

WINTER 2022



The Mirror

Reflecting Life at *Saint Mary's Home of Erie*

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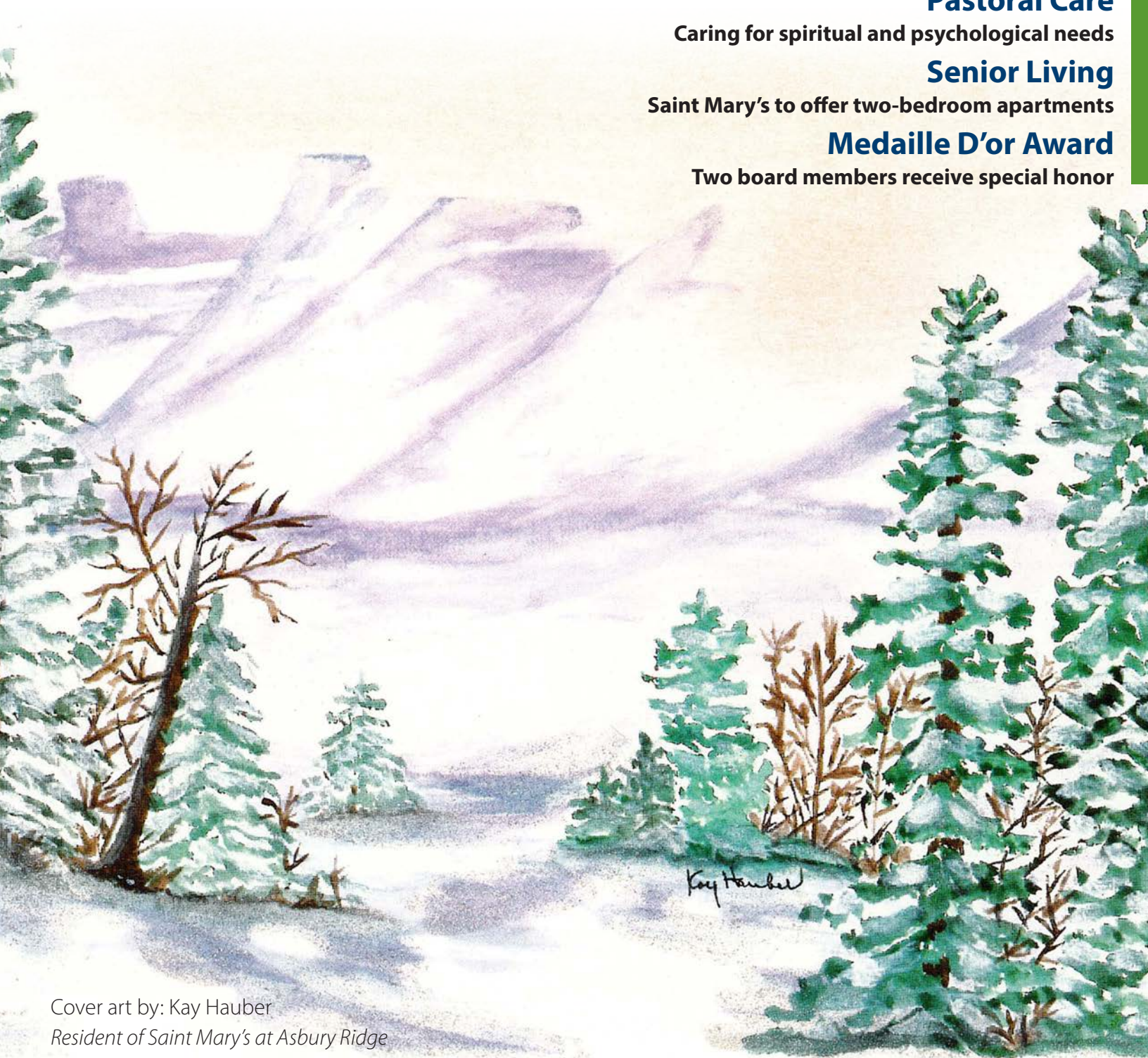
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Cover art by: Kay Hauber
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A Continuing Care Retirement Community

Levels of Care

Independent Living
Residential Living & Personal Care
Skilled Nursing
Short & Long Term Rehabilitation
Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
Home Care
Respite Care

Services & Amenities

On-site Nursing staff including
RN's, LPN's & CNA's
Catholic & Ecumenical Religious Services
Social Services
Support Services
Nutritional Services
Daily Recreational Activities
Beauty & Barber Services

Board of Trustees

Christopher Coughlin, *Chairperson*

Ronald Seigley, *Vice Chairperson*

Shawn Emerson, *Treasurer*

Austin Brugger, *Secretary*

Allen Bonace, *President/CEO*

Bridget Power Barber

Rev. Thomas Brooks

Debbie Burbules

Mary Candela

Mary Drexler, SSJ

Robert Ek

Annie Frew

Jane Kelsey

Larry Roberts

Andrew Schmidt, Esq.

