

2025 - 2026

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

TOGETHER WE GROW

Principal

Mr. Michael J. Friel

Assistant Principal

Mrs. Katherine Schultz

Chairman of the Board

Martin Yapur

Regional Parishes

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish
Darnestown

St. Mary's Parish and Shrine
Barnesville

St. Paul Catholic Church
Damascus

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
Gaithersburg

Mother Seton Catholic Church
Germantown

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
Gaithersburg

Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church
Poolesville



@mon_catholicschool



Mary of Nazareth
Catholic School



@MoNCatholic_Sch

Mission

Mary of Nazareth School prepares children for lives of service to God and neighbor, through a rigorous academic program rooted in the faith and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, as professed in the Creed, celebrated in the sacraments, lived in Christian virtue and affirmed in prayer.

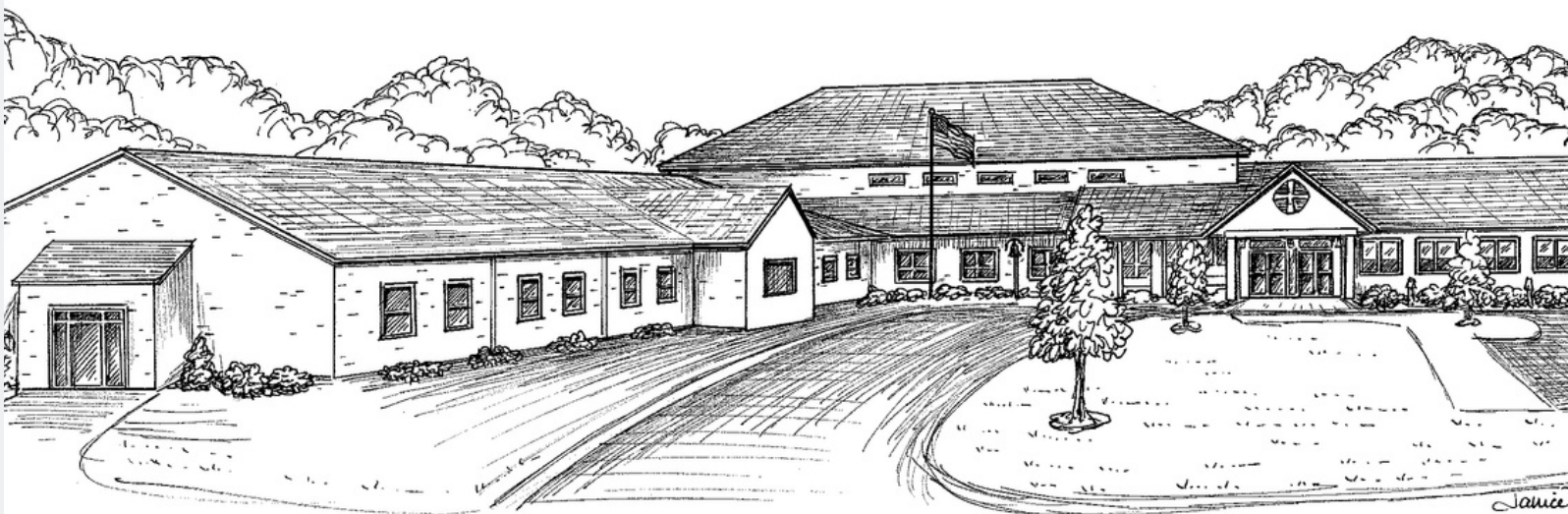
Philosophy

Mary of Nazareth School is a Christ-centered environment where each child, nurtured by the parent, parish and educator, is encouraged to follow the example of Jesus in all aspects of life. Our students thrive in an environment of regular worship, service, daily prayer, devotion to Mary, and consistent reference to the word of God. We welcome diversity among our inclusive student body and stress the unifying concepts of tolerance, love, and respect. Students are encouraged to seek knowledge through the teachings of the Catholic Church and apply those teachings to daily life.

Mary of Nazareth School is comprised of three age-focused programs: early childhood, intermediate and middle school. Within these programs, teachers collaborate to develop and strengthen relationships. These interdependent relationships within the school community are fostered through the leadership of administrators.

The curriculum of the Archdiocese of Washington is viewed from a Catholic perspective, with a central love for the wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit. The faculty is aware that the manner in which we model our love of God and the Church encourages our students in their own search for lasting faith. Families of our students and their individual parishes continue to foster a love for Christ and a respect for education. Parents are the primary educators; in partnership, teachers and parents strive for the overall success of each student.

