

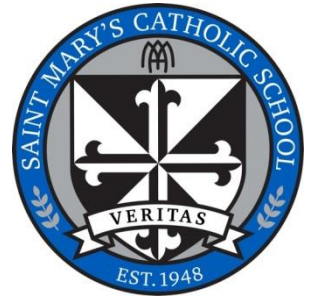


Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

November 29, 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 29: Jr High Youth Ministry @530pm (gym)

Nov 30: Chess Club until 4pm

Dec 1: All School Mass; Duct Tape Assembly

Dec 2: Saturday School (7-9am)

Dec 3: Encounter Night

Dec 4: No HW room; Progress Reports Home; Jr Legion of Mary

Dec 5: Budding Botanists F/T (Lauritzen Gardens)

Dec 6: School Reconciliation Service



As we send out this newsletter, there are 16 days of school until Christmas Break. The calendar is full of events and celebrations unique to the season of Advent.

Each Monday, we will gather in the gym at 8:15am for an All School Prayer Service. You are invited to join us as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. You can park in the far east side of the gym lot and enter through gym (please press call button).

Students in grades 3-8 will be invited to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 6th. The parish is hosting Bethlehem Revisited on December 9th and all are welcome. Some of the students and their families will participate in the living nativity. The parish is hosting another Encounter Night on December 3rd. Mark your calendars for these special activities which allow us to gather in faith and fellowship. Please check the school calendar for more dates and times. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we hope your Advent season is a time of joyful anticipation

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

2017-2018 Yearbook. Get yours early to miss the rush....the price will be \$20 until Jan 31, 2018. See attached form.

Volunteer Opportunity: Student Greeters Needed to Hand out Advent Prayer Cards at all Masses December 9th and 10th starting with the 5pm

Mass on December 9th. Basic instructions are provided before hand. Students are needed to be in uniform and come 10 minutes early to Mass. They get an hour of volunteer work for coming to Mass. We would like to have 6 students and 3 adults at each Mass to cover the 3 doors. This is the 7th year students will be handing out Advent prayer cards to parishioners as a personal gift for all they do for St. Mary's School. **We need 6 students per Mass and 3 adults per Mass.**

Access to Gym Lot for Pick-Up. For those assigned to the gym lot, please remember that you may access the parking lot at/after 3:10pm. PE classes may be using the parking lot up until 3:10pm and sometimes there is afternoon recess.

Encounter Night - Sunday, Dec. 3rd. The focus of an Encounter Night is to provide a life-changing personal encounter with Jesus Christ through worship music, a keynote speaker and most especially Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It is an invitation to experience the radical love of God and say "yes" to an abundant life with Him.

All parishioners, school families and guests are invited to join us this Sunday, Dec. 3rd for Encounter Night which begins with Mass at 5pm, dinner at 6pm in the Parish Center and the Encounter Event at 7pm in the church. Our guest speaker is Fr. Jeff Loseke from St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Gretna. The theme of the evening will be "Emmanuel: God With Us". If you are planning to attend dinner, please RSVP with the parish secretary Anne Nabors (402-291-1350 or email: anne.nabors@stmarysbellevue.com). Come for the evening or part of the evening.

Save the Date: Christmas Program (Grades 1-5) is Friday, Dec 15th at 7 pm in the school gym.

Updating Service Hours. At the end of December, we run a mid-year report for parent service hours. If you haven't had a chance to update, please make some time to log any service hours you have completed. Completing service hours helps St. Mary's thrive and ensures our students have so many wonderful opportunities. If you are having any problems, please call the office...we would be happy to assist you.

Weather Cancellations. It is time to review St. Mary's cancellation policy. If Bellevue Public Schools cancels classes or evening activities due to inclement weather, we will not have classes or activities that day/evening at St. Mary's School either. We will send text notifications and all school emails as well. You can also check your local news stations.

If you are concerned about the weather and we have not cancelled, it is a parent's discretion to decide not to attend class if you feel you can not safely drive to or from school. If this occurs, please let the office know: 402-291-1694 or cathy.braxton@stmarysbellevue.com.

HW Room. Friendly reminder, the Homework Room is not available on the last day of school before a holiday break or a long weekend break. There will be no HW room the week of December 18th due to afternoon activities of teachers and staff. Please plan accordingly.

"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!

Sacrament Dates Please mark your calendar for these important dates if your student will be receiving Sacraments this year.

2nd grade First Reconciliation: Jan. 20th, 10:30am

2nd grade Parents/Child workshop First Communion January 31st, 5:30-7:15pm Parish Center

8th grade Rite of Enrollment: April 21st, 5pm or April 22nd, 12:30pm

2nd Grade First Communion Practice: April 28th, 9- 12 noon

2nd grade First Communion: April 29th, 12:30pm or 2:30pm

8th grade Night of Reflection and Rehearsal: May 4 th, 5:30pm-8:00pm

8th grade Confirmation: May 6th, 5pm

From the Lunch Room: **As stated in our lunch policy, we are not able to offer Hot Packs when a lunch balance becomes negative. Students in grades 6-8 may have extra portions of the vegetables and fruit. We also offer salad and carrot sticks each day as an additional side with every hot lunch. Thank you for your assistance.**

Student Activities Food Drive. Thanks to the families that participated. Our school community collected 292 cans/boxes of food to benefit our local community.



Jr High Youth Ministry. St. Mary's Junior High Youth Group (7th & 8th grades) will meet in the school gym today, Nov 29th 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. Questions, contact Will Targy (will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

Reminder about FAMILY FARE RECEIPTS. St. Mary's School is also collecting Family Fare (formerly No Frills) receipts. For every \$150,000 St. Mary's collects in receipts, the school will receive \$1,000 in cash. Receipts can be dropped off at school, in the box at the SCRIP table (main entrance of church), or in the collection basket at Mass or at the rectory.



Coke Rewards. Do you enjoy a coke? We would love your caps and your code from the cartons. Our last check from Coke was **\$30.50**...we'd love to get that to \$300!

Project Hope. Project HOPE – coordinators are Rhonda Prewitt and Kati Wilwerding – smscripcoord@cox.net There is a new delicious scrip option available! Uptown Bakery is now participating in the scrip program - \$10 gift certificates are available for all your bakery needs. *We have Chilis SCRIP now!

Low denomination gift cards are available, perfect for stocking stuffers and holiday gift-giving! These cards will only be available while supplies last, so place your orders now.

- \$10 - Amazon - Applebee's - Barnes & Noble - CVS - Olive Garden/Longhorn/Cheddars - Home Depot - iHOP - Outback - Red Lobster - Target - Wal-Mart
- \$5 - Panera - Starbuck's

Couples for Christ Ollie the Trolley Fun Night. Saturday, December 16, 5-7 PM at St. Mary's School Gym (\$20/family or \$5/person). Bring Cookies or Christmas Treat to share!



Sign up begins November 26. To sign up: Sign Up Genius, Search: SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com OR call Cristin Kelly [\(708\) 297-5691](tel:708.297.5691). Email SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com for more info.

ST. MARY'S LADIES GUILD'S ANNUAL COOKIE WALK. Visit the annual Cookie Walk!!! Choose from a wide selection of sweet, decadent cookies and candies For your holiday enjoyment! Keep for yourself or give as gifts. Great for Christmas entertaining. We gratefully accept donations of cookies and candies. From all parishioners, School & Religious Ed families. See eFlyer for details.

Christmas Eve Mass Choir Invite. Mrs. Menzel and Miss Kallman invite all St. Mary's School students grades 2-8 (and recent alumni) to come and sing with us for the 6:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th. If you are going to be in town and you are going to Mass on Christmas Eve, let's make a joyful noise together as a school family! We will be sending home a flyer with details, and we ask that you contact the school office or Miss Kallman by email, pass-a-note or phone to let us know you are planning to come. We want to be sure to save enough room for any and all who want to join us.

Home and School Association and Auction Information

December Food Night – Dairy Twist, Thursday December 7th from 4p-8p. Dairy Twist will donate 20% of all proceeds to St. Mary's. Come out and dine with us at this longtime supporter. No script will be accepted during the food night.

Fill-a-Need for 2018 Auction – We would like your feedback for the fill-a-need project for the 2018 Auction. We are going to solicit ideas from all parents, teachers, etc. on what the project should be. Please see below for the timeline and process.

- December 1st – 31st: solicit ideas for fill-a-need project for 2018 auction. (more details to come in future newsletter on the process on how to submit them)
- January 1st – 20th: H&S Executive committee will review ideas, get bids, and review with Fr. Del, Dr. Wallinger, and Collette Borland.
- January 8th: ideas collected will be read at the H&S meeting
- January 22nd: list of top 3 ideas will be communicated out to the St. Mary's School community
- February 12th: voting will take place during the H&S General meeting and top vote getter will be the fill-a-need project.

Please be watching for more information on the process. This is a great opportunity for you to get your voice heard and how to be a part of the process. Any questions please contact Janet Yale [402.250.7190](tel:402.250.7190) or jmyale10@gmail.com

Home and School Meeting. Next meeting will be Monday December 11th at 6:30pm 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)

St. Mary's Advent Newsletter. Each Advent, St. Mary's parish sends parishioners an Advent newsletter. As part of the St. Mary's family, we wanted to ensure each family received a copy. The link will be sent with eNewsletter or please call the office for a copy.

Alumni News

Caroling. Plan to join St. Mary's Alumni group as we go caroling to kick off the Holidays. We will be meeting at Hillcrest Shadow Lake, located at [1507 E Gold Coast Rd, Papillion](#) on Saturday, December 2nd from 1-2pm. Old and young are welcome. We hope to see you there! Alumni representatives will be gathered by the main doors of the facility, wearing our St. Mary's T-shirts. Please wear festive attire or "Santa" hats! Questions: call Hannah (Menzel) Clark at 402-718-6114.

Looking Back on November Fun...



All School Masses where students in various grades lead the liturgy.



Veterans Day Assembly



Some of our 1st graders from their All Saints Day parade.



PK and 5th grade students celebrate Thanksgiving with their own feast.



Veterans Day Parade



Witslash – Academic Bowl