



Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

November 8, 2017



MISSION To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever changing world.

Front Office Corner

Office hours 7:30am-3:30pm and by appointment.

School Mass every Wednesday at 8:30am (or Fridays for the First Friday of each month)

Nov 8: JrHigh Youth Ministry @530pm (gym)

Nov 9: Chess Club; Lansky's Food Night (4-8pm)

Nov 10: Veterans Day Assembly @130pm

Nov 11: Veterans Day Parade

Nov 12: Auction "All Hands" Mtg @630pm (Library); Parent Surveys due

Nov 13: No HW room; Jr Legion of Mary; Home & School Mtg @630pm (Library)

I would like to take a little time to thank you for completing the survey we sent via email link. It is important to get feedback from all stakeholder groups as a part of our Continuous School Improvement. If we are going to live our mission of "nurturing students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever-changing world", we need to stop once in a while to see how we are doing. This latest survey was about our culture and climate. It was a simple gauge of what our school looks like from a parent perspective. It was short, but gives us some data on how you feel when you walk into our school or talk about school with your children. We will use the results to reflect on what areas are strong and where we need to focus our improvement efforts. We plan to share some goals and strategies with you in the near future. Thank you so much for participating.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

Request for Budding Botanists Fluorescent Green Shirts. For all our Budding Botanists club members who received complimentary shirts and are no longer in Budding Botanists, please return your shirts so our new members may also enjoy while they are in the club. Please drop off in the office.



St Mary's Auction "All Hands on Deck" meeting. We are having the first meeting regarding the St. Mary's auction in the spring. The meeting will be held on **November 12th at 6:30 PM** in the school library; all committee chairs and volunteers will need to be in attendance. The auction is very important to our school and we are still in need of volunteers....please consider attending this first meeting.

Safe Environment Training. All parents are strongly encouraged to complete Safe Environment training because at some point, you may want to volunteer as a chaperone etc and the training is a requirement. The next local Safe Environment Training session **will be on Nov. 9th from 6:30-8:30pm** in the Dominican Center (southeast side of school). This training will be for St. Mary's parishioners only.

To register, please google CMGconnect and complete on-line registration. If you have questions, please contact me. Next local training will not be until January for St. Mary's.

Hungry for Breakfast? The breakfast program runs from 7:10-7:40 AM. The cost for breakfast is \$1.90. Children can arrive at extended day and are sent over to the gym for breakfast. Student enter through Extended Day, but there is no extended day charges for simply going to breakfast (only charge is the meal).

Converting VCR tapes to DVDs? Is there anyone out there that has the capability of transferring VCR tapes to DVD format? If so, Mrs. Schutt, the art teacher, has many art history VCR tapes that she would love to have transferred to DVD format. Please contact the office, or Mrs. Schutt if you are interested. Thank you.

No School – November 17th - SCHOOL OF FAITH (IN-SERVICE FOR TEACHERS). The Archdiocese of Omaha sponsors the *School of Faith* program aimed at giving faculty members a monthly rejuvenation of Catholicism. These sessions are part of our in-service schedule and foster your students' faith-filled learning environment.

Security Reminders/Notes. Have you ever noticed the screen in the office with 16+ cameras to monitor the happenings at St. Mary's. As a reminder, generally all visitors are asked to use the main entrance off Mission Ave. Students are not permitted to let anyone in the building from a side door (even if they recognize the parent). We recommend parking along Clay Street as the school lot is not available during the school day. This area is used for PE and recess. Parents are asked not to park at EPS, as this is not a school parking lot.

Veterans Assembly. St. Mary's School invites all veterans, active and retired, to our annual veterans' assembly to be held on Friday, Nov. 10th. Please arrive through the south gym doors at 1:30pm as the assembly will begin promptly at 1:45pm. If you have a child/grandchild, etc attending St. Mary's School that child may escort you into the assembly. **IF YOU HAVE NEVER attended our veteran assembly, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO THIS YEAR as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1.** Your military photo and/or medals [if you wish to bring them] may be placed on the display tables located in the gym. Refreshments follow the assembly which ends close to 3-3:10 pm. To register, please call school. Questions, call office or Becky Feagan 402-639-8976 bfeagan@cox.net



Student Council News. As we begin getting ready to celebrate the holidays, it's a great time to reflect on the many blessings we have been given. It's also a great time to recognize that not everyone in our community is so fortunate. With that in mind, we are sponsoring a non-perishable food drive to benefit the Bellevue Food Pantry. Our goal for this year is to collect

800 items. **We welcome donations of any non-perishable items, but the food pantry is most in need of the following items: Hamburger and Tuna Helper, tuna, dry potatoes, canned fruit, canned vegetables, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, peanut butter, jelly, rice, noodles, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, and cake mixes.** Thank you for helping us live out the corporal work of mercy of feeding the hungry.

Get your creative skills in gear for a family project!! We are asking each family to create a paper turkey to hang up in our gym for all to see. You can use materials to decorate. We would like to have them by November 15, so we can enjoy them for several days before we celebrate Thanksgiving.

On September 21, we celebrated International Day of Peace. We would like to carry that over, and continue to pray for peace in our world. We would like to encourage each family to pray The Prayer of St. Francis each day as a family or to pray a decade of the rosary each day with the intention of peace. We know that when two or more are gathered in His name, He is there. Let's storm heaven with prayers.

Book Fair. Thanks to everyone who participated in our book fair. The school sold 533 books. Total sales were \$2,663, up \$117 from last year.

