



Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

September 7, 2016



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)

Upcoming:

- Sep 7: Confirmation Parent Mtg (7th)**
- Sep 8: Chess Club**
- Sep 11: Parish Picnic**
- Sep 12: Spirit Day; Home and School Mtg (all parents invited)**



August has suddenly become September. Students have settled in nicely and teachers have gotten a feel for a new class. School is in full swing. Although the temperature is still in the high 80's, we are starting to see fall activities on the calendar. The next event for the parish is the picnic this coming weekend. I hope you will all get a chance to attend at some point during the day. There are family friendly activities and plenty of food. Stop by the School Development table and see the display. It is a great reminder of the way St. Mary students go on to be very successful after receiving a good educational foundation at our school.

Later in September, and into early October, grades 3-8 will be taking the Terra Nova 3 assessment. This annual test helps us to see areas of strength and pinpoint areas of challenge. With the data, we can make decisions about what we need to do for individual students as well as what we can do for students overall. Teachers have been working on using all types of data to drive instructional decisions for the last three years. Changes to the academic program are made after taking a look at how best to help our students. New interactive Science books in the middle grades and the addition of web-based reading support for the new reading series are just two of the ways student needs are being met this year.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal

Coffee with the Principal

All Parents are invited to come



and enjoy a cup of coffee, light refreshment and fellowship with Dr. Trish Wallinger on Thursday, September 15th immediately following drop off. Please come to the main office for a visitor pass. Hope to see you there!

Safe Environment Training on Sept 15th. Any adult who will be volunteering or working with the youth at St. Mary's is required to have a current Safe Environment certification. Your certification is valid for 5 years. If you are not sure if your Safe Environment Training is current, contact the school office. If you have never been certified, you may sign up at www.archomaha.org. Go to Ministries, Safe Environment, Live training and find a location and date that will work for you. St. Mary's will offer a training on Thursday, September 15th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Dominican Center. You must register online to attend this session.

September 4th Blessed Teresa canonized as Saint Teresa. Last Sunday, Pope Francis held a Consistory of Cardinals and Bishops in which, among others Causes, the Canonization of Blessed Teresa was approved. The canonization was held on September 4th in Rome during the Sunday Mass celebrated as part of the Jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy.

The entire Missionaries of Charity family – Sisters, Brothers, Fathers, coworkers, Corpus Christi Movement for Priests, lay associates (Lay Missionaries of Charity and I Thirst Movement), volunteers, benefactors, friends of different faiths, and especially the poorest of the poor – rejoice and is grateful to Pope Francis for this significant event in its history and in the life of the Church during this Jubilee of Mercy. It is providential that the approved miracle that occurred in Santos, Brazil in 2008 through the intercession of Blessed Teresa, was brought to the attention of the Postulation only in late 2013 and received approval in December 2015. Thus Mother Teresa's canonization becomes a major event of the Jubilee of Mercy.

Change to Drop Off Procedures. Based on traffic flow, in the morning on Clay Street, drivers can again turn left from the left lane only. Right lane remains right turn only.

St. Mary's Spirit Wear. Order forms for St. Mary's Spirit Wear were emailed to parents last week. It featured three different designs including the School Logo, a Spartan Logo and a Spartan Helmet Logo. Please note the following when placing orders:

- Normal handbook procedures will be followed regarding school uniforms. School Logo sweatshirts are the only item that can be worn for warmth during a regular school day (exception – no hooded sweatshirts).
- All three logo apparel items may be worn during school Spirit Days with the exception of hooded sweatshirts.
- Although adults are pictured, all pieces are available in both adult and youth sizes (with the exception of the ladies specific items).
- Please submit order forms through the school in an envelope marked Spirit Wear **by September 16th**.
- Forms of payment include cash and checks only. Make checks payable to St. Mary's Home & School Association. Separate checks are not required for each order form. One payment is sufficient.
- For further details please contact Joanna Lee at 402-215-8640 or email jllee2367@gmail.com
- Items should be here by the end of September.

Handbook Highlight (page 25)

Spirit Day. On designated days, students may wear spirit shirts with their uniform pants or skirt. Students may wear jeans with their spirit shirt only if they donate the designated amount (usually \$.75 cents). The monies collected go to a charity determined by the principal. Jeans must be neat, clean, and free of holes. No rivets, cargo pants, low riders, or hip huggers.

Birthday Dress-Up Day. Students may choose to wear a special shirt, or outfit for their birthday. Students may wear a special shirt and jeans for their birthday or they may dress up following the guidelines for dress-up day.

Free and Reduced Lunch Program. This is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. Applications went home last week and are available in Sycamore. Applications are due to the office by Sept 15th.

Budding Botanists. This club is designed for grades 3-8 where students care for school landscaping and develop a love of nature. Registration forms were sent home last week. It isn't too late to sign up. Our first meeting was September 6th from 3:30-4:30pm. If you would like to join, please email cindy.menzel@stmarysbellevue.com.

