



## Parent & Family Newsletter



Hello Saint Mary's Parents and Families,

As we enter the final weeks of the Fall Term here at Saint Mary's, we know that finals can bring both excitement and stress for our students. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished this term—their hard work, resilience, and dedication shine through. As your students wrap up their courses and look ahead to a well-deserved break, we hope they find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the warmth of the upcoming holiday season. Please keep reading to find information about the final exams scheduled, dining and housing information during the Winter Break and events they can participate in these last few weeks of class.

Winter Break runs from December 15, 2025- January 5, 2026. Some families have students taking a Jan Term class, which starts Monday, January 5. Other families have students who already completed their Jan Term requirement; we will see those students back for the first day of the Spring Term on Monday, February 2.

We wish your family a joyful holiday season and thank you for being a part of the SMC Family.

Julie Scaff  
Asst. Vice Provost, Student Support Services

[SMC Home](#)

[Academic  
Calendar](#)

[Student Life](#)

[Saint Mary's  
NewsCenter](#)

[Academic  
Resources](#)

## Finals Week Information

Finals Week is right around the corner! The last week of classes is 12/1-12/5 and Finals week is Monday 12/8-Thursday 12/11. There is a general final exam schedule, which can be accessed at the button below, but your student should always check with their professor to make sure the professor is following the SMC Final Exam schedule or if the exam will be a different day.



**Academic Support is still available!** If your student is stressed about a final

research projects, Librarians are here and ready to help! The library can work with students to refine their topics, find credible sources, and cite their references. Please remind your student they can drop by the reference desk in the library, [chat with a librarian online](#), or [book a research appointment](#).

Finals Week Study Spaces: If your student needs a place to study for exams or finish those final projects, the Library is open [extended hours](#) until 1 a.m. Saturday night through Wednesday night of finals week.

## Final Exam Schedule

## December Dining Information

Students should note that there will be limited dining options during the Winter Break, and residential meal plans will not be active after breakfast on Friday 12/12.

- 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 Event in the Dining Hall:

- The annual "[Late Night Breakfast](#)" celebration as a stress breaker in preparation for finals week will be on Monday, December 8, from 9:00pm-10:30pm. Encourage your student to go to Oliver Hall for late night breakfast, it is FREE for all students.

## Housing & Dining Website

## On-Campus Housing Information for the Holidays

[Click here to view recent communication](#) sent to residential students about the upcoming break.

- 24 hour quiet hours begin Dec. 5 so that students on campus have quiet time to study and prepare for their final exams.
- Winter Break- Residence Halls close Friday, 12/12 at 12pm. Students can keep items in their room; students who need to stay on campus between 12/12 and 1/4 should contact the Housing Office to fill out the request form.



- Residence halls reopen at 9am on Sunday 1/4 for students to return to on-campus housing.

## Housing & Dining Website

## Fall 2025 Brother Camillus Chávez ILaLS Student Award Recipients

The Institute for Latino and Latin American Studies (ILaLS) is delighted to announce the recipients of the Fall 2025 Brother Camillus Chávez ILaLS Student Award. This award honors the legacy of Brother Camillus Chávez, whose lifelong commitment to equity, advocacy, and the empowerment of Latinx students has left an indelible mark on our community.

The students recognized this semester exemplify the spirit of service, leadership, and academic excellence that Brother Camillus championed.

The Institute for Latino and Latin American Studies (ILaLS) is proud to recognize the following students for their leadership, academic excellence, and community engagement:

*Mitchell Larrieta Angeles, Yesenia Cacho, Rebecca Carranza, Ava DeFranco, Victor Flores, Atanacio Garcia Jr., Lola González, Christopher Keyler, Elena López, Amanda McCarthy, Regina Molitoris, Tonatzin Ogunleye, Paola Quintero, Mia Sánchez, Brandon Valerio, and Rose Velásquez.*



## Institute for Latino and Latin American Studies

## Study Abroad

Did you know that Saint Mary's offers 16 study abroad programs each semester? Students pay Saint Mary's tuition (there is no additional fee to study abroad!), while earning Saint Mary's credits, and receiving financial aid. This means students can stay on track to graduate, while utilizing their financial aid and learning more about the world and themselves.



Students typically return from a semester abroad and say it was the best thing they have ever done. Not only do they gain knowledge but they grow in independence, self-confidence, and adaptability. Angelica Mendoza Buncio, a senior Finance major, summarized her experience in My Semester in Rome: a Semester of Learning, Culture and Growth



(please link to attachment).

To learn more, visit the [Study Abroad website](#) or reach out to [studyabroad@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:studyabroad@stmarys-ca.edu).

## Study Abroad

## Library Updates

On Friday, December 19, Saint Albert Hall Library will close its doors, and services will be temporarily relocated to allow for a long-awaited, full-scale renovation—one that will reimagine the library as a dynamic hub for study, collaboration, research, and discovery.



We anticipate that the renovated library will reopen in Fall 2027. When it does, it will feature:

- Flexible, student-centered spaces designed for both quiet study and group collaboration;
- An expanded Learning Lab, Graduate Commons, and additional study rooms;
- A refreshed environment that showcases student and faculty scholarship;
- Innovative spaces, including areas dedicated to games, exhibitions, and creative expression;
- Improved HVAC systems, new sprinklers, better accessibility, and seismic upgrades to improve overall safety.

In the meantime, library services will remain fully available. Beginning Monday, February 2, 2026, an interim library space will open in the Power Plant, offering a service desk, technology checkout, course reserves, study rooms, and a curated collection for browsing. For more information and to stay up to date on progress, you can go to the SMC Library Homepage at the link below.

## Library

## Giving Tuesday is Tomorrow!

**Tuesday, December 2**

Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday—a global day of generosity that supports Saint Mary's students and the transformative power of an SMC education.



## Giving Tuesday

---

## Winterfest is Coming!

On Saturday, **December 6** from 4-7pm on the Chapel Plaza, we will hold our annual WinterFest Event. It is **FREE** for all students. Encourage your student to take a break from studying for finals and come over to enjoy all of the wintery event offerings: There will be an ice skating rink on the Chapel Lawn, a mini-tree farm, a photo booth, a make your own Christmas craft table, s'mores, gingerbread house making and food from the Curry Up Now Food Truck (food truck voucher available for current SMC students). All students are welcome!



### Winterfest Event Information

---

## 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



---

## Noyce Scholarship Opportunity for STEM Students

The Robert Noyce Scholarship Program at Saint Mary's is funded by the National Science Foundation and offers scholarships to help recruit, support, connect, and sustain transformative STEM teachers in local middle and high schools.

- 17 Noyce scholars will be selected over 5 years (2023-2028).
- Students can begin as a scholar in junior, senior, or +1 year and scholarship funding continues through end of the +1 (credential/Master's in the Art of Teaching) year.
- The [Noyce Scholarship](#) is offered to SMC STEM students pursuing their single subject teaching credential



It's an excellent opportunity and students can attend a Noyce Scholarship Online Information Session on Tuesday, December 2nd at 5:00 pm. [Learn more and register](#)

[at this link.](#)

## Noyce Scholarship Information

## 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**



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, you can unsubscribe by clicking the Unsubscribe link below.

Family Programs | 1928 Saint Mary's Road PMB 4238 | Moraga, CA 94575 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!