

**St. Mary School – Mt. Morris, Mich.**



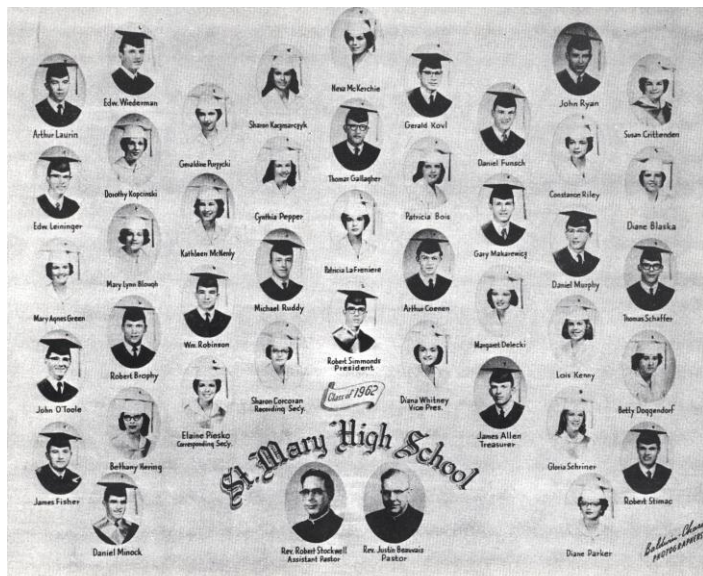
St. Mary School in Mt. Morris, Mich., opened for 80 students in grades one through eight in 1921. Three IHM Sisters staffed the school, which had been converted from the original church building.

The parish added a ninth grade in 1922, and by 1929, St. Mary had more than 200 students enrolled in grades one through 12. The parish purchased "the land adjoining the cemetery...used as the Athletic Field," the convent chronicler reports. The Class of 1930 – the first graduating class, had 15 members. The graduates started an alumni group almost immediately.

The chroniclers kept watch on St. Mary's athletic teams, proudly reporting the achievements. In 1937, the boys' basketball team was named County League Champion and the track team won three trophies, including a state championship. The chronicler notes, "Our Athletic Team made an unusually good showing this year."

School enrollment declined a little during World War II, but improvements to the school continued. "Gas was piped into the school kitchen and into the Chemistry Lab. Alcohol burners were shelved!" the chronicler says in 1943. And "due to the number of boys who left for military service...athletics at St. Mary's took a rather downward trend."

By 1949, enrollment had increased to more than 300 students and the superintendent was concerned by the overcrowding. First- and second graders had classes in the cafeteria and kitchen, but it wasn't until January 1958 that the parish built a new school building for grades one through seven.



CLASS OF 1962

St. Mary enjoyed rich traditions, such as closing for the first day of hunting season; juniors initiating freshmen; sophomores hosting a dance to raise money for the graduating seniors' breakfast; and book fairs, car washes, candy sales and paper drives to raise money for the school.

In 1962, our **Featured Class Year**, 590 students attended St. Mary. The Student Council was organized that year; an outbreak of flu closed the school in February. **Patricia La Freniere** was homecoming queen, and **Gloria Schriener** won a scholarship to Baker Business University in Flint. On June 3, the seniors attended Mass at 8 a.m., followed by the

senior breakfast. At 8 p.m., the Rev. Beavais handed out diplomas to the 42 graduates.

The school enjoyed steady growth through the 1960s, reaching a high enrollment of 640 during the 1966-67 school year. The high school consolidated with other area Catholic schools in the fall of 1970, leaving the elementary school open for grades one through six.

Pre-kindergarten classes began in 1974, and by 1983, 216 students were enrolled in pre-k through grade eight. That year, students participated in the Scholastic Olympics at Luke Powers High School in Flint and placed first and second in religion.

IHM Sisters continued to minister at St. Mary School and Parish until 2003. The school remains open and active for students in grades pre-k through eight.

## In 1962



Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council.

Cuban Missile Crisis took place.

The first transatlantic television transmission occurred via the TelstarSatellite, making worldwide television and cable networks a reality.



In the World Series, the New York Yankees defeated the San Francisco Giants in seven games.



Johnny Carson took over hosting duties of *The Tonight Show*. *West Side Story* won an Academy Award for Best Picture. E.G. Marshall won an Emmy Award for his role in *The Defenders*. Shirley Booth won an Emmy for *Hazel*. "Moon River," by Henry Mancini, won Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Song of the Year. Album of the Year went to Judy Garland for *Judy at Carnegie Hall*.

The Boston Celtics also needed seven games for the NBA Championship, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers. The Toronto Maple Leafs only needed six games against the Chicago Blackhawks for the Stanley Cup.

Marilyn Monroe died of a drug overdose at age 36.