

Fall 2021



The Mirror

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

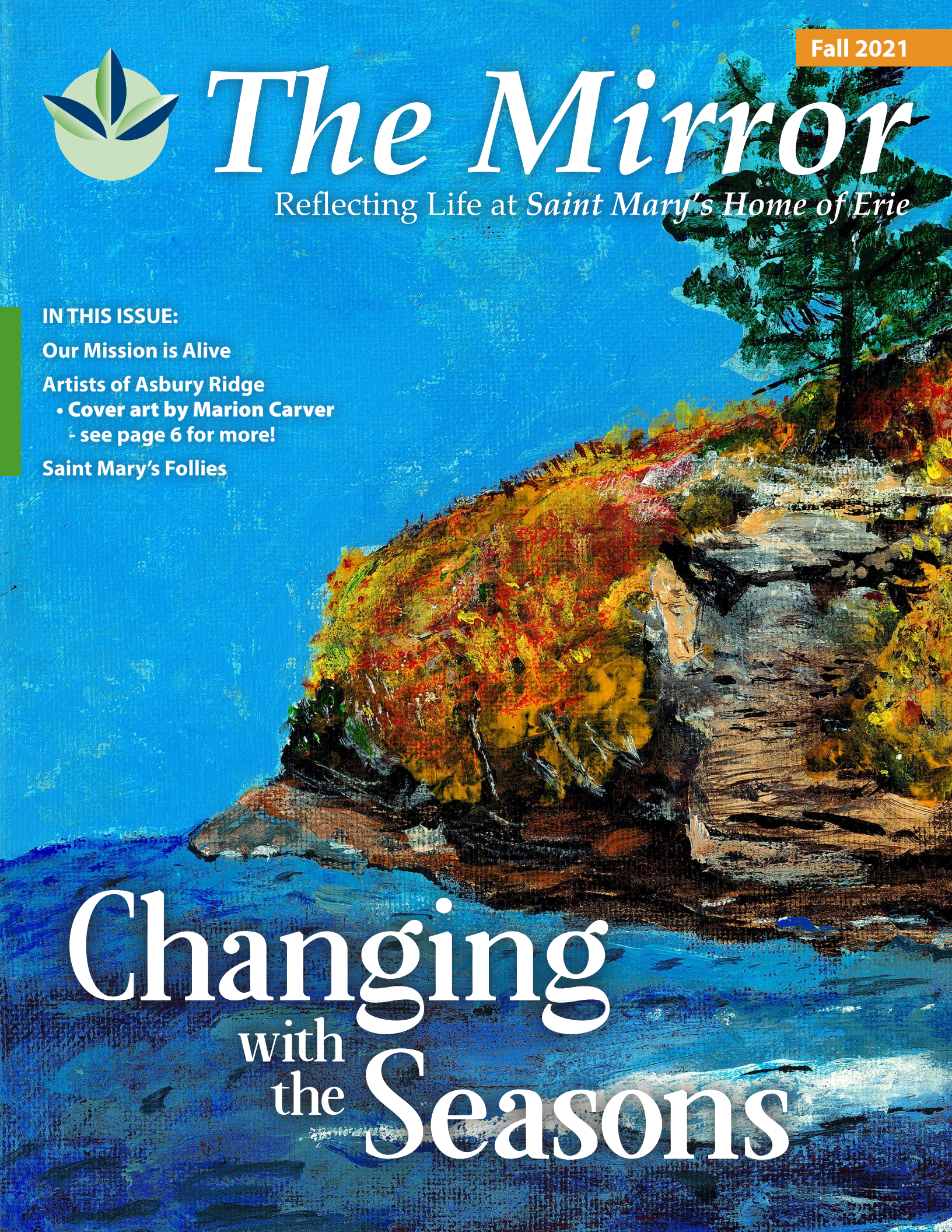
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- Cover art by Marion Carver
- see page 6 for more!

Saint Mary's Follies



Changing
with
the Seasons



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

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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.



