



Dear Saint Michael's Community,

On behalf of myself and all the members of the Society of St. Edmund, I would like to extend our Christmas and holiday greetings to members of the Saint Michael's College community around the world in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, born in Bethlehem more than two-thousand years ago.

In extending these greetings, I am well aware that it happens at a time of great upheaval in the Holy Land of Jesus' birth, in our own United States, and in many other places throughout the world.

Yet it was into such a world that our Lord himself was born in order to give us hope. Here, we must remember that during the first Christmas, the situation was not far removed from that of today. Nevertheless, in the midst of such difficulty, the Angel appeared to the shepherds announcing a message of hope and joy for all the world: "Fear not: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

This is the divine message of hope and peace that Christ's Nativity inspires within us, even in the midst of challenges. Those associated with Saint Michael's College know well how strong the spirit of a community is and how communities come together and emerge even stronger. May you and all of your communities feel that strength as we enter together into this season of light and hope.

Fr. Michael R. Carter '12, SSE



Saint Michael's Researchers Uncover Brain Waste System Linked to Alzheimer's

Researchers from Saint Michael's College and the University of Vermont have identified a "waste canal system" in the human brain that, when swollen, contributes to Alzheimer's-related neurodegeneration. Inspired by studies

on spider brains, the team linked structural abnormalities in this system to hallmark pathologies like amyloid plaques and tau tangles. Supported by the Vermont Biomedical Research Network, the collaboration involved faculty, students, and institutions, with findings published in *The Journal of Comparative Neurology*. This breakthrough offers new insights into Alzheimer's disease, affecting over 50 million globally, and opens promising avenues for therapeutic development targeting brain waste management.

[Read about their research >](#)

[Read more about the researchers >](#)

Give the gift of a Saint Michael's Education!

Through 2024, Ben Mottola '90 is matching all gifts to Saint Michael's Fund Scholarships, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100,000!

[Make your gift today!](#)





Merry Christmas SMC!

The SMC Children's Christmas Party was a joyful celebration filled with holiday cheer and community spirit! The event was a resounding success, bringing smiles to countless little faces. A special thank you to Deb and Clayton Johnson, proud parents of Hattie Johnson '06, for spreading festive magic as Santa and Mrs.

Claus. Their warmth and enthusiasm lit up the room!

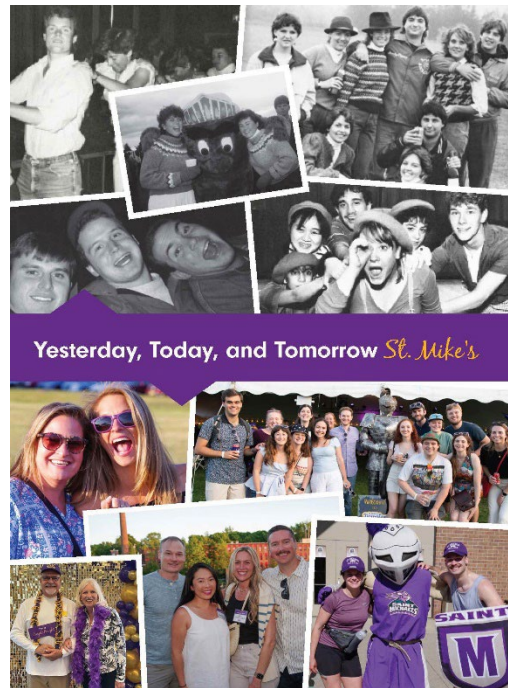
We are also deeply grateful to Kylee Legg '25 and Amy Hyleen '25 for their exceptional leadership in organizing student volunteers who made the event run smoothly. Their dedication truly captured the Christmas spirit and ensured a memorable experience for all. Thank you to everyone who joined in to make this celebration so special!

[Check out photos from the event >](#)

Mark Your Calendars for Reunion 2025, June 6-8!

This year we are celebrating those classes ending in 0s and 5s. Don't miss the opportunity to revisit your best St. Mike's memories, make new ones, and catch up with classmates and the entire SMC community. Class reunion chairs will be reaching out shortly (if you haven't heard from them already) to [join the committee](#), discuss your class gift, and help all make plans to return home for Reunion.

Additionally, Alumni of the Year Awards are presented each year at Reunion to recognize those graduates who have distinguished themselves in years of faithful service to the College to both promote SMC and live its mission. This year we are pleased to introduce a new [Alumni of the Year submission form](#) to capture nominees from reunion classes to celebrate next June and ensure that all classmates have a chance to nominate. The Alumni Board of Directors will review all nominated Purple Knights and vote on the award winners. **Awardee submissions must be received by February 28, 2025.**





Sitting Down with the Plumbs

Join us as we sit down for the final video of this three-part series with the 18th President of Saint Michael's College, Richard Plumb, and his wife, Mary. In this video, President Plumb discusses the initiatives he has implemented so far and what he sees as the future of St. Mike's.

[To view the full interview >](#)

Great News from SMC Athletics!

