



## OLD ST. MARY'S BLUE RIBBON FUND



*"We shall know more, love more, and do more, if we be more."*

*- Founder of the Paulist Fathers, Isaac Hecker*

The mission of Old St. Mary's School is to prepare students to be productive, responsible and impactful members of the world community. Old St. Mary's was named a [National 2019 Blue Ribbon School](#) by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of exemplary teaching and learning.

Old St. Mary's School (OSM) was established in 2004 by a group of committed parents who wanted their children to be able to attend a Catholic elementary school in the burgeoning South Loop, Old St. Mary's Pastor Fr. Frank DiSiano, CSP, and our school's first principal, Barbara Smith. Steadfast in their shared vision and leadership, they laid the foundation for Old St. Mary's School and welcomed 18 students in our first year.

In 2007, Old St. Mary's launched its "Phase II" Capital Campaign, *Traditions Shaping Tomorrow*, to construct a new school building. More than 500 parishioners, parents, neighbors, businesses, friends and school children donated to the campaign. Doors to the new school opened in 2011.

Even before Old St. Mary's held its first commencement, it was evident that the success of the school had exceeded expectations. The new school building was beautiful, but lacked a gym and the Parish needed a modern gathering space. Parishioners, parents, friends, and neighbors again came together for "Phase III" to raise funds to grow our community and build the *Petermann Parish Center*, which opened in 2016.

Old St. Mary's enrollment has grown every year since opening our doors. Over 500 children - from preschool through eighth grade - now call Old St. Mary's home. Old St. Mary's alumni are excelling in high school, and OSM's earliest graduates are thriving at top colleges throughout the country.

In 2019, Old St. Mary's has established a Blue Ribbon Annual Fund to support the school's highest funding priorities each year. In 2021, the Financial Development Committee reviewed and evaluated OSM's fundraising efforts. In the hope to build on those efforts effectively and efficiently, while continuing to meet the needs of the OSM community now and into the future they have consolidated the fundraising platform into [The Blue Ribbon Fund for Old St. Mary's School](#).

The vision for the Blue Ribbon Fund remains the same, to support and empower exemplary teaching and learning at Old St. Mary's. The fund supports OSM's strategic priorities as designated by the Financial Development committee and approved by the school principal and parish pastor.

For the 2021-2022 school year, OSM remains committed to two strategic priorities that are not fully covered by our tuition dollars to:

1. support our teachers through enrichment activities to reward their personal commitment and professional development.
2. support our families via tuition assistance.

Each generation of Old St. Mary's families is called. Founding families led. Alumni families, along with many of our current families, supported our growth. And we look to our current families to help shape our next calling as we work to provide high quality, faith-filled education to all our families.