Saint Mary’s College of California
Self-Guided Tour

A. Parking for your tour – You may park anywhere in this lot without a permit. There are four spaces reserved for prospective students across from the Admissions Office in front of Brother Jerome West Hall.

B. Brother Jerome West – Welcome! Please come in! Admissions and Financial Aid are both located here in BJW, open from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday-Friday, so please stop in and say hello. We would love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have.

C. Assumption Hall (Only viewable from outside, exterior doors are locked) – Assumption is a freshman residence hall, reserved for students admitted with Honors and/or students interested in math or science. There are three student mentors living in the building, one from the sciences, one from the liberal arts, and one from mathematics. The Resident Director, Prof. Chris Jones (known to his students as “Jonesy”) is a Mathematics professor. His wife, Mary Volmer, is a Saint Mary’s graduate who founded the Honors Program.

D. Galileo Hall (walk all the way through and continue straight out other end) – A great education challenges everything you think you know. With Newton and Einstein, Pascal and Euler, here students of physics, math, and astronomy study to the edge of human knowledge. Check out classrooms, the seismograph, the math fractals digital display, and posters put up by the Psychology Club and the Liberal and Civic Studies department. The math pedagogy center, on your left as you enter, hosts the free math tutoring services Sunday through Thursday night in a helpful and comfortable environment.

E. Statue of Saint John Baptist de La Salle (walk straight out of Galileo hall) – Saint John Baptist de la Salle, the patron saint of teachers, founded the Christian Brothers in 1680, giving up everything he had as a nobleman in order to dedicate his life to providing education for the poor and working class of France. The Christian Brothers today continue his work in over eighty countries worldwide, from the jungles of Papua New Guinea to the politically unsettled deserts of Palestine, all the way to Saint Mary’s College of California. There are twenty-six Brothers living on campus and working as administrators, faculty, and staff, so stay alert as you walk around, because you never know when one of them might change your life.

Now turn around and check out our school’s only entrance and exit and wave to our Public Safety officers inside the small hut. There is an officer posted inside this hut 24/7. Public Safety, while responsible for the security of our campus, is also in charge of parking. Any student may have a car and park for FREE on campus. If you don’t have a car, don’t worry! The bus stop at the front of campus can take you where you need to go, including the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) stations in
Orinda and Lafayette, and runs until 1:00AM. Want to go to Berkeley or Walnut Creek? Pier 39 in San Francisco is only 30 minutes away!

F. **Dante Hall** (walk straight ahead from the statue, and walk all the way through) – This building holds two of the programs that make Saint Mary’s totally different – Collegiate Seminar and January Term.

a. **January Term** (stop just inside the door of Dante to see the JanTerm displays) – Every student must take four JanTerm courses. During JanTerm you take one class, two-and-a-half hours per day, four days per week, for the whole month of January. Whether on or off campus you’re bound to see – and do – some amazing things. JanTerm encourages students to go outside of a major and push their own limits. On campus, courses run the gamut from social and political issues to food and culture. You could spend your days learning Mandarin or hiking the woods with a pack of llamas for your travel journalism class. If you’re really ready to explore uncharted territory, consider one of the travel courses. Recently, Saint Mary’s students have traveled to India to study entrepreneurship among the less affluent; gone deep-sea diving in Micronesia to investigate the coral reefs; and followed in the footsteps of Saint Paul, from Israel and Palestine to Rome. If you check out the map just inside the door of Dante Hall you’ll see all of this year’s travel courses, and the display case next to it usually has artifacts and photos students have brought back from their JanTerm travels.

b. **Seminar** – It’s a simple idea: read and discuss the world’s greatest thinkers. If you glance into room 119 you’ll see the training ground. Seminar will teach you to think critically, to listen to others’ perspectives, to argue effectively, and to see the complexity in every issue. Along the way, you’ll converse with the best minds to have ever written—from Aristotle to Austen, from Luther to Darwin. Our graduates often say, ten years down the road that Collegiate Seminar prepared them in a way no lecture class ever could. The colorful murals on the walls depict Dante’s *Divine Comedy: Paradisio, Purgatorio*, and the *Inferno* – a seminar book every SMC students gets to read.

G. **Saint Albert Library** (outside of Dante to the right) – Saint Albert Hall is open until 1 AM during the regular school year, and 3 AM for finals. Saint Albert Library houses more than 200,000 volumes, 100,000 print and electronic periodicals and over 50,000 research bases. We also have Link+ (a consortium of major collections nationwide) which allows our students access to more than twelve million additional items. With ample study spaces on the second floor always buzzing with students getting ready for their next exam, and the computer lab downstairs (both Macs and PCs), Saint Albert Hall is one of the busiest places on campus when term papers are due.

