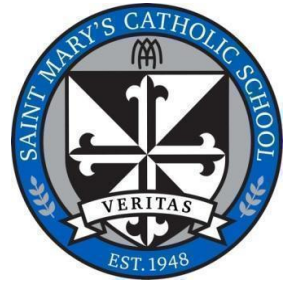




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!  
**ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 24**  
**February 22, 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 22: Sports Day (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>);**

**Arise Youth Ministry 5:30pm (gym)**

**Feb 23: Chess Club**

**Feb 24: PK/K Round Up from 1-2:30pm**

**\*dismissal will be at 11am for any pre-k students not scheduled to attend Kindergarten Round-Up & the entire Kindergarten class.**

**Feb 25: Benefit Dinner: Balanay**

**Feb 27: Fit for Life/Field Day (4th/5th)**

**Feb 28: Budding Botanists; Legion of Mary**

**Mar 1: Ash Wednesday**

*As we approach the 2017-2018 registration process, I am reminded of and appreciate the great trust you have placed in St. Mary's School. I am aware that this decision involved prayer and reflection for our school families. The administration, faculty, staff, school board, and I are committed to provide the best Catholic education for all of our students. Evidence of this commitment is demonstrated by:*

- *Emphasis on growing in our relationship with Christ,*
- *Terra Nova scores at or above Archdiocesan levels,*
- *Continued technology advancements, and*
- *Student Support Programs using individualized and differentiated instruction.*

*On-line registration opens March 1st. All current families are invited to begin the registration process on that day. We encourage you to finalize registration before we open it to non-current parish families, parishioners from surrounding parishes, non-parish families, and those with no official ties to any parish. Mrs. Braxton will send an email with the sycamore registration link (a separate URL) and you will use your Sycamore login/password.*

*The Parish Finance Council has established the Tuition and Fee Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year. Finance Council has worked very hard to limit the increase in school tuition to \$25.00 per child for the year. This is very modest increase. Registration fees remain the same. You should know that based on current year figures our cost per student to educate each child is almost \$6,225.00.*

*The difference, or 54 percent of tuition costs, is made up by the parish, grants, and fund raisers. If you need tuition assistance, please contact the school office for an application packet. All families will receive an informational document outlining what is available. Beginning next week, look in the newsletter for a new feature that includes answers to frequently asked school finance questions. Thank you for choosing St. Mary's for your child's education.*

*Patricia Halling*

**March Lunch Menus & March School Events calendar will go home harcopy on Friday.** eVersions on school webpage.

**Catholic High School Scholarship Recipients.** Congratulations to our 8th graders that were awarded scholarships to attend Catholic High School. The scholarships were awarded on outstanding academic achievement:

Baylin Davis	Mercy High School (\$6,000 over 4 years)
Lucia Mansidor	Gross High School (\$2,500 over 4 years)
Isabella Medrano	Roncali High School (\$4,000 over 4 years)

**Benefit Dinner for Alfred Balanay, Alum.** All are invited to a Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction, Bounce House and more at Bellevue West High School from 5-7:30pm on February 25, 2017 (\$10 Adults, \$5 ages 11-18, under 10 free). Funds raised will help pay for cancer treatments and medical costs for **Alfred Balanay, a current senior at Bellevue West High School and 2012 graduate from St. Mary's.** If you can't attend, but would like to support this cause, you can send a donation to the school office in a sealed envelope marked "Alfred Benefit." Another option is the GoFundMe: Band Together to Battle Cancer.

**Paul Tomaso Benefit.** Spaghetti Dinner (\$10 per person; \$25 per family). 12-6pm at the Knights Hall (205 Industrial Road, Bellevue NE 98005). Proceeds will be used to help cover medical costs from cancer. Deacon Tomaso is the spouse of Elizabeth Tomaso, our St. Mary's Director of Religious Education. The Tomaso family has done amazing things at St. Mary's from Sacramental preparation to Bible School.



**Looking Ahead to Lent.** We hope families will join us for our Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and the following Lenten observances.

The first Stations of the Cross will be held at the church on Friday, March 10th (8th grade presents).

First All School Lenten Prayer Services will be held on at 8:30 AM in the school gym: Monday, March 13th.

**Symbaloo.** Have you been to the school-wide Symbaloo webpage? Check out some of the on-line tools students are using by going to [stmb.symbaloo.com](http://stmb.symbaloo.com).

**Spring Musical: *The Nifty Fifties.*** St. Mary's School Spring Musical this year is *The Nifty Fifties*, a musical tribute to the 1950s. Come and enjoy a trip back to the time of bobbysoxers and the Jitterbug, soda fountains and luncheonettes, juke boxes, poodle skirts, and great music and fun for all. We can't wait, can you? Hope to see you Friday, May 12th.



Come See Seussical Junior this weekend at Gross High School. Three of our 6th graders are in the show: Ellie DuGuay, Jason Goetz, and Maria Connealy. Showtimes are Friday, February 24th and Saturday, Feb 25 at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2pm. You can purchase tickets on-line at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) for \$6 a seat.

