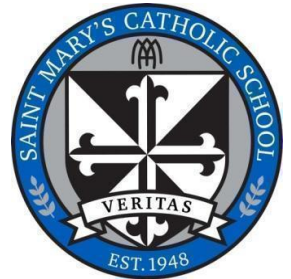




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!  
**ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 32**  
**April 19, 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)**

**Upcoming:**

- Apr 19: Arise Youth Ministry @5:30pm**
- Apr 20: Platte River F/T (4th/5th); Chess Club**
- Apr 21: Hungry Caterpillar (visit from Omaha Children's Museum PK-2)**
- Apr 24: No HW Room**
- Apr 25: The Doll Play F/T (6-8th); Jr Legion of Mary**
- Apr 26: Progress Reports; Science Fair**
- Apr 27: Chess Club; Panera Bread Food Night**

I hope all of our school family enjoyed a peace-filled and blessed Easter. We are in the home stretch, with less than thirty school days to the end of our 2016-2017 school year. April and May are full of activity. We have some fun and educational field trips scheduled to Platte River State Park, a play at Holy Cross, a visit from the Omaha Children's Museum, and much more.

With much anticipation, our second grade students have been lovingly and faithfully preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. Please pray for them as they receive this sacrament on April 30th.

One final note, at the conclusion of this week's newsletter, you'll see the announcement of our 2017-2018 Home and School Officers. We are very thankful to parents for getting involved, but especially to those who accept a leadership role at St. Mary's School. I look forward to supporting their efforts next year, as I hope all our parents will.

Spring is in the air. Let us enjoy this time together.

*Patricia Wallinger*

Dr. Trish Wallinger

**Upcoming Sacrament Dates:**

- 2nd Grade First Communion Practice: April 29th, 9-12noon
- 2nd grade First Communion: April 30th, 12:30pm or 2:30pm
- 8th grade Night of Reflection and Rehearsal: May 5th, 5:30pm-8:00pm
- 8th grade Confirmation: May 7th, 2:30pm

**Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha (CSF) provides partial scholarships so families have access to the education of their choice.** Families are encouraged to check out this program at <http://www.csfomaha.org> to see if you are eligible. If you are eligible to apply, the St. Mary's School office is happy to assist you in applying or CSF offers help sessions. Scholarship money awarded is applied directly to your

tuition account. **Due Date for Applications is April 28<sup>th</sup>.** Please note that to be considered for local St. Mary's financial assistance, families must first apply for CSF, if they satisfy income eligibly guidelines.

**New Base boards.** Check out the new blue baseboard molding in the main hallway. It ties into our school colors and adds a splash of fun to our day. Thanks to Steve's Flooring for squeezing us in over Easter Break. The gray trim on the lower floor will be replaced over the summer.

**Thank You to Families who Handed Out Easter Prayer Cards.** Many thanks to students and parents who helped with the Easter Prayer Card project. It is important for us to pause and thank the many parishioners that make our school great. It was great to see students helping and taking pride in their school.

**Families can track their SCRIP rebate.** St. Mary's School is happy to announce that families now have the ability to track their SCRIP rebate throughout the year. As a reminder, no rebates are earned if the family doesn't purchase at least \$1,000 in SCRIP during the fiscal year (July 1st-June 30th). SCRIP rebates are calculated in July for the previous year and applied to the upcoming year's tuition.

To check your current rebate Instructions:

-Go to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/>

-Click "sign in" [box in upper right corner]

-Click "forgot my password"

-When prompted enter your personal email and the validation code listed.

-You will receive a system generated email with a temp password

-Return to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/> and complete login(personal email)/password (temp provided in email)

At this point you will have to go through some security prompts using cell phones and answering security questions

Once you login, click on dashboard (link at top right)

then click "order history" bottom of webpage

**This will show your gross rebate earned to date. To calculate actual rebate multiply gross rebate by .75. (Families earn 75% of rebate; remaining 25% is applied to costs to run the SCRIP program).**

**The St. Mary's School Board of Education** is currently taking applications for any individuals interested in becoming a School Board of Education member. The Board consists of seven (7) voting members elected by the parishioners of St. Mary's parish. The elected members of the Board must be 18 years of age or over when elected and be registered members of the Parish. Each elected member shall serve a three-year term except for those elected or appointed to fill unexpired terms. The Board meets on the Second Tuesday of the month (with the exception of July and August) at a publicly designated room.

For individuals interested in a St. Mary's Board of Education position, please visit the St. Mary's School Website. Click on the Administration tab to find the Board of Education link. There is a description of the Board and a link for the "Board of Education Candidate Form". Please return candidate forms to the School Office or Church Rectory by the end of April.

## **Divine Mercy Sunday – Encounter Night**

**Sunday, April 23rd, 7pm in the Church**

*What if you could feel God's presence and hear His voice?*

*What possibilities would He reveal?*

*How would that encounter change the direction of our lives?*

All parishioners and guests are welcome to join us on Divine Mercy Sunday for a night of Encounter. We will have praise & worship music, a testimony and talk from guest speaker, Josef Lang, Divine Mercy devotions and most especially, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Prior to the Encounter Night, parishioners are welcome to join us for Mass at 5pm and dinner at 6pm in the parish center. Please contact Will Targy ([402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981)) with questions or to volunteer to help.

**Living Stations of the Cross - Walking the Path of Jesus.** The Living Stations is an annual tradition our 6th graders offer the parish during Holy Week. Many thanks to our students, teachers & volunteers who helped with this faith tradition.



