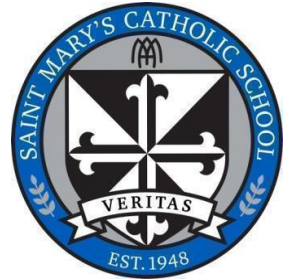




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!
ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 17
December 14, 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:

Dec 14: Freddy's Food Night

Dec 15: NO CHESS

Dec 16: Christmas parties in classroom@2:15pm

Dec 19: NO SCHOOL; Teacher In-Service

**Christmas Break
December 19 to
January 3rd
(school resumes
on January 4th)**

As we know, the third Sunday of Advent was Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means to rejoice. It was very exciting to "light" our bright pink candle at this past Monday's Advent Service.

It was great to see so many of our families as we enjoyed last Friday's Christmas concert. The carols were beautiful and the students worked very hard to provide a joyous concert for their parents, grandparents and friends. I'm very thankful to Ms. Kallman and all our teachers and staff for all their efforts.



As we draw near to Christmas break, on behalf of our teachers and staff, I wanted to thank you for your overwhelmingly positive support during the first half of this school year and to send prayers that you find hope, joy, and appreciation in the Lord's presence in your lives this Christmas and all year long.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

2017-2018 Pre-Kindergarten. As we look forward to our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Info Night the first few months of 2017, we are asking all school families with prospective pre-Kindergarten students to contact the office to reserve the slot. We already have 5 slots under "reserved" and typically will have a waiting list in late Spring. *If you have already reserved, no action required.

Updating Address and Phone # Changes. Twice in November we had parents change office numbers 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 2016-2017.

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.

Graduation Pictures. Save the date for our 8th grade students. Graduation pictures are scheduled for Jan 20th at 8am.

Confirmation Stewardship for Church. St. Mary's needs help in sorting and preparing the Advent Angel gifts to be delivered. Confirmation students, if you are able to help on Dec. 19th from 9:15-11:00am, contact Becky Feagan at email bfeagan@cox.net.

2nd Graders receiving First Reconciliation. Home Reconciliation Books "Encounter with Christ - Reconciliation" should be completed at home by January 10, 2016. If you have questions, contact the RE office.

Santa pictures. All Santa pictures will go home on Friday, December 16th. Thanks for your participation. We raised \$393 to benefit a family in need.

Come out and support Spartan basketball

Boys

3rd - Sat Dec 17th @ 2:15 at St. Bridgets ; Sun Dec 18th @ 3:10 at ICC
5th - Sat Dec 17th @ 9:00 at Home
6th - Sat Dec 17th @ 9:00 at St. Joan of Arc
7th - Tues Dec 20th @ 6:00 at Lied Center 4



Girls

3rd - Sat Dec 17th @ 11:10 at Home	4th - Sun Dec 18th @ 2:30 at St. Bridgets
5th - Sat Dec 17th @ 12:15 at Home	6th - Sun Dec 18th @ 5:45 at St. Bridgets
7th - No Games	8th - No games

Please contact your team's coach, if you have any questions regarding practices during the holiday break. To reach Athletic Director, Jennifer Kreps, at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.

2016-2017 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The current price is \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 27, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$20.

Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade). Please mark your calendars for the following dates in December:
Wednesday, December 14th - Jr. High Advent Party - 7:00- 8:30 p.m. - Parish Center

Jeans Day Fundraiser. Staff raised funds to support a \$300.00 donation to a family in need and \$740.00 to Mater Filius, along with a donation of a new set of pots and pans from a staff member for Mater Filius. What a wonderful way to show our service to others!!

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.



the difference **i** can make.

Did you know there is a mobile app for boxtops? IN ADDITION to cutting them out and sending them in, St. Mary's can earn extra points on certain products if people purchase them and save their receipt in the app. We still are collecting the regular Box Tops...this is just an additional way to earn extra money for the school. One of our parents used the app this week and added \$1.50 to the school's account just by uploading receipts for stuff she would normally buy anyway.

Home and School Association

December Food Night. Our next food night is scheduled for TODAY, **Wednesday, December 14th Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers in Papillion (Shadow Lake) from 5-9 p.m.** You don't need to specifically mention the school or show a flyer this time around. St. Mary's School will make 10% of all gross sales during that time.

Christmas Classroom Parties. Christmas parties are scheduled for this **Friday, December 16th starting at 2:15 p.m.** Room parents will be contacting parents as needed for help.

Family Movie Day "Sing". The Home & School Association would like to invite all to join us for a viewing of the movie "Sing" during Christmas break, **Wednesday, December 28th at 10:30 a.m. at Twin Creek Cinema in Bellevue.** Individual tickets are \$5 per person. There is an option to pre-order concessions at a discounted rate. Concession prices day of the movie will be full price. **Deadline for reservations is 4 P.M. on Thursday, December 22.** Payment for the movie and concessions can be sent through the school until December 16th in an envelope marked "Attn: Craig Ames-Sing". After the 16th, payment can be dropped off at the rectory office during regular office hours. All reservations will be confirmed via email within 2 days of submission. If you do not receive confirmation or have any questions, please contact Craig Ames at comes@nebgolf.org. See attached flyer for details.

