



Old St. Mary's Families and Parishioners,

If you have not heard the news yet, Old St. Mary's School has been named a 2019 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

[OSM Blue Ribbon 2019 School Announcement](#) [OSM Blue Ribbon Description](#)  
[OSM School Website](#)

Old St. Mary's, from its beginning in 1833 as the First Catholic Parish in Chicago, has been on the front lines of promoting the faith through the various means available to it. As Chicago's first parish, first Cathedral, first elementary school, and first site of Fr. Tolton's ministry in Chicago, the parish has been at work promoting the Catholic faith, even as its own buildings, locations, and the times have changed.

In 1903, the Paulist Fathers came to Old St. Mary's, and as a community interested in being at the intersection of faith and community, have worked with parishioners, neighbors, and the wider community of Church to understand how the Gospel lives in our world at all times.

That is our legacy as parish. We know that in 2002 our new parish Church building opened and Fr. Jim Donovan CSP handed over the reins of the parish to Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP. With many of you parishioners at the forefront of the parish's expanding ministries, you presented Fr. Frank with the desire of a Catholic preschool, and Old St. Mary's Catholic School was re-born in 2004.

From that point, along with parish ministries, the school has been progressing and reaching out into the community. When Fr. Frank passed the baton to Fr. Mike Kallock, CSP, Fr. Mike continued to help the school progress and grow and realize the building of the new Old St. Mary's School building and its opening in 2012.

Principals Barb Smith, Mary Callihan and Julie Martin, walked with parents and students, guiding teachers and staff as the school continued to flourish and grow. From the early days of the start-up preschool to now a capacity preschool through 8th grade, Old St. Mary's School has built on the legacy of the parish and the Paulist Fathers who serve here by sharing faith and education with new generations.

Fr. Paul Huesing, CSP, was instrumental in expanding operations for Parish and School as the Petermann Parish Center opened for use in 2016. It is now a place where students and adults learn, share faith and wisdom, participate in sports, and grow in understanding sportsmanship and what it means to be a community.

The 2019 Blue Ribbon award, recognizes the legacy of parishioners and parents who have brought us to this point in our history. As we look back, we also look to the present. Diana Smith is continuing the tradition of advancing our Blue Ribbon School. As pastor, I see the continued progress of School and Parish, working in the Archdiocese to Renew the Church, and help all people to see the full impact of the Catholic faith on Education and beyond.

Thanks to all of you who have made the Blue Ribbon Award possible. Thanks to our principals, faculty, staff, students and parents who brought us to this time of celebration, but who will also carry us into tomorrow and the blessings that are still in store for us all.

May God continue to guide us and bless us.

Fr. Brad Schoeberle, CSP  
Pastor