H. **Filippi Academic Hall** (As you exit the library, go right, turn right at the corner, and head down the road. There is a patio area at the entrance to this building) – As you wander through one of our newest buildings on campus (completed in January ’08), peek through the huge windows on the classroom doors and get a sense of what really goes on in a class at Saint Mary’s. These are ‘lecture’ style rooms, but with an average class size of 20, most classes are more like conversations anyway.
Filippi houses the Kalmanovitz School of Education, but look at the schedule next to the door to see everything that happens in a room during the week. Biology, English, Business, and Sociology are just a few of the other departments utilizing the newest academic building on campus. In Filippi’s south wing you can find the Tutorial and Academic Skills Center (TASC) where students can receive free tutoring services. Classes here are tough, but when you need a little extra help just drop into TASC and Saint Mary’s will provide you a tutor, a note taker, or whatever else you might need. Student Disabilities Services also operates out of TASC, helping students with extra needs to stay in the academic game.

I. **Ground floor of Augustine Hall** (Walk down Filippi’s hallway and exit any door on the left. You will come out looking across the courtyard at Augustine Hall) – If you need any kind of support – physical, spiritual, emotional – you never have to go far. The trained professionals at the Counseling Center are always available to provide caring, culturally sensitive counseling services. Don’t forget New Student and Family Programs as well as the Academic Advising Center, to get the academic support you need. Sick? The Health and Wellness Center offers free and friendly medical services for students. Transitioning into life at college might not be easy or painless, but with the accomplished, supportive staff at Saint Mary’s, you can be assured you won’t have to do it all alone.

J. **First Year Residence halls** (walk up the courtyard and turn right towards campus) – De La Salle Hall in the middle, Augustine on the right, Aquinas on the left, Mitty beside Aquinas, and Justin behind Mitty; these are the other five of our first year residence halls, and we can pretty much guarantee you’ll love yours. Every room comes with the basics: furniture, a personal landline, wifi, and cable. Each floor is staffed by a trained student Resident Advisor as well as a staff or faculty Resident Director. The RAs coordinate community activities, like movie screenings or indoor skydiving, and act as informal mentors. They know the ropes, and they’re great listeners! Brothers, faculty members, coaches, administrators (even President Bro. Ron Gallagher!) are available as RDs to lend an ear or offer advice. Take a minute to go into the ground floor of De La Salle Hall and check out the student lounge, late night café, and game room. Campus Activities Board and the Residence Hall Association usually have posters advertising their upcoming events, like taking students to the West Coast Conference basketball tournament in Las Vegas or hosting a comedian in Dryden Hall on a Friday night.

K. **Ferroggiaro Quad** (exit the front door walk diagonally to your right towards Ferroggiaro)—Ferroggiaro is the student hang out. Ferroggiaro offers students a variety of things to do. Catch an award winning play at LeFevre Theater or show your Gael pride with one of the sweatshirts from our Barnes & Noble bookstore. Next to our bookstore is Delphine Intercultural Center (The IC), which commits itself to educating the campus about cultural competence, identity development, and social justice. IC programs and services are designed to explore the broad definition of culture and affirm the human worth of all individuals. You can participate by planning, producing, singing, dancing or acting in one our 5 Cultural Nights. You can serve in a leadership role or join one (or more!) of our many clubs.
Ferroggiaro also holds the caffeine center on campus, Café Louis, our daytime café where students can get a coffee on their way to class, meet with a professor about homework, or grab a quick bite to eat with a friend. On Wednesdays Ferroggiaro hosts ‘Community Time,’ from 12:30-2:15 which includes a free BBQ for everyone on campus, entertainment, and no classes scheduled. Saint Mary’s encourages community interaction and Wednesday BBQs offer just that. Imagine a line of students, staff, and faculty, shoulder to shoulder, down Ferroggiaro walkway, tables and chairs filling the quad, and picnic blankets lining our many lawns. You will never be bored if you head to Ferroggiaro.

L. **CILSA** (continue down Ferroggiaro walkway until you’re in front of the CILSA window.) – Service isn’t required at Saint Mary’s, but for most of our students it’s just second nature. The Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA) dedicates itself solely to providing service opportunities for students. Tutoring at the Lasallian Educational Opportunities Center, JumpStart programs at Saint Martin De Porres School in Oakland, or gardening right on campus at Legacy Garden are just some of the kinds of service work students engage in at Saint Mary’s College. If you’re interested stop in and ask about service opportunities happening now.

M. **Chapel Walkway** (turn right past CILSA and head towards the chapel) – As you walk down Chapel Walkway look at the buildings as you walk by. Cassin Student Union has a new workout facility for students and is conveniently located near our dining hall. Freshman fifteen is a thing of the past. Or if you’re not there to workout you can enjoy a comfortable study area with new couches, chairs, and tables and get tomorrow’s seminar reading done. Dryden Hall, right next to Cassin, is the overflow eating area for our dining hall but it is not limited to just that. The Campus Activities Board organizes many free events ranging from GaelCinema where we see movies before they go on DVD to pottery nights filled with hot chocolate and snacks to tie-dye nights creating color filled masterpieces.

