

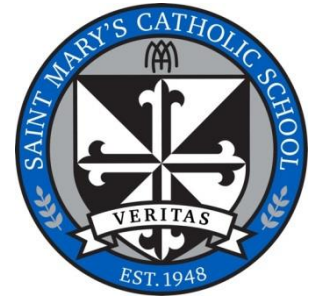


Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 16

December 13, 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)

Dec 13: All School Mass; Reconciliation (gr 6-8) Choir F/T to Channel 3 ; Jr High Youth Group Advent Party

Dec 14: St. Mary's Band Concert highlight; NO CHESS

Dec 15: No Karate Club; no HW room; Christmas Program @7pm (gr 1-5)

Dec 16: Ollie the Trolley

Dec 18: No HW room; Jr Legion of Mary; PK Program at 230pm

Dec 19: No HW room

Dec 20: All School Mass; Christmas parties in classroom (see room parent for start time); No HW room

**Christmas Break
December 21 to
January 5th
(school resumes on
January 8th)**

The sights and sounds of the season abound in school this week. There are Christmas carols, students wrapping gifts for parents, and excited whispers about Santa's nice list. The best sound was the song the children sang at the Monday prayer service, "I've Got Peace in My Fingers." We have all been focused on peace and spreading the light of Christ to all we meet. Our wish for you as we move into the third week of Advent is that you'll be filled with peace through the love of God and the hope that Christmas brings. From the entire staff, have a very blessed Christmas and we will see you in 2018.

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

PS—this is the last newsletter of 2017. Any information or updates for next week will be sent through email or texts.

Christmas Program (grades 1-5). Christmas Program is Friday, December 15th at 7 pm in the school gym. Students will need to be at the school no later than 6:15pm. They go in the gym doors and directly up to their classrooms, taking all of their belongings with them. Please do not hold onto your child's coat, etc. as we always have a large crowd and seating is tight. A responsible adult must pick up your child from the classroom after the program due to school safety policy.

Dress for Christmas Program. Students should dress in church-appropriate clothing. Boys should wear pants and a shirt or sweater. Girls may wear pants or skirts and a top or sweater or a dress. Please keep in mind that they will sit on the risers at times, so skirts and dresses should be knee-length or longer. Tights are recommended, but not required. Tops and dresses must have sleeves that cover the shoulder. Girls may wear a short sweater or shrug if they wear a dress with straps or no sleeves. No shoes or boots with heels are allowed. Please wear shoes that are non-marking to protect the gym floor.

Saturday School Update for 8th Graders. For second semester, there will be no more Saturday School opportunities for 8th graders as they begin their transition from middle school to high school.

School Reconciliation Service. St. Mary's School Middle School celebrated

Reconciliation today, Wednesday, December 13th after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Christmas/Advent Classroom Parties. Room parents will be hosting Advent/Christmas parties on Wednesday, December 20th at 2pm for PK-5; 2:30pm for grades 6-8.

2018-2019 Pre-Kindergarten. As we look forward to our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Info Night the first few months of 2018, we are asking all school families with prospective pre-Kindergarten students to contact the office. There will be a formal registration review at a later date, but your response will help with important enrollment projections. For the past 3 years there's been a waiting list in PK so please ensure you respond.

Updating Address and Phone # Changes. Twice in the past month, we had parents change office numbers or move but not update the office. Please take a moment to email the office any changes in address or phone number that have occurred since you registered for 2017-2018.

Santa pictures. All Santa pictures will go home on Wednesday, December 18th. Thanks for your participation. We raised over \$400 to benefit families in need this Christmas Season.



Winter Giving Tree. We are collecting winter attire to help those who are in need. We are accepting new hats, mittens/gloves and/or gently used coats/jackets, snow pants, boots and blankets. If you are able to help, we would appreciate it a great deal. We will use some for children in our school who do not have winter wear as well as send the rest to St. Vincent DePaul Society which helps families in need. Thank you so much. (see actual Winter Giving Tree pic with eNewsletter).

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

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 of 18th due to afternoon activities of teachers and staff. Please plan accordingly. **Additional non-HW Room Day: December 15th due to Christmas program (unless HW room eligible students want to stay after school and help set-up until 4:30pm).**



Jr High Youth Ministry. St. Mary's Junior High Youth Group (7th & 8th grades) is today, **December 13th at 7pm-8:30pm (Parish Center)**. *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).

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.

Couples in 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! 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.

Campbell Soup Labels. With the program ending, we are doing one last push for Campbell Soup labels. our final submission must be postmarked by January 2nd. With Christmas and school vacation, I would like to pick up all of our BoxTops on the last day of school before Christmas vacation.

First Communion Parent/Child workshop is Wednesday, January 31 from 5:30-7:15 p.m. in the parish center. A light snack will be offered during the meeting.

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.(see attached sign-up form).



Announcing Catholic Schools Week Talent Show 2018! The 5th Annual H&S-sponsored Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Talent Show will be Friday, February 2nd at 7pm in the school gym. Once again individual & group performances by students, teachers, & parents/families are welcome! An electronic registration form will be sent out soon. Hard copies will be available in the office for those who need one. Registration forms will be due by Friday, January 12th; auditions will be Friday, January 19th after school & evening; and dress rehearsal will be Thursday, February 1st after school. Songs will need to be approved by Miss Kallman prior to your audition. Use your Christmas Break to work on your routine! We look forward to seeing St. Mary's talent!! Volunteer needs will be on SignUp Genius soon. Contact Talent Show Coordinator Christina Legner with questions (402-598-1262/christina_legner@yahoo.com). This is Christina's 5th year doing the show and she's looking to transition it to another parent. Please let her know if you're interested in shadowing her this year to then take it over next year! The time commitment is approximately 20 hrs & is a mix of at-home & at-school work (after business hours).