Corporate Office

1781 West 26th Street, Erie, PA 16508



Main Campus

4855 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506



4855 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506

(814) 836-5300

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

In the fall of 2019 Saint Mary's began an effort to refinance its operations, engaging with consultants experienced in the financial management of long-term care. Together with the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Board of Trustees, Saint Mary's explored the options presented. The need to sell Saint Mary's East became painfully evident due to a widening gap between the cost of providing high-quality care and the reimbursement for that care as provided at Saint Mary's East. As many are aware, that sale took place in June of this year.

Interestingly, the sale raised awareness that Saint Mary's has a greater presence in Erie than just the Eastside facility alone. Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge and the Carriage Homes at Asbury were not included in the sale due to a stronger, healthier financial model for the future and now form the growing core of Saint Mary's service to Erie. The corporate offices for Saint Mary's have been relocated to an office building at 1781 West 26th Street, just east of I-79, where you'll see the Saint Mary's Home of Erie name proudly displayed. We are additionally in the final planning stages to begin building eight more Carriage Homes on the Asbury Ridge campus - the demand for independent living and maintenance free homes has resulted in a lengthy wait-list!

There is just as much going on inside our walls as out, which you'll see in this issue of the Mirror. We're continuously finding ways to bring our mission to life as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, enhance our campus, and improve the ways employees engage with their work. Don't take it from me - hear firsthand from a long-term employee about their experience at Saint Mary's.

Through all of this, Saint Mary's remains fortunate to receive support from generous donors - a special thanks to everyone who contributed on Erie Gives Day, bringing our total to just over \$14,000 and to all those who attended, sponsored and supported Saint Mary's Follies, which for the first time raised over \$100,000. Both of these events support seniors at Saint Mary's who benefit from the James E. Mantyla Benevolent Care Fund.

As we adjust to operating a single campus, we are looking to the future and are hopeful for continued growth. Keep an eye out for more to come.

Gratefully,

Allen L. Bonace
President/CEO



Our Mission is Alive

Embracing the future

In the last year and half, we've battled the COVID-19 pandemic and sold Saint Mary's East – two things that just a few years ago no one would have expected. These challenges have been difficult, uncomfortable, and at times painful – growing pains usually are.

Saint Mary's continues to commit itself to Erie and to serving seniors by offering a dynamic response to their ever-changing needs.

We're leading by example through challenging times, acting with the health and safety of our residents and employees at the forefront of our decisions.

We're investing in our employees and growing our team by implementing a wage increase for all employees, doubling referral bonuses, improving employee education through a new online learning program called Relias, and actively seeking employee feedback.

We're enhancing and expanding Asbury Ridge by updating and replacing furniture reaching its lifespan, giving residential areas a fresh facelift, and improving amenities that make life more enjoyable. Plus, plans are underway to expand the Carriage Home community with the addition of eight more homes.

Our history is one of compassionate care and respect for the dignity of those we serve. As we look to the future, we embrace our past and seek out new opportunities to advance our mission. The future we envision is bright and anything but uncertain. The mission of Saint Mary's is alive.



Reflecting on Years of Bringing Our Mission to Life

"I've been an employee at Saint Mary's for nearly 37 years. Never did I imagine I would be here that long. The quick of my story goes like this: I used to wash the pots and pans – now I buy them.

I started in Dietary at Saint Mary's East washing dishes and working on trayline. I saw many changes - buildings were built and buildings were torn down. When Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge opened I took a job as the Purchasing Assistant. The move from East seemed so far away and so different. But changes needed to happen in order for Saint Mary's to create a foundation to continue their mission – just like today.



The sale of East is an ending, but not the end. Once again we are all moving forward. As a long-term employee, it was very sad leaving behind the building I started working in and where the Sisters of St. Joseph founded Saint Mary's. Many of us left behind a lot of fond memories and friends.

We are now dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. It has changed our lives, the lives of our residents and their families. Saint Mary's has been around since 1884. This is not the first pandemic or even disaster Saint Mary's has been through. Saint Mary's survived the Spanish Flu of 1918 that lasted two years. Saint Mary's has dealt with floods and fires. We are still here and still moving forward. We are resilient.

So, why have I been here for 35+ years? Well, probably for many of the same reasons others are here. I asked some employees why they work at Saint Mary's and some of the answers I got were...