We are dedicated to providing students with a well-rounded curriculum, which focuses on the spiritual, developmental, emotional, cognitive, and physical well being of our students. Recognizing the multiple learning styles and diverse needs present in each classroom, the educators differentiate with a variety of resources, teaching methods and assessments. Through reinforcement, praise, and consequence, we foster enthusiasm for education. As a result, our students develop inner confidence to make choices that positively impact their world.



Why We Give to Mary of Nazareth

THE ESCANO FAMILY

Dear MoN Family,

I can still remember standing at the horseshoe, looking at the main building of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School (MON) with a mix of emotions, unsure of what to expect as my husband and I walked with our son, who at that time was just five years old. This year, he is part of the graduating class.

We are the Escano Family, and we are honored to have been selected as Chairs for the 2025–2026 Annual Giving Campaign. We would like to share with you why we love being part of the MON school community.

My husband and I were both educated in Catholic school environments. Together, we decided to follow the same path for our children. We chose Germantown, Maryland, as the city to settle in when I finally became pregnant. Our Catholic faith and a quality education are both especially important to us. When we began searching for a school, a friend highly recommended Mary of Nazareth Catholic School. We are very thankful she did, because we not only found a school but also a great community. We have learned through the years that being part of MON doesn't stop at the classroom doors.

The moment we entered the school grounds, it was love at first sight. We felt very secure driving down the long entryway, adorned with beautiful landscaping. We met with Mrs. Wray, who gave us a warm welcome, and the rest is history. We knew in our hearts that this was the place where we wanted our children to grow; not only academically, but with a strong Catholic foundation. Through the years, under the leadership of Principal Friel, we met the wonderful and exceptional faculty and staff who made our hopes for our children a reality.

As Mary of Nazareth celebrates 30 years and looks ahead, the school has already produced notable alumni who have gone on to help build strong Catholic communities. We are excited for our children to join their ranks, continue their journey with MON, and finish strong. Developing a strong foundation for our children starts with us. We must help MON strengthen its programs and continue its mission of providing academic excellence. We challenge you to reflect on how the school helps shape our children, and why it is important to give back. All of us can and should work together, because it is our children's future that is at stake. The Annual Giving Campaign is one way to help, by providing MON with the extra resources it needs to invest in our children's education.

Another meaningful way to support the mission and strengthen the community is by donating your time and volunteering in the school. Seeing your children interact with their friends, engage in activities, and participate in the classroom are just a few joys that come with being involved.

As we continue to support MON as a community, we encourage everyone to participate in this year's Annual Giving Campaign. MON has been here for 30 years not just because it is a great school, but because of a community, like ours, that fully supports it. Let us be proud of our school because truly, there is no place like MON!

Sincerely,
The Escano Family
Santi, Class of 2026
Belle, Class of 2030



GRANTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & AWARDS

2024-2025 Volunteer of the Year

JACKIE BENKO

Mrs. Jackie Benko is a devoted mother of four, with three children attending Mary of Nazareth School. For years, she has been an outstanding volunteer, serving as a room parent, Chair of the annual Back-to-School Picnic and Breakfast with Santa, and Vice Chair of the Sports Committee. Recently, she transformed our track and cross country program, boosting participation and leading the team to a remarkable 2nd Place finish at the CYO Championships. Jackie is a selfless volunteer whose dedication has made a lasting impact on our community and enriched the experiences of our students. We are grateful for her contributions.



2024-2025 Business Partner of the Year

GRINGOS & MARIACHIS

Gringos & Mariachis and The Miranian Family display an abundance of generosity and partnership toward our Mary of Nazareth school community. Year after year, they graciously sponsor school events designed to build our school legacy and expand offerings to our families. Their eagerness to provide delicious meals for our faculty and staff is always greatly appreciated, nourishing our team while building morale. Their continuous support of the Home and School Association's (HSA) Restaurant Nights creates community building, allowing families to share meals while raising funds for the school. We are immensely grateful for their commitment to our mission and school community.



CBN Grant

SMART TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHER COLLABORATION & GROWTH

Our grant from the Catholic Business Network provided SMART Board technology to support the development of our Collaboration Hub and enhance our Teacher Professional Development. This space plays a crucial role in our renewed efforts to build cohesive instructional teams and provide state-of-the-art technology for effective collaboration and skill-building. Our goal is to create a workspace that is both functional and relaxing, designed to foster innovation, teamwork, and professional growth. By investing in this project and providing MoN with the funds for a SMART board, CBN has contributed to the success of our Catholic educators thereby improving the quality of education of students.

