Saint Mary's College

179th Annual

Commencement

May 16, 2026

Saint Mary's College
Welcomes you to the 179th annual Commencement

Order of Ceremony

Academic Procession

National Anthem
Sheila-Marie Manyara '26

Invocation
Maureen Karnatz Smith '85
Chair, Board of Trustees

Welcome
Katie Conboy, Ph.D.
President

Lumen Christi Award
Margaret Marion Gower, Ph.D.
Vice President for Mission

Madeleva Award
Colleen M. Hoover, Ph.D.
Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

Presentation of Valedictorian Medals
Megan Halteman Zwart, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President

Chloe Emenhiser
Emma Heffron
Maura Mack
Alaina Motes
Abigail Newton
Sophia Sainato-Pinkie
Elizabeth Stack
Morgan Zack
Leah Zimmerman

Valedictory Address
Abigail Newton

President's Medal
Katie Conboy

Citations for Honorary Degrees
Megan Halteman Zwart

Commencement Address
Anne Thompson

Citations for Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees in Course
Megan Halteman Zwart

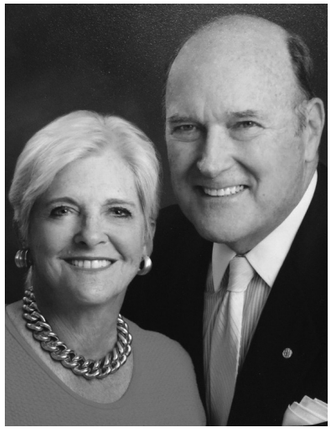
Presentation of Graduates
Tracy P. White
Director of Advising

Conferral of Degrees and Charge to the Class
Katie Conboy

The Bells of Saint Mary's
Sheila-Marie Manyara '26

Recession

Guests are asked to remain seated until the recession is complete.



Carmi and Chris Murphy

President's Medal

The President's Medal is presented rarely and exclusively to those who have offered exceptional contributions to the life of the College and society.

Carmi and Chris Murphy have dedicated their lives to being generous and positive influences who make a long-lasting impact for the greater good. They have been steadfast supporters of Saint Mary's College for decades, including funding the Murphy Faculty Award for Senior Comprehensive Mentorship and Murphy's Cafe in Angela Athletic & Wellness Complex. Carmi faithfully served on the Board of Trustees for a total of 15 years during two different terms. She also lent her expertise and leadership to several College initiatives, including the Presidential Search Committee in 2003, and the Down the Avenue Steering Committee for six years. Carmi and Chris served on the steering committee for the College's previous comprehensive campaign for seven years. During that time they graciously hosted campaign events and attended numerous campaign-related events for Saint Mary's. The College honored Carmi for her countless contributions to the institution, making her an honorary alumna, Class of 2011. She continues a family legacy: her mother, Ernestine Morris Raclin, was a member of the Down the Avenue Steering Committee and Honorary Chair in 2013 and an honorary degree recipient. Her aunt Mary Lou Leighton was an honorary alumna and a recipient of both an honorary degree and the President's Medal. Carmi is currently a member of the President's Circle, an advisory board to the President. Carmi and Chris are also deeply involved in the South Bend community, and were inducted into the South Bend Community Hall of Fame in 2013. Both have served on numerous local and state boards, and are actively involved in Chris' alma mater, the University of Notre Dame. Last year, in recognition of their contributions to the University and their service to the community, they received the Rev. Edward Frederick Sorin, C.S.C., Award, one of the University's highest honors.

Jennifer Holmgren, Ph.D.

Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa

Jennifer Holmgren is the chairman and CEO of the revolutionary carbon-recycling company, LanzaTech. Under Holmgren's leadership, LanzaTech has developed a variety of platform chemicals and fuels, including the world's first alternative jet fuel derived from industrial waste gases. Prior to LanzaTech, Holmgren was the founding VP and General Manager of the Renewable Energy and Chemicals business unit at UOP, LLC, a Honeywell company, where she was a key driver of their leadership in low carbon aviation biofuels. Holmgren has authored or co-authored 50 US patents and more than 30 scientific publications, and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. She serves on several boards and advisory councils, and her impact has been widely recognized with honors such as the Edison Achievement Award for significant and lasting contributions to the world of innovation, the William C. Holmberg Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Advanced Bioeconomy from *Biofuels Digest*, and the Presidential Green Chemistry Award from the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2023, she was named one of *Time* magazine's TIME100 list of Most Influential Climate Leaders. Holmgren earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Harvey Mudd College, her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Anne Thompson

Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa

Anne Thompson is a journalist at NBC News, serving as Chief Environmental Affairs Correspondent since 2007. Her stories appear on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas, and NBC News Now. She first joined NBC News in 1997 as a national correspondent. Throughout her acclaimed career, Thompson has covered a wide variety of topics: global warming and new green technologies, presidential campaigns, the Vatican—including the election and papacy of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo XIV—and financial and economic news. Her work has been honored with over a dozen national and regional Emmys. In 2004, she was awarded the prestigious Gerald Loeb Award for distinguished business and financial journalism for a series of reports on the jobless economic recovery. She was also part of the team that won the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Journalism Award for coverage of Hurricane Katrina. Thompson began her broadcasting career at WNDU-TV in South Bend as a general assignment reporter. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame and has been on the University's Board of Trustees since 2010. In 2019, Thompson received the Rev. Edward Fredrick Sorin, C.S.C., Award in recognition of her contributions to the Notre Dame community and beyond. This is one of the University's highest honors.

Graduate Studies

The Degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice

Pamela Elizabeth Condly
Bloomington, IN
Family Nurse Practitioner
Director: Patricia Keresztes, Ph.D.

Rose Catherine Fialkowski
Mokena, IL
Family Nurse Practitioner
Director: Patricia Keresztes, Ph.D.

Kirstin Marie Kinniry
Spencerville, IN
Family Nurse Practitioner
Director: Patricia Keresztes, Ph.D.

Shannon Kirby
Chicago, IL
Family Nurse Practitioner
Director: Patricia Keresztes, Ph.D.

Taylor Leigh Murphy
Traverse City, MI
Adult Gerontology Acute Care
Director: Jamie Bump, D.N.P.

Cara Michelle Mustafoski
Wayne, NJ
Adult Gerontology Acute Care
Director: Jamie Bump, D.N.P.