'I believe God puts us where we need to be' ... 'I believe in the mission' ... 'I like the people I work with' ... 'It has good pay and benefits'... 'It is clean and has a beautiful campus'... 'I love my residents' ... 'It's a job'.

Maybe when I first started working at Saint Mary's that was my reason – 'it was just a job' - until I met Harry. Harry was a resident who had little family. He was a gruff old man but I formed a connection with him. I visited him almost daily, even if it was only for 5 minutes. We played the lottery, just 50 cents a day. He would say, 'Debbie, when we win, you and I are getting out of this place!' Needless to say, I'm still here. One day the nursing supervisor called to tell me Harry was not doing well and his family would not come in. I went to sit with him and he passed away. After that I knew I wanted to stay at Saint Mary's, that it was no longer 'just a job.' It wasn't what I did for Harry, it was what he did for me.

I have been so fortunate to work at Saint Mary's. My job has become my career. And throughout my career, I have had two things with me always: my original Dietary name tag and a picture of Harry. They remind me of where I started and why I stayed."

**By: Debra Majewski,
Purchasing Director
37 Years of Service
to Saint Mary's**



Artists of Asbury Ridge

Discovering and Showcasing New Talent

One of the lesser known benefits of moving to Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge? Discovering a new talent! Art class is just one of the many activities offered at Asbury Ridge. Many residents participate regularly, even without prior experience in art! Our residents' artistic talents have been showcased over the last few months in an "Artist of the Month" series located in the lobby at Asbury Ridge.



MARION CARVER, 97

- A resident since 2015
- Took her first painting class at Saint Mary's while living independently in the Carriage Homes and continued to attend upon moving into Residential Living
- Marion's artwork has been in several shows, including the Senior Art Show at the Mercy Center, and was featured on the cover of the Saint Mary's Christmas card last year
- Often says she is going to "work on it a little more" because she sees something else that needs to be done



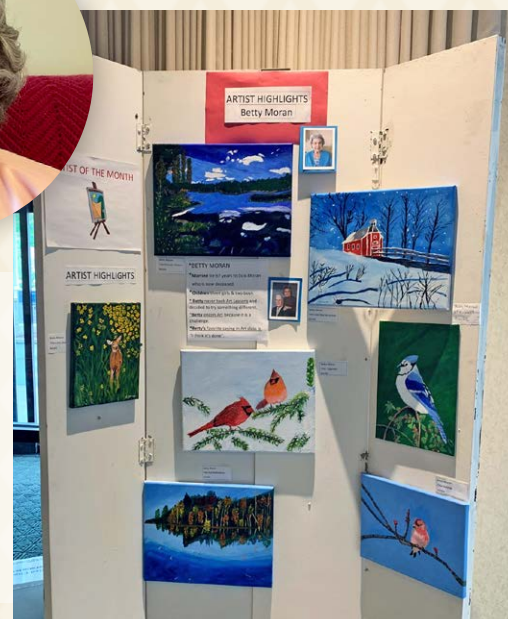
MARY ROSE HOGENMILLER, 96

- A resident since 2018
- After moving to Saint Mary's she was looking for something to do and decided to take an art class
- Favorite thing to say in art class: "You know I'm not an Artist!"



BETTY MORAN, 93

- A resident since 2016
- Never took art lessons prior to living at Asbury Ridge and decided to attend a class to try something different
- Enjoys art because it is a challenge
- Favorite thing to say in art class: "I think it's done!"



PAT KELLY, 86

- A resident since 2013
- Started taking art classes soon after she moved in to Residential Living to keep busy and has been an active participant ever since
- Has had her art in many shows at Saint Mary's and at the Senior Art Show at the Mercy Center





SAINT MARY'S FOLLIES

John and Colleen Bloomstine, Dean Baldwin, Sally Sullivan, Thomas Loftus and Allen Bonace

A Night Among the Stars

After a year-long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Saint Mary's Follies returned in 2021 and was better than ever! Led to a record-breaking year by chaircouple **John and Colleen Bloomstine**, the event raised \$107,000 for the James E. Mantyla Benevolent Care Fund.

With careful consideration and concern for all of our guests, the Follies was held at the Bayfront Convention Center following guidance from the Erie County Department of Health. New this year, guests were also offered the option to join the event virtually via livestream.

Honored at the event were three individuals whose lives – in keeping with the Night Among the Stars theme – shine brightly. The Ageless Remarkable

Erieite award was presented by Noel Burgoyne, past recipient and Mistress of Ceremonies, to **Dean Baldwin, Thomas Loftus and Sally Sullivan** in recognition of their selfless service to the Erie community while being over the age of 75.

In addition to the inspiring awards ceremony, guests enjoyed dinner and drinks along with musical performances by local Erie talent - special thanks to **Shawn and Almitra Clerkin, Karen Brennan, Michael and Jean Malthaner, Bob Martin, Patrick and Kate Thiem, Charles Corritore and Rich Tryzbiak**.

Read the full stories of the honorees and view photos from the event at www.stmaryshome.org/charitable-giving/saint-marys-follies

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SAINT MARY'S
FOLLIES

Around Our Home

A glance at our active and dynamic community



Having a "Ball"

As a way to celebrate Lucille Ball's birthday, residents enjoyed watching episodes of the iconic show *I Love Lucy* with snacks and reenactments by employees who dressed as Lucy Ricardo and Ethel Mertz!



Pictured in costume are Activity employees Debbie Greenwald as Lucy (right) and Carrie Meeker as Ethel Mertz (left) getting ready to serve up some sweet treats.



Trivia Outdoors

A beautiful day is a great excuse to take the regularly scheduled trivia outside to the gazebo!





Dun-uh... Dun-uh... Dun-uh...

Shark Week festivities were in full swing this summer! Our residents and staff celebrated with scavenger hunts, trivia, snacks, costumes and more. It was a fin-tastic time!

From left to right: Mary Ann Luke, Anna May, Robert Donahue, Debbie Greenwald (shark), Patricia Kelly, Roberta Seepe, and Betty Moran.



From left to right: Mary Ann Luke, Betty Moran, and Therese Woods.

There's No Place Like Home

Just like Dorothy, we know there's no place like home. What better way to appreciate the anniversary of the Wizard of Oz than by watching the film on a big screen with some special guests!



Pictured is Michael Beuchert, resident, posing with employees (left to right) Debbie Greenwald, Debbie Majewski, Carrie Meeker, Kim Kalie, and Wendy Martin

It's Fall, Y'all

Decorating for the holidays is just one way our residents, including Mary Anne Luke pictured here, get involved in our community and help it feel like home.





From left to right:
Debbie Greenwald,
Elvis, Therese Woods,
Betty Moran, Barbara
Burton, Carrie Meeker,
and Fran Szymanowicz.



One Giant Leap for Mankind

"Moon Day" is celebrated annually on July 20th to commemorate the day in 1969 when man first walked on the moon. Residents got to celebrate the day with a moon day party and photos with an astronaut!



Aloha!

Residents and volunteers enjoyed decorating the dining room for a festive Luau Dinner Party with a special (cardboard) guest!



When Life Gives You Lemons...

...You make lemonade and sit outside on the patio with friends to enjoy the cold beverage on a sunny day!

From left to right: Mary Ann Luke, Betty Moran, Therese Woods, and Patricia Kelly.



A Continuing Care Retirement Community

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Erie, PA 16508-1256**

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The Mirror is published quarterly for the residents, families and friends of Saint Mary's Home of Erie, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

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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, have a comment, or notice a correction, please contact the Marketing Department 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.

Learn more at stmaryshome.org

Find us on 

Save the Date!

November 30, 2021

Giving Tuesday is November 30th – a day of global generosity! Giving Tuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to give, show kindness and share what they have with those in need. It's also a day to #GiveCatholic and support the work of local faith-based organizations!

Please consider supporting Saint Mary's Home of Erie on November 30th! Donations can be made online at www.stmaryshome.org or by mail, sent to Attn: Development Office, 1781 West 26th Street, Erie, PA 16508.



#iGIVECATHOLIC

#GIVINGTUESDAY