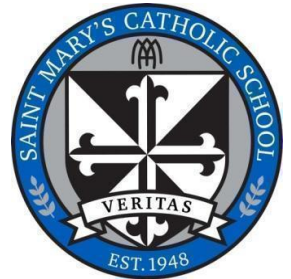




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!  
**ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 21**  
**January 30, 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:**

**Feb 1: First Communion**  
Mtg 4:45pm or 6:45pm (at church)

**Feb 2: Cathedral F/T (8<sup>th</sup>);**  
**Concerts for Youth F/T (4/5<sup>th</sup>); Talent Show dress rehearsal**

**Feb 3: Talent Show @7pm**

**Feb 6: Spirit Day**

**Feb 7: Legion of Mary to 4:30pm; Dev Mtg @ 4:30pm (Library)**

**Feb 8: NO SCHOOL**  
**In-Service for teachers**

**Feb 9: Parent /Teacher Conf (11am-8pm)**

**Feb 10: NO SCHOOL**

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, we reached out to Sr. Joan Miriam one of the 3 original Dominican Nuns to teach at St Mary's. She wrote this prayer in Thanksgiving of the traditions of the Dominicans that lives on through the hallowed halls and the people who support St. Mary's School. Students have also enjoyed their pen pal projects with the Dominican Sisters. It seems every day either a letter is being mailed or received between students and the sisters. Our eNewsletter this week will also include a link to an article on the Dominican Sisters and *Our Lady of the Runways*.

*Patricia Halling*

**Prayer for Catholic School Week 2017**

Praise to you, Creator God  
69 years ago in 1948  
The Dominican Sisters  
arrived in Bellevue.

Their presence continues today  
through the help and support  
of many dedicated persons and  
those who have answered Your call.

Praise and thank you God, for  
all these people who carry on  
the spirit of Saint Dominic.  
May faith, hope and charity  
abound in this year 2017  
as in past generations  
and in generations to come.

Amen.

**HW Room will only be on Wednesday, February 1st this week. There will be no HW room Thursday (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>) or Friday (Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>).**

**Bake Sale Service Project.** Sponsored by 5th grade to benefit Columban Missionaries. Thanks to all who baked and purchased baked goods...this service project raised ~\$450.

**FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS MEETING** is today, February 1st at 4:45 or 6:45 p.m. at the Church Parents, it is important that you attend one of these meetings to receive information on how you at home, can help prepare your child to receive the Eucharist for the first time. Your children do not prepare for Sacraments by themselves, but the family is also preparing to share in this gift of Communion. This is an important meeting to help prepare your child for their First Communion. We ask all parents/guardians to attend. If you are unable to attend, please contact the RE office at 402-291-7222. (Reminder from previous newsletter):

**PARENT-TO-PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT.** Do you have a child eligible to start PK or K next year? Please join us on Tuesday, February 21st at 6pm for dinner. We will host a complimentary dinner at the school for parents to talk to parents whose children are in Pre-K and K, meet the teachers, principal and pastor, and take a tour of the classrooms. Free childcare and a meal for visiting children is also provided. Call the school at 402-291-1694 to RSVP.

**GLORIA DEO BOOKSTORE VISIT.** Join us, tonight, Wednesday, Feb. 1st from 3:00-8:30pm in the gym. First Communion, Confirmation items, Lent and Easter items, gifts, books, bibles, tee shirts, jewelry, rosaries, prayer books and some "just because" items. This is not a fundraiser, this is a service provided by Religious Education to help you provide quality Catholic items for your family and home. For more info contact the RE office.

St. Mary's Family Afternoon Movie. Sunday, Feb. 12th from 2:00pm-4:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Center! Premiering "Up."

**Spelling Bee.** Congratulations to all our Spelling Bee winners. Trophies were awarded for our top three spellers:

First Grade: Tanner Reed and Sidney Williams  
Second Grade: Anna Mlnarik and Matthew Wessling (Second Place)  
Third Grade: Abby Lee (3rd place) and Tristan Freestrom  
Fourth Grade: Daniel Wessling (First Place) and Jillian Sasek  
Fifth Grade: Zachary Seaman and Judith Kadjo-Gnambi  
Sixth Grade: Harshil Amin, Malual Mamer  
Seventh Grade: Owen Legner, Lindsey Wessling  
Eighth Grade: Baylin Davis, Theo Mba

In the afternoon the upper grades held their competition. The winners were: 1st Place: Lindsey Wessling; 2nd Place: Zachary Seaman; 3rd Place: Judith Kadjo-Gnambi. Each year, the students from all of the Catholic grade schools in Omaha are invited to send two spellers to compete in the Midwest Spelling Bee. Lindsey Wessling (7th) and Zach Seaman (5th) will represent our school on February 11th.

