

5-4-2020

May 4, 2020: President's Announcements, Commencement News, Giving Tuesday

Saint Mary's College of California

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President's Announcements, Commencement News, Giving Tuesday

1 message

SMC Campus News <news@stmarys-ca.edu>
Reply-To: news@stmarys-ca.edu

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 4:58 PM



May 4, 2020

President Donahue Addresses SMC Community



Normally at this time of year, we would be gearing up for the various festivities and ceremonies that bring us together as a community and celebrate academic achievement. Unfortunately, we will not be able to share in those festivities this spring, but we have much to celebrate. I have never been more proud of our Gael Family. I know that you — our faculty, staff, and students — have gone above and beyond to adjust to distance learning and working remotely from home. We recognize that this transition was not easy and appreciate your steadfast commitment to academic excellence even in the face of far-reaching disruption. Because of each of you and because of all of us, we are ending this semester with strength, grace, and an even more resilient Lasallian community.

Welcome Home: Fall Housing and Community Life

We currently anticipate opening residence halls and townhouses for occupancy in the fall, provided it is safe to do so. We are preparing for a modified program that offers housing for incoming first-year students and continuing students, taking into account the anticipated need for continued social distancing and preparation for a possible virus resurgence.

Financial Planning

As we prepare financially for next year, our overall goal is to be able to continue to provide a high-quality, transformative education for our students. Our focus for next year has been on attracting and retaining students, but, as with most universities, we anticipate enrollment falling short of our original projections. Our leadership is proactively engaged in modeling various budget scenarios, and the Budget Committee, which is composed of faculty, staff, and administrators, is actively involved in discussing and analyzing possible strategies for aligning expenses with projected revenues.

[Read More](#)

Commencement Weekend and Class of 2020 Website Announced



We are pleased to announce a new, in-person **Commencement weekend** of December 11–13! While the details are still being ironed out, we ask you to please mark this date on your calendar.

We also understand that many of you were looking forward to commemorating the successful completion of your academic journey this month. That's

why on May 23, we will launch the special Class of 2020 website, which will honor and recognize the graduating Class of 2020. The website will feature a recognition page for each undergraduate and Graduate and Professional Studies student participating in Commencement. Students will also be given the opportunity to submit additional information to their page, such as a photo, personal quote, a favorite SMC memory, and links to their social media accounts.

[Submit your info to the Class of 2020 today!](#)

[Learn more about Commencement plans here.](#)

We Stand With Our Gaels on #GivingTuesdayNow

Tomorrow, May 5, our Saint Mary's community will join people around the world for **#GivingTuesdayNow**, a global day of giving and unity created as an emergency response to the hardships caused by COVID-19. Our Gael family will be supporting our students by making gifts to the President's Emergency Fund. [Please consider becoming an advocate and sharing this campaign to help spread the word!](#) We hope to make a big impact to support all our Gaels in need.



If you are currently enrolled in an academic degree program at Saint Mary's College, you are eligible to apply for emergency assistance from the **President's Emergency Fund**. [Read More](#)

Falling or Flying: A Virtual Dance Film Collective



Saint Mary's Dance Program presents *Falling or Flying: A Virtual Dance Film Collective* of works choreographed by the SMC faculty and students. Log on Saturday, May 9, at 4 p.m. to watch the show, and join us for a live talk back with the faculty choreographers at 5 p.m. Please contact tms8@stmarys-ca.edu to get the Zoom link. Also, if you would like to make a donation to the Dance Program in lieu of buying tickets to this show, please click [here](#).

Prof. Anne Carpenter Reflects on Faith in the Time of COVID-19

"These challenging days call up our deep reserves of personal belief and authentic living," said Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, PhD. Associate Professor Anne Carpenter, PhD, of the Theology and Religious Studies Department has offered reflections of her own understanding of the Catholic tradition, which you can read at the College's Bishop John S. Cummins

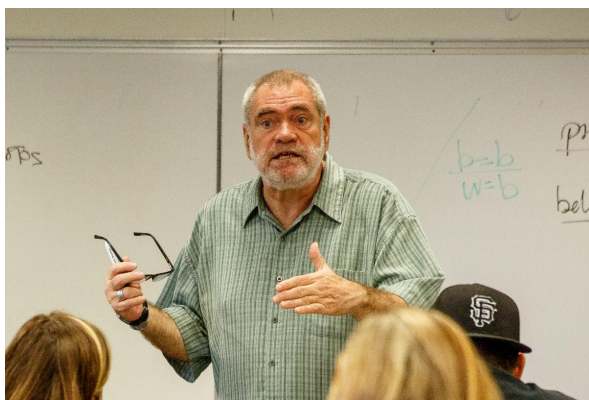
A black and white photograph of a rosary. The rosary features dark, round beads strung together. It includes a large, dark crucifix with a figure of Christ on the cross. There are also several medallions: a large circular one with a religious scene, a smaller circular one, and a rectangular one. The rosary is laid out on a fabric with diagonal stripes.

welcome to pray this rosary alone, or if you prefer to pray virtually with others please see the schedule of virtual group sessions on the Mission and Ministry Center website [here](#).