4th Annual St Mary's Trivia Night

7 October 2016

Get your teams together for some fun and Trivia
Reserve your tables now
Teams of 8 players
\$12 per player
Cost includes event and all the beverages (Beer, Wine & Pop)
You can bring in your own food and snacks
Doors will open at 6pm with event starting at 7pm
Prizes for best scores and best decorated table
50/50 Raffle
A chance to bid on Nebraska vs. Maryland tickets, November 19th

Contact : Brian & Bernadette Miller
402-738-8951
millertime181@yahoo.com or degogirl14@cox.net

2016-2017 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The price will be \$15 during the time period of Sept 12-Oct 31st, then the price will increase to \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 31, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$20

Baby Drive. The 6th grade class will be holding a baby drive to collect items for the Essential Pregnancy Services. The EPS is located across the street from our school. The drive will run the first 2 weeks of September.



Pacifiers and onesies are needed but any baby items are greatly appreciated. Please send items to the 6th grade room. Thanks for supporting Life (For questions, please contact Mr. Kastl and Mrs. Sjostedt).

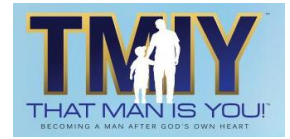
Sports Registration. If you have any sports program related questions please call Jen Kreps, the Sports Program Coordinator (402) 881-2576 or megjen992000@yahoo.com or the coach for your child.

Grandparents Info Form. All parents are invited to share information with the Development committee on grandparents. This info is used to invite grandparents to special events, send school newsletters etc. Please see attached form and return to the school office.



Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is scheduled for 12pm on the 10th of September at the St. Matthew's Soccer Field. All 9 - 14 year old boys and girls are allowed and encouraged to participate. The POC is Ricky Bennett, bennetra@cox.net, 402-541-8216.

THAT MAN IS YOU! TMIY will begin our 1st semester on Friday, September 9th in the St. Mary's Parish Center. To learn more about TMIY contact Ted Menzel @ 402-292-2076 or tcmenzel5@gmail.com.



Attention 2nd-8th grade children: the St. Mary's children's Chorus is accepting new members ages 2nd grade through 8th grade. Rehearsals are from 5:45 p.m. to 6:25 p.m. on Wednesdays. A schedule for the year will be posted via email. The children's choir sings at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month (during the school year). They also provide music leadership for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and for First Communion in the spring. Any questions, please contact Sally Ames at sally.ames@stmarysbellevue.com. All are welcome!

St. Mary's Family Afternoon Movie (FAM) Sunday, September 18 - 2:00-4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Center! Premiering "Jungle Book" – embracing change. All families of all sizes & ages are invited to join St. Mary's Parish for September's Family Afternoon Movie. The fixings (popcorn and drinks) are supplied for a great afternoon promoting Discipleship through movies. Join us and find out how "Jungle Book" can relate to our faith. Along with the movie, families are offered a home kit which includes monthly activities, prayer, an activity for children, and monthly readings along with an opportunity to provide a service project (stewardship) to help others, based on the movie. For more information about Family Afternoon Movies, to RSVP, or if you are interested in helping with family movie event, contact the RE office.

Your grocery receipts could bring in cash for St. Mary's from the the SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars Campaign. If St. Mary's collects \$150,000 in receipts from No Frills, Family Fare and Supermercado Nuestra Familia, St. Mary's School will receive \$1,000. Please send all receipts to the school from families, friends, etc.



Come One – Come All! This Sunday, September 11th from 1:30 - 4 p.m.

St. Mary's Parish Festival (main parking lot). Are all welcome.

1:30 p.m. – Food Blessing

Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs – Knights of Columbus

Desserts and Drinks provided by MOMS

Bring a side dish to share by 2:30 p.m.

1:30 – 4 p.m. Live Music by Terry and Jonathan Little

1:45 – 3:30 p.m. BINGO in St. Mark's Hall

Children's Games and Activities: Bounce House, Face Painting and St. Mary's Scavenger Hunt

Prayer intentions. Most of our classes do prayer intentions at various times during the week. These prayers are prayers of the gathered faithful. In praying these prayers, the faithful are carrying out their role of praying for the entire world as well as for the needs of the local community. Parents are invited to email the office if they would like prayer intentions for our weekly Masses.

Children's Liturgy of the Word. Available at the Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses for all children 4 years old-through 4th grade! After the Opening Prayers, a Catechist leads the children down to our Parish Center where a special homily centered around the Gospel Reading is presented. They join their family just before the Presentation of our gifts. Children do not need to be registered for this program and all are welcome. For more info, call Ted or Cindy Menzel 402-292-2076.

7th GRADE CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING. SEPTEMBER 7th 6:45 p.m. AT THE CHURCH We ask that all 7th grade parents attend the 7th grade Confirmation Parents meeting. This is an important first step towards Confirmation for your family and child. Information regarding, activities, retreats, stewardship, prayer and much more will be available to help your child prepare for Confirmation. Confirmation is a two year preparation, with the Sacrament of Confirmation being conferred in the spring of the 8th grade. If you have questions regarding this presentation, please contact the RE office @ 402-291-7222.