Colleen Stumpf, Esq.*

Mary Zenner

**Non-voting Board Member and Legal Counsel*

Our Mission

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph and operated in the Catholic tradition, Saint Mary's Home of Erie is committed to an environment of loving to care where primarily seniors, their families, staff and volunteers participate in fostering an atmosphere of community.



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1781 West 26th Street, Erie, PA 16508



Main Campus

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www.stmaryshome.org

**A sponsored ministry of the
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.**

Non-discriminatory in admissions, services and employment.



A Message from the President

The one thing that's constant in life is change, as the saying goes. It's all around us all the time—and that is as true at Saint Mary's as it is anywhere else. We continue to prepare for additional changes to long-term care regulations in 2023 and despite what some might think, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over for nursing facilities. It has taken a rigorous effort this year to maintain a strong census and to combat the staffing challenges felt nationwide.

But the dynamics of change sometimes shift in our favor, too. In the previous issue of *The Mirror*, we shared the news of the Carriage Home expansion project and hinted at another project on the horizon. In the following pages you'll learn more about the renovations taking place in our Residential Living portion of the facility and how we're adding a larger floor plan to our mix of senior living options. The apartments will help us remain competitive as we prepare for the continued aging of the Baby Boomer population and strive to meet the lifestyle needs of seniors today and tomorrow.

Our team is dedicated to making Saint Mary's a loving and caring home for seniors and their families. Our residents have been engaged in activities and programs recently that satisfy both their social, spiritual, and private lives – take a look! We are grateful for the strong faith foundation that guides our ministry and to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania for their continued sponsorship.

Thank you to all who have supported us throughout the year and who have already contributed this holiday season to the Herald of Light tribute display. So many are inspired by your generosity. The Herald of Light display in our lobby is like walking down memory lane; as I look at each card and reflect on the names of so many residents and loved ones, I am reminded of how many lives Saint Mary's has impacted and been a part of over the years.

It is an honor to be part of your story and as we move into 2023, I look forward to sharing the next chapter together.

Happy Holidays and peace in the New Year.



Allen L. Bonace
President/CEO



Senior Living

Saint Mary's to offer four newly renovated two-bedroom apartments

Saint Mary's is paying attention to the ever-changing needs of seniors and is investing in campus enhancements needed for continued success in the Erie area. After witnessing an increase in demand for more Independent Senior Living options, the Board of Trustees approved renovations which began this fall to the Residential Living portion of the facility for the creation of two-bedroom apartments.

The 74 Residential Living and Personal Care apartments currently offered at Asbury Ridge have private baths and kitchenettes but are limited to studio style and one-bedroom floor plans. While these options work for many seniors, they don't meet the needs of everyone. The renovations will convert eight existing studio apartments to four two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments. The newly renovated apartments will offer 800 square feet of living space as well as a full kitchen including a sink, microwave, refrigerator, range, and dishwasher. Residents in these two-bedroom

suites will have the option to purchase a meal plan or pay per meal when joining other residents in the Dining Room. Rent, activities, housekeeping, transportation to local medical appointments, cable, phone and utilities are included in the monthly fee. Personal Care Services are also available for an additional fee, if or when needed.

“
... we will be
completing the
renovation of four two-
bedroom apartments
early next year.”

- Robert Orton,
VP, Operations



Existing studio layout before the renovation into a larger senior living option.





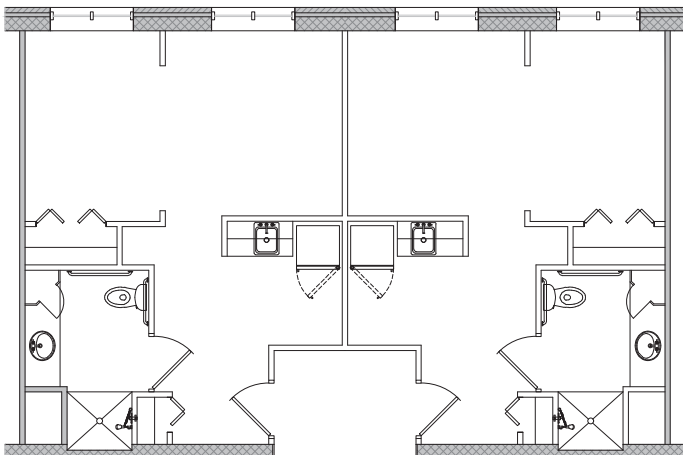
The first phase of renovation to the existing units involved demolition of interior walls to expand the footprint of the floor plan.