HR News provides updates for SMC employees every two weeks on issues such as management tips, wellness activities, and benefit updates. It also shines a spotlight on staff activities. This week's edition focuses on the talented folks within Student Life. [Read More](#)



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=038ea28ed9&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1665806312621743555%7Cmsg-f%3A1665806312621...> 4/8



Brother Mark McVann, FSC, PhD, passed away yesterday at John Muir Hospital due to complications related to minor heart surgery. Brother Mark, of the Midwest District of the Brothers, taught in the Theology and Religious Studies Department at Saint Mary's for the past 20 years. His academic research included the Gospel of Saint Mark and, in recent years,

regional devotion to the Virgin Mary; he was the author of more than 90 religious articles and essays; and for many years he edited *Listening*, an academic journal. Brother Mark delivered biblical lectures across the globe and will be remembered fondly by generations of students for his passionate teaching of the Bible. [Read More](#)

Save the Date: Interfaith Service for Faith May 13

Join us for a virtual **Interfaith Service for Hope** on May 13, at 2 p.m. (**#gaels4hope**). Leading up to this prayer service, the Mission and Ministry Center will share glimpses of how members of our SMC community are finding and cultivating hope in the places they are sheltering in place. Keep an eye out on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter! [Read More](#)



View - Student Art



Professor Laura Miller of photography course ART004 asked students to create photographs that reflect their current shelter-in-place experience by exploring inside/outside and public vs private space. The results are stunning. The piece above is by Megan Gallegos '20. See more photos by following [@art004.smc](#) on Instagram.

This Week on Virtual Campus

(Please check [Events](#) for changes.)

- 5/4 - Dance Party with DJ Ducci
- 5/4 - Virtual Pet Therapy
- 5/5 - BA in Leadership & Organizational Studies Information Session (On...
- 5/5 - Information Session: M.S. in Finance (ONLINE)
- 5/6 - ChangeMakers | Supporting Non-Profits and Small Businesses During...
- 5/6 - APIA Heritage Month Hosts a Zoom Movie of Tigertail
- 5/6 - Information Session: Professional MBA (ONLINE)
- 5/6 - Student Involvement & Leadership Virtual Office Hours
- 5/6 - SDS Virtual Open Office Hours
- 5/6 - Afternoon Craft Conversation with Marie Mutsuki Mockett
- 5/6 - {Virtual Program} Managing Uncertainty
- 5/6 - Dinner & Discipleship - Together Online!
- 5/6 - RCIA Meeting - Zoom
- 5/6 - Creative Writing Reading Series with Marie Mutsuki Mockett
- 5/7 - Information Session: M.S. in Business Analytics (ONLINE)
- 5/7 - Information Session: Graduate Business (ONLINE)

- 5/7 - Information Session: M.S. in Accounting (ONLINE)
- 5/7 - DANTE FINDS HIS WAY
- 5/7 - Administrative Services Credential Online Session
- 5/8 - Gael Cocktail Party Live from Auburn Lounge
- 5/9 - Information Session: Global Executive MBA (ONLINE)
- 5/9 - Falling or Flying: Virtual Dance Film Collective

[Events](#) | [Student Organizations Activities](#)

Religious Services

- Sunday Mass in the Chapel. [View the schedule.](#)

De La Salle Reflection

- [For the week of May 4](#)

Go Gaels - Senior Spotlight



Senior Spotlight: Jackson Hawk and Abhishek Bastola

Jumping back to the tennis courts, we chatted with two more of the five men's tennis seniors—Jackson Hawk and Abhishek Bastola. Hawk has spent all four years in Moraga while Bastola was a junior transfer coming from UT Arlington. [Read More](#)

Did You Know?

Gael Pantry Introduces #FoodPantryFridays



During this uncertain time, we want to ignite our community with something fun, interactive, and creative to look forward to each week. **We are announcing Gael Pantry's #FoodPantryFriday.** Every Friday, you can look forward to a video and/or a recipe from a member of our SMC community. Or make your own video! [Read More](#) and [Watch Video](#)

Do you have a little-known tidbit or story about Saint Mary's? Send it to [Campus News](#).

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Major learning. Minor pretense.

