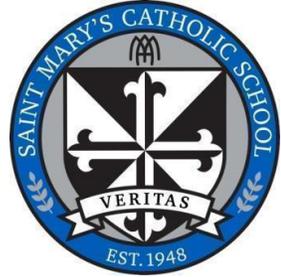




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 12
November 2, 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:

Nov 3: Nakotah LaRance Hoop Dancers @St.Mary; Chess Club

Nov 4: Middle School Assembly @245pm

Nov 5: Veterans Day Parade @10am

Nov 7: NO SCHOOL; teacher in-service; Last day for parent survey submission

Nov 8: Nutcracker workshop (2, 3, 4th grades); Budding Botanists; Jr. Legion of Mary

Nov 9: Last day to register for basketball

Hard to believe we are already to November! It was very enjoyable to visit with so many of our families at our Halloween Fun Night. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all our parents who made the event a huge success, especially our room parent leadership--another great partnership at St. Mary's School. The children get so excited for these celebrations and with Thanksgiving, Christmas and Catholic School Week in January there are lot of activities planned.

When you see our room parents, please remember to give them our thanks: Pre-K: Sharon Carrell and Kate and Jerome Tyner, Kindergarten: Hailey Boland and Mary Sasek, 1st: Kim Zieno & Angelina Giles 2nd: Nelcy Vargas & Jen Kreps 3rd: Brenda Achterhoff, Vicky Janulewicz, Breanna Koch, 4th: Jo Meinders, Tim Sasek and Willie Wessling, 5th Melissa Swiecicki and Nita Amin, 6th: Christina Legner and Carla Connealy, 7th: Jodi Belcastro and Dané Ames 8th: Trixy Schmitz and Karen Medrano. Thank you.

Please help them as they work on various projects: classroom parties, auction projects, etc. The more families involved, the more fresh ideas and perspectives are shared. Another plus, "many hands make light work".

Thanks, also for your attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences. It was good to see so many positive conversations going on. Our students are the beneficiaries of such great partnerships. With the teachers, I would like to thank Home and School for providing a meal that night for teachers to enjoy.

I hope to see all our parent veterans at next week's assembly. This is a great opportunity for students to feel that sense of pride for their family members and friends that proudly serve or have served our country. If you haven't had a chance to color the I Know a Solider sheet with your child, please let the office know and we will get you a form. Students can hand in 1 or 10+. We have many parishioners that have served and would love to share a name/branch of service for the coloring sheet.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal



Student Activities Food Drive. Attention St. Mary's community, Pope Francis has declared this a *Year of Mercy*. The school is invited to participate in a food drive through the month of November. The Bellevue Food Pantry has reported that their inventory is especially low this year...please help with this worthy cause. Flyer attached.

Middle School Awards Assembly has been scheduled for Friday, Nov 4th, at 2:45pm. Families can enter through the gym.



A big congratulations to the St. Mary's 6th and 8th girls volleyball teams. Both teams played hard and took 2nd place in the GSA [Girls Sports Association] league finals that took place this past Sunday at Gross High School. The trophies are proudly on display in the office.

The 6th grade team played Christ the King, a team they had never beaten. The Spartans won the first set; lost the 2nd set and almost won the 3rd set with a leading score of 11-14--needing only 1 pt to win but ended up losing. But what a game it was!

8th graders played the "Angels" of All Saints and lost both sets although they gave their opponent quite a challenge.

Basketball News. Registration forms are due by November 9th. Please return all forms soonest so teams can be formed. Practices will start around the first week of November depending on teams. This basketball season we will have teams for 1st - 8th grades (boys & girls). The first graders will play with the second graders in their league. Games start the first weekend of December and continue thru middle of March. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.