Project Hope. Project HOPE – coordinators – Rhonda Prewitt and Kati Wilwerding – smscripcoord@cox.net . **Are you thinking about Christmas? Scrip is! Low denomination cards are available until Dec 1st (\$5 - Barnes & Noble - Panera – Starbucks) and (\$10 - Applebee’s, CVS, Olive Garden, Home Depot, IHOP, Outback, Red Lobster, Target, Walmart**

URGENT – Parent volunteers needed to help sell SCRIP after the 5pm Masses on Saturday and Sunday. Please consider helping with this program. If interested, please email Meinders3@cox.net



Jr High Youth Ministry. St. Mary’s Junior High Youth Group (7th & 8th grades) will meet in the school gym today, Nov 8th from 5:30-6:30pm. *All 7th & 8th grade students are asked to attend at least 2 of our Wednesday night gatherings this semester to fulfill their Confirmation requirements. Our next Encounter Night is on Dec. 3rd. Teens (and at least 1 parent) asked to attend at least 1 of these for Confirmation requirements. Questions, contact Will Targy (will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

Basketball News. Registration forms should have been handed in by now....if you still want to play but haven’t submitted, please contact Athletic Director ASAP. Practices will start around the first week of November depending on teams. This basketball season we will have teams for 1st - 8th grades (boys & girls). The first graders will play with the second graders in their league. Games start the first weekend of December and continue thru the middle of March.



Any questions, contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at megjen992000@yahoo.com or [402-881-2576](tel:402-881-2576).

Leaving Extended Day or Homeroom Room for Basketball practice. Parents who would like their children to be dismissed from Extended Day or Homework Room will need to have a permission form signed and on file. Please request from the Homework room or Extended Day. As a reminder, only students having practice would be dismissed (no siblings would be permitted watch practice). Any questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at megjen992000@yahoo.com or [402-881-2576](tel:402-881-2576).



Couples for Christ Fun. November 10, 5:30-8pm in the Parish Center. Potluck Dinner and Games and *Soup will be provided by CIC core team. Please bring breads or desserts. Come and enjoy bingo. Questions? Email SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com or on Facebook at Couples in Christ St. Mary’s Bellevue. **COMING UP: December 16 – Ollie the Trolley and Christmas Fun**

MEN’S RETREAT Men of the parish are invited to attend a Men’s Retreat at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center on Friday, November 17th at 5:30 p.m. through Saturday, November 18th at 12:30 p.m. Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch are provided. Cost is \$55 for a shared room; \$100 for a private room. Contact Deacon Ted Menzel at 402-292-2076.

FAMILY AFTERNOON MOVIES (FAM) - COMING SOON! All are invited to come and experience a fun big screen movie afternoon with us in the parish center. The next Family Afternoon Movie is Sunday, December 10th . If you are interested in helping select a movie, develop a Catholic Christian connection and fun activities, crafts, and home activities, contact Keeley at 402-291-7222 or keeley.tomaso@stmarysbellevue.com.

Home and School Association

HSA Fall Fundraiser Update. Product pick-up date is Thursday, November 16th from 3:00p-5:00p in the school gym. Orders made online by family and friends will be delivered directly to their homes. Thank you all for your support! You may sign up on **SignUp Genius** ([link](#)) or by contacting Janet at [402-250-7190](tel:402-250-7190) or jmyale10@gmail.com

LANSKY'S **Lansky's Food Night.** Our next food night is on Thursday, November 9th from 4p-8p at Lansky's in Bellevue. Lansky's will donate 15% from proceeds. Make sure to ask for an extra receipt to throw in basket or have the cashier throw in an extra receipt in a basket located next to the cashier for them to count in the donation.

Thanks to those who participated in Don and Millie's Food Night. School raised **\$168.39** which will be put towards our various programs to benefit students.

Veteran's Day Parade. Please join us on Saturday, November 11th at 10:00am in honoring those who served and continue to serve our great country. The parade will begin out in front of the school and proceed eastbound down Mission Ave. Meet in the school parking lot at 9:30p and wear your St. Mary's gear, royal blue, or red-white-and-blue! We will have some candy on hand, but please bring some of your own to hand out. We will also be using our parade float again, if you would like to help decorate, please arrive at 9:00a in the school parking lot.



Home and School Meeting. Next meeting will be Monday November 13th at 6:30p in the library. Meetings are run by the board....who are parents of St. Mary's students, just like you. All our parents/guardians of students enrolled at St. Mary's School are members of the Home and School Association. This is a such a blessing to our school community because each of you have an array of talents that help to enrich our students' lives through your volunteerism. Come and make a difference!

President: *Mary Sasek, parent to Jillian (5th grade) and Andrew (1st grade)*

Vice-President: *Bernadette Miller, parent to Jack (8th grade), Caleb (3rds grade) and Mackenzie (PK)*

Treasurer: *Craig Ames, parent to Preston (8th grade), Carson (7th grade), Hudson (6th grade) and Greyson (4th grade)*

Secretary: *Janet Yale, parent of Bailey Yale (7th grade)*

Volunteer Coordinator: *Brenda Achterhoff, parent of Bennet (4th grade) and Ayden (Kindergarten)*

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND NOVEMBER 12 The Home & School Association and the Hospitality Ministry invite everyone to gather in the Parish Center and spend a few minutes of your day to "Give Thanks" for all of our blessings, family, and friends! Introduce yourself to the person next to you in Mass and invite them to join you for coffee or refreshments in the Parish Center. Giving of oneself is just one element of true Thanksgiving!

We will be gathering after the 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses. In addition to visiting, we could also use your help serving, etc (ref: sign-up genius).

"Bethlehem Revisited" is Returning. Groups at St. Mary's are bringing back a beloved tradition – a "Living Nativity" on Saturday, December 9th from 7-9pm at the church, St. Mark's Hall and the parish center. Parishioners will re-enact the night Christ was born, with Roman soldiers, shepherds in the field, Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Watch for details; plan to bring the family!