Junior Legion of Mary. Our first Legions of Mary meeting went well yesterday. We had 2 students and Father Del with Adult Legion members. The students chose standing assignments, learned about evangelization, prayed the rosary... We would like to recruit more students for Legions of Mary. The meetings are held every Tuesday in the Spanish room.

Vigil for Life. Archbishop George Lucas was the celebrant at a Pro Life Prayer Vigil and Mass at St. Mary's Church Saturday, September 3rd. Following the Mass members of the congregation followed Archbishop Lucas to the abortion clinic located across the street from St. Mary's School for a prayer vigil. While processing they were saying the rosary. The four altar boys who served at the Mass are students from St. Mary's School: Nicholas Kouba, Fredy Kadjo and Gabe Tweedy are all 8th graders and Joseph Kouba a 6th grader.



Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in September (meeting in the school gym):
Wed. Sept 7th from 5:30-6:30pm Large Jr. High Youth Group and
Thur. Sept 22nd from 7-8:30pm- Jr. High Small Groups

Spartan Volleyball Practice:

Thursday September 8:

Grades 4 & 5: 4:30 to 5:30pm

Grade 7: 5:30 to 7pm

Grade 8: 7:00 to 8:30pm

The 4th grade team (all the 3rd graders) has a match on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:30, at St. Phillip Neri.

The 6th grade team has a match on Thursday, September 8 at 7:30, at St. Peter and Paul.

Volunteer Opportunity: School Development Committee. The St. Mary's School Development Committee's mission is: To support St. Mary's School, Home and School and the Parish through recruiting, fund raising, marketing and as part of marketing, support the improvement of the Student Experience.

Specifically, we support: Student Recruiting, Grants, Grant Matching Funds, Adopt a Student, Adopt a Student Endowment, Home and School Fundraising through the Benefit Auction, Home and School Fundraisers, the Fireworks stand, Coupons, Recycling and the Alumni development effort. We also review, recommend and support the principal and the teaching staff as they annually attempt to provide the best student experience possible. At each section of this plan, each of these areas is addressed. The effort is then consolidated to conserve resources and leverage efforts for the various areas needing support. We begin with the center of why we exist, the St. Mary's School student experience. New Registration Packet and materials. We would love to have your involvement in this important committee. Please contact the school office or Jackie Ortega to learn more: Jackie Ortega @ 402-292-0238 or jackiesortega@yahoo.com.

B&B Classic Dogs

B & B The Place to Be. School is back in full swing and our monthly food nights have begun. September 22nd Home and School is sponsoring our first Family Food Night at B & B Classic Dogs on Lincoln Road across from the library (event if from 5-8pm). So bring the whole family, enjoy a night away from the kitchen, socialize and support your school all at once. ***Mention St. Mary's school at check out.**

Home and School Association

Parish Picnic Cake Walk. HSA will again host the Cake Walk, a fun family game, at the upcoming parish picnic. The winner of each round gets baked goods that have been made and donated by our wonderful St. Mary's School families. We are looking for Cake Walk volunteers and baked goods (cupcakes, cookies, breads, etc.) for the upcoming parish picnic from 1:30-4:30 P.M. on Sept 11th. 7th & 8th grade students needing service hours may also help. We just ask that an adult helps with them.

We ask that donations of cookies and cupcakes be divided and wrapped/plated into smaller portions to make it easier for distribution at the Cake Walk that day. Baked goods can be dropped off at the school on Friday (Sept 9), or brought down to the Parish center after masses that weekend (Sept 10-11).

If you would like to help, please sign up on SignUp Genius ([link](#)).

If you need to drop off your baked goods earlier than that, please contact Wendy Seaman (wx_vain@yahoo.com or 402-292-0817) to arrange a time and place.

One More Room Parent Still Needed. Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help out. We are still looking for one more Room Parent to help with the 4th grade class. Room Parents work with the teacher and other classroom parents to organize the classroom holiday parties (Christmas, & Valentines) and coordinate and make the Classroom Picture Collage for our Benefit Auction.

If interested, please contact Brenda Achterhoff as soon as possible. You can contact her at 402-657-0619 or brenda_achterhoff@yahoo.com.

Home and School Meeting. Our first HSA meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, September 12th at 6:30 P.M. in the school library. Meet this year's executive officers, tell us what you like – or areas for improvement – and get involved in your children's education. Remember, your attendance at the Home and School Meetings counts toward your volunteer hours!



Gifford Fam Fall Festival Sept 17-18 from 10am-4pm. "Come on Down to the Farm for a Day of Old Fashioned Farm Fun!" Mini Horse rides for the lil' cowboys and cowgirls, offered by LaRue's Little Pony Rides, games, STARLAB Planetarium, Farmers Market, Raptor Presentations and more. Admission is \$5 for ages 2 and up.