

February 1977: The Sisters appointed a lay Advisory Board for the Academy.

December 1979: St. Mary's Academy incorporated.

1981 – 1982: Major renovations and upgrades to the 1902 and 1909 buildings.

August 1, 1985: Christine Skublics appointed first lay Principal. Sister Marylyn Gibney appointed first Director of the Academy.

July 1989: St. Mary's Academy Foundation established. Lay Boards of Directors appointed to govern SMA Inc. and SMA Foundation Inc.

May 24, 1992: Theatre seats renewed and theatre named Alumnae Hall.

1994: The Academy celebrated 140 years since Church approbation of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary *and* 120 years since the arrival of the Sisters of the Holy Names in Manitoba to assume responsibility of the school. Gym named Sister Rita Maureen Gym.

June 30, 1999: Sisters residence at the Academy closed and the Sisters relocated.

January 1, 2000: Title for land and building transferred from the Sisters to St. Mary's Academy Foundation, Inc.

September 2001: First capital campaign launched to begin a four-phase facility redevelopment plan.

2002: Phase I (gym entrance and storage) and Phase II (science wing and human ecology labs) completed.

September 2003: Celebration of 100th anniversary of the Wellington Crescent site.

May 2005: First Marian Awards honouring alumnae who Hold High The Torch.

September 2009: Celebration of 100th Anniversary of the Alumnae Association.

2010: Phase 3A (Durocher Library, art studio, fitness room, uniform shop) completed.

September 2013: Phase 3B (theatre production wing, Sheila Chipman Atrium, multipurpose room, Alumnae Hall upgraded) completed.

August 2014: Holy Names Chapel refurbished.

August 2014: last SNJM Director, Sr, Susan Wikeem retired and Connie Yunyk, first lay President appointed.

May 1, 2019: 150th anniversary of the Academy.



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

MILESTONES & MEMORIES

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May 1, 1869: Two Grey Nuns, Sister Ste Therese and Sister Mary Jane McDougall, opened Maison Ste Marie (later called St. Mary's Academy), the first Catholic school to serve Catholics on the west side of the Red River.

June 15, 1869: Archbishop Taché celebrated the first mass in Winnipeg in Maison Ste Marie. The chapel became the regular place of worship for the people on the west side of the Red River. This was the beginning of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

July 24, 1870: Blessing of the new chapel added to Maison Ste Marie.

Spring 1873: Enrollment increased to 88 students: 43 boys and 45 girls. Not every student attended every day.

August 10, 1874: Four Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary left Montréal for Winnipeg. They were: Sisters Jean-de-Dieu, Superior; Marie-Florentine; Electa-du-Sacré-Coeur, and Marie-Elie.

August 22, 1874: First Holy Names Sisters arrived in Winnipeg by boat at 8 pm. They were taken to St. Boniface where they were received by Archbishop Taché and two Grey Nuns, Mother Hamel, Superior of the Grey Nuns, and Sr. Fiset, a former pupil of the Sisters of the Holy Names in Longueuil.

August 24, 1874: The four Holy Names Sisters crossed the Red River, walked through the mud and took possession of their new home and school on Notre Dame East and Victoria Street.

August 26, 1874: Mass celebrated in the convent chapel.

September 1, 1874: Registration Day for the school which was renamed St. Mary's Academy. 12 girls and 7 boys registered that day.

September 1875: The Academy became an all-girls school when three Christian Brothers opened a school for boys on Hargrave Street.

August 30, 1876: Blessing of the second school building called The Annex.

December 8, 1879: The first religious organization, a Sodality called the Children of Mary, was established.

February 2, 1880: First reception of the Children of Mary (5 pupils).

April 5, 1880: Gift from Archbishop Taché of additional property for the new brick Academy.

August 30, 1881: Blessing of the new Brick Academy located between the original foundation building and The Annex on Notre Dame East.

1890: St. Mary's Academy became an independent or private school with the passage of the Manitoba Schools Act.

September 1892: Opening of a new wing on the Brick Academy.

1901: Tuition fees instituted. On average \$3.75 per month per student was charged.

August 31, 1902: Archbishop Langevin blessed the cornerstone for the present St. Mary's Academy on a 15-acre site in Crescentwood.

August 14, 1903: Sisters moved into new St. Mary's Academy on Wellington Crescent.

August 16, 1903: First mass in chapel.

September 6, 1903: School opened and Archbishop Langevin blessed the new Academy.

October 12, 1903: Commencement exercises, presided over by Archbishop Langevin, held in the auditorium of the new Academy for the four graduates of the Class of 1903.

1904: The Commercial Course started.

1905: Land was sold to the city of Winnipeg to extend Stafford Street and to the Winnipeg School Division to construct Kelvin High School.

January 10, 1908: First issue of the Angelos, a monthly magazine. The money from the subscriptions was to go toward the purchase of an organ for the chapel.

June 4, 1908: Large porch on south side completed, to replace the steps.

March 8, 1909: Construction started on large addition to the Academy.

April 11, 1909: Alumnae Association established.

January 7, 1910: Opening of the new addition.

February 6, 1910: Blessing of the new addition.

December 8, 1910: Students and alumnae celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sister Joseph Calasanz, Superior, by donating to the Academy antique oak bookcases, with a capacity for 2500 books, and a large centre table for the library.

May 31, 1912: First Crowning of the Queen of May.

September 8, 1913: Opening of the Domestic Science Department (Home Economics).

September 8, 1914: Opening of Kindergarten.

June 27, 1915: Grandfather clock in Cozy Corner presented to Sister Joseph Calasanz by alumnae.

October 24, 1925: Affiliation of St. Mary's College with the University of Manitoba through St. Boniface College.

May 21, 1926: First St. Mary's College students graduate.

1936: Affiliation of St. Mary's College with the University of Manitoba through St. Paul's College.

May 31, 1944: Blessing of the Grotto of Our Lady on the school grounds.

September 30, 1947: First edition of the Marian Torch, a student newspaper.

January 25, 1951: First public meeting of the newly-formed Home and School Association.

September 27, 1953: Alumnae celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Wellington Crescent Academy.

June, 1959: Permanent closing of Grade 1 and start of the phasing out of the elementary grades.

May 16, 1960: Closing of the boarding school.

June 17, 1963: Announcement of the closing of St. Mary's College. Last graduates in 1964.

July 8, 1963: Verandas on the west demolished and work started on new wing.

October 18, 1964: Opening of new wing. Alumnae presented cheque of \$10 000 for new library. Home and School Association donated organ for new theatre.

December 30, 1964: First Mass celebrated in the vernacular at the Academy.

May 30, 1965: Sodality donated altar for new theatre.

April 12, 1967: Small Auditorium redecorated by the Home and School Association.

March 5, 1969: Chapel remodeling began to accommodate the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council.

November 4, 1970: Constitutions accepted at the first general meeting of the newly formed Mothers' Guild.

December 19, 1970: The Academy participated in the Four Corners Manitoba Centennial celebration.

May 30, 1971: Commercial Course closed.

1974: The Academy celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in Manitoba to assume responsibility for the school.

November 9, 1975: Mothers' Guild inaugurated International Day.