These enhancements will help Saint Mary's continue to meet the needs of seniors who desire and independent lifestyle while having the support and peace of mind that comes from being part of a retirement community.

"Many of our past and current residents have expressed a desire for an apartment that was larger than the current inventory but smaller than a Carriage Home, I am happy to say that as a result of those conversations we will be completing

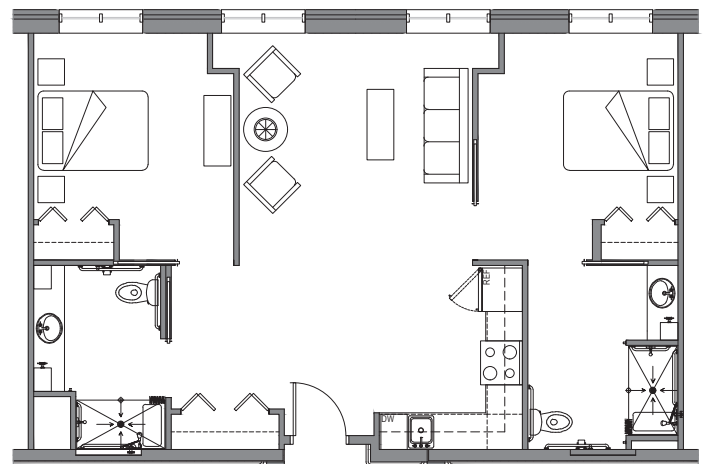
the renovation of four two-bedroom apartments early next year," Robert Orton, Vice President of Operations stated. The new apartments are expected to be completed and ready for occupancy in early 2023 and have already gained interest from both current and prospective Saint Mary's residents.

Interested in learning more about the new two-bedroom apartments or taking a tour of our facility? Contact Social Services at (814) 836-5302.



Before

The existing floorplans of two Alcove Studio Apartments which will be combined to create the footprint for the renovated apartments.



After

The newly renovated two-bedroom, two-bathroom floorplan with a full kitchen and central living area.



Get to Know Us

A look at our newest leadership appointment



SUSAN JASKIEWICZ

Director of Nursing

- Graduated from the Villa Maria School of Nursing at Gannon University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Susan has been a practicing Registered Nurse for 30 years and has gained experience working in various cities, moving to Boston (twice) and Pittsburgh, as well as her hometown Erie to further her nursing career
- She has held many diverse roles in the nursing field, such as Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Case Manager and Director of Health and Wellness. She is also a past Board President of the American Heart Association, Erie Division. Susan previously worked for the former Saint Mary's East several years ago as a Nursing Unit Supervisor and we are happy to welcome her back to the Saint Mary's team.
- **Favorite thing about career:** "I appreciate knowing that Saint Mary's has a great nursing team that truly loves the residents and wants to make sure they are taken care of."
- **Passions and Hobbies:** "I enjoy cooking, shopping, and gardening. The one thing that no one would ever guess about me is that I used to participate in local archery shoots with a compound bow and have a few trophies!"

Susan Jaskiewicz succeeds Deborah Swartz who has served as Director of Nursing at Asbury Ridge since 2015 and has transitioned into a new role as Director of Residential Living and Personal Care.



Herald of Light

Lighting the Way for Saint Mary's

YOU can light the way for our community through a generous act of love for our mission – making a donation.

Donations are essential in helping Saint Mary's do what we do best – make a difference in the lives of our staff, residents, and families by fostering a loving and caring community for seniors. In celebration of your generosity this holiday season, we'll share your light with others by celebrating your friends and loved ones through the Herald of Light tribute display!

The Herald of Light campaign has been shining brightly in our lobby since December 1st – and there's still time to give! Make your donation by

December 31st and we'll dedicate a tribute card to hang in celebration of those near and dear to your heart. Herald of Light tributes will be displayed through January 6th. Please, consider a gift to Saint Mary's and help us continue to fill our lobby with reminders of love and light again this year!



Will you donate

**by December 31st and
be a Herald of Light for
Saint Mary's this holiday
season?**

Herald of Light gifts can be made in memory of dearly missed loved ones, in honor of those who inspire us, or simply in support of our mission. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference!

To make your gift:

- **Cash or check**, made payable to Saint Mary's Home of Erie
- **Scan the QR code** with your mobile device
- **Visit** www.stmaryshome.org/ways-to-give/heralds



Scan to give!