**School Facility Committee - Volunteers needed.** The Parish Maintenance Committee is launching a School Facility Sub-Committee this February. This sub-committee will work with the Pastor, Principal and Business Manager to develop a 3 - 5 year School Renovation Plan and Annual Facility Maintenance Plan. One member will, also, serve on the Maintenance Committee. The current anticipated time commitment is 1 - 5 hours per month depending on the length of the meetings and tasks identified to complete for each committee member.

If you are interested in helping us shape the future of St. Mary's School, please email a brief summary of why you would like to serve on this committee and what skill set you would bring to enhance the committee to our Pastor, Father Del, at [frdellape@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:frdellape@stmarysbellevue.com).

**KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP.** All children eligible to begin PK or kindergarten next year are invited to our round-up sessions on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 pm. The purpose of the Round-Up visit is to help familiarize parents and children with the school setting, as well as give them a glimpse of a day in the life of a Kindergartner. Parents will get to see how the teacher interacts with the children through classroom activities and will receive resources to help them improve their child's readiness for Kindergarten. Kindergarten Round-Up is for one parent and their child. Preregistration is required. If

you have any questions or to register, call the office at 402-291-1694. \*Please share with family and friends, too.



**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY (7th & 8th Grades)** Wednesday, February 8th & 22nd - Large Group Meeting - 5:30-6:30 p.m. - School Gym

**2016-2017 Yearbook.** That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The current price is \$20. 8th grade families are invited to buy an ad that will appear in the yearbook. This is a special way to create a memory for your child.

**Basketball registration fees.** Please pay your basketball registration fees (\$70/player) ASAP. This money helps sports with purchasing equipment, uniforms, league fees & tournaments. If this is a hardship please let me know. Send to school in an envelope marked "Sports". Thank you. Jennifer Kreps [megjen992000@yahoo.com](mailto:megjen992000@yahoo.com) or [402-881-2576](tel:402-881-2576).

### Come out & support Spartan Basketball



#### Boys:

2nd - Sat 2/4 @ 10:05 at Home, Sun 2/5 @ 1:00 at Home  
3rd - Sat 2/4 @ 1:10 at St. Bridget's  
5th - Thurs 2/2 @ 5:30 at Holy Name, Sun 2/5 @ 1:00 at St. Matthews  
6th - Sat 2/4 @ 1:20 at Home  
7th - Sat 2/4 @ 2:25 at Home

#### Girls:

2nd - Sun 2/5 @ 2:00 at Home  
3rd - Sat 2/4 @ 12:15 at Home  
4th - Sat 2/4 @ 3:30 at Home  
5th - Sat 2/4 @ 8:00 at St. Gerald's; Sat 2/4 @ 4:35 at Home.  
6th - Sat 2/4 @ 11:10 at Home  
7th - No Games  
8th - Sat 2/4 @ 11:10 at ICC

Please contact your team's coach if you have any questions regarding practices or games.

**Parent and Teacher Conferences.** Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, Feb 9th 11am-8pm. **In order to serve you best, please schedule prior to February 6th.** As of today, it appears 22% of parents are scheduled.

Parents are asked to sign up for conferences by using Sycamore or by calling the office. For Sycamore, login and click on "My School", then "P/T Conference." Please call your child's teacher direct to schedule a conference if these times do not work due to work schedules and other commitments that can't be rescheduled. You may begin signing up for conferences today.

**PARISH FAMILY AFTERNOON MOVIE - "UP" SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 2:00-4:30 p.m.** - PARISH CENTER Families of all sizes & ages are invited to join St. Mary's Parish for the Family Afternoon Movie (FAM) "UP". The fixings (popcorn & drinks) are supplied for a great afternoon promoting Discipleship through movies. Join us & find out how "Up" can relate to our faith. Along with the movie, families are offered a home kit which includes monthly activities, prayer, an activity for children, monthly readings along with an opportunity to provide a service project (stewardship) to help others, based on the movie. If you would like more information about Family Afternoon Movies, to RSVP or are interested in helping in the planning of a family movie event, contact the RE office at 402-291- 7222 or email [etomaso@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:etomaso@stmarysbellevue.com).