The Degree of Master of Science

Madeline F. Bailey
Saint John, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Anna Lynne Cavalier
Macomb, MI
Speech Language Pathology

Lillian Rose Frey
Grand Rapids, MI
Speech Language Pathology

Olivia Marisol Herbst
Northbrook, IL
Speech Language Pathology

Elle Maxine Houin
Plymouth, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Kassidy Kay Nicolette Longenecker
South Bend, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Lupita Luna-Tovar
Indianapolis, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Ruby Meza
East Chicago, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Grace Patricia Niego
Chicago, IL
Speech Language Pathology

Olivia Anne Pandolfi
Joliet, IL
Speech Language Pathology

Abigail M. Peterson
Granger, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Elyssa Grace Pickett-Klimek
Homer Glen, IL
Speech Language Pathology

Catherine Reynoso
Bremen, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Olivia Verice Rice
Mishawaka, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Kathleen Scheidler
Granger, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Katherine Clare Theriault
Perrysburg, OH
Speech Language Pathology

Olivia Nichole Vandall
Whitestown, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Hallie Marie Weaver
Davenport, IA
Speech Language Pathology

The Degree of Master of Science in Nursing

Gianna Alba Katherine Cammarata
Sunnyvale, CA
Nursing

Graham Kenneth Champagne
Grass Valley, CA
Nursing

Krista Michelle Dockery
South Bend, IN
Nursing

Paige Nicole Horvath
Lakeville, IN
Nursing

Mckenzie Hudgen
Walkerton, IN
Nursing

Olivia Danielle Shaw
Valparaiso, IN
Nursing

The Degree of Master of Social Work

Elizabeth Morgan Bierbaum
Fort Wayne, IN
Clinical Social Work

Hailey Marie Casares
Morocco, IN
Clinical Social Work

Rosemary Therese Enright
Chicago, IL
Clinical Social Work

René Suzanne Lampos
Oak Lawn, IL
Clinical Social Work

Jessica Arely Mejia-Abrajan
South Bend, IN
Clinical Social Work

Makayla Maria Minnaar
Spring Lake, MI
Clinical Social Work

Olivia Ann Nitchoff
Lemont, IL
Clinical Social Work

Olivia Allison Petty
Coppell, TX
Clinical Social Work

Taylor Elizabeth Ratermann
Fort Loramie, OH
Clinical Social Work

Javien Louis Smith
Atlanta, GA
Clinical Social Work

Jasmyne Jalyell Townsend
Hudsonville, MI
Clinical Social Work

Undergraduate Studies

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Zoe Ackermann
Munster, IN
Neuroscience

Alyson Anael Aguilar Morales
South Bend, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Magna cum laude

Christine Julia Alexander
Canandaigua, NY
Economics

Mackenzie Grace Althouse
Noblesville, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Sophia Marie Andalon
Marshall, MI
Psychology

Amelia Katherine Anderson
Chicago, IL
Psychology

Carolina Marie Yemoteley Andoh
Ann Arbor, MI
Psychology

Ella Reign Asmus
Niles, MI
Psychology
Summa cum laude

Kaitlyn J. Barlas
Tinley Park, IL
Literature in English/Secondary Education
Magna cum laude

Nora Battista
South Bend, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Rebecca Ann Bauer
Mt. Prospect, IL
Sociology

Clara Beatty
Saint Joseph, MI
Global Studies

Rose Mary Bednar
Shelby Township, MI
Elementary Education
Summa cum laude

Bethany Sue Berlage
Chicago, IL
Mathematics/Economics
Summa cum laude

Alessandra Littleton Besachio
Greeneville, TN
Art
Magna cum laude

Marisol Bohorquez
Streamwood, IL
Philosophy

Grace Isabel Braselton
Grand Rapids, MI
Psychology
Cum laude

Kennedy Brooks
Cassopolis, MI
Political Science

Maureen Nicole Burnham
Fort Wayne, IN
Art
Cum laude

Madisyn Marie Bussell
North Judson, IN
Communication Studies
Cum laude

Sara Jo Caniglia
Broadview Heights, OH
Speech Language Pathology
Summa cum laude

Kassandra Grace Jia Xin Chang
Honolulu, HI
Environmental Studies

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Qian Chen
China
Psychology
Magna cum laude

Madelynn Chestovich
Chesterton, IN
Literature in English/Secondary Education
Cum laude

Haylie Chiarella
Southington, OH
Communication Studies

Maria Chibucos
Chicago, IL
Sociology/Philosophy

Grace Margaret Christopher
Homer Glen, IL
Communication Studies/Humanistic Studies
Cum laude

Kyndal Christy
Valley Park, MO
Political Science

Ryann Grace Clapper
Hutto, TX
Religious Studies/Psychology/Philosophy
Cum laude

Abigail Marie Clark
Valparaiso, IN
Economics/Political Science

Alyssa Darlene Colpitts
South Bend, IN
Elementary Education
Magna cum laude

Maria Rose Coman
South Bend, IN
ISDM: Health and Human Services

Hannah Marie Cox
Cedar Springs, MI
Sociology/Psychology
Magna cum laude

Olivia Cramer-Stevens
La Porte, IN
Elementary Education
Magna cum laude

Sarah Elizabeth Crofford
Morristown, NJ
Speech Language Pathology
Cum laude

Maria Constance Dach
Sarasota, FL
Religious Studies
Cum laude

Isabella Marie Dacoba
Kalamazoo, MI
Economics
Magna cum laude

Carly Ann Davis
Dyer, IN
Political Science/Philosophy

Phoebe Elizabeth Diamond
Lockport, IL
Creative Writing/Humanistic Studies
Magna cum laude

Molly Alessandra Donaruma
Granger, IN
Environmental Studies

Sirena Scarlett Doundoulakis
Glenview, IL
History/Political Science

Taylor Doyle
New Lenox, IL
Psychology

Wiktoria Drapala
Granger, IN
Art
Summa cum laude

Abbey Ireland Duggan
Frankfort, IL
Psychology

Mary Ellsworth
Nappanee, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Magna cum laude

Chloe Emenhiser
Middlebury, IN
Statistical and Actuarial Mathematics
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Joy Chinaza Ezechikamnayo
Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria
Philosophy/Art
Magna cum laude

