



DEDICATION OF

*St.
Joseph's
Chapel*

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER DEMMON '88

December 3, 2025

9:30 A.M.

by His Excellency,

The Most Reverend

William E. Lori

Archbishop of Baltimore

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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St. Joseph's Chapel: A New Chapter Begins at Mother Seton School

Emmitsburg, MD – For years, the Mother Seton School community dreamed of having its own chapel—a quiet, sacred place where students could gather for prayer, reflection, and faith formation. This fall, that dream will finally come to life, thanks to a gift born of both generosity and love.

The new chapel will be named in honor of St. Joseph, a figure of great importance to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded the original school that MSS is descended from. Mother Seton placed her fledgling community under St. Joseph's protection, seeing in him a model of faith, humility, and steadfast trust in God. Just as he guided and protected the Holy Family, St. Joseph continues to serve as a spiritual guardian for the school that bears her name.

TJ and Donna (Fitzgerald) Demmon, whose ties to the school run deep—Donna is a proud alumna (MSS '63)—funded the construction of the chapel in memory of their son, Christopher. Christopher, a class of 1988 alum of Mother Seton School, died in a tragic car accident in 1991, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him. For the Demmons, the chapel is a way to honor his life in a space where future generations can find comfort, hope, and inspiration.

“This chapel is a deeply personal and meaningful tribute to Christopher,” Donna shared. “It brings us comfort to know it will be a place where students, faculty, and families can find peace and draw closer to God.”

Construction began on June 6 under the direction of Conewago Enterprises Inc. and will be completed in mid-October. The chapel will be small but able to accommodate an entire classroom, providing students with a dedicated place for daily prayer, spiritual growth, and moments of stillness. It includes four stained glass windows featuring Saints Francis of Assisi, Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph. Dean Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Heavy Timber Construction, who is Donna's brother, played an integral role in the construction, providing structural timber-frame components, roofing, a custom bell tower, and a cross to be affixed to the steeple. The cross was signed by every student, staff, and faculty member at Mother Seton School, as well as the Demmons, before it was gilded and mounted.

The project has also become a community effort. Generous donors have purchased every item needed to furnish the chapel, from the altar to the seating, and their names will be recorded in a memorial book kept inside as a permanent reminder of their support.

For Principal Kathleen J. Kilty, PhD, the chapel represents more than just a building. It's the fulfillment of a long-held vision. "The Demmons' generosity, along with the support of so many others, has made a cherished dream a reality," she said. "We are so thankful to provide our students with a space where their faith can be nurtured and where they can find peace in the midst of their busy school days."

The chapel will be blessed on December 3, 2025, by Archbishop William E. Lori from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. "This chapel is more than brick and mortar. It's a testament to the enduring faith, love, and unity of the Mother Seton School community, and stands as a lasting legacy to Christopher, a sacred space where generations of students will be reminded daily of God's presence and the power of hope."

About Mother Seton School

Mother Seton School is an independent Catholic Pre-K through Grade 8 school, sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, approved by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and accredited by Cognia. For families seeking excellent academics and strong values, Mother Seton School is an affordable option that is easily accessible by bus from many locations in the area. For detailed admissions information, please visit mothersetonschool.org.

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Fact Sheet: Chapel Addition Project at Mother Seton School

1. Project Overview

- **Project Title:** St. Joseph's Chapel at Mother Seton School, in memory of Christopher Demmon (MSS '88)
- **Location:** Adjacent to Library Entrance
- **Project Type:** New Construction / Campus Expansion
- **Purpose:** To provide a dedicated space for worship and prayer for students

2. Key Facts

- **Size of Chapel:** 720 sq ft.
- **Capacity:** 30 seats
- **Estimated Timeline:**
 - **Start Date:** June 2025
 - **Completion Date:** October 2025
- **Architect/Design Firm:** Dean R. Camlin, Architect
- **Contractor/Builder:** Conewago Enterprises, Inc., General Contractor; Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction, structural timber-frame components, roofing, and custom bell tower

3. Project Goals & Benefits

- Support the Mother Seton School's mission and values
- Create a dedicated space for spiritual development
- Provide space for services, prayer, meditation, and special events

4. Funding Information

- **100% Donor Funded**
- **Funding Sources:** TJ and Donna Demmon sponsored the construction of the chapel; individual donors sponsored all other needs

5. Design Highlights

- ADA Compliant
- The brick façade will allow it to blend with the aesthetics of the school

6. Impact on Students and School Community

- Educational and spiritual enrichment
- New space for classroom events or quiet reflection

8. Contact Information

- **Project Manager:** Ivan Manzo, Conewago Enterprises Inc.
- **School Contact:** Principal Kathleen J. Kilty, PhD; Lynn Tayler, Marketing and Media, ltayler@mothersetonschool.org
- **Website/Updates:** MotherSetonSchool.org/mss-chapel; Facebook.com/MSSEmmitsburg



About Mother Seton School

The Mission of Mother Seton School, a vibrant, Christ-centered community, is to inspire students to strive for academic excellence and dedicate their lives to love and serve Christ in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul.

Today, Mother Seton School, located less than one mile from the site of Elizabeth's original school, is an important partner for many Maryland and Pennsylvania families as it continues the Seton Legacy of Catholic Education, at the heart of which are the Core Values of Vincentian Education.

MSS boasts an affordable, high-quality Catholic education (preschool through eighth grade) focused on the whole child and welcoming families of many faiths. Our outstanding curriculum helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing them to meet the challenges of the 21st century, while our award-winning music and arts program stimulates creativity and self-expression. As a certified Maryland Green School, MSS operates an eco-friendly campus, which includes a Monarch Butterfly Way Station, nature trail, and gardens. Our 15-acre campus nestled in the Catoctin Valley encourages outdoor exploration and play, while our proximity to the National Shrine of our patron saint and foundress allows students to develop a strong sense of spirituality that is reflected in school liturgies, our Prayer Partner program, and community service.

Mother Seton School offers a science lab, library and media center, integrated classroom technology, a primary and middle school Spanish program, and the Seton LaCroce Learning Center, which provides intervention and enrichment services when needed. Students may take part in a variety of extracurricular activities, including band and chorus, STEM clubs, art club, Healthy Eating Club, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, and the Seton Chapter of the Vincentian Marian Youth, an international service organization.

Mother Seton School is sponsored by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise Province. Provincial leaders provide direction in school governance and formation for mission, and appoint the principal and chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Our Values

We Cultivate a Community of

EXCELLENCE

by fostering an environment of academic excellence through quality teaching and high expectations for learning.

RESPECT

by treating every person as a child of God, through love, kindness, and compassion.

SERVICE

by putting our Catholic faith into action.

Established in 1810 as St. Joseph School. Moved to the current location in 1965.

Student enrollment: 408

Principal: Kathleen J. Kilty, PhD—kkilty@mothersetonschool.org

Media Contact: Lynn Tayler—ltayler@mothersetonschool.org

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