**Spirit Catholic Radio is sponsoring its 5th Superstar Catholic School contest** which coincides with Catholic Schools Week. Three Catholic elementary schools and 3 Catholic high schools will be chosen as winners. Get ready to vote Jan. 29- Feb 4th. Simply go to [spiritcatholicradio.com](http://spiritcatholicradio.com) and click on the Superstar Catholic School banner and follow the instructions on the page. Get your family, friends, co-workers and anyone else you know to vote. You don't have to be 18, but you need your own valid email address. You may not vote with more than one email address or your vote will be thrown out. One vote per person! Winning schools will receive a live interview on Spirit Catholic Radio's Spirit Mornings



show, free prayer cards for every student, a trophy to display at school, Mystic Monk coffee for our teacher's lounge and \$1,000 worth of on air spots to promote St. Mary's School. We've won the Sarpy County People's Choice award 3 out of 3 times. Help us be a winner, a "Superstar" among the Catholic Schools. We need your VOTE!

## Home and School Association

**Catholic Schools Week Talent Show 2017!** Please join us this **Friday, February 3rd at 7pm** in the school gym for our 4th Annual H&S-sponsored Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Talent Show. A big thanks to all of our volunteers who signed up to help with our event this year. **The event is open to all, but free-will donations will be collected at the door and donated to this year's performer-selected charity.** We are pleased to announce that the Open Door Mission was selected as this year's charity and an organization representative will be attending our talent show. Please Contact Talent Show Coordinator Christina Legner (402-598-1262/[christina\\_legner@yahoo.com](mailto:christina_legner@yahoo.com)) or Talent Show Director Miss Kallman ([peg.kallman@stmarysbelleveue.com](mailto:peg.kallman@stmarysbelleveue.com)) with any questions.

**CSW Pancake Breakfast.** Thank you to all who volunteered and attended this weekend's Pancake Breakfast. It is safe to say that there was plenty of food and fellowship to go around...a great way to start off CSW!

**Heart of Mary Award Nominations Needed.** The Heart of Mary Award selection committee is currently taking nominations for individual(s) who have made significant contributions to St. Mary's School. This award is presented at the annual benefit auction to those who have tirelessly given of themselves with passion, benevolence and dedication. **Submit nominations to Heart of Mary Award Chairs, Craig & Dane' Ames, at [daneames@yahoo.com](mailto:daneames@yahoo.com) no later than Tuesday, February 14.** Please include detailed information on why you think this person(s) should be considered for recognition. Previous nominations are kept on file and will be considered along with any new nominees. Past Heart of Mary Award Recipients: 2016 – Ryan & Christina Legner; 2015 – Larry & Jackie Ortega; 2014 – Steve & Tina Targy; 2013 – Ted & Cindy Menzel

**Five Guys Burgers & Fries Food Night.** Join us on **Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm** at **Five Guys Burgers** in Papillion (8540 South 71st St Plaza) for our next food night fundraiser. St. Mary's School makes 10% of all gross sales during that time. No flyers necessary or need to mention the school.

**Mark Your Calendars.** Our next Home and School General Meeting will be held on **Monday, February 13th at 6:30 pm** in the school library. Valentine's Day Classroom Parties are scheduled for **Tuesday, February 14th starting at 2:15 pm.**



**Scholastic Books is running a 1 Box = 1 Book offer with Kellogg's and WalMart from now through April 30, 2017.** It is a very easy way to get free Scholastic books for our school library and for individual classroom libraries in the school. To support this program all you need to do is purchase participating Kellogg's products at WalMart and send in your receipts to the school.

We will take care of uploading the receipts and redeeming the credits for free books! You can also participate in this offer as individuals to get free books for your home libraries. Let's keep our kids reading!

If you do not use Kellogg's products in your home, consider purchasing a few items and then donating the products to the Bellevue Food Pantry and the receipts to the school -- then you are able to help our school and those in need in our community at the same time.

