



## Parent & Family Newsletter

Hello Saint Mary's Parents and Families,

As the fall semester winds down and the air turns crisp, our students are entering the home stretch of the term. November is a time for reflection, perseverance, and gratitude—a chance to finish strong while looking forward to the comfort of home and the joy of reconnecting with family over the upcoming breaks. The Thanksgiving Break for undergraduate students is November 24 - November 30. Your students will start back to class on Monday, December 1, and then Finals week will be December 8 - December 11.

This time of year often feels fast-paced, with final projects, exams, and deadlines on the horizon. Even so, campus life is full of opportunities for students to pause, connect, and recharge. From seasonal events to community gatherings and wellness activities, there are plenty of ways to balance academics with moments of fun and reflection. Students can check out all events on the SMC [Events Page](#).

We're proud of all the hard work and growth our students have shown, and we're excited to celebrate their accomplishments as they prepare to wrap up the term.

Julie Scaff  
Asst. Vice Provost, Student Support Services

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## Student Health Center Services Available to All Students

The urgent care center on campus is open to all students, regardless of insurance coverage. It's here to save students a trip off campus for common medical issues. The clinic is located on the ground floor of Augustine Hall and is open M-F from 9 - 4:30. Phone: (925) 631-4254. See more information [here](#).

And if a student needs care on the weekends or evenings, they can utilize [TimelyCare](#), a 24/7 virtual medical and mental health care app that's free to all students!



## November and December Dining Information

Students should make note that there will be limited dining options during the Thanksgiving Break and the Winter Break, and residential meal plans will not be active.

- Up to date dining hours can be found on the [Gael Dining Website](#) under "25-26 Hours At A Glance"
- Students can utilize [Flex Dollars](#) at available dining locations during these periods, including the [JustBaked machine](#) we've added to the ground floor of De La Salle, providing hot food options 24/7. Students and parents can [add flex dollars here](#).



### Upcoming Events in the Dining Hall:

- In early November, special additions to our menu will include Nacho Day, Guacamole Day, and our Taqueria, served for lunch every Tuesday and Thursday in the 1928 Pub.
- Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: We will be holding our Veterans Day "All Campus BBQ" from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn.
- Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>: We will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving Buffet in Oliver Hall with Hand hand-carved turkey & Ham, with all the accompanying vegetables and sides, including Apple and Pumpkin pie.
- In preparations for finals week in December, we will be holding our annual "Late Night Breakfast" celebration as a stress breaker in preparation for finals week.

Housing & Dining  
Website

## President Thompson Delivers His 2025 State of the College Address

In what he anticipates will become an annual Fall tradition, SMC President Roger Thompson delivers the 2025 State of the College address and outlines a student-first agenda—elevating the Saint Mary's experience, advancing academic innovation, expanding access and belonging, and shaping a bold regional and global vision.



View the State of the College  
Video

# Veterans Day Celebrations on Campus

All are invited to campus to join us as we honor and celebrate the service and sacrifice of our veterans this Veterans Day. The campus community is invited to come together for a series of events recognizing those who have served in the armed forces, including a SMC Rugby game, flag-raising ceremony, a card making event in the Veteran Memorial Garden, Mass, a Campus wide BBQ and the Veteran Appreciation Night SMC Men's Basketball Game.



There will be many opportunities to connect and show support for our veteran students, staff, and faculty on Saturday, November 8 and Tuesday, November 11. Details for each event can be found on the Veteran Support Services website, scroll down to Events. Let's unite in gratitude and reflection as we acknowledge the courage, dedication, and commitment of our veterans.

**Veteran Support Services  
Website**

## Gaels Making A Splash!

Saint Mary's recently announced that they are adding Men's and Women's Swimming and Water Polo at the NCAA Division I level. These teams will begin competing in 2026-27 while head coach searches, student-athlete recruitment is already underway. "While many NCAA institutions across the country are scaling back athletics, Saint Mary's is making a bold commitment to expand opportunities for students," said President Roger Thompson. "Our new Aquatics program builds on the Bay Area's rich tradition in swimming and water polo, and affirms our belief that athletics are a vital part of the student experience."



**SMC Aquatics Program**

## November - Month of Remembrance

In the Catholic tradition, the month of November is a time to remember all our loved ones who have passed away. During each Mass in November, we will pray for our departed loved ones, and invite you to [add names for us to pray for here](#). Additionally, the Mission & Ministry Center invites you to attend our special Mass of Remembrance which will be held in the Saint Mary's College Chapel on Sunday November 16, at 8pm. All are invited to attend.



**Mission and Ministry  
Center**

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## Career Center Support

It's never too early for students to start developing the skills and confidence they'll need for life after college. One of the best ways to support your Gael is by encouraging them to attend one of our **Industry Meetups**, where they can connect with career professionals and learn about career paths.

Parents and alumni: Are you interested in getting involved in an industry meet-up in the future? Fill out this form to learn more about upcoming opportunities to share your professional insights or experience!

Fall semester upcoming Meet-Ups:

- ☐ Mental Health & Clinical Care Meet-Up • Nov. 10
- ☐ Careers in Law Meet-Up • Nov. 12
- ☐ Kinesiology Meet-Up • Nov. 18



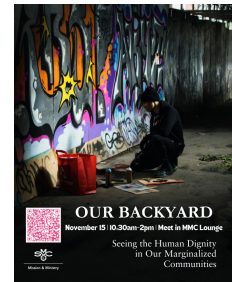
**Get Involved with Career Events**

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## Our Backyard – Seeing the Human Dignity in Our Marginalized Communities

November 15, 2025, 10:30 am- 2pm

Encourage your student to join the Mission and Ministry Center's Faith Formation team as we immerse ourselves in San Francisco, seen as a tourist destination yet also home to many experiencing homelessness and poverty. Students will experience firsthand how our society has marginalized different groups of people and understand the call to action our Lasallian Catholic tradition gives us. Transportation and lunch provided.



**Registration Link**

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## Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Experience a night of celebrating our community, faith, and culture in honor of [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#). This year we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 5 through the following events. Free food, raffle prizes, and much more! All are invited to join

us!

Danza Azteca | 5:15 p.m. | Chapel Plaza  
Procession | 5:45 p.m. | Chapel Plaza  
Liturgy | 7 p.m. | SMC Chapel  
Fiesta | 8:15 p.m. | Soda Center



## Moraga among 7 safest small communities in U.S.

World Atlas named Moraga, CA as one of the safest small communities to settle in the United States. *"Saint Mary's College of California anchors the town academically and culturally. Its Museum of Art rotates exhibitions by Bay Area painters and works from its permanent collection of William Keith landscapes."*



[Read Full Article Here](#)

## Information for Parents & Families



Staying engaged with your student's college experience helps foster meaningful support and connection. We offer several resources to keep you informed:

- Parent & Family Newsletter – Stay updated on important dates, campus events, and helpful tips by reading this monthly newsletter
- College Social Media Channels- Follow SMC on Instagram @stmarysca for real-time updates and campus highlights.
- [Parent & Family Website](#) – Access quick links to common resources including academic calendars, billing info, and campus departments in one convenient place.
- Family Weekend & Campus Events – Attend events designed to bring families into the campus community.

These tools help you stay involved while supporting your student's independence and growth. Still have questions? Email us at [family@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:family@stmarys-ca.edu) for additional assistance.

**Parents & Families  
Website**

**Click Here to View Upcoming Campus  
Events**



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