stories in this newsletter alone, remind us of the tangible and life long value of a St. Mary School education.

St. Mary School is a very special place and I consider it a great blessing to be able to tell her stories and work to support her future.

I wish you peace and good health.

Siva Naras

Advancement Director

Calling Class Agents!

Thank you to the SMS Class Agents who helped us invite over 1,000 St. Mary School alumni back for the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Now that we have reconnected with so many alumni we are in serious need of Class Agents. Class Agents are volunteers who act as liaisons between their classmates and St. Mary School. If you are interested in becoming a Class Agent, please contact the Advancement Office at advancement@stmarysparish.org or 508-842-1601.

St. Mary School \$50,000 for 50 Years Campaign.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary School we not only look back to the school’s remarkable history and tremendous alumni achievements, we look ahead to ensure new generations of students will have the benefit of a St. Mary School education.

In honor of St. Mary School’s 50th year we kick off the **St. Mary School \$50,000 for 50 Years** campaign.

You will be receiving the St. Mary School Annual Fund information in the next few weeks. If St. Mary School has touched your life in any way, we ask that you prayerfully consider investing in her future.

Save the Date

St. Mary Winter Ball
Saturday, February 4, 2012
Highfields Golf and Country Club
Grafton, MA

Cocktails - Dinner - Dancing
Silent Auction

For more information contact:
Cynthia George at
abcgeorge@townisp.com

May your season be touched
with the simple grace of
God’s love. Wishing all the
members of the St. Mary’s
community a Blessed and
Merry Christmas.

From St. Mary School

Saint Mary School, Grade 6
March 28, 1978, See Anyone You Know?



The Light Ceremony



In 1985, the first Light Ceremony was held at the St. Mary School 8th grade Graduation Ceremony. The Light Ceremony commemorates the seventh grade class receiving the courage and fortitude to lead the school for the following year. The departing eighth grade class passes the spiritual, academic, and fun filled light to the incoming seventh grade. The light from the candle symbolizes a passage, a growth, a readiness to spread the Word of God. This ceremony has been an honored tradition for many years at St. Mary School and will continue to be an important part of the graduation ceremony for many years to come.

May the intelligence of our students forever burn as they make the world and St. Mary School a better place for future generations.

St. Mary School sends special Christmas greetings to the Persian Gulf.

Alumnus LT John R. O'Neill '99 - United States Navy is presently serving our country aboard the USS John C. Stennis (a Nimitz class nuclear-powered supercarrier). LT O'Neill's work includes flight missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. Earlier this month the students of St. Mary School created beautiful Christmas cards for LT O'Neill to share with his fellow servicemen and women as they spend their holidays far from home. The students were extremely enthusiastic about the project and prayers for the ship's safe return have been added to the school's Morning Prayer intentions. At this time we invite you to keep John and the crew of the USS Stennis in your prayers.

The Saint Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala

The St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala brought together our school families, alumni, staff, and parishioners for a wonderful evening at Charter Oak Country Club in Hudson. There were alumni from the class of 1968 to the class of 2011.

The Gala was a wonderful celebration honoring 50 years of St. Mary School history. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Sira Naras and her committee of many volunteers that had spent months planning this



celebratory weekend. A special thank you also goes to Monsignor Michael Rose and Principal Barry for their continued leadership, especially as we head into the next 50 years at St. Mary School. Lastly, a very special thank you goes to the St. Mary School community and alumni that stay involved and remain committed to the core values and goals of St. Mary School.

Paula Curran-Hayeck
School Parent



Newsletter

"Providing the Tools To Build Faith and Knowledge"

20 Summer Street
 Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This is Your Newsletter, We Want You in It!

The St. Mary School newsletter is a great way to share your memories and to tell us your current stories. Please **consider sharing your story with us in the next newsletter.** Send us information on job promotions, community service, business ventures, awards, achievements, weddings, births, etc. Please send your updates and photographs to:
 St. Mary School / Alumni News advancement@stmarysparish.org Phone: 508-842-1601

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 Ms. Virginia S. Gregory
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Young Alumni (\$1 to \$25)

8th Grade Class Gift

Company Matches

Citizens Bank
 Travelers Foundation
 Verizon Foundation

In Memory of

Vera O'Neill
 Mr. Richard Coulter
 Mrs. Mary McGinnis
 Mr. Leo Tougas