**Let it Grow Contest...**St. Mary's is in 1st place by 400 votes. We would love your help to take this to the finish line. There's a 5 question multiple choice quiz, but getting wrong answers isn't a show stopper...they will educate you on correct answers and still let you submit. Click on this link: [http://www.thescienceofsoil.com/contest?utm\\_source=DiscoveryEducation&utm\\_campaign=NFL&utm\\_medium=ProgramOptIn\\_Jan5&utm\\_content=LetItGrow](http://www.thescienceofsoil.com/contest?utm_source=DiscoveryEducation&utm_campaign=NFL&utm_medium=ProgramOptIn_Jan5&utm_content=LetItGrow)

**Bowling Fun.** Join Couples in Christ for a fun afternoon of bowling on February 4th from 3-5pm at ICC Bowlatorium (2701 S 25th St, Omaha). Snacks provided by Couples in Christ and beverages available for purchase. The per family donation of \$15-20 appreciated (a flyer will go home mid-January). RSVP by SignUp Genius (search [saintmarysCIC@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarysCIC@gmail.com)) or contact Hannah Clark (402-718-6114). *Flyer attached.*

**Bellevue Soccer Club.** Spring and Fall Registration Information is attached.

**Big Red Night with Sean Callahan.** On Saturday March 4, our Bellevue Knights of Columbus Council 6192 is hosting a BIG RED NIGHT WITH SEAN CALLAHAN. Sean will be showing film and sharing information on the Nebraska New Football Recruits and Coaches. The profit will go to Camp Kesem for children whose parent has cancer. The grandson of deceased Knights member Vic Hoelting is in charge of this year's camp.

For \$20.00 you receive food, a chance to win door prizes as well as hear the latest on Nebraska Big Red Football. Doors open at our Hall at 205 Industrial Rd at 6 PM. Food will be served from 6 – 7:30 PM. Sean will begin his 75 minute presentation at 7:30.

This will be a great night to wear your Red. Bring your spouse, neighbors and friends. Tickets need to be purchased prior to March 4. Buy your tickets from Larry Gold (402-250-1482), Larry Reed (402-292-2799), Ray Guggenberger (402-681-6572) and from committee members John Bezy (402-291-1765), Kay Hoelting, Elaine Williams, Bob Hasiak or Don Pierce. We will make sure you get your tickets.

**Mentoring Moms** program began in 2006. Our presence in the program as an agency is a background support. The mentoring relationship is primarily between the mentor and mentee, and Catholic Charities is here to provide support and advice if issues arise. We also provide material assistance and resource referrals as necessary. The Mentoring Moms program also hosts events centered around holidays, including a Halloween party, Christmas Party, Easter Egg hunt, and a summer celebration. Call the office for a flyer or see link with eNewsletter.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS FOR PARENTS** Parents that wish to baptize their child at St. Mary's must take a baptism preparation class. The next class will be Sunday, February 5th from 12:30-3:00 p.m. in St. Mark's Hall. Please call the rectory @ 402-291-1350 to preregister.

**SCOUT SUNDAY** St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 305 & Cub Scout Pack 305 will celebrate Scout Sunday at the 12:30 p.m. Mass on February 5th. All past and former Scouts and Scouters are invited to attend Mass AND the reception that will follow in the church's parish center downstairs.

**ADULT COMPUTER CLASS** February 16 - All About Wireless; How to Set up and Secure Class will be in St. Mary's School Computer Lab from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. Enter through the gym doors. Contact John @ [jbezy@cox.net](mailto:jbezy@cox.net) to register. If Bellevue Public Schools cancel classes or activities for the evening, class will not be held. Classes are free and for adults only. Maximum of 20 per class; first come, first served. You might want to bring a notebook or paper, pen or pencil to take notes.



**Save the Date.** The Spring Musical is Friday, May 12th.

## St. Mary's School 23rd Annual "Spring for the Children" Benefit Auction News (Event: Saturday, March 25, 2017)

**Ticket Sales** – Kicks off on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, deadline for ticket purchase is March 15<sup>th</sup>. For those who purchase their tickets prior to February 13<sup>th</sup> you will receive a free Pick-A- Card (value: \$10) for a chance to win a \$1,000 Nebraska Furniture Mart Gift Card. Forms sent home last week.

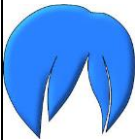
**We Need Your Donations!** Deadline is Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks for 1st grade and 3rd grade that are leading the way on parent donations for baskets...Did you get something for Christmas that you'd like to pass on? We'll take your re-gift! Send them in with your name, contact info, if you're a first-time donor (or you've had a change since your last donation), and the value of the item.

