

St. Mary's College



Commencement Exercises 2026

Saint Marys, Kansas

May 23, 2026

PROGRAM

Procession of Candidates—

“Gaudeamus Igitur” (text on reverse)

Opening Prayer—Rev. Fr. Patrick Rutledge

National Anthem—St. Mary’s College choir



College Dean’s List



Address to Graduates

Rev. Fr. Robert MacPherson



Student Addresses

Salutatorian, Bachelor of Arts Degree

Loretta Catalina Lopez

Valedictorian, Bachelor of Arts Degree

Susanna Childs



Bestowing of Hoods and Diplomas

The
Graduating
Class
of
2026



"Give me Thy grace, good Lord, to see the world as naught: to set my mind fast upon Thee, and not hang upon the blast of men's mouths." – St. Thomas More



Emily Rose Ransom Brown – Ontario, Canada

Thesis: *Feminism: The War against True Femininity*

Theresa Marie Bryant – Post Falls, Idaho

Thesis: *Morality and Myth: The Morality of Orpheus in Ovid and Shakespeare*

Susanna Childs – St. Marys, Kansas

Thesis[†]: *Why Delayed Hominization Need Not Be: A Defense of Immediate Rational Ensoulment in Light of Realist Philosophy, Modern Embryology, Church Teaching, and Bioethics*

Genevieve Marie Barbara De Vriendt – Quebec, Canada

Thesis: *Preventing Abortion and Helping Mothers in Need: The Catholic Church's Actions from the Past to the Present*

Evelyn Kathleen Dorobek – St. Marys, Kansas

Thesis: *“The Hillbilly Thomist”: A Defense of Flannery O’Connor’s Writings in Three Articles*

Connie Jessica Marie Enfield – Greenacres, Washington

Thesis: *Theological Hope in St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Thérèse*

MaryKatherine Therese Gerads – Albany, Minnesota

Thesis: *Affection, Prevention, and Vigilance: The Keys to a Teacher's Participation in the Process of Education according to St. John Bosco*

Michael Jude Godlewsky – Andover, New Jersey

Thesis[†]: *More Than Polish: The Catholic Church and Polish Nationalism in Prussian and Russian Poland, 1864-1914*

Joseph Andrew Grieco – Ballground, Georgia

Thesis: *Factories and Families: The Deterioration of the Nuclear Family in America*

Calista Rose Herrmann – Hoyleton, Illinois

Thesis: *The Limits of Knowledge Alone in St. Augustine's Rejection of Manichaeism*

Loretta Catalina Lopez – Belvue, Kansas

Thesis[†]: *The Eucharistic Immolation: A "Sacrament-Sacrifice"*

Mary Ellen Pedersen – St. Marys, KS

Thesis[†]: *The Power of Church Architecture on Society: The Gothic Revival in England*

Mary Catherine Peterson – East Bethel, Minnesota

Thesis: *Music's Effect on Man's Moral Life*

Trea-Marie Thierry Quain – St. Marys, Kansas

Thesis: *“When Shall We See Again?”: Romance, Reality, and Resurrection in Shakespeare’s The Winter’s Tale*

Valerie Irene Radonich – San Jose, California

Thesis: *Scandalous or Educational: The Debate About Greek Literary Tradition in Catholic Education*

Louis John Marie Ruegemer – Holdingford, Minnesota

Thesis: *The Father: The Prime Educator of the Child*

Bernadette Emily Rutledge – St. Marys, Kansas

Thesis[†]: *Nefas: Limits and Divine Ordinance in Horace Odes I*

Katelyn Patrice Watts – Maple Hill, Kansas

Thesis: *Imagining the Real: The Proper Use of Creative Imagination*

Emma Rose Wilkerson – Laveen, Arizona

Thesis: *Marriage on Trial: Till Death or Disillusionment?*

[†] Thesis Passed with Distinction



Closing Remarks

Academic Recessional—

E. Elgar, “Pomp and Circumstance”



Thank you
for your
continued
support.

Gaudeamus Igitur

Gaudeamus igitur juvenes dum sumus,

Gaudeamus igitur juvenes dum sumus;

Post jucundam juventutem,

Post molestantem senectutem;

Nos habebit humus, Nos habebit humus.

*Let us therefore rejoice while we are young. After a pleasant youth, after
a troublesome old age, the earth will have us.*

Vivat Academia, vivant professores,

Vivat Academia, vivant professores;

Vivat membrum quodlibet,

Vivant membra quaelibet;

Semper sint in flore, Semper sint in flore!

*Long live the Academy, long live the faculty, long live our boys, long live
our girls; may they always flourish!*



Instaurare Omnia In Christo