Thank you for your generosity!

Questions about giving can be directed to giving@stmaryshome.org or (814) 836-4394.



Pastoral Care

Caring for spiritual and psychological needs

Saint Mary's Home of Erie is the only Catholic continuing care retirement community in the Erie area. The ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Catholic traditions upheld at Saint Mary's are attractive to many seniors of faith. Pastoral Care is an important part of those traditions. For the past 15 years, Father William Fischer, OSFS has served as Chaplain of the community of Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge to provide Pastoral Care and promote the idea that spirituality and religious values are integral to holistic health.

"The purpose of Pastoral Care is to try to meet the spiritual and psychological needs of those around us. This is done in different ways, often through the sacraments and through spiritual support," said Father Bill. "A sacrament is an encounter with Christ; and Pastoral Care often involves bringing the sacraments to the residents, or in other words, bringing Christ to them."

When a new resident is admitted to Skilled Nursing, a member from the Pastoral Care team makes an initial room visit where they offer an introduction and explore whether the resident is open to these

services. Some residents agree right away, and they'll pray with the pastoral team member and receive Holy Communion. Other residents may not feel ready or may not have a religious need, which



Dale Hyland, St. Mark's Seminarian, offers the Eucharist to Skilled Nursing Resident, Mary Ann Fogle.

is okay too. It's important for residents and families to know that the Pastoral Care program is there if needed or wanted but is not pushed on anyone. For residents who have limited mobility, who are sick, or who can no longer attend a service, however, these visits allow the resident to still be actively involved in their faith, receiving Holy Communion as well as being administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Pastoral Care Services are important to seniors in Residential Living as well. Often a key deciding factor for seniors when choosing to move to Saint Mary's is the knowledge that Mass is held daily and that ecumenical services are held regularly. Celebrating in the Chapel brings the community at Saint Mary's together in a deeper way than just being neighbors and it has been rewarding for Father Bill to see the residents remain active participants in their faith.



Chandler Villanueva, Father William Fischer, OSFS, and Dale Hyland in the Chapel at Asbury Ridge.





Chandler Villanueva, St. Mark's Seminarian, prays with Skilled Nursing Resident, Joan Drumm.

"The residents are involved and continuing to grow in their spiritual life. We have seniors who help distribute and receive communion, who lead daily Rosary, who say the readings, and who lift their voices in song. They nurture and support their peers, ministering to the needs of their neighbors," described Father Bill.

Pastoral Care can be of benefit regardless of religion. Diversity of spirituality and cultures is respected and celebrated, and often what many seniors need is spiritual support and someone who will listen. Though not a form of formal counseling, a Pastoral Care visit may start out in simple conversation that evolves into nurturing the spirit. Through friendly relationships and openness, Father Bill has focused on building a good rapport with all who walk through the door so that all are comfortable in reaching out to the Pastoral Care team if they have a need.

"We have a concern for everyone, you don't have to be Catholic. If you have a need, we'll respond," stated Father Bill. "I view my role here as providing Pastoral Care to the whole Home, which of course includes the residents, but also extends the employees and families."

The Pastoral Care program has a small, but mighty, number of members. Father Bill leads the program and is supported by Deacon Jerry Peterson, Sister Stephanie Wagner, SSJ, and two lay women. All but Father Bill are volunteers who give their time to help meet the various needs of the residents. For the first time in recent years, the Pastoral Care program at Saint Mary's is also benefiting from the help of two young men – Dale Hyland and Chandler Villanueva, both of whom are seminarians currently in the Formation Program at St. Mark's Seminary and in their second year of study at Gannon University.

The two young men are a welcome addition. "We do our best to serve all residents who wish to receive us, but we are often limited in our ability and time. Having Dale and Chandler here over the course of a year helps lighten the load," said Father Bill.

"For me, being with the residents is a reminder of the beauty of knowing you are a child of God. Whether you are age 2 or 82, all are worthy of love. It grows in me a further appreciation of life," reflected Chandler. Dale feels similarly. "There's a lot to learn here and I'm really focusing on a ministry of presence. I may be young, but I can still make sure each resident feels listened to and heard," Dale said. Both Dale and Chandler agree the experience isn't just one way – it's about ensuring that residents feel seen, known and loved, and walking away themselves with a greater love for the elderly, the sick, and the homebound.

"We are helping to prepare Dale and Chandler as future priests as they explore the possibility of committing to the priesthood," Father Bill stated. "My hope is that they gain a special regard for the people who are in nursing homes that they will carry with them into their future service."