Karli Anne Fegan
Orland Park, IL
Communication Studies

Ryley Caitlyn Finch
Crown Point, IN
Art
Cum laude

Brigid Regina Fuller
Harrisburg, PA
Communication Studies

Adriana Anastacia Galicia
South Bend, IN
Gender and Women's Studies

Deven May Ganeff
South Bend, IN
Elementary Education

Samantha Ann Gebert
Cottage Grove, WI
Computing and Applied Mathematics

Hannah Gerner
Crown Point, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Jenna Christine Giannini
Saint John, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Maeve Gibbons
Park Ridge, IL
Communication Studies

Aracely Gonzalez
Waukegan, IL
Sociology/Spanish
Magna cum laude

Johanna Gonzalez
Highland, IN
Psychology/Music

Chancelor Ann Gordon
Austell, GA
Literature in English
Summa cum laude

Brooke Torey Greer
Chicago, IL
Communication Studies

Macy Gunnell
Plainfield, IN
Political Science/Economics

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Mandy Guo
South Bend, IN
Computing and Applied Mathematics

Lucy Hall
South Bend, IN
Art

Hailey Madison Harness
Walkerton, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Cum laude

Aubrey Kathryn Harper
Granger, IN
Physics

Ellen Rose Guitar Hartzog
Fort Wayne, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Cum laude

Kyaris Simore Hasan
South Bend, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Katherine Macy Hayes
Mount Prospect, IL
Speech Language Pathology
Magna cum laude

Jenny Elisabeth Helmer
McLean, VA
Speech Language Pathology/Psychology
Magna cum laude

Audrey Kate Henderson
Joliet, IL
Speech Language Pathology
Cum laude

Karissa Elizabeth Hinckley
Wheaton, IL
Economics

Rebecca Michelle Holm
Littleton, CO
History/Humanistic Studies
Summa cum laude

Jaelie Howard
Valparaiso, IN
ISDM: Health and Human Services

Liberty Anne Hunsberger
Edwardsburg, MI
Economics/Environmental Studies

Anne Sophia Iovino
New Albany, OH
Psychology
Summa cum laude

Jocelyn Ippel
Saint Joseph, MI
Elementary Education

Alli Elizabeth Jablonski
Petoskey, MI
Political Science/Gender and Women's Studies

Piper Jakeway
Grand Blanc, MI
Humanistic Studies

Kamilla Grace Karch
South Bend, IN
Communication Studies
Cum laude

Summer Paige Keller
Dallas, TX
Communication Studies
Magna cum laude

Colleen Rose Kepplin
New Carlisle, IN
Political Science
Cum laude

Bridget Ann Knowles
Wilmington, IL
Economics

Danielle Kraft
Springfield, IL
Speech Language Pathology
Magna cum laude

Allyson Elizabeth Krause
Carol Stream, IL
Speech Language Pathology/Spanish
Summa cum laude

Isabelle Lambert
Springboro, OH
Elementary Education

Taylor Lipp
Indianapolis, IN
Creative Writing
Summa cum laude

Annie Velma Madden
Fort Wayne, IN
Communication Studies

Julia E. Madeja
Leroy, OH
Communication Studies

Sheila-Marie Moraa Mumbi Manyara
Nairobi, Kenya
Mathematics
Summa cum laude

Daisy Martinez
Indianapolis, IN
ISDM: Health and Human Services

Giselle Yasmine Martinez
Dallas, TX
Psychology/Gender and Women's Studies

Silvana Paola Martinez Bustamante
South Bend, IN
Psychology

Chloe Rose Mathis
Coloma, MI
Psychology
Magna cum laude

Alyssa Katrina Matuza
Troy, MI
Psychology
Cum laude

Amelia Grace McCloskey
Barrington, IL
Psychology

Olivia Sarah-Jane McCormack
Grand Rapids, MI
Elementary Education
Cum laude

Caidence McDonald
Lansing, MI
Psychology/Theatre
Summa cum laude

Samantha Ann Mikitka
Naperville, IL
Elementary Education
Magna cum laude

Caroline Rose Miklavcic
Frankfort, KY
Speech Language Pathology
Cum laude

Bridget Maxine Mitchell
Columbus, OH
Psychology
Cum laude

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Mikaela Grace Molinaro
Houston, TX
Speech Language Pathology
Summa cum laude

Macie Loretta Molnar
Aurora, IL
Communication Studies

Flynn Maureen Monahan
Western Springs, IL
Communication Studies

Sofia Morelli
Indianapolis, IN
Elementary Education

Amelia Moroney
Elmhurst, IL
Political Science
Magna cum laude

Alaina Marie Motes
Salina, KS
Literature in English and Creative Writing
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Ivory Bella Muñoz
Schererville, IN
Political Science

Abigail Joanne Newton
Kirklin, IN
Computing and Applied Mathematics
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Reese Elizabeth O'Brien
Valparaiso, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Summa cum laude

Mary Claire O'Connell
Warrenville, IL
Political Science/Philosophy/Gender and Women's Studies
Summa cum laude

Caitlin Marie O'Connor
Chicago, IL
Art
Magna cum laude

Elizabeth Anne Ohman
Sault Sainte Marie, MI
Psychology/Sociology
Cum laude

Emma Rosaleen Olsick
Lemont, IL
Literature in English/Spanish

Emily M. O'Roark
Beaver Falls, PA
Creative Writing

Anna Ostrowski
Frankfort, IL
Elementary Education
Magna cum laude

Belen Pacheco-Salazar
South Bend, IN
Sociology/Spanish
Cum laude

Emily Katherine Pandolfi
Joliet, IL
Psychology
Cum laude

Gwyneth Sue Passinault
Traverse City, MI
Communication Studies
Magna cum laude

Abaigeal Grace Patnode
Flower Mound, TX
Global Studies
Cum laude

Trudi Leanne Patterson
Michigan City, IN
Literature in English/Communication Studies
Cum laude

Sara Ann Peabody
Springfield, OH
Political Science/Religious Studies
Magna cum laude

Cecelia Michelle Pooler
Elkhart, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Cum laude

Megan Suzanne Prendergast
Fort Wayne, IN
Communication Studies

Caitlin Elizabeth Price
Granger, IN
Literature in English
Magna cum laude

Nicole Quaglio
Logansport, IN
Environmental Studies

Grace Ann Rennells
Muskegon, MI
Speech Language Pathology
Magna cum laude

Alexis Jean Rialson
Traverse City, MI
Speech Language Pathology

Catalina Isabella Rodriguez
Chicago, IL
Sociology/Political Science

Kelley Lynn Rourke
Lockport, IL
Economics

Anne Helen Sableski
Dayton, OH
Elementary Education

Sophia Jean Sainato-Pinkie
Valparaiso, IN
Communication Studies
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Isabella Sandoval
Berwyn, IL
Communication Studies