Did You Know St. Mary's Has a Junior Legion of Mary? The Junior Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday (when school is in session) at St. Mary School from 3:30-4:30pm. They are led by 2 Senior Legion members. They pray the Rosary, listen to a reading from the Legion handbook, pray the Legion prayers and report on the one hour work they did the previous week. The Junior Legion is open to youth 4th to 8th grade. Consider having your child join us at this meeting. It is great for the youth to pause in their week to discuss faith matters. Contact Teresa at 402-660-5291 for more information.



Baker's Community Rewards Giving More Back to the Community! **Baker's is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations will earn millions of dollars through Baker's Community Rewards. Baker's Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you have to do is shop** at Baker's and swipe your

Plus Shopper's Card! Go to the Baker's website for details. Our code: 10430.

<https://www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards>

Are you technically savvy? The school is looking for a parent volunteer to convert some VHS learning resources to DVDs. We would love to hear from you if you have this capability. We estimate that there are 8-10 VHS tapes.

2016-2017 Parent Survey. The eSurvey was emailed a few days ago on October 31st. We are excited with this initiative. We have had close to 30 responses already and look forward to more. All parents are asked to take a few minutes to complete the survey. We appreciate your time and the insights that it will provide.

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.

Time Change on Sunday, November 6, 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks back Saturday night. Enjoy the one hour of extra sleep! Don't forget to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Veterans Assembly. St. Mary's students and staff invite all veterans [active, reserve, guard and retired] to our annual veterans assembly to be held in the school gym on Friday, Nov 11th, at 1:45pm. Veterans are asked to call the school office at 402-291-1694 or use the on-line form [to RSVP by Nov 9th](#). It is important that we have a head count for seating purposes. Veterans and their guests will enter the school via the south gym doors at 1:30pm so that the assembly may begin at 1:45pm. Upon entering the gym, veterans will be ushered to a classroom. Students who have a veteran attending the assembly will escort their veterans into the gym at the start of the assembly.

Veterans may submit a military photo no later than Wed, Nov 9th. Military medal displays can also be brought to the assembly. Photos and medal displays can be picked up at the end of the assembly.

Families are asked to fill out a Veteran Color Sheet. Forms available at Sycamore documents, the school office or take one home during conferences. Please return the color sheets to the office or to a teacher no later than Wednesday, Nov. 9th. Our students and staff look forward to honoring our veterans! *Attached with this newsletter are two versions of the color sheet. Either form will be used on our banner. Some families submit 5+...there is no limit.

There are a few volunteer opportunities for the Veterans Day Assembly (that count towards parent service hours):

1. To help cut and paste our "I Know a Solider" color sheets from students and attach to a red banner. This task will be completed sometime between Nov 8th-10th during the school day.
2. To assist in classroom with the MM and paper towel roll project.
3. To assist with decorating the gym the morning of November 11th.
4. To bake patriotic cupcakes and patriotic M&M cookies for the student refreshments. Mixes can be sent home and are needed by November 10th (at drop off).

Calling all boy and girl scouts! If you are a member of the boys scouts, girl scouts, cub scouts or daisies and would like help line the pathway for the vet assembly as part of the procession, please call the office to RSVP. Please note, for students who have a loved one that is in the procession and they can't escort and line the pathway, so students would have to pick their preference. Thanks.

Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in November (meeting in the entranceway near school gym):

- Wed. 2nd - Junior High Large Group, 5:30pm to 6:30pm (meet in school gym);
- Thurs. 10th - Junior High Small Groups, 7pm to 8:30pm (Meet in school gym hallway then to small groups) ;
- Thurs. 17th - Chastity speaker Matt Fradd "The Love that Satisfies", 7-830pm at St. Wenceslaus Omaha (Free of charge and open to current 7th-12th grades). *Parent session "Parenting the Internet Generation" is from 6-7pm (flyer attached in eNewsletter; available upon request for those that receive hardcopy newsletter).

St. Mary's Arise Youth Ministry Pancake Breakfast. Sunday, Nov 6th, following the 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses. Come down to the parish center for a great pancake breakfast. All proceeds will go to upcoming youth ministry conferences, retreats, mission trips