**2016-2017 Yearbook.** That's right...we are still 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. Please contact [becky.billings@stmarysbelleuve.com](mailto:becky.billings@stmarysbelleuve.com) for more details.

**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).

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

**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.

**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 children with the school setting, as well as give them a glimpse of a day in the life of a Pre-Kindergartner or Kindergartner. Preregistration is required. If you have any questions or to register, call office @402-291-1694. \*Please share with family and friends, too.

**School Facility Committee.** The Parish Maintenance Committee is launching a School Facility Sub-Committee. Thank you to the following volunteers for this important committee: Brian Tweedy, Paul Kelly, John Bezy, and Becky and Doug Feagan.



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

**ST. MARY'S ARISE YOUTH MINISTRY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** is on Sunday, February 26th following the 7:30, 9:30 & 11a.m. Masses in the parish center. Stop down for a great made-from-scratch pancake breakfast. All proceeds will go to upcoming youth ministry conferences, retreats, mission trips and other events.



**Labels for Education and Boxtops.** We love getting your Labels for Education and Boxtops. Don't estimate the impact with those little ity bity labels. Last week the school received \$500 from Labels for Education and we routinely reach over \$1,000 from boxtops. Thank you for all that support. PS—anyone who hands in three sheets of boxtops (see office for form), receives a "prize."

**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)

**MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING (MOMS).** Led by a team of facilitators, mothers of any age and stage share the stresses, concerns and positive experiences that have influenced their spiritual growth. The cost of the session is \$30, payable at the first meeting. The first 7 gatherings will meet on Sunday evenings beginning March 5th at the rectory. Celebration Night will be held on Saturday, April 29th in St. Mark's Hall. To sign up or find out more information, please contact Angela Bennett 402-926-8965, Mary Beth Foral 402-319-6698 or Susan Bielstein 402-291-0570.

**Open Gym – Adults Only.** Beginning Sunday, February 12th from 7:15pm-9:15pm, Couples in Christ and St. Mary's school and parish is sponsoring an adult only open gym. If interested in learning more, please contact John Clark at [jjc3049@yahoo.com](mailto:jjc3049@yahoo.com). No minors will be permitted in the gym during any of the sessions for any reason.



**St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 305 Chili Cook Off.** Please come and join us in the parish center on Saturday March 4th, 4–8pm and Sunday March 5th, 11am – 2pm for some delicious food and our silent auction. Funds raised from this will go toward troop needs, such as equipment and Scout awards. Tickets: Adult (12 and up): \$5 and child (3 to 11): \$3. Price includes all you can eat chili. To purchase tickets, please call the school office.

**Winners of Free Throw Contest.** All the winners of the Knights of Columbus Council 6192's free through championship will have the opportunity to participate at the District level. The event will be held at the St. Columbkille Gym, 200 E Sixth St, Papillion, NE 68046, on Feb 25th. Ages 9 - 11 will shoot at 1 PM. Ages 12 - 14 will shoot at 2 PM.

## Home and School Association

**“Talent Show Pics/Video Order”**. If you are interested in purchasing digital pictures from the Talent Show audition, dress rehearsal, & event and/or the event video, please complete attached form and return it with payment in an envelope marked “Talent Show Pics/Video Order” by **Friday, March 3**. Contact Christina Legner (402.598.1262/ christina\_legner@yahoo.com) with questions. Acceptable forms of payment are checks (made out to St. Mary’s Home & School Association; put “Talent Show Pics/Video Order” in memo) or exact cash amount.

### Upcoming dates to note:

March Home and School Meeting. Monday, March 13th at 6:30 pm in the school library  
Jersey Mike’s Food Day. Thursday, March 23rd 10 am-9pm (15% of sales goes to St. Mary’s, no flyer needed)

### A Wine and Cheese Afternoon

Couples in Christ invites all young couples to attend a wine and cheese afternoon with a panel discussion on finances.

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 3:00-4:30 PM @ Saint Mark’s Hall

Free babysitting will be available in the parish center

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 29th to Mary Sasek: [mary.sasek@gmail.com](mailto:mary.sasek@gmail.com) or 402-990-4228

\*If using babysitting, please include the number of children, ages of children, and any food allergies



### Topics

Savings, Investments, & Retirement  
Stewardship – Time, Talent, & Treasure  
Budgeting & Watching Credit Card Debt  
Legal Advice – Early Will Planning & Guardianship of your Children

### Presenters

Patrick Moylan  
Ryan & Christina Legner  
Alan & Melissa Swiecicki  
Jennifer Thompson

## St. Mary’s “Spring for the Children” Benefit Auction is March 25, 2017

Have you bought your event tickets, raffle tickets...fun, fun, fun!

**Culver's food night for Smile Train\*** is tomorrow, Thursday, February 23rd from 4-9 pm. Please let Culver's staff know that you are supporting Smile Train when you place your order for it to count toward the fundraiser.

The Culver's in Bellevue is just north of Hwy 370 and 36th Street by Twin Creek theatre (3602 Raynor Pkwy, Bellevue). This fundraiser is being organized by one of our St. Mary's Parents.

**Smile Train is an international children's charity with a sustainable approach to a single, solvable problem: cleft lip and palate.**

