



**St. Mary's Academy  
Regular Meeting of the School Board  
November 24, 2025**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Present:** Father Scott VanDerveer (Pastor), Marielena Hauser (Principal), Mike Feeder (President), Kathy McNulty (Vice President), Kate Fowler (Secretary), Janet Curley, Francine Buser, Mary Tully, Mark Olechowski, Neelo Jaikeran (PTO), James Viviani, Michelle LeMay.

**Absent:** None

**GUESTS**

Laurie Butler; Kevin Ely; Erin Ely.

**Meeting**

- Mike Feeder called the meeting to order at 5:45PM.
- Father Scott offered the opening prayer.
- Kate Fowler called roll.
- October minutes were sent out earlier. Approved.

**Pastor's Report (Father Scott)**

- **Arts Academy:**
  - The Arts Academy is growing and has been well endowed by donors. It is almost turning a profit.
  - The Academy is committed to giving \$5,000. per year to SMA, as well as the proceeds from the musical. This year, they have given \$7,000.
  - 2/22/26: The Academy's Open House. This is a major event to showcase the recording studio, the dance studio, and the rest of the Academy.
  - Over 100 students are enrolled beginning in January. Most are involved in private lessons. Classes include song writing, sound studio, and modern band.
- **Parent Involvement:**
  - Thank you to the PTO and Neelo for their work on the Thanksgiving Breakfast, which was an important and joyful event. Congratulations and thanks to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders who helped.
  - Parents Active in Catholic Education (PACE) - the requirement is 20 hours of service or \$500. The PACE hours report card was very successful and well received.
  - Monday morning Masses – we have increased security. Parents must register ahead of time to attend, and we are grateful for their cooperation.

### **Finance:**

- After the Veterans Day Celebration, we received a donation of 5,000. from a 1964 Alumnus.
- The Car Raffle is going well, but we need to meet our 1000 ticket goal. This has the potential to make 50,000. The drawing is 12/29/25.
- Last month we noted an extremely large National Grid bill, which we believed was in error. Mike Feeder contacted National Grid and adjustments have been made. A large reimbursement will be forthcoming.

### **Principal's Report (Mrs. Hauser)**

- 11/25/25: Mrs. Waters' 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are making placemats. Parents will be helping.
- 12/12/25: (9:30 AM): Walking trip to see The Nutcracker.
- Mrs. Hauser attended the diocesan principals' meeting, which presented the CSANYS workshop on caring for school administrators. It was very helpful.
- October 2025: *The Jack Reid/Protect All Students Act* was passed. It created policies to protect people who are being bullied. It requires a plan to be added to the handbook and posted in the Kerry Blue.
- The Candy Sale garnered 8,000. Profit.
- There was a concern regarding the number of students (K-1-2) simultaneously at recess. This has been addressed by implementing a rotation plan.

### **Teacher Representative Report: (James Viviani):**

- James is looking into safety grants with Stark Industry, which specializes in K-8 schools.

### **Committees/Teams**

- **Catholic Identity:** See Attached
- **Finance:** Francine LaPoint suggested using our Facebook page to invite alumni who might be interested in doing tours and sharing their experiences at Open House.
- **Recruitment & Enrollment**
- **Buildings & Grounds**
- **Grant Task Force**
- **Parent Teacher Organization (Neelo Jaikeran)**
  - 11/30/25: PTO will be decorating the Great Hall. Help is needed.
  - 12/5/25: Kids' Night Out.
  - 12/13/25: Hockey Game: church and school parking lot fundraiser. Kevin will chair this. The last time we did this, we made 1100.
  - 12/17/25: (11AM-1:00PM) Teacher Holiday Lunch
  - 2/1/26: (12:30PM-3:00PM) SMA Open House
  - The Queensbury Billiards 50/50 Raffles/Gift Card fundraiser is going well. The goal is 1500.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The Executive Session followed. The next meeting will be January 26, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kate Fowler, Secretary*

# Catholic ID Committee Minutes Monday Nov 17, 2025

## 1. Welcome & Prayer

- Attendance included: Michelle Waters, James Viviani, Kathleen Fortier, Timmy McInerney, Mary Anne Flanders

## 2. Kerry Blue Schedule: Sharing four prayers with Sally each month to add to the Kerry Blue at the bottom

- Dec: Michelle
- Jan: James
- Feb: Timmy
- March: Mary Anne F.
- April: Gerrienne
- May: Kathleen
- June: ?