Announcing Catholic Schools Week Talent Show 2017! The 4th Annual H&S-sponsored Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Talent Show will be Friday, February 3rd 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 for those who need one. Registration forms are due Friday, January 13th and auditions will be Friday, January 20th. 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 at 402-598-1262 or christina_legner@yahoo.com.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Smile. Support St. Mary's School when you shop for Christmas...sign up for Amazon Smile and designate St. Mary's School.

<http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/homepage.html?orig=%2Fgp%2Fbrowse.html%3Fnode%3D502661011&ein=47-0380461>. With every purchase you make St. Mary's gets 0.5%. You can support St. Mary's without even spending an extra penny. You can post this on social media so friends and family can help too!

Mobile Food Pantry on Wednesday, December 21st, from 5-6:30pm. Pantry site is Mission Middle School in Bellevue, 2202 Washington Street, use the Wayne Street Entrance. It's best to get there early when they open! Please try to bring some grocery sacks, boxes or a laundry basket to put your food in. If you cannot - that's fine, too. Questions, please call Ted & Cindy Menzel at 402-292-2076.

Auction – Opportunity to Help. Calling all St. Mary’s Families and valued supporters! Every year we assign specific themes for our St. Mary’s School annual “Spring for the Children Benefit Auction” classroom baskets (that will be auctioned off). The donations received will go towards the creation of packages that will be auctioned off on Saturday March 25th. For this year, we have assigned themes for each grade, and we are asking for your help. Although we accept all donations, we would like to suggest donations that fall into one of the themes listed below. If you are a school family then we suggest that your donation coincides with your child’s grade.

The deadline for turning in these donations is **February 28th**, and can be turned in to St. Mary’s School. On behalf of the event chair persons, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation for your support. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the chairs of the event Jeff Reed jeffreyreed82@gmail.com; Heather Weddle heatherlinn77@gmail.com; Brian Miller millertime181@yahoo.com; Bernadette Miller degogirl14@cox.net; Kati Wilwerding katiwil@cox.net

- **Pre-K and Kindergarten:** Health, Beauty and Boutique- *Fitness gear, healthy supplements, spa gifts, skin care, purses, wallets, scarves, jewelry, makeup, accessories, etc.*
- **1st and 2nd grade:** Pet Lovers- *Pet beds, sweaters, bowls, toys, leashes, collars, gift cards to Pet Smart/Pet Co, etc.*
- **3rd and 4th grade:** Sporting Goods- *Youth and Adult size soccer balls, basketballs, golf balls, water bottles, team gear, gift cards to Dick’s/Scheels, camping gear, etc.*
- **5th grade:** Kitchen, Food and Entertainment- *Cooking utensils, kitchen baking ware, small appliances, serving dishes, gourmet food, gift certificates to local restaurants, cookbooks, etc.*
- **6th grade:** Fan/Tailgating- *Cornhusker, Bluejay, Mavericks, Lancers, Beef etc.*
- **7th grade:** Home and Holiday- *Home decor, home office supplies, seasonal decorations, seasoned themed supplies, etc.*
- **8th grade:** Young Fun- *Games, toys, music, puzzles, etc.*

CAROLS AROUND AN EMPTY MANGER. Please join with others Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. for our annual ‘Carols Around an Empty Manger’ outside the abortion center in Bellevue. Hot chocolate and cookies and fellowship to follow at St. Marks Hall. In the pro-life community, singing around an empty manger has a dual purpose: first, it raises awareness of the countless “empty mangers” left by the abortion holocaust. More importantly however, the tradition of singing carols proclaims the hope and victory ultimately heralded by the birth of the Christ Child. Please join Metro Pro-Life Advocates and Nebraskans United for Life in this festive and family friendly event.

Healthy Playground Make-over. Spread the word! Anyone can enter the below sweepstakes on behalf of St. Mary’s school. Enter once a day, every day until March 24, 2017. The more entries we have, the greater chance we have to win!

<http://www.togethercounts.com/healthy-playground-makeover> . For school name, type “St. Mary’s Bellevue near Offutt AFB.”

KoAM Information. All families are invited to host a family from Korea. To apply to be a KoAm host family, please contact KoAm Area Coordinator, Mrs. Insoo Vickerman at 402-676-0315 or National Coordinator, Mrs. Haewon Park, at 402- 401-4320 or 800-521-6640, and/or by email at administrator@koameduall.org. To learn more visit www.koameduall.org or call school office to request a flyer.