**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY (7th & 8th).** Come and join us in School Gym: Wed, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm. For questions, please contact Will Targy at (402)292-7688.



**Chess News.** Last chess meeting for this school year is Thursday, April 27th.

**AmazonSmile.** Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Mary's School whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Just chose St. Mary's School as your charity of choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

**The Importance of Smoke Alarms.** Every year in United States, there are more than 350,000 home fires, resulting in over 2,500 deaths. Of the deaths, 60% of them occurred during fires in which no working smoke alarm is present. Full info sheet is included in eNewsletter. Copies of info sheet available in the office or by request.

**Wax Museum.** 4th Grade presented a Wax Museum on Monday, April 10th. The exhibits included wax figures (students) who will become "activated" once you press a button and say "Buzz". Then they will give a short presentation on their exhibit. Exhibits are:

- Homestead Act/Pioneers
- State Symbols/Days/Celebrations
- Native Americans
- Famous Nebraskans
- Military/Forts
- Plants and Animals
- School Life



**7th Grade Cookies.** Each year, 7th Grade families are asked to provide cookies for the Confirmation Reception. Please consider contributing 2-3 dozen homemade or store bought cookies. There will be a marked bin in the main entrance of the Church or you may drop them off at the School or RE office. Confirmation takes place on Sunday, May 7th at 2:30pm so please deliver the week of Monday, May 1st to Friday, May 5th. Thanks for your help!

**3rd Grade Cookies.** Each year, we ask the 3rd Grade families to provide cookies for the 1st Communion Receptions. We'd appreciate it if each family could contribute 2-3 dozen homemade or store bought cookies. There will be a marked bin in the main entrance of the church or you may bring them to the School or RE office. First Communion takes place on Sunday, April 30th at 12:30pm and 2:30pm so please deliver your cookies the week of Monday, April 24th to Friday, April 28th. Thanks for your help!

## Summer Camps

**Oxbow Vet Camp.** Learn about animal behaviors and nutrition. Interact with live animals each day. Explore a day in the life of a veterinarian. Perform a simulated exploratory surgery. For more information and to register, visit: [www.oxbowvetcamp.com](http://www.oxbowvetcamp.com). Flyer attached.

**Creighton Prep Summer Camps.** Are you interested in camps ranging from Art to Math to Wrestling to Soccer? Flyer is available with eNewsletter or upon request.

**Creighton Athletics** periodically provides vouchers to our school to enjoy sports events. The office has vouchers good for up to six individuals to attend the below events and the voucher can be redeemed for tickets in advance by stopping into the Creighton Ticket Office the TD Ameritrade Park Omaha Box Office located at 12th and Mike Fahey (open game days only starting at 10 a.m.). If you would like a voucher, please call the school at 291-1694. Thanks and Go Bluejays!



Saturday, April 29th @6:30pm v. Xavier (baseball) - TD Ameritrade Park Omaha

## Home and School Association

Congrats to the 2017-2018 Newly Elected HSA Board-The votes are in... Congratulations to our new HSA board:

**President:** *Mary Sasek*

**Vice-President:** *Bernadette Miller*

**Treasurer:** *Craig Ames*

**Volunteer Coordinator:** *Brenda Achterhoff*

**Secretary:** *Janet Yale*

Thanks to everyone who attended last week's meeting and voted. Your continued support is much appreciated! All newly elected members look forward to serving the St. Mary's School Community in the new school year!

**Reminder: St. Mary's School Alumni Scholarship 2017 Opportunity. Applications are due tomorrow, Thursday, April 20th.** For the fourth consecutive year, the St. Mary's Home & School Association will offer scholarships to alumni: (1) Alumni Attending Catholic High School (freshman year) - \$1,000; (2) Alumni Attending Catholic College/University (freshman year) - \$1,000 and (3) Alumni Working for the Service/Non-Profit Organization/Catholic School (any age) - \$1000. The High School scholarship winner will be announced at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Banquet. Letters will be sent for the other two by May 15, 2017. Direct questions/comments/feedback to Scholarship Coordinator Janet Yale (jmyale10@gmail.com /402.250.7190) Scholarship Application can be found at the following link: [St. Mary's School - Bellevue, NE - Alumni Scholarship Application](#)



**Panera Food Night.** Get ready for our next St. Mary's School Food Night at **Panera** in Bellevue on **Thursday, April 27th from 4-8 pm.** We will make a percentage of all sales, 10% and up, depending on the number of **paper or electronic flyers** received at the time of purchase. A direct link to the flyer is available on the Home and School website

at [http://stmarysschoolbellevue.com/images/stories/project/Panera Food Night Flyer 2017.pdf](http://stmarysschoolbellevue.com/images/stories/project/Panera_Food_Night_Flyer_2017.pdf)

Thank you in advance for your support.

**3rd Annual St. Mary's School Spring Plant Sale.** Yah! We made it through Winter, and it's time to get our gardens ready for the growing season. **Mark your calendars for our plant sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7th.** Stoltenberg Nurseries will be again providing garden vegetables and flowering plants for purchase. More details coming in the upcoming weeks.

**Volunteer Opportunities.** For those still in need of volunteer hours, there will be upcoming opportunities for the following events: **May Crowning** (Monday, May 1st), **Spring Plant Sale** (Saturday & Sunday May 6-7th), **Field Day** (Tuesday, May 16th & Thursday, May 18th) and **8th Grade Graduation** (Sunday, May 21st). Look for emails and updates in SignUp Genius.