Monica Schafer
Carmel, IN
Art

Lucia Thérèse Schudt
Macomb, MI
Psychology/Art
Cum laude

Patricia Mary Settlemier
North Richland Hills, TX
Speech Language Pathology
Summa cum laude

Anna Kathryn Sheridan
Mount Laurel, NJ
ISDM: Health, Humanities and Society
Magna cum laude

Mia Kathleen Shields
Oak Lawn, IL
Sociology

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Dina Elizabeth Shriver
Granger, IN
Psychology
Magna cum laude

Ashley Christine Sims
Mckinney, TX
Global Studies/Philosophy
Cum laude

Ava Elizabeth Slater
Fort Wayne, IN
ISDM: Health and Human Services

Lucy Victoria Smith
South Bend, IN
Theatre
Cum laude

Sarabeth Kathryn Spencer
Holland, MI
History
Magna cum laude

Elizabeth Stack
Downers Grove, IL
Economics/Political Science
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Ava Stengle
Lake Geneva, WI
Art

Alexis Ann Stephens
Effingham, IL
Psychology/Sociology
Magna cum laude

Catherine Mary Beatrice Stephens
Glen Ellyn, IL
Elementary Education
Summa cum laude

Abigail Grace Stombres
Fairfax, VA
Speech Language Pathology
Magna cum laude

Angelina Stupak
Bridgeview, IL
Sociology/Psychology
Cum laude

Mary Rose Sutherland
Clarkston, MI
Literature in English/Political Science

Mila Frances Swiacki
Marco Island, FL
Neuroscience

Hannah Grace Szymanski
Granger, IN
Sociology/Political Science
Cum laude

Ariane Urayeneza Akimana
South Bend, IN
Psychology

Harper Emily Valerius
Cedar Lake, IN
Economics

Montserrat Vazquez Diaz
Goshen, IN
Speech Language Pathology

Anna K. Vernetti
Stuttgart, Germany
Creative Writing

Madeline Jeanne Waibel
Duncansville, PA
Economics
Summa cum laude

Grace Anne Wasicki
Frankfort, IL
Communication Studies/Gender and Women's Studies
Summa cum laude

Mary Louise Dorothy Weber
Naperville, IL
Elementary Education
Magna cum laude

Lily Anne Wilder
Fort Gratiot, MI
Political Science/Environmental Studies

Allison Jean Wilson
La Porte, IN
ISDM: Physiological Psychology of Animal Life

Abigail Jane Wojtaszek
Hammond, IN
Theatre/Political Science
Summa cum laude

Mishelle Yepez
Goshen, IN
Psychology/Spanish

Madison Hagen Yourell
Park Ridge, IL
Speech Language Pathology

Kayli Zelinske-Mader
Owatonna, MN
Gender and Women's Studies
Magna cum laude

Leah Louise Zimmerman
Fort Wayne, IN
Speech Language Pathology
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

The Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration

EmmaLee Adkins
Osceola, IN
Business Administration

Rabija Begic
South Bend, IN
Accounting
Cum laude

Meghan Riley Bowen
Chicago, IL
Accounting
Summa cum laude

Sylvia Gabrielle Boyden
Lancaster, OH
Marketing
Cum laude

Jade Cervantes
Aurora, IL
Accounting
Cum laude

Nicole Darlene Connolly
Mokena, IL
Business Administration

The Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration

Nicole De Guzman
Naperville, IL
Marketing
Magna cum laude

Megan Elizabeth de Varona
Grand Ledge, MI
Business Administration
Magna cum laude

Isabella Dovin
Noblesville, IN
Business Administration

Theresa Broderick Farnum
Wheaton, IL
Business Administration
Cum laude

Adriana Anastacia Galicia
South Bend, IN
Accounting

Riley Quinn Gambino
Geneva, IL
Business Administration/Music
Magna cum laude

Claire Elizabeth Gannon
Atlanta, GA
Marketing

Jasleen Kaur Ghattora
Cedar Park, TX
Business Administration
Magna cum laude

Alyssa Maile Grant
Oak Lawn, IL
Business Administration

Elizabeth Ann Groth
Melrose Park, IL
Business Administration
Cum laude

Breana Maureen Harrington
Ocala, FL
Accounting
Summa cum laude

Eleanor Mary Henzel
Plainfield, IL
Business Administration

Isabella Hourani
San Diego, CA
Business Administration
Cum laude

Colleen Kacedan
Naperville, IL
Business Administration

Emma Christine Klockenkemper
Elmwood Park, IL
Business Administration
Cum laude

Sofia Ichelt Landa
Chicago, IL
Business Administration

Delaney Brook Martin
North Judson, IN
Marketing

Felicity Elizabeth Matthews
Fullerton, CA
Accounting

Mary Elizabeth McGuire
Frankfort, IL
Marketing
Magna cum laude

Sarah Ann Menker
Dayton, OH
Accounting
Magna cum laude

Leah Noelle Miller
Edwardsburg, MI
Business Administration/Economics
Cum laude

Logan Spencer Miller
South Bend, IN
Business Administration

Ava Ann Notaro
Crystal Lake, IL
Business Administration

Aris Siobhan O'Shea
Cincinnati, OH
Marketing

Anne Jane Papp
Elmhurst, IL
Business Administration

Bethany Marie Pavlov
Saint Joseph, MI
Accounting

Lydia Madeleine Poe
Shawnee, KS
Business Administration

Cadence Anne Reinert
Allentown, PA
Accounting
Cum laude

Isabelle Sherman
Fort Wayne, IN
Business Administration
Cum laude

Abigail Rose Signore
Tinley Park, IL
Business Administration
Cum laude

Ava Louise Stojkovich
Crown Point, IN
Accounting
Magna cum laude

Cordelia Vazquez
Whiting, IN
Marketing
Cum laude

Mary Kate Elizabeth Wuelfing
Rocklin, CA
Accounting
Magna cum laude

The Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

Emily Visser
South Bend, IN
Art
Cum laude

Amelia Grace Walters
Goshen, IN
Art

Mariana Zavala Almiray
Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico
Art
Magna cum laude

