



Parent & Family Newsletter



Hello Saint Mary's Parents and Families,

March brings a welcome shift on campus as longer days and warmer weather invite students outside and breathe new energy into the semester. Tulips are blooming in several areas on campus and outdoor furniture throughout the campus is ready for students to spend more time outside. Our athletic teams, including basketball, softball and baseball, are having exciting seasons, and their successes have created a wonderful sense of pride and momentum across campus. It's a great time of year for students to recharge outdoors, celebrate our community, and cheer on their classmates who represent the college.

March can be a challenging stretch in the academic calendar. As midterms approach, many students find themselves balancing heavier workloads, upcoming exams, and the pressure to perform well. It's common for stress and fatigue to build during this time, and students may feel pulled in many directions. This moment in the semester is also an important reminder that academic success is closely tied to well-being. Encouraging students to take care of themselves—getting enough rest, staying connected with friends and family, taking breaks, and asking for help when needed—can make a meaningful difference as they navigate midterm challenges and continue moving forward in the semester.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Housing application for 26/27 Academic Year: March 3-March 24
- Grad Fair: Tuesday, March 10
- Undergraduate Midterms: March 16-20
- Spring Break (No classes): March 30-April 6
- Returning Students Room Selection for 26/27 Academic Year 4/7-4/9

Thank you for being a part of our community!

Julie Scaff
Asst. Vice Provost, Student Support Services

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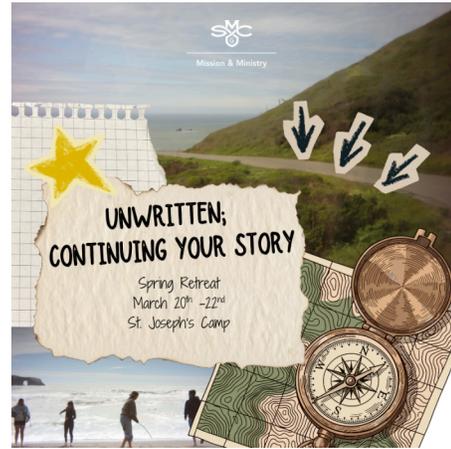


Spring Retreat | Unwritten; Continuing Your Story

March 20 - March 22, 2026

Students will take a break from daily life to explore what brings them joy, reflect on where their passions meet the world's needs, and connect with others asking the same questions.

Location: St. Joseph's Camp | Duncans Mills, CA
Retreat Fee: \$45 (cost should NOT prevent students from going on retreat)



[Spring Retreat Registration](#)

Commencement 2026 Schedule and Information

GRAD FAIR:

Tuesday March 10 from 10:00am-7pm in the Soda Center
Students registered to participate in the commencement ceremonies can come to pick up their regalia, order custom stoles and more!



Graduate and Professional Studies Commencement Ceremony

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Commencement Liturgy

Friday, May 22, 2026 | 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 22, 2026 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Students have received an email with information about how to register to participate in the May Commencement ceremonies. Students should fill out that form by **3/2/26** and questions can be directed to the Registrar's Office at registrar@stmarys-ca.edu
- To ensure compliance with fire safety codes and to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all attendees, we kindly ask that each graduate limit their guest count to **no more than 12 guests**, based on the venue's maximum capacity of 7,000. There are no physical tickets needed to enter the event
- The Grad Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 10am-7pm in the Soda Center. At the fair, students will pick up their regalia and their guests' tickets.
- Registration for 2026 Cultural Graduate Celebrations will open in March 2026 and more information about these celebrations will be included in the March edition of the Family Newsletter

[Commencement 2026 Website](#)

Career Center Spring Events

The Saint Mary's Career Center is hosting several events this spring to help students prepare for internships, jobs, and life after graduation. Encourage your student to take advantage of these opportunities to build connections and explore career paths.

Career Launch Week – March 9, - March 13, 2026 -

A series of hands-on workshops designed to help students prepare for our spring career fairs. Students will work on their resumes, polish their LinkedIn profiles, and practice how to introduce themselves to employers.



Education & Counseling Fair – March 17, 2026

Meet representatives from school districts and organizations recruiting students interested in careers in education and counseling.

Spring Hiring Fair – March 25, 2026

Connect with employers hiring for full-time, part-time, internship, and on-campus opportunities across a variety of industries.

Real Talk with Alumni – April 21, 2026

Students can meet Saint Mary's alumni and hear honest insights about launching a career and navigating life after graduation.

Reminder for graduating seniors: All seniors are expected to complete a **Senior Career Conversation** with a Career Counselor to discuss their plans after graduation and prepare for the transition beyond Saint Mary's.

Students can learn more and register for events through **Handshake**.

Career Center

Campus Safety Updates

Safety is a shared responsibility and a continuous mindset we should all practice—whether on campus, at home, or traveling to and from school. The more we stay aware of our surroundings, the more natural and effortless this awareness becomes. Please help remind your students about the following:

- Report suspicious activity immediately to Campus Safety. If you see something, say something.
- Serve as an active bystander to help prevent violence. Learn more through the Green Dot program.
- Remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Use the buddy system, especially when traveling at night.
- Lock your vehicle doors at all times, even when parked near your residence, and choose well-lit parking areas.
- Remove or conceal valuables inside your vehicle. If storing items in your trunk, place them there before arriving at your final destination.
- Do not prop open residence hall doors or allow unauthorized individuals to enter behind you.
- Limit distractions from mobile devices so you can stay aware of your surroundings and those around you.



□ Report burned-out lights and other hazards to Campus Safety promptly.

While many members of our community report feeling safe on campus, it is important that we continue taking these precautions seriously. By working together, we help maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone. A Safe Campus Secures Healthy Futures!

Campus Safety

Library Open at the Power Plant

While Saint Albert Hall is undergoing renovation, the Library has moved operations and select collections to the Power Plant building across campus.

The Power Plant is now bustling with students studying, working on group projects in the study rooms, printing assignments, borrowing course reserves and tech items, browsing books, and getting research support from librarians. Students can find us here until the Saint Albert Hall Library reopens in Fall 2027.



Library Services and Support at the Power Plant

Housing Application Now Open for 2026 - 2027

Campus Housing has opened the **2026–2027 Academic Year Housing Application** for returning students. The application is available **March 3 – March 24**, and students who plan to live on campus next year should complete their application and form roommate groups before the deadline.



Returning student room selection will take place April 7–9 in person in the Moraga Room at the Soda Center.

To help students prepare, Campus Housing is also hosting **Roommate Finding Mixers on March 10 and March 17**, as well as opportunities to learn more about housing options and the room selection process.

Families can encourage their students to review the housing process and complete their application early. Helpful resources and links are available below:

Helpful Links

- [Housing Application & Process](#)
- [Residence Halls & Room Types](#)
- [Housing & Dining FAQs](#)

For questions, students can contact **Campus Housing** at housing@stmarys-ca.edu.

[Housing & Dining Website](#)

Saint Mary's Night at the SF Giants on May 5

Saint Mary's Night at the San Francisco Giants is back! Join us on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, as the Giants take on the San Diego Padres.

Each ticket includes a **co-branded roped hat** and a seat in the Saint Mary's section of the **bleachers**.



This is one of the Gael community's favorite events of the year and often sells out. See you at the ballpark!

For questions on this event contact:
Office of Alumni Engagement & Events
alumni@stmarys-ca.edu, 925.631.4200

[Purchase SF Giants Event Tickets](#)

March Madness!

Your SMC GAels are rolling into March on a high note!

- [Gaels Clinch Program Record Fourth Straight WCC Regular Season Crown](#)
- [Three Gaels on Named First Team All-West Coast Conference and One named to All-Freshman Team](#)



- [Gaels Kickoff WCC Tournament in Semifinals](#)

Gael Athletics

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 for additional assistance.

Parents & Families Website

[Click Here to View Upcoming Campus Events](#)

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