Therese Woods, Residential Living Resident, participates during Mass as Lector.

That is, in the end, the same hope that Father Bill holds for the program itself. He acknowledges that he is growing older much like those he serves and will someday need to step back from the program, but he holds a clear vision for the future of Pastoral Care at Saint Mary's.

"It is my hope the Pastoral Care program continues to thrive and that we assemble an even stronger group, incorporating more Ministers of other recognized faiths to ensure we meet the needs of all residents," reflected Father Bill. "The residents here at Saint Mary's lead spiritual lives and need support just as much as anyone in a community parish. They should not be forgotten."



Medaille D'Or Award



Chris Coughlin, Jane Kelsey awarded special honor

Each year the Saint Mary's President/CEO, along with the Board of Trustees, selects individuals for the Medaille D'Or Award. Since 2007, this award has been presented to individuals who:

- Live out the Mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph – of “unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God”
- Exemplify the Mission of Saint Mary's Home of Erie of “loving to care”
- Have worked and/or volunteered in the Senior Services field and/or have provided meritorious service to Saint Mary's Home of Erie

Saint Mary's is honored to present two deserving people with the Medaille D'Or Award in 2022.



Chris Coughlin has served Saint Mary's Home of Erie with compassion and a commitment to excellence for the past 16 years. Chris is currently the Principal/Owner of HRLC Architects. He joined the Board of Trustees in 2005 until 2013 and after 2 years away, came back on the Board in 2015. Chris has served as Secretary of the Board from 2007 to 2010, as Vice Chair from 2017 to 2019 and currently as Board Chair since 2020. Chris's leadership and knowledge has been invaluable to Saint Mary's during his term.

Chris Coughlin,
Saint Mary's Board Chair

For the past 18 years, **Jane Kelsey** has served Saint Mary's Home of Erie with dedication and a commitment to excellence. Jane is currently the Assistant Vice President for Finance and Treasurer for Mercyhurst University. She joined the Board of Trustees in 2004 and after one year away, she returned to the Board in 2014 where she remains an active member. Jane has served as Secretary of the Board in 2006, Vice Chair from 2007 to 2010, and Board Chair from 2011 through 2012. Since 2019 she has been a member of the Finance Committee and served as Treasurer in 2019 and 2020. Jane's engagement and insight has made a positive impact on Saint Mary's.



Jane Kelsey,
Saint Mary's Board Member



Around Our Home

A glance at our active and dynamic community



Therapy Dogs United

Tucker, a therapy dog from Therapy Dogs United, visited with residents.

A Day of Recollection

Father William Fisher, OSFS organized a spiritual day of recollection for residents which included guided activities that focused on meaningful discussions, song and crafts meant to help residents deepen their faith and prepare for the New Year.





Hopping Around

A few rabbits from the Erie Area Rabbit Society & Rescue group (EARS) spent some time hopping around Asbury Ridge with residents.



Trick or Treat

On Halloween employees wore costumes to make the day fun for residents. This group dressed as M&M's!





Painting Class

Residents followed a step-by-step painting video to create their own masterpieces.



Coffee & Donuts

Residents took a trip to Dunkin' Donuts to enjoy some coffee and pastries.



Christmas Cookies

Baking Christmas cookies is usually a fond memory for many residents so they took some time to frost and decorate sugar cookies – and tried not to eat them right away!





Jackpot!

A trip to Presque Isle Downs Casino followed by dinner.



Minnie Mouse Ornaments

To celebrate Mickey Mouse's 94th birthday, residents made Minnie and Mickey themed holiday ornaments.





Holiday Door Décor

To prepare for the holidays, residents gathered to make wreaths for their room doors while listening to some festive tunes.



Bandanas for Animal Shelter

To give back to the community in a small way this holiday season, residents worked together on no-sew bandanas to donate to the local animal shelter.





Saint Mary's Home of Erie
A Continuing Care Retirement Community

**1781 West 26th Street
Erie, PA 16508-1256**

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We'd love to hear from you!

Saint Mary's invites you to share your stories, anecdotes and thoughtful moments of the part we've played in the lives of you and your loved one. If you are interested in sharing your story, please send to Saint Mary's (Attn: Marketing Department) or email us at marketing@stmaryshome.org.

Please let us know if you have a change of address; the addressee is not at this address; you are receiving more than one newsletter; or you would like to be removed from the mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please notify us by calling our opt-out voicemail at (814) 836-5431 or emailing optout@stmaryshome.org.

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There's always something going on at Saint Mary's. Want to catch what's happening Around Our Home and more in real time? Give us a follow on Facebook to stay up to date!

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