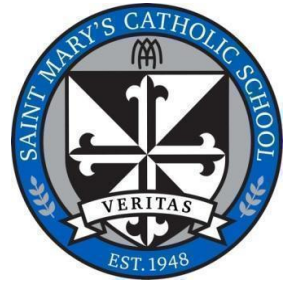




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!  
**ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 25**  
**March 1, 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:**

**Mar 1: Ash Wednesday**

**Mar 2: Recorder Concert F/T (4th/5th); Chess Club**

**Mar 3: Suess Science Assembly (PK-3)**

**Mar 6: Spirit Day**

**Mar 7: Budding Botanists; Jr Legion of Mary**

**Mar 8: Arise Youth Ministry @ 5:30pm**



*Today we officially open our 2017-2018 Registration. Please see the hardcopy packet that went home to all families today.*

*This week, I wanted to highlight service hours. When parents volunteer their time, it helps the school manage costs which benefits all families by keeping tuition at the best available rate. As we all experience with the emails from Home and School and the office, there are a multitude of volunteer opportunities. The requirement for next year will remain the same (20 hours for families; 10 hours for single household families). If you have not yet logged your service hours, please do so. The office will be reaching out to families that haven't logged hours to see what we can do to assist families in completing this requirement.*

*As a school community, we can not reach our full potential until we are all fully engaged. I look forward to working with families to this end.*

*Patricia Wallinger*

Dr. Trish Wallinger



**Lenten Observances.** With Ash Wednesday today, we begin our Lenten journey. The students will share 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. More dates are available on Sycamore.

**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. Parents are invited to complete the questionnaire that was sent home this past Monday. If you are eligible to apply, we will assist you. Scholarship money awarded is applied directly to your tuition account.

**Paul Tomaso Benefit.** Spaghetti Dinner (\$10 per person; \$25 per family). March 11th, 12-6pm at the Knights Hall (205 Industrial Road, Bellevue NE 68005). 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.

**PARISH AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SACRAMENT DATES!** 8th grade Rite of Enrollment: April 1st, 5:00 p.m. or April 2nd, 12:30 p.m. 2nd grade First Communion Practice: April 29th, 9:00 a.m.-Noon 2nd grade First Communion: April 30th, 12:30 or 2:30 p.m.



**Save the Date – Vacation Bible School: *Maker Fun Factory* will be June 26-30th.** Look forward to seeing you there.

**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.

**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@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:becky.billings@stmarysbellevue.com) for more details.

**Congratulations to our 7th Grade Boys Basketball Team.** They won their weekend game and are now in the CYO Championship. Let's support our St. Mary's team. All are invited to the Championship game this Sunday, March 5th at 5:50pm at Gross High School.



**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY (7th & 8th Grades)** Wednesday, March 8th and March 29th – Meetings are 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the School Gym. \*7th and 8th grade youth are asked to attend at least two Wednesday nights this semester.

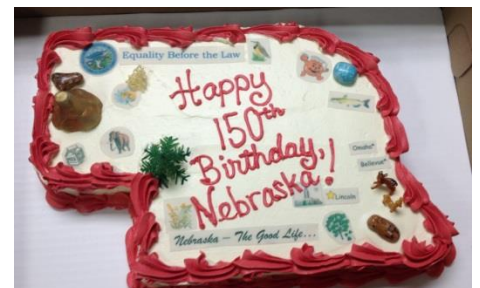
Mercy High School invites 5th & 6th grade girls to our annual Lock-In on March 18th from 5-10 P.M. For more information go to: Mercy High School invites 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls to our annual Lock-In on March 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-10 P.M. For more information go to: <http://bit.ly/2017mhslockin>. Space is limited, so sign up today! . Space is limited, so sign up today!

**National Geographic Bee – State Level.** Congratulations to Joseph Kouba, 6th Grade who has qualified to compete in the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee that will be held the end of March.

**KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP.** Due to weather, we had to postpone our Kindergarten Round-Up. The rescheduled date is Wednesday, April 12th from 10-11:30 am. 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 Kindergartner. Preregistration is required. If you have any questions or to register, call office @402-291-1694.

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP.** Due to weather, we had to postpone our Pre-Kindergarten Round-Up. The rescheduled date is March 16th, 9-10:30am. Any family with a child projected to be in our 2017-2018 Pre-Kindergarten class is asked to attend. It is important for Mrs. Harms to get to know your child in an educational environment.

**Nebraska celebrates its birthday.** Nebraska was granted statehood on March 1, 1867. The state will commemorate its Sesquicentennial. We kicked off today with a "Fat Nebraska" celebration in 4th grade. Many thanks to Mrs. Tweedy for making a Nebraska cake (picture available in eNewsletter). 4th grade will celebrate with small activities throughout the school the entire month of March.



**Thank You – Pre-Kindergarten-Kindergarten Info Night.** What a tremendous out pouring of support we had from our St. Mary's family for this our biggest recruiting effort of the year for Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Thank you Brenda Achterhoff , Farah and Martin Balanay, Becky Feagan, Nicole Koster, Christina Legner, Tina Tweedy, Willie Wessling, Gloria Valiente, Preston Ames, Raoul Djidjoho, Luis Carranza, Grace Kolesik, Lauren Leighow, and Gabe Tweedy, for all of your efforts to make this evening so special for prospective parents and their children to come visit us and learn more about what St. Mary's School has to offer.

Thank you also to the school families who came to the dinner and represented St. Mary's. You are our best asset.

**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)

## 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 this 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.

### Mark Your Calendars:

**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)



**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.



### 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**

**Knights of Columbus Fish Frys.** The Bellevue Knights of Columbus invite everyone to enjoy their Lenten Fish Dinners every Friday night during Lent (March 3- April 14). Menu ordering and waiter service allow for a unique dining experience. The menu features Atlantic salmon, baked white fish, fried shrimp, fried fish, fried catfish and fish sandwiches. Dinners include baked potato or French fries, salad or a cup of clam chowder or lobster bisque, coffee and iced tea. Non-fish diners can choose from stuffed pasta shells, macaroni & cheese, grilled cheese sandwiches or a large slice of cheese pizza. Prices range from \$3-\$12; \$1 discount on senior citizen dinners. Dinners are served from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Knights Hall, 205 Industrial Dr.

**CHRISTIANS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (CEC) Weekend.** Renew your faith! Come for a lively, joy-filled weekend, and become strengthened spiritually as you live and study with priests and laity in discussion, prayer, and song. This is an opportunity for every adult Catholic or Christian to grow in faith. Men’s and Women’s 3-day weekends are held at the Archdiocesan Retreat and Conference Center (60th & Military Ave.) Cost: \$80 For more information, call Joe & Martha Ruff @ 402-291-3094. Men’s Spring Weekend March 3-5 Women’s Spring Weekend March 17-19

The Bellevue Recreation Department announces their 2017 Spring & Summer Activities. Join us!! We have something for everyone!!! **Registration Opens:** March 20th at the Bellevue Recreation Department (Reed Center) 1200 Lord Blvd., Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, April 1st & April 8th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 402-293-3142. Flyer going home with eNewsletter. Hard copy flyers available in the office upon request.

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

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

(370 from school families ... 255 to go)

44 school families participating

- Leighow in the lead - 38
- Kelly - 23
- Clipp - 21
- Meinders - 20