Saint Michael's College earned a [top-three ranking](#) in NCAA Division II in student-athlete graduation rate for the 12th straight year in 2024, as data released by the NCAA late last month revealed the College's student-athletes achieved an Academic Success Rate (ASR) of 97% for the most recent cycle. The College matched Thomas Jefferson University for third in ASR among more than 300 Division II schools for the 2014-17 cohort taken into account. Saint Michael's posted at least a 97% showing for the 17th straight cycle.



[Stay up-to-date on all things PK Athletics >](#)



All Things MOVE!

This semester was beautifully full and the weeks went by very quickly. From September to now, MOVE has been filled with students signing up and showing up, laughter, learning, and a lot of community engagement. Our incredible student leaders have again offered consistent opportunities to serve our community, both on and off campus. This fall we brought an excellent Hunger and

Homelessness Awareness Week to campus integrating service, presence, activism, awareness building, justice, spirituality, and participation. The creativity of our student leaders and collaboration of wonderful community partners helped MOVE's mission to truly shine that week. As we transition into a well-deserved break, we are also excited to start the spring semester with our annual winter service trips to Florida; Louisiana; and Buffalo, NY. We are also looking forward to continuing to serve the community and work towards justice in a variety of ways. And, we look forward to sharing more about National Volunteer Month as April gets closer. Until then, be well and enjoy the winter season.

Best,
Lara Scott, Director of MOVE

SMCFR News: Longmeadow Welcomes Chief John Rigney '98

John Rigney '98 has been appointed Fire Chief of the Longmeadow, MA, Fire Department, marking a significant milestone in his 26-year career with the department. Rigney, a Saint Michael's College alum and former member of Saint Michael's Fire & Rescue, credits his college firefighting experience for sparking his passion for public service. Reflecting on decades of change and growth, Rigney is excited to build on his predecessors' achievements, emphasizing teamwork and continuous improvement. "I couldn't be happier," he shared, expressing his eagerness to lead what he calls "the best department in the area."



[Read more about Rigney's plan for the department >](#)



Save the Date for Spring Career Connections!

We're excited to announce Spring Career Connections (formerly the Career Symposium) on **Friday, March 7**, an afternoon of networking and professional development for Saint Michael's students. Hosted in partnership with the Alumni Board of Directors, Alumni and Family Engagement, and the Boucher Career Education Center, this event connects students with alumni eager to share

insights and support their career growth.

Event Schedule:

- 12:00–2:00 PM | Alumni Employer Spotlight Tables & Table Talks with Alumni Experts (Alliot Student Center)
- 3:00–4:00 PM | Keynote Speaker (Roy Room, Dion Student Center)
- 4:00–6:00 PM | Networking Reception (Archway Lounge, Dion Student Center)

How can you help? Please complete our [alumni interest form](#) to let us know how you'd like to participate in the day!

Questions? Contact Director of Alumni & Family Engagement Stephanie Snell at ssnell2@smcvt.edu or x2057.

Update your Contact Info!

Attention parents of current students! Please help us keep your contact information up to date by completing [this brief survey](#).





St. Mike's is in Champlainopoly!

Looking for a fun and unique gift for your Vermont-loving friends this holiday season? Cathedral Arts has released a Lake Champlain version of Monopoly and features SMC as a property! Available at 7 different retailers in the Burlington area and online.

[Read more about Champlainopoly and how to purchase >](#)



Upcoming Events

events@smcvt.edu

Schedule of Events

In addition to the events highlighted below, we have plans in the works in a city near you! Keep an eye on our [events calendar](#) as details are confirmed. Interested in planning an event in your area? Email events@smcvt.edu.

December 18th: NYC Knights! Join Molly Moore '11 and your New York City club in celebrating the holiday season at Jasper's! [RSVP today.](#)

January 5th: It's that time of year again; St. Mike's at the Boston Bruins! Join your fellow Purple Knights as the Bruins take on the Islanders at 6pm; gathering at the Greatest Bar before the game. [Get on the ticket waitlist here!](#)

March 7th: Save the date for the Alumni Board of Directors' Spring Career Connections event! More info to come soon.

June 12th-25th: The Saint Michael's College Heritage Tour: In the Steps of Father Armand Prevel, [learn more and sign up here!](#)



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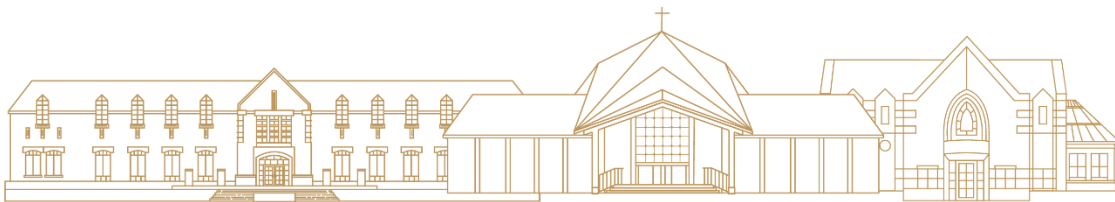
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