Hope of the Poor Visit to Grades 5-8. On Monday, December 11th, Hope of the Poor, a non-profit organization with missionaries in Alaska, Mexico City and Nebraska came to visit with our 5th-8th grade students. They performed music and discussed their mission to inspire all generations to radically live out the Gospel through finding Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor.

Free Adult Computer Classes. Mark your calendars now for these free adult computer classes, held in the school computer lab from 7-9 p.m. Register at jbezy@cox.net or call John for more information @ 402-291-1765. Class size is limited to 20 people. Next class: December 21 - Facebook & Social Media

St. Mary's Parish – Capital Campaign Study/Survey. You may be aware that we are conducting a comprehensive survey of the entire parish. All parishioners received a letter from the pastor inviting them to participate. The purpose of the survey is to help gauge support for the following projects that constitute our parish master plan:

- Build a new entryway for our church
- Update our sanctuary, including the sound & hearing aid systems
- Renovate our church restrooms and parish center
- Complete needed maintenance in our school
- Reduce debt and bolster endowments
- Construct a bell tower

The goal for this Capital Campaign is to put St. Mary's on solid ground as we celebrate our first 100 years and embark on our second century as a faith community in 2021. Over 50% of St. Mary's School operations budget is funded by parish.

SACRAMENTS - 2nd grade First Reconciliation - January 20, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. If your child is preparing for Reconciliation, this is a reminder that you should be working on your home preparation materials. If you have questions regarding the home packets, please contact the RE office.

Come out & support Spartan Basketball- Coaches will inform teams concerning practices during Christmas break.

Boy teams

3rd - Sat Dec 16th @ 11:00 at Home

4th - Sat Dec 16th @ 1:20 at St. Joan of Arc

5/6th - No Games

7th - Sat Dec 16th @ 1:30 at Home; Tues Dec 19th @ 8:00 Lied Center 3

8th - Sat Dec 16th @ 10:05 at St. Joan of Arc

Spartan Basketball - Girl teams

4/5th - Sat Dec 16th @ 10:00 at Home 6/7th - Sat Dec 16th @ 12:00 at St. Gerald's

8th - Sat Dec 16th @ 2:30 at Home

Home and School Association Information

Bakers Community Rewards. Last year, St. Mary's earned \$479.55 from Bakers Community Rewards. These funds will be used for field trips and other fun initiatives from Home and School. If you are not signed up, please contact the office for details. Please note, each year you have to re-register for community rewards. Directions will come after January 1st.

Faculty/Staff Christmas Gift Collection. Christmas is only a few weeks away. It is a perfect time to express our thanks to our teachers and staff for all they do for our children. To keep in the spirit of the season (in lieu of individual gifts families might give), we are asking that each family prayerfully consider making an offering of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or any amount to demonstrate our gratitude. The money will be pooled together and distributed as cash to the various faculty and staff. Return your gift in a sealed envelope labeled "Attn: Craig Ames - Faculty/Staff Christmas Gift" to the school office as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, Dec 15th. The gifts will be presented at the Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon. Cash or checks are welcome. Please make checks out to "St. Mary's Home & School Association" and in the memo include "Christmas Gift". Thank you for your generous support of our faculty and staff and in showing our appreciation for all they do for our children. May God bless you and your family this Christmas! (see attached letter).

Family Movie Day "Ferdinand". The Home & School Association would like to invite all to join us for a viewing of the movie "Ferdinand" during Christmas break, Wednesday, December 27th at Twin Creek Cinema in Bellevue. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Fill-A-Need 2018 Idea Submission - Do you have an idea on what we can spend our Fill-A-Need dollars on for our school? The Fill-A-Need portion of the auction raises anywhere between \$15,000 and \$25,000 so please keep that in mind when submitting your ideas. Please submit your ideas now through December 31st to homeandschool.stmarys@gmail.com

Please include the following information: Name, Fill-A-Need Suggestion, Rational for your suggestion, Any other information you would like to add

Auction Donations - It is time to start collecting donations for the 2018 Benefit Auction. Here are some suggestions for donations to get you started. These items have proven to be our top sellers – so if you see a great deal when you are out shopping on this holiday season – please consider purchasing to donate to the auction.

- Barware – glasses, liquor, wine, accessories
- Local Restaurant & Hotel Gift Certificates and Event tickets
- Kitchen – small appliances, cookware, bakeware
- Purses/Tote Bags – Vera Bradley, Coach, other higher end designers
- Salon or Shopping (retail) gift cards
- Fine Jewelry
- Creighton Bluejays Gear
- Lawn/Porch Décor – stones, planters
- Outdoor Gear – tents, backpacks, flashlights
- Board Games – youth/adult/family
- DVD's – current and classic titles – youth/adult/family.
- Bluetooth/wireless- headphones, speakers
- Electronics – tablets, computer accessories, gaming accessories

When sending in donations to school – please include value of each item along with donor's name and address. Keep an eye out in future newsletters for additional items needed to complete baskets. Thank you for your continued support

Acquisitions/Business Donations. Legoland - last year we requested a donation and never got a response. **Adventureland** - we requested a donation and were declined. Do you have any contacts that would result in a "yes" to our donation request...please contact office.

Hoop Shoot Contest – Omaha Elks Lodge #0039. Are you age 8-13 years and do you like basketball? There's a hoop shoot contest on January 14th. Call the school office for a registration form.