The Degree of Bachelor of Music

Abigail Caroline Burns
Hastings, NE
Music Education
Magna cum laude

The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Rachel Renee Adornetto
Greensboro, NC
Biology
Cum laude

Janelle Sueann Aiello
Plymouth, MI
Chemistry
Magna cum laude

Ryleigh May Alles
Fort Wayne, IN
Physics and Applied Mathematics

Natalie Anderson
Franklin, TN
Biology/Environmental Studies

Nadia Baca Arroyo
Plymouth, IN
Biology

Maeve Begley
Palos Heights, IL
Statistical and Actuarial Mathematics
Summa cum laude

Allison Bierbaum
Fort Wayne, IN
Biology

Katherine Gabrielle Comito
Des Moines, IA
Computing and Applied Mathematics

Gabriella Josephine DeLeon
Glen Ellyn, IL
Biology
Cum laude

Grace DeLong
Muskegon, MI
Chemistry
Cum laude

Wiktoria Drapala
Granger, IN
Biology
Summa cum laude

Mazie Ehler
Holland, MI
Neuroscience

Eva Elise Erickson
Verona, WI
Neuroscience

Claire Alexa Ferguson
Rockford, MI
Biology

Isabella De Reza Fernandez
Carson, CA
Physics

Audrey Fleming
Mantua, OH
Chemistry
Magna cum laude

Sophia L. Freehauf
Bremen, IN
Computing and Applied Mathematics

Morgan Grace Gear
Valparaiso, IN
Biology

Sheccid Natally Gutierrez
Logansport, IN
Biology/Spanish
Magna cum laude

Allyson Elizabeth Hager
Corpus Christi, TX
Mathematics

Mary Grace Heekin
Fayetteville, GA
Physics
Cum laude

Rachel Melinda Hensley
Fort Wayne, IN
Physics
Cum laude

Elizabeth Grace Hoeksema
Grand Rapids, MI
Biology/Art

Emmalyn Ruth Holmquist
Grand Rapids, MI
Mathematics
Cum laude

Aliciana Ilias
Dayton, OH
Neuroscience
Cum laude

Caitlin Alexandra Jaskolski
Washington, MI
Chemistry

Madison Marie Johns
Erie, PA
Biology
Cum laude

Grace Elizabeth Katsekes
Brookfield, WI
Biology
Summa cum laude

Mackenzie Erin Kelley
New Lenox, IL
Biology

Madeline Rose Kirincic
Glen Ellyn, IL
Biology
Magna cum laude

Avery Elizabeth Lazaro
Lisle, IL
Biology
Cum laude

Julia Faith Lizak
Riverview, MI
Computing and Applied Mathematics

The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Emma Christine Lombardo
Frankfort, IL
Mathematics
Cum laude

Maura Kathleen Mack
Duneland Beach, IN
Biology
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Charlotte Chieh Marran
Orland Park, IL
Chemistry

Kelsey Marie McGivern
New Lenox, IL
Chemistry
Summa cum laude

Amanda Ann Melling
East Lansing, MI
Biology
Summa cum laude

Alexandra Miller
Wakarusa, IN
Physics
Cum laude

Dhemi Lynn Mislenkov
Valparaiso, IN
Chemistry
Cum laude

Melany Morales-Garibay
South Bend, IN
Computing and Applied Mathematics
Cum laude

Meghan Mounts
Granger, IN
Biology
Magna cum laude

Emily J. Nixon
Chesterton, IN
Biology

Katherine O'Roark
Beaver Falls, PA
Computing and Applied Mathematics
Magna cum laude

Isabella Grace Perry
Niles, MI
Neuroscience

Lucia Raciti
Granger, IN
Mathematics
Summa cum laude

Lauren Jennifer Ryan
Carmel, IN
Physics

Maura Eileen Ryan
Roswell, GA
Chemistry
Magna cum laude

Kathryn MacKenzie Schneider
San Diego, CA
Physics
Magna cum laude

Makenna Louise Schroeder
Sylvania, OH
Neuroscience
Magna cum laude

Lyndsay Marie Sheeran
Traverse City, MI
Mathematics/Spanish

Gwyneth Sheffer
Pendleton, IN
Neuroscience

Sailor Ann Somerville
Sanford, MI
Physics

Sophia Thomas
La Grange, IL
Physics

Anna K. Vernetti
Stuttgart, Germany
Biology

Remington Rae Vincent
Belvidere, IL
Neuroscience
Magna cum laude

Paris Marie Cleo Viviano
Middleville, MI
Computing and Applied Mathematics

Nora Kayla White
Mattawan, MI
Biology

The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Sophie Rilyn Allen
Osceola, IN
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Elizabeth Patricia Allison
Orland Park, IL
Nursing

Mia Kathryn Armey
Auburn, IN
Nursing

Isabelle Morgan Auch
Montague, MI
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Vanesa Esperanza Barajas
Hammond, IN
Nursing

Emma Sophia Baran
Elmhurst, IL
Nursing

Abigail Anne Barrett
Crown Point, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Kaitlin I. Belden
Canton, OH
Nursing

Kaley Bognar
South Bend, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Kate Addison Bridegroom
Knox, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Hanna Michael Chaffins
North Judson, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Elena Frances Coffey
Havertown, PA
Nursing
Cum laude

Sandra Ivett Cruz
South Bend, IN
Nursing

Madeleine Garnett Dees
Great Falls, VA
Nursing

Catherine Margaret Eliason
Ann Arbor, MI
Nursing

Emma Grace Fanslau
Bridgman, MI
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Isabella Flores
Houston, TX
Nursing

Bridget M. Gaik
Tinley Park, IL
Nursing

Nora Cecelia Gannon
La Grange Park, IL
Nursing

Aleena Garrison
Fenton, MI
Nursing

Lauren Katherine Gnatt
Saint John, IN
Nursing

Hannah Mary Harnisch
Oakton, VA
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Jamie Havera
Lakeville, IN
Nursing

Emma Marlene Heffron
La Porte, IN
Nursing
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

Dana G. Herrera Figueroa
Plymouth, IN
Nursing

Jillian Katherine Jacobs
Schererville, IN
Nursing

Samantha Johnston
Sidney, OH
Nursing
Cum laude

Alyssa Josephine Kaye
Vicksburg, MI
Nursing
Cum laude

Emma Grace Kealy
Hudson, OH
Nursing
Summa cum laude

Perla Lagarde
South Bend, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Erin Elizabeth LaVigne
Muskegon, MI
Nursing
Cum laude

