St. Mary Catholic Central High School

Forming the Next Generation of Disciples, Scholars, and Servant-Leaders

May 13, 2026 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SMCC to Join Catholic High School League Beginning in 2027-2028

MONROE, MI — The Catholic High School League (CHSL) executive athletic board has approved the membership application of St. Mary Catholic Central (SMCC), allowing the school to join the league in all sports beginning with the 2027–28 school year. SMCC, a private Catholic high school in Monroe operated under the Archdiocese of Detroit, submitted its formal request for membership following discussions with league officials. The application was reviewed and approved by the CHSL executive athletic board during its vote on May 12, 2026.

Beginning with the 2027–28 school year, SMCC student-athletes will be eligible to compete in CHSL championships across all sports sponsored by the league.

SMCC President Sean Jorgensen expressed enthusiasm about the school's future within the League. "We are very pleased to be joining one of the premier high school athletic conferences in the country," said Jorgensen. "The CHSL members share our core values as a Catholic institution as we seek to form the next generation of disciples, scholars, and servant-leaders, as well as the right perspective on the role of educational athletics and the indispensable life lessons they can offer."

Since 1968, SMCC has competed in the Huron League against larger public schools. Athletic Director Jared Janssen reflected on the school's long-standing conference affiliation while looking ahead to new opportunities within the CHSL. "We are proud of our nearly 60-year history in the Huron League and will treasure the many great memories made by our student-athletes, coaches, and families during that time," said Janssen. "As we look forward to the countless new memories and friendships ahead, we are excited about the great opportunities and experiences the Catholic High School League will create for our student-athletes."

Catholic High School League Director Mike Evoy welcomed SMCC into the league and emphasized the school's alignment with the CHSL mission. "SMCC's membership in the CHSL was long overdue," said Evoy. "Their faith-based success both in the classroom and in athletics makes them a natural fit for the CHSL."

"The Catholic High School League has spent the last century building a tradition rooted in faith, competition, and character," said Eric Haley, Superintendent for Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit. "Welcoming St. Mary Catholic Central High School – a school with a remarkable history and shared mission – strengthens that tradition as we begin our next 100 years together."

The addition of SMCC continues the Catholic High School League's longstanding tradition of faith-based educational athletics while expanding opportunities for student-athletes throughout southeastern Michigan and northwest Ohio. With SMCC's membership, the CHSL will grow to 35 school communities, making it the largest Catholic high school sports league in the United States, with 34 private high schools currently competing across its membership footprint.

This expansion is part of a continued period of growth for the CHSL, which includes 21 Catholic high schools within the Archdiocese of Detroit, five Catholic high schools within the Diocese of Toledo, as well as Lumen Christi in Jackson and Fr. Gabriel Richard in Ann Arbor (Diocese of Lansing). The league also includes several non-Catholic private schools, including Detroit Country

Day in Beverly Hills, Greenhills in Ann Arbor, Cranbrook Kingswood in Bloomfield Hills, University Liggett in Grosse Pointe Woods, Lutheran North in Macomb, and Frankel Jewish Academy in Bloomfield Hills.

Founded in 1926, the CHSL is one of the oldest continuously operating athletic leagues in the United States. The League was established to promote athletics rooted in Catholic values while emphasizing faith, academics, leadership, sportsmanship, and community. Over the past century, the CHSL has produced countless collegiate and professional athletes while remaining dedicated to the mission of educational athletics.

Additional information regarding divisional alignment and scheduling for the 2027–28 school year will be announced at a later date.

About St. Mary Catholic Central High School

St. Mary Catholic Central High School is a heritage school formed in 1986 from the merger of St. Mary Academy and Monroe Catholic Central. SMCC continues the Church's educational mission in Monroe, which began in 1846 with the founding of St. Mary Academy by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Brothers of Holy Cross arrived in Monroe in 1944 to staff Monroe Catholic Central, an all-boys secondary school established by the Archdiocese and local parishes. Today, SMCC remains committed to its mission, expressed in its guiding statement: "The mission of St. Mary Catholic Central High School is to help form the next generation of disciples, scholars, and servant-leaders." For more information, please visit the SMCC homepage at www.smccmonroe.com or follow SMCC on social media channels to stay up to date with news and updates.

Contact: Jeff Goda at (734) 241-7622 x 417 or jgoda@smccmonroe.com

###