**Business Donations.** Do you have a business that you frequent that may donate to our auction? We'd love your help. Wondering about what to bid on at the Spring for the Children Benefit Auction? Every year St. Mary's School is blessed with many donations from families, parishioners and also local businesses. Below are some donations received this week...hope this gets you jazzed to attend and bid. It should be fun...Great Clips: Two free haircuts (\$30 value), Mr. Tuxedo: \$75 off Tuxedo rental, Dietz Music: Ukulele (\$150), Dirty Dogs: one nail trim monthly for a year (~\$60)

**Live Auction Donations Needed Too!** We would like at least 25 Live Auction packages, including 10 art projects from each of the classes. The Live Auction Co-chairs are also looking for donations from Sports tickets including season tickets, trip/vacation packages, Iowa hog processed and packaged, and even Hotel stay certificates. If you have any items that would be a good fit for our live auction packages please contact Live Auction Chairs Chris & Carrie Leighow phone 402-709-3446 or e-mail: [ckingleighow@yahoo.com](mailto:ckingleighow@yahoo.com). **Live Auction Committee Meeting, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at 630pm.**

**Father's Wallet.** We are also looking for donations to the popular "Father's Wallet" live auction package. Donate items that would be found in a man's wallet such as money, tickets to fine arts events, sporting event tickets, spa/salon gift certificates, passes or memberships to local museums, or even the Henry Doorly Zoo. You also might want to consider purchasing some gift cards from the St. Mary's Project Hope program. Please drop your donation off at the rectory or school office and denote that it's for "Father's Wallet."

**Classroom Projects.** Room parents are gearing up for their photo collages for each grade for our spring auction. In order to make the best projects, they need your help in collecting all the pictures from your child's classroom event, and school events. All pictures welcome. Send to office in an envelope labeled Children's Projects. If they are sent using a flash drive please include a note if you would like it returned to you.



**Raffle.** 78 tickets brought by school families. We have 547 tickets to go...then Dr. Wallinger says she'll celebrate by coloring her hair blue for one week. Tip: Just stick a personal return address label and write your phone # on tickets--quick & easy. If you have any questions or need service hours, please contact Cristin Kelly [cristinkelly@aol.com](mailto:cristinkelly@aol.com)

**Heart of Mary.** The Heart of Mary selection committee is currently taking nominations for individual(s) who have made significant contributions to St. Mary's School. This award is presented at the annual benefit auction and recognizes individual(s) who have tirelessly given of themselves with passion, benevolence and dedication. Submit nominations to Heart of Mary Award Chair, Craig & Dane' Ames, at [comes@nebgolf.org](mailto:comes@nebgolf.org) no later than Tuesday, February 14th. Please include detailed information on why you think this person(s) should be considered for recognition. Previous nominations are kept on file and will be considered along with any new nominees. Heart of Mary Award Recipients: 2016- Ryan and Christina Legner; 2015 -Larry and Jackie Ortega; 2014 - Steve & Tina Targy; 2013 - Ted & Cindy Menzel

**Table Monitoring Volunteer(s) Needed!** If you want to be part of the auction team, but do not have a lot of time to spare, this opportunity may be for you! Table Monitors only have responsibilities for the night of the event (~5-6 hours total), and provide a great service to all the attendees. You will assist bidders by answering questions about bidding, close silent auction sections, and sort & pass out purchased baskets. A total of 12 volunteers are needed for this committee.

**Advertise your Business or be a Corporate Sponsor – Buy by Friday, February 28th!** If you have a business you'd like to purchase advertisement space for in our catalog (will be seen by 350+ attendees), or if you'd be interested in purchasing one of our Corporate Sponsorship packages, contact Alan & Melissa Swiecicki phone 402-292-1097 or e-mail: [amswiecicki@cox.net](mailto:amswiecicki@cox.net).

2016 Advertising Rates: \$100 – Full Page Ad (Size 7 ¼" X 10"), \$50 – Half Page Ad (Size 7 ¼" X 4 ½), \$25 – Business Card Ad (Size (3 ½" X 2") contact chairs for sponsor level info.

**General Chair Contact Information.** For questions+, General Co-Chairs ♦ Brian & Bernadette Miller / 402-738-8951 or e-mail: [millertime181@yahoo.com](mailto:millertime181@yahoo.com); Kati Wilwerding / 402-250-3585 or e-mail: [katiwil@cox.net](mailto:katiwil@cox.net); Jeff Reed / 402-210-1636 or e-mail: [jeffreyreed82@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyreed82@gmail.com) & Heather Weddle phone 402-598-5257 or e-mail: [heatherlinn77@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlinn77@gmail.com).