Lilly Barbara Malek
Portage, MI
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Sarah Mae Markley
Broomall, PA
Nursing

Callie Mae McCan
Plymouth, IN
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Elizabeth Rose McDonnell
Evanston, IL
Nursing
Cum laude

Isabel Valentina Maria Meschi
Santa Cruz, CA
Nursing

Francesca Elnora Munaretto
Western Springs, IL
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Andrea Muro-Salas
Plymouth, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Ella Frances Nolan
Chicago, IL
Nursing
Cum laude

Kaitlynn Stephanie Novak
Jeffersonville, IN
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Margaret Jane O'Brien
Elmhurst, IL
Nursing

Emma O'Bryan
Oak Brook, IL
Nursing

Clare Therese O'Connor
Frankfort, IL
Nursing

Riley Maureen O'Donnell
Chicago, IL
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Elizabeth Lorraine Pellicane
Crown Point, IN
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Anastasia Gail Pettengill
North Judson, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alyssa Jane Ploughe
South Bend, IN
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Evelyn Marie Puntillo
Saint John, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Jada Marie Reitmeier
Carmel, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Grace Alena Reyda
Penfield, NY
Nursing
Cum laude

Gianna Cynthia Rivera
Chicago Heights, IL
Nursing

Kaylee Ann Rongers
Valparaiso, IN
Nursing

Eva Marie Shepherd
Buchanan, MI
Nursing

Haley Anne Sirotek
Plainfield, IL
Nursing

Krystyna Maria Sowa
Lemont, IL
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Brynn Elizabeth Stauffacher
Osceola, IN
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Maia Rae Taubitz
Fenton, MI
Nursing
Summa cum laude

Kyla Lynn Vanda
Valparaiso, IN
Nursing
Cum laude

Christy Leigh VanderMey
Clarksville, MI
Nursing

Cristal Velazquez
South Bend, IN
Nursing/Spanish

Lucille Marie Vielee
Indianapolis, IN
Nursing

Mary Elizabeth Westenberger
Atlanta, GA
Nursing
Magna cum laude

Kayla Huynh York
South Bend, IN
Nursing

The Degree of Bachelor of Social Work

Margaret Katherine Butler
Oak Park, IL
Social Work/Psychology

Annika Grace Kintzel
Westfield, IN
Social Work

Symone Irene Cecilia Moore
Homewood, IL
Social Work

Nombuso Shawa
Niles, MI
Social Work
Cum laude

Kelly Julieann Shea
Fort Wayne, IN
Social Work
Summa cum laude

Morgan Paige Zack
Lockport, IL
Social Work
Summa cum laude
Co-Valedictorian

*ISDM – Interdisciplinary Self-Designed Major

Honors

Department Awards

Art
Saint Luke's Medal – Amelia ("Ellie") Walters
Sister Edna Service Award – Emily ("Lee") Visser

Biology
Mother M. Rose Elizabeth, CSC Award – Maura Mack and Emily Nixon
Sister M. Rosaleen Dunleavy, CSC Award – Gabriella DeLeon and Amanda Melling
George and Juanda Bick Nature Award – Wiktoria Drapala

Business Administration and Economics
Frank A. Yeandel Service Award – Cordelia Vazquez
Jerome L. McElroy Outstanding Achievement Award – Ava Stojkovich
Academic Achievement Award – Elizabeth Stack
Achievement Award (Accounting) – Meghan Bowen
Achievement Award (Economics) – Bethany Berlage
Achievement Award (Finance) – Leah Miller
Achievement Award (International Business) – Lydia Poe
Achievement Award (Management) – Mary McGuire
Academic Achievement Award (Marketing) – Sylvia Boyden

Chemistry and Physics
Mother M. Rose Elizabeth, CSC Award – Kelsey McGivern
American Institute of Chemists Award – Janelle Aiello
Richard Tarara Academic Excellence in Physics Award – Alexandra Miller
The F.Lee Benton Exceptional Service and Research in Physics Award – Rachel Hensley

Communication Studies, Dance, and Theatre
Ann Plamondon Award for Excellence in Communication Studies – Grace Wasicki
Communication Studies Service Award – Sophia Sainato-Pinkie, Gwyneth Passinault, and Grace Wasicki
Terpsichorean Award for Excellence in Dance – Kate Bridegroom
Excellence in Theatre Award – Abigail Wojtaszek
Theatre Service Award – Caidence McDonald
Katie Sullivan Passion in Theatre Award – Lucy Smith

Education
Mary A. McDermott Award – Samantha Mikitka
Grace Sullivan McGuire Secondary Education Award – Kaitlyn Barlas
IACTE Outstanding Future Educators Award – Rose Bednar, Maureen Burnham, Olivia Cramer-Stevens, and Ryley Rinch
Schmuhl Early Childhood Education Award – Catherine Stephens

Department Awards

English
Elisabeth A. Noel Literature Prize – Chancelor Gordon
The Laura Haigwood Literary Citizenship Prize – Emma Olsick
The Laurie A. Lesniewski Creative Writing Award – Taylor Lipp and Alaina Motes

Environmental Studies
Environmental Studies Award – Kassandra Chang

Gender and Women's Studies
Mary Frances Eder Halpin Award in Gender and Women's Studies – Adriana "Anastacia" Galicia

Global Studies
Outstanding Achievement in Global Studies – Ashley Sims

History
Martha Montgomery Schurz Memorial Award for Excellence in History – Rebecca Holm
Martha Montgomery Schurz Memorial Award for Excellence in the Senior Seminar Research Paper – Rebecca Holm
Martha Montgomery Schurz Memorial Award for Excellence in Writing in the Women's History Program – Sarabeth Spencer

Humanistic Studies
Thomas More Award – Rebecca Holm

Mathematics
Milko Jeglic Award – Bethany Berlage
Donald E. Miller Award – Maeve Begley and Sheila-Marie Manyara

Modern Languages
Leonilda Francesca Acerra and Dominico Enrico Christofaro Award in Italian – Elena Coffey, Lydia Poe, and Mary Kate Wuelfing
Anne Cashore Borjas Award in Spanish – Sheccid Gutierrez and Allyson Krause
The Bayhouse-Marcy Award in French – Grace Katsekes and Mary McGuire