## 3. Catholic Identity at SMA

- Ask Father Scott & Ms. Dove about singing the Alma Mater after the Homily during Theme Masses.
- NA received many forms back for students who plan to attend Mass this year.
- Suggestion made to edit the Saint biographical information presented at morning meeting to be adjusted to a third grade level to help the audience receiving the information to better understand.
- Information for teachers when a family/student indicates that a student wants to receive a Sacrament for the first time with a “script” that can be copied and pasted to share with families to streamline communication and assist with these conversations. Including information about the Sacraments on the school website and potentially the Kerry Blue.
- Finding ways to offer more opportunities to our students for retreats etc.

## 4. Discussion & Planning of 2025 - 2026 Catholic ID Events:

November 24 - Theme Mass - 6th Grade - Thanksgiving theme - Noah's Ark 4 year olds begin attending Mass now

November 25 - Thanksgiving Breakfast - Prayer led by 5th Grade

### **Advent Season: Activities for school and families**

- Cathy Vesterby is leading an Advent Wreath Workshop at SMA & SMA Community was invited to sign-up.
- Check that every homeroom has an Advent Wreath. Not quite sure how to help teachers in need of an Advent Wreath in terms of covering costs.
- Inform classrooms to complete an Advent Craft and share some ideas.
- Great Hall lit to match the color of the Advent candles each week
- Visual in the Cafeteria that students can contribute to?
- 3rd & 4th Grade Donation to Festival of Trees
- 2nd Grade is leading the December Toy Drive
- 5th Grade is leading a Happy Birthday Baby Jesus Food Drive and NA is doing something similar that can contribute.

December 2 - Reconciliation: Times To Be Announced

- 3rd grade

- 4th grade

- 5th grade

- 6th & 7th graders

December 8th - St. Nicholas Day (celebrating a day before the Feast Day) - Reason for this date is due to the Appointment of the New Bishop on the 5th.

December 8 - Immaculate Conception - Mass at 8:10am

December 12 - School Wide Rosary (1st period) - Joyful Mysteries

December 15 - Theme Mass - 5th Grade: HOPE

January 6th - The Epiphany: Prayer Service Information To Be Announced

January 12 - Theme Mass - 4th Grade: PEACE after birth of Prince of PEACE and Holiday season

### **Catholic Schools Week: Sunday, January 25, to Saturday, January 31, 2026 - Catholic Schools Week Activities To Be Announced**

January 23 - Locker decorating

- Timmy shared the idea of middle schoolers using the 3D Printer to make magnets this year for lockers similar to the way we decorated lockers last year.

January 26 - Student Baptisms at Mass

February 2 - Theme Mass - 3rd Grade: LOVE

February 13 - School Wide Rosary (1st period)

**Season of Lent: Activities for school and families: To Be Announced**

February 23rd - Bury the Alleluia led by 5th Grade during Mass

March 10 - Day of Reconciliation : Times To Be Announced

- 3rd grade
- 4th grade
- 5th grade
- 6th & 7th graders

March ? - Stations of the Cross (SOTC) on a Friday evening (Date To Be Announced)

March 16 - Theme Mass - 1st Grade: PRAYER

April 1 - SOTC for all students (1st period at church)

April 13th - Raise the Alleluia led by 5th Grade

April 20th - Theme Mass - Kdg.: Easter, Children of God, or God's Creation?

May 4th - Theme Mass & May Crowning - 2nd Grade

May 14 - Ascension Thursday (Holy Day of Obligation) - Mass at 8:10am

May 15- Final School wide Rosary

June 8 - Final Theme Mass - Pre-K 4-year-olds with 7th Grade: LIGHT

- Blessing during the Mass for future Buddies (rising 8th graders and rising Kindergarteners).

June 15 - Final weekday Mass of the year

June 22 - No Mass as there is NA Graduation