From the Board

MARTIN YAPUR

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Mary of Nazareth Community,

This past year, our community celebrated a remarkable milestone, 30 years of forming students in faith, knowledge, and service. From our humble beginnings in 1994 to the thriving school we are today, our roots remain firmly grounded in the Catholic tradition and strengthened by the dedication of families, faculty, and benefactors who believed in creating a place that would shape generations.

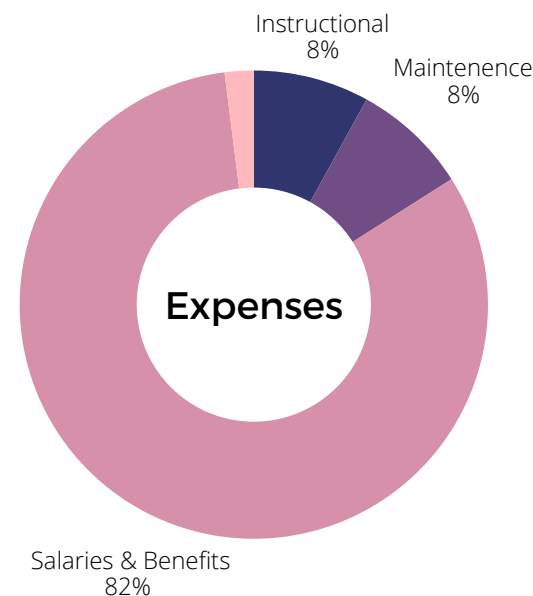
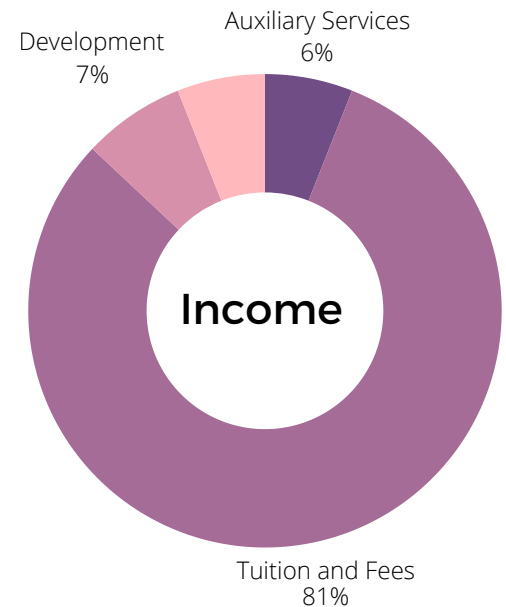
As a new school year unfolds, let us embrace the journey with open hearts. We will share in one another's struggles, rejoice in each success, and strengthen our faith along the way. By keeping Christ at the heart of our community, we ensure that every decision and every action reflects His love.

I am pleased to report that our school continues to grow as enrollment has increased by 54 families; Mary of Nazareth continues to be one of the most affordable Catholic schools in Montgomery County. Through your participation, we raised \$103,257.63 during our 2024-2025 Annual Giving Campaign and later in the spring, we raised a staggering \$239,524 during our "Party Like it's 1995!" Benefit Auction. Your continued generosity allows us to invest in MoN personnel, technology, and facilities in ways that make Mary of Nazareth such a special and unique place. The community's generosity has included extraordinary gifts from retired staff and alumni families. These generous gifts are not only a blessing for the school but a testament to how MoN has positively impacted many lives for so many years.

As we look ahead, we know our story is still being written. The 2025-2026 Annual Giving Campaign supports everything that makes Mary of Nazareth exceptional: our outstanding teachers, rigorous academics, dynamic faith life, enriching extracurriculars, and safe, a joyful campus environment. Every gift, large or small, helps us continue to grow in excellence while keeping tuition accessible for families and helping us achieve our goal of 100% participation.

Your support is more than a gift, it is a lasting investment in the next 30 years of Catholic education at Mary of Nazareth. To our new students and families, we offer a heartfelt welcome. You are becoming part of a community rooted in faith, strengthened by tradition, and united like a family. Here, you will find a place to learn, grow, and flourish. To all our families, old and new, welcome back! May this school year be filled with God's abundant blessings as we walk together in faith, knowledge, and service.

In Christ's love and unity,
Martin Yapur
Chairman, Board of Directors



Alumni Spotlight

Bailey Guessford

CLASS OF 2019

Bailey Guessford graduated from MoN in 2019 armed with the education, skills, and self-confidence to pursue her dreams. She attended St. John's College HS where she excelled academically and in sports. She graduated with a 4.3 GPA and four WCAC Championship rings, 2 for Varsity Soccer and 2 for Varsity Ice Hockey. Focused on achieving her dream of attending the US Naval Academy, she began the grueling process of Plebe Summer just weeks after graduation and immediately knew she was where she was meant to be. She chose Cyber Operations as her major and was a freshman walk-on for the Navy Women's Hockey Team. She is on the Commandant's List for her academic achievements and was selected for a prestigious internship at the National Security Agency. She serves as Brigade Investigating Officer and is an Honor Congress Member. Her training has taken her on destroyers in the North Atlantic, submarines in the Pacific, into the desert with Marines, and soaring above the California coastline in T-34's. Bailey will graduate in 2027 and hopes to service select Naval Aviation. She looks forward to a long career in the US Navy, protecting and defending the greatest nation on earth!

Dr. Joseph Pechacek, M.S., M.D.

CLASS OF 2001

Joe Pechacek graduated from Mary of Nazareth in 2001 with the curiosity, drive, and strong academic foundation that would carry him into a life of service through medicine. He went on to earn a B.S. in Biology from The George Washington University, an M.S. from Georgetown University, and his M.D. from the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and went on to complete clinical fellowship in infectious diseases at The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Joe is currently an assistant research physician at the NIAID, where his research is centered on understanding the host factors that influence susceptibility to fungal infections. His goal is to improve the care of patients with immune dysregulation. With a career dedicated to both patient care and clinical research, Joe exemplifies the perseverance and commitment that began at Mary of Nazareth. He continues to build on that foundation as he works to advance medicine and improve lives.

Congratulations Class of 2025



Honor Roll

of donors

The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts to the **Annual Giving Fund** from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. We have done our very best to ensure the accuracy of this report. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Should you find an error, please bring it to our attention by contacting the Development Office.

+ Denotes families that have continuously, donating \$5,000 or more to the legacy of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School.

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Thank you!



FROM DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends of Mary of Nazareth,

Having attended Catholic school my entire life, I've always associated Catholic education with family and community. Whether it was Grandparents Day, Christmas bazaars, plays, fundraising events, or community fairs, my family, and the families of my friends, were always there, showing their love and dedication to the school. Those experiences shaped me deeply, and I see that same spirit alive here at Mary of Nazareth every single day.

Here at MoN, we achieve academic excellence because of you. Your willingness to share your time, talent, and treasure allows our students to thrive not only in their studies, but also in faith, character, and community. Every volunteer, every committee chair, every teacher, every donor sustains the tradition of excellence that defines our school.

The Office of Development serves our entire school community through fundraising, events, social media, parish and community outreach, alumni relations, and student recruitment. While there are many ways to give, we especially encourage participation in our two major fundraisers each year: the [Annual Giving Campaign](#) and the [Annual Benefit Auction](#).

Funds raised through these efforts directly enable us to:

- Offer competitive faculty and staff compensation
- Maintain low student-to-teacher ratios
- Provide small group instruction in reading and math
- Invest in the latest educational technology
- Enhance our facilities and grounds
- Support professional development of teachers

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you support Mary of Nazareth. Your investment, whether through volunteering, attending events, or making a financial contribution through our office, ensures that we can continue to grow together as a community rooted in faith and committed to excellence.

Thank you for all that you do for our students, our faculty, and our mission!

Warm Regards,



Sarah Muir

Director of Development

Mary of Nazareth

Catholic School



14131 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874



☐ I/We pledge to support Mary of Nazareth by contributing \$_____ the **2025-2026** Annual Fund

☐ Gift will be made by check Amount enclosed \$_____

☐ Gift will be made by credit card at www.maryofnazareth.org

☐ Gift will be made by payroll deduction
CFC #79665, Local Independent Organizations

☐ Payment will be made in the following installments:

_____ Oct '25	_____ Feb '26
_____ Nov '25	_____ Mar '26
_____ Dec '25	_____ Apr '26
_____ Jan '26	_____ May '26
	_____ Jun '26

Yes! My employer will match my gift!

Name of Employer _____

*To make a securities donation, please contact the development office.

Mary of Nazareth Parents only:

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Additional Child(ren) Homeroom(s): _____

Name(s): _____

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Mary of Nazareth
Catholic School



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