Music
Emma Krost Eder Award for Musical Excellence – Abigail Burns

Nursing Science
Evelyn McGuiness Award for Excellence in Nursing – Isabelle Auch, Emma Heffron, and Maia Taubitz
Humanitarian in Nursing Award – Mary Westenberger
MSN Award for Academic Excellence – Graham Champagne
Outstanding DNP Practice Innovation Project Award – Rose Fialkowski

Political Science
Juliette Noone Lester Award – Abigail ("Abby") Wojtaszek
Louis R. Tondreau Service Award – Colleen Kepplin

Psychology
Animating Spirit Award – Angelina Stupak and Giselle Martinez
Joseph Miller Outstanding Scholarship Award – Ella Asmus, Annie Iovino, and Caidence McDonald

Religious Studies
Helen M. Carroll Award – Ryann Clapper and Maria Dach

Department Awards

Social Work and Gerontology
Academic Excellence Award – Morgan Zack
Leadership Award – Kelly Shea
Josephine Murphy Kuhl Research Award – Margaret Butler, Symone Moore, and Kelly Shea
Kristi A. Morris Award – Nombuso Shawa
Gerontology Award – Mackenzie Althouse
Gerontology Leadership Award – Symone Moore
Gerontology Academic Award – Mackenzie Althouse
MSW Outstanding Student Leadership Award – Javien Smith
MSW Excellence in Field Award – Rosemary Enright

Sociology
Donald N.M. Horning Award – Hannah Cox
Sociology Award – Catalina Rodriguez

Speech Language Pathology
Ancora Imparo Award – Jenny Helmer
Carolyn S. Langley Award (Graduate Program) – Ruby Meza

College Awards

Mary Ellen Smith Academic and Athletic Achievement Award
Emma Kealy

Saint Mary's College Alumnae Association 2026 Outstanding Senior Award
Giselle Martinez

Kappa Gamma Pi
National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society

Isabelle Morgan Auch
Hanna Chaffins
Nicole Rafaelle De Guzman
Ryley Caitlyn Finch
Jasleen Kaur Ghattora
Breana Harrington
Aliciana Ilias
Alyssa Kaye
Emma Grace Kealy
Colleen Kepplin
Emma Klockenkemper
Erin LaVigne
Samantha Ann Mikitka
Sara Ann Peabody
Caitlin Elizabeth Price
Gwyneth Sue Passinault
Patricia Mary Settlemier
Abigail Rose Signore
Ashley Christine Sims
Alexis Stephens
Ava Louise Stojkovich
Cordelia Vazquez
Remington Vincent
Mary Elizabeth Westenberger

Formal Academic Regalia

The formal academic regalia worn by today's graduates and faculty have their origin in the clerical costumes of medieval Europe and have evolved into a great variety of patterns and styles. Late in the last century, American colleges and universities agreed to standardize their regalia; however, there is now a movement to return to individual designs for each institution.

The gown worn by those holding or receiving the bachelor's degree is plain black with pointed sleeves. The master's gown is characterized by a uniquely long, closed sleeve with a slit at the elbow, through which the arm protruded; this peculiarity is now being replaced by a sleeve more like that of a bachelor's. The doctoral gown has very full bell sleeves and is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and stripes across the sleeves.

The familiar mortarboard cap bears only a faint resemblance to its close relative, the clerical biretta. Some institutions now specify that a soft cap somewhat like a tam o'shanter is worn. The cap worn by those with a bachelor's degree is decorated with a black tassel or a color indicative of the area of study. Those earning a master's degree wear black tassels. Those earning a doctorate wear either black or metallic gold.

Most symbolic and informative of the regalia is the hood, which is no longer raised over the head but is hung down the back just as a cleric wore it when baring the head in church. The bachelor's hood is three feet long, the master's is three-and-one-half feet, and the doctoral's is four feet long with a rectangular panel which once served as a shoulder cape when the hood was raised. All of the hoods have a velvet border in the color of the degree according to the same system used for the trim of the doctoral gown (see below).

Degree colors (tassels and hood trim)

*Arts and Humanities *White*
*Science *Golden Yellow*
*Fine Arts *Brown*
*Music *Pink*
*Business *Drab (Light Brown)*

*Social Work *Citron*
*Nursing *Apricot*
Philosophy *Dark Blue*
Education *Light Blue*
Theology *Scarlet*

Library Science *Lemon*
Engineering *Orange*
Law *Purple*

**Saint Mary's College degrees*

Other colors may be found on faculty hoods, although most hold a Ph.D. or doctorate of philosophy, so their hoods will have dark blue trim.

The colors and patterns of the satin lining of the hood identify the college or university conferring the degree; most prominent in the procession today is the light blue background and white chevron of Saint Mary's College.

Richard C. Pilger Jr.
Marshal Emeritus

Sister Madeleva's Walking Stick

The walking stick of Sister Madeleva Wolff, CSC serves as a reminder of the College's founders and sponsors, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. As one of the College's longest serving presidents, Sister Madeleva guided Saint Mary's to its status as the country's premiere Catholic liberal arts college for women, and it is appropriate that an artifact from her life serves as a link to the College's history.

Sister Madeleva associated walking sticks with the pilgrim's staff used to traverse the *Camino de Santiago* in Spain. So this walking stick also serves as a symbol of both the path our students will tread as they leave the College as pilgrims in life and the support they will need on the way.

Each new president chooses which, of the many walking sticks that Sister Madeleva collected over her life, is to be used during that president's tenure. The selected symbol leads the processions at academic ceremonies, much as a ceremonial mace does at other colleges. The stick used in the procession today is a brightly colored cane attributed to southern Mexico. It contains a series of carvings and paintings celebrating some of the cultures that melded over the years to create today's Mexico, including Aztec and Spanish images.

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Sister Veronique Wiedower, CSC ’70

**Trustee Emeritus*

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President

Peter Christensen
Vice President for Finance and Operations

Margaret Marion Gower, Ph.D.
Vice President for Mission

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Vice President for Strategy and Legal Affairs and Chief of Staff

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Vice President for Belonging

Holly C. Johnson
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Lori E. Johnson ’91
Vice President for Student Enrollment and Engagement

Megan Halteman Zwart, Ph.D.
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Mark Kubacki
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Kara O’Leary ’89
Dan Patterson
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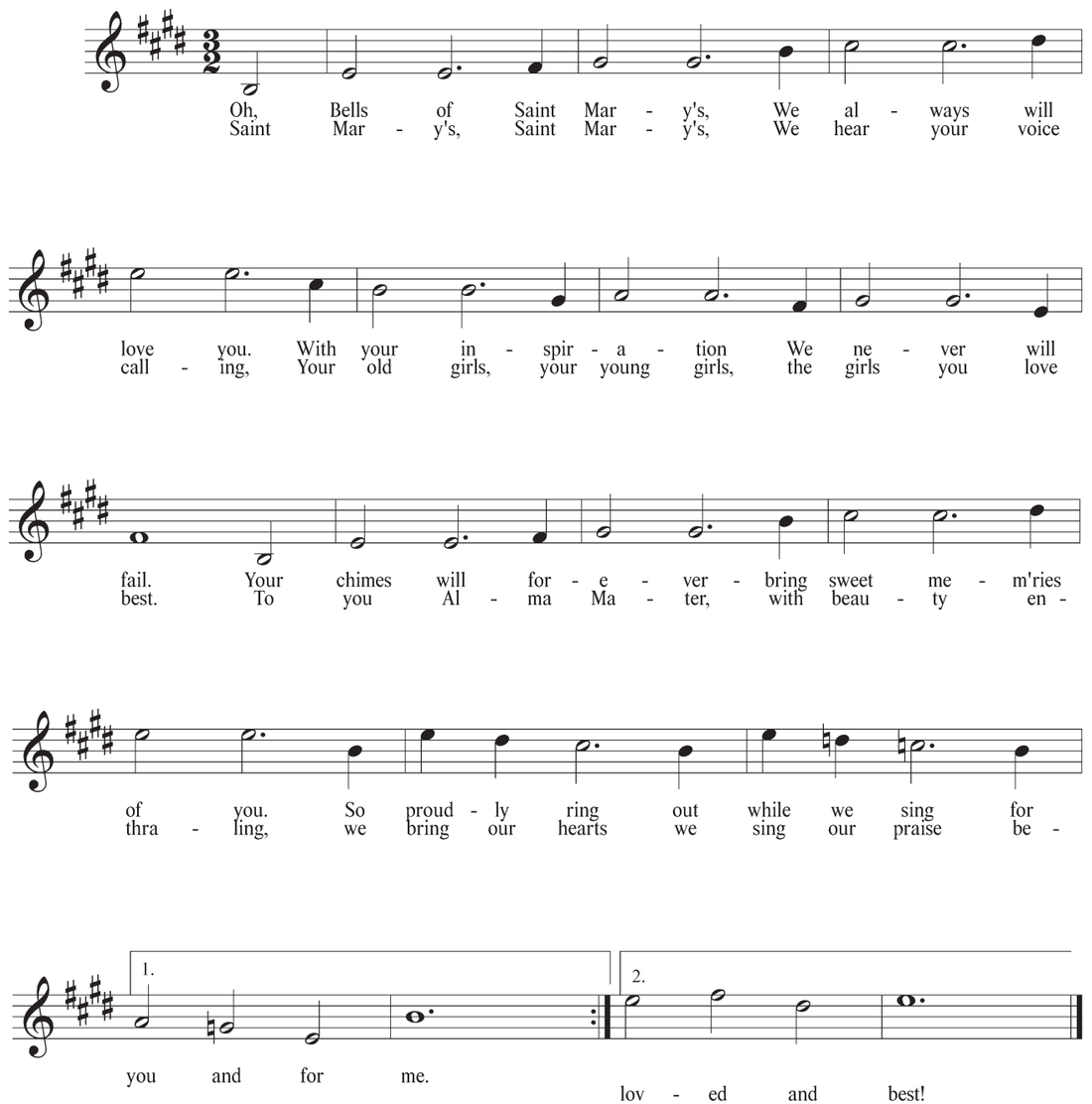
Adriana Petty ’01
Marc Poklinkowski
Sarah Pressey ’08
Melissa Rodriguez
H. Shay Jolly Schneider ’05
Gwyneth Sheffer ’26
Jesse Vogel
Juls White
Tracy White
Eli Williams

The Bells of Saint Mary’s

arr. Sprague



Mission Statement

Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1844, Saint Mary's College promotes a life of intellectual vigor, aesthetic appreciation, religious sensibility, and social responsibility. Saint Mary's is a Catholic, residential, women's, liberal arts college offering undergraduate degrees and co-educational graduate programs.

A pioneer in the education of women, the College fosters an inclusive, academic community where students discover and develop their talents as they prepare to make a difference in the world. All members of the College contribute to this mission in their response to the complex needs and challenges of contemporary life.

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose

As a center of higher education, Saint Mary's fosters an academic climate of scholarship and learning for faculty and students alike. Through excellence in teaching and the example of its own active scholarship, the faculty challenge students to expand their horizons and support them in their intellectual pursuits. A broad-based course of study invites students to think critically and creatively about the natural world and human culture. Acknowledging the need to prepare women for an array of careers, the College provides a liberal arts foundation for all students. Through their years at Saint Mary's, students acquire depth and breadth of knowledge, competence in quantitative skills and modern languages, the ability to think clearly about complex problems, and the capacity to communicate with precision and style.

As a Catholic college, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of intellectual inquiry, liturgical prayer, and social action. The College creates an open forum in which students freely and critically study the rich heritage of the Catholic tradition, raising the questions necessary to develop a mature religious life. The celebration of liturgy encourages students to explore the fullness of life and its mysteries. The College nurtures awareness and compassion for a troubled world and challenges students to promote human dignity throughout their lives. In preparing women for roles of leadership and action, Saint Mary's pays particular attention to the rights and responsibilities of women in the worlds of work, church, community, and family.

Dedicated to the personal and social growth of its students, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of students, faculty, and staff, which responds to the needs of women. In order to offer the richest educational experience possible, the College strives to bring together women of different nations, cultures, and races. It provides a residential environment where women grow in their appreciation of the strengths and needs of others. Through a host of co-curricular programs on campus and in the local community, Saint Mary's initiates students in the habits of civic responsibility. Engaging in all aspects of the college experience, students acquire the hallmarks of a liberally educated woman: keen self-knowledge, lively imagination, lifelong intellectual and cultural interests, and the ability to make socially responsible choices about the future.

Saint Mary's College
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA