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Thank You  
Round Table Fundraiser  
Last School Raffle  
Principal's Corner



*April 27, 2021*



*An Informed Community is a Stronger Community*  
[www.stdominicsaviobellflower.org](http://www.stdominicsaviobellflower.org)

# Savio STRONG

*At a glance...*

*April 28, 2021*

Round Table Fundraiser  
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*May 2, 2021*

Church Spring Fiesta Raffle  
Pick up your tickets in the  
School Office

*May 3 – May 7, 2021*

Teacher Appreciation Week

*May 6, 2021*

Feast of St. Dominic Savio

*May 13, 2021*

Feast of St. Mary Mazzarello

*May 24, 2021*

Feast of Mary Help of Christians

*May 31, 2021*

Memorial Day  
NO SCHOOL

## THANK YOU PARENTS!



Thank you Parents for your understanding and patience  
during morning drop off and afternoon pick up!

*We also ask that you please slow down during this time  
for the safety of our children!*

*Please also have a sign with your child's name and grade  
placed on your car dashboard or window.*

## Fundraiser Night Round Table Bellflower

**Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Support SDSS while eating delicious food!**



# School Fundraiser

Drawings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month through May of 2021.  
Raffle is done live at 3pm via Instagram and Facebook.

Follow us on Instagram : saviopatriots



Follow us on Facebook: St. Dominic Savio School



**May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Feast of St. Dominic Savio**



**May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mother's Day**



**New!**  
**Donate Now Button**

Visit our Website and please share with Family, Friends, and Employers!

St. Dominic Savio School is excited to offer online giving for one-time, as well as recurring gifts! Simply make a secure donation via PayPal using a debit/credit card!

<https://www.stdominicsaviobellflower.org/giving>



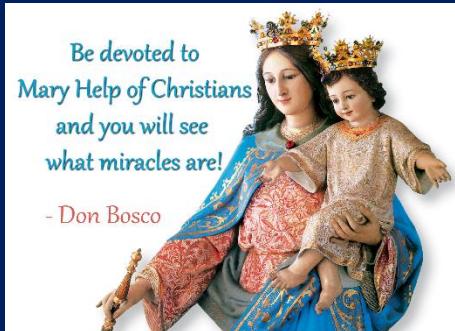
Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm

**BBQ !**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Memorial Day**  
**No School**



## Principal's Corner



**Michael's School Uniforms**  
For uniforms, please visit them

online or in person:

**Michael's School Uniforms**  
225 S. Market Street, Inglewood,  
CA 90301  
[www.michaeluniforms.com](http://www.michaeluniforms.com)  
OR  
310-672-2170

# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TK-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



*“Without confidence and love,  
there can be no true education.”*



## Saint Dominic Savio School

9750 Foster Road  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
562-866-3617

**INTERESTED IN A TOP-NOTCH  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION?**

At St. Dominic Savio School, we ignite the GREATNESS with every scholar!



## GIVE US A CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Visit our classrooms, tour our classrooms, and pick up an Application!

[www.stdominicsaviobellflower.org](http://www.stdominicsaviobellflower.org)



St. Dominic Savio School



saviopatriots



The Last Honest Pizza.®

# Fundraiser Night

**Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

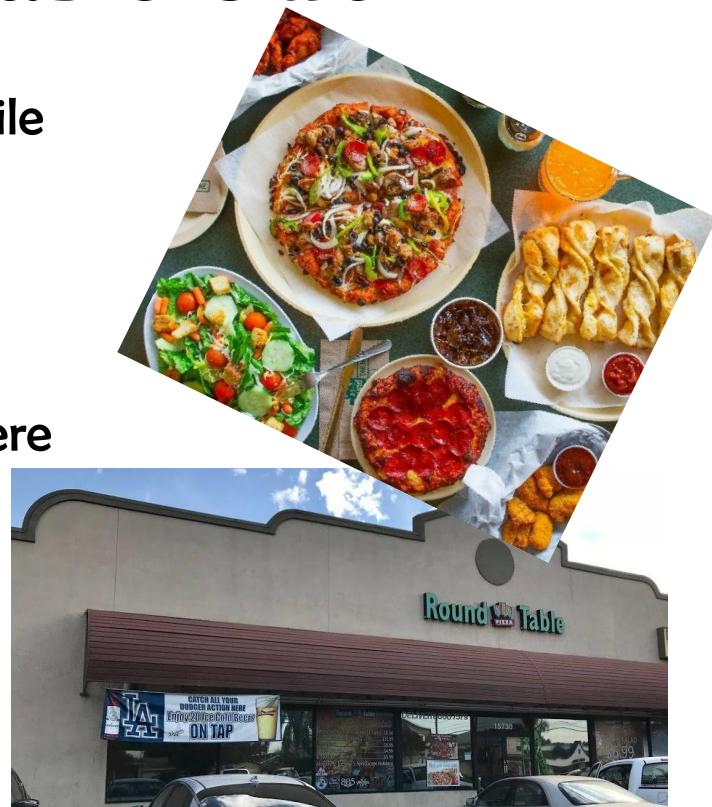
**Dine In or Take Out**

Support St. Dominic Savio School while  
eating delicious food!

Round Table Bellflower  
Alondra Blvd. and Bellflower Blvd.  
Call ahead or order when you get there

**562-866-7579**

Show Paper or Digital Flyer  
when you order.



EDUCATION • LA CATHOLICS

# 'Ascending Lights' marks 30 years as LA's mentorship matchmakers

Steve Lowery | Angelus News (<https://angelusnews.com>)

Apr 06, 2021 • 4 Min Read



Students and mentors at a 2019 Ascending Lights' Christian leadership training event at St. Joseph Center in Alhambra. (All photos submitted)

As a teacher at St. Dominic Savio School in Bellflower, Jessica Jaramillo believes her duty isn't just to teach, but also to enlighten her students about what is possible for them in the future. That is why, she said, she never misses an opportunity to remind them of the importance of a college education.

Yes, whether it's while cleaning up after finger painting or preparing for show-and-tell, Jaramillo makes sure her students are well aware of college.

By the way, Jaramillo teaches kindergarten.

If you think that's a little early to be talking about university life, Jaramillo will tell you some kids never get the college talk. She knows, because she was one of them. For her, growing up, college wasn't a possibility; it was barely a reality.



**Jessica Jaramillo with Gary and Marjorie Krauss, the founders of Ascending Lights.**

"I grew up in LA, low-income, my parents always made sure we got good grades, but college was never talked about," she said. "I didn't even know I wanted to go to college because I really didn't know what it was or how to get there."

Today, Jaramillo not only counts herself a college graduate but one with a master's degree from Loyola Marymount, an amazing turn of fortune brought about by an organization that's been helping shape stories like hers for three decades.

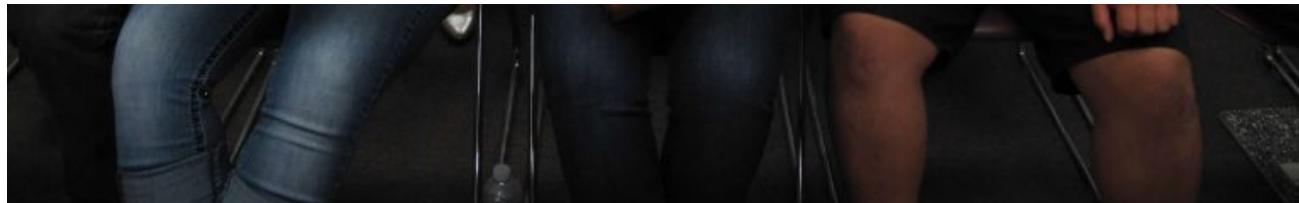
Formed in 1992, Ascending Lights provides community college scholarships and financial support to students who would likely not have access to higher education. Once in college, Ascending Lights then provides one-on-one mentoring to those students, helping to assure they succeed.

And they do.

Eighty-three percent of Ascending Lights students end up getting their Associate of Arts degree, and of those 81% transfer to four-year universities. As of this writing, 82 Ascending Lights students have gotten their bachelor's degrees and 16, including Jaramillo, have their master's degrees.

It's an exceptional record of success that sprung from the depths of local history. It was in the wake of the 1992 Rodney King civil unrest that Catholic convert Gary Krauss and his wife, Marjorie, decided they needed to do something to help raise up the underserved and often neglected children living in Los Angeles' poorest, sometimes most violent areas.





Ascending Lights students at a Christian leadership training event at the De Paul Evangelization Center in Montebello in 2014.

Their solution was education, which, frankly, was not a new solution. The numbers are quite clear that the higher someone goes educationally, the more likely their success economically. What distinguished the Krauss' approach came from a conversation with Bishop David O'Connell, who at the time was pastor at St. Frances Cabrini in South LA.

"He told us we needed to do a couple things," said Krauss, who quit his senior-level job in the corporate world to head the charity. "First, to look at the community colleges that are often overlooked because people tend to focus on the [four-year] universities. But community colleges are an incredible resource."

Bishop O'Connell also told them that simply getting kids from poorer areas to college was likely doomed to fail since virtually all of them came from socioeconomic backgrounds that could not support the multiyear commitment required to succeed in college.

He told them the scholarships they provided would not just have to provide for tuition and books, but supplies, computers, and essentials like transportation and food.

"Probably most importantly, he said the other thing we had to do was provide mentors to these kids," Krauss said. "Mentors who could help them through the entire process because most of them come from backgrounds that don't understand higher education."

Indeed, it's the mentors who are the key and constant cog in what Krauss calls Ascending Lights' "whole cloth" approach. The organization has worked with at least 28 urban area parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, along with dozens of churches from other denominations, to identify candidates for the program who "demonstrate an authentic Christian faith and strong leadership skills."

Once identified, the students are matched with mentors who not only provide tutoring, but become life(time) counselors and advocates.

Missy Griffin has been a mentor with Ascending Lights for 15 years. Though her bachelor's degree in mathematics comes in handy in tutoring, since most of her students need help in that area, she immediately saw that her duties would extend well beyond the classroom.

"If there's a family crisis, something happens at work or in the home and you don't address that, it derails everything else," Griffin said. "Ascending Lights wants you to take a holistic approach."

"A lot of our students have jobs with long hours, and they're also expected to help out at home, maybe provide child care. The challenges they face, what they have to overcome, it requires so much grit and courage, I really admire and have learned so much from watching them. That's why they deserve someone willing to advocate for them, help navigate their educational journeys and be willing to cheer them on."



Jessica Jaramillo with her mentor, Esi Mathis.

And the cheering never stops. Jaramillo said her mentor, Esi Mathis, has always been there for her, providing not only academic advice but "tutoring me in life." The two spoke not only about classes and papers but about family matters and relationships.

"She has always been a phone call away," Jaramillo said. "I was always accountable to her and she has always known what to say, always had something to tell me. From the beginning it was more than academics, it was as if I had another best friend. She helped me challenge myself and ultimately grow."

And Mathis, along with the Krausses, have been there to witness Jaramillo's growth: at her graduation from Loyola Marymount, her wedding, and even her son's baptism.

"It's like having another set of parents," Jaramillo said. "[Ascending Lights] is set up for college but it ends up being something that follows you your whole life."

For more information about Ascending Lights, visit [ascendinglights.org](http://ascendinglights.org) (<http://ascendinglights.org>).

## ARTICLE TAGS

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[Ascending Lights](https://angelusnews.com/tag/ascending-lights/) (<https://angelusnews.com/tag/ascending-lights/>), [Catholic Schools](https://angelusnews.com/tag/catholic-schools/) (<https://angelusnews.com/tag/catholic-schools/>), [College](https://angelusnews.com/tag/college/) (<https://angelusnews.com/tag/college/>).

**STEVE LOWERY**

Angelus News (<https://angelusnews.com>)

Steve Lowery began his journalism career at the Los Angeles Times, and he has since written for The National, the Los Angeles Daily News, the Press-Telegram, New Times LA, the District, and the OC Weekly. He is the arts and culture editor for the Post, overseeing the Hi-lo. He has two grown children.