N. **Oliver Hall** – Oliver Hall, our only dining hall on campus, is where the whole community comes together at mealtime. It may look a little Harry Potter-ish, only our tapestries don’t move. People come up to us all the time and ask, “How’s the food?” Well, quite frankly, it’s excellent. From Chef Clarence’s omelets at breakfast and the made to order Buffalo Chicken salads at lunch to the General Tsao’s stir fry at dinner, everything here is made fresh. Stop in for a meal and check out the wide range of options, including the vegetarian station which features food grown in Legacy Garden right here on campus. Just be careful on the way in, because the bakery is right at the entrance!

O. **The Chapel** (enter and exit the front door; it is okay to take pictures) – Whether you are Catholic or not, you are welcome to go to one of our daily masses offered here throughout the week. A popular mass among students happens just before finals where Brother Ron blesses our brains helping to prepare us for the coming week. You are more than welcome to stop into the Office of Mission and Ministry (M&M) just next door. The Catholic Church is at the forefront of social justice movements around the world, and that definitely comes out here. Through M&M students have opportunities to immerse themselves in social justice, a key component of the culture here at Saint Mary’s. From a weekend New Student Retreat to immersion trips at immigrant communities in Arizona, the M&M
helps shape the attitude in our students that the world is a place they have the power to change for the better, and we give them the tools to do it!

P. **Br. Alfred Brousseau Hall** (turn right from chapel, head down the stairs, and along the pathway) – Welcome to our science building. As one of the newest buildings, students who study science at Saint Mary’s have some of the newest lab technologies available to them. With labs capped at 16 students you are guaranteed an incredible, hands-on experience. Professors here will push you to do better than you think you can, and the six small group study rooms in this building are perfect for rising to the challenge. Every year, at least a third of our students conduct research with a professor, and since our graduating class of 2009 we’ve had 100% placement of pre-med majors into medical school. Wherever you see yourself after college, Saint Mary’s can take you there. You’ll have the chance to live and breathe your subject matter, and you’ll gain valuable real-world experience in your future field.

Q. **McKeon Pavilion** (go through Brousseau and look right) – What is a Gael, anyway? When one’s charging down the field at you, you’ll know, but in the simplest terms, it is a Gaelic speaking knight. We currently field 14 NCAA Division I teams and we are a founding member of the West Coast Conference. The most followed sport in the WCC is Men’s Basketball, and our Gaels know how to win! As a student you are eligible to join our GaelForce club on campus to get tickets to the student section at games and a new t-shirt every year! Our t-shirts are always red, always say GaelForce on them, and are ALWAYS worn on game days! School spirit at SMC is unparalleled, so grab your GaelForce shirt and some red and blue face paint, and get to the McKeon Pavilion!

R. **Madigan Gym** (across the street from Brousseau) – Both Club and Intramural sports are run out of Madigan, and we are turning heads all over the country. In 2008 Men’s Rugby finished 2nd in the nation, and in spring of 2012 defeated Berkeley’s rugby team for the first time in 30 years. Similarly, Men’s Crew and Men’s Lacrosse also had championship showings in 2008. If intercollegiate isn’t your style, jump on an intramural team and just have some fun. Students on campus participate in dodgeball leagues, basketball, softball, football, soccer, and other sports. Additionally, Madigan Gym is available all day for students to drop in; there is a cardio center upstairs, and a swimming pool next door. On the weekends, Outdoor Adventures runs excursions to places like Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, and the American River.

S. **Power Plant** (The building with the smokestack, just down the road from Madigan) – After your run on the treadmill at Madigan head over to the Power Plant to do some heavy lifting. When we came to Moraga, Saint Mary’s was the only thing around, so we dammed Las Trampas creek to make Lake La Salle and ran a power plant here on campus. During World War II, the US Navy took over campus and made it the west coast flight training school. Uncomfortable with being dependent on a stream for power, the Navy had East Bay Municipal Utility District run power and water to campus, eliminating the need for the Power Plant. Today, the building is a weightlifting facility available for any Saint Mary’s student and it is a constant reminder of the history present on our campus.
T. **Brother Jerome West** (continue walking down the sidewalk until you reach BJW) – We are back to where we started! We hope you enjoyed your campus visit. If you have more questions, please don’t hesitate to call or email us (925.631.4224; smcadmit@stmarys-ca.edu), or drop into the office. To get back to your car, simply continue down the road past Assumption Hall and you will see the parking lot directly ahead. Thanks for visiting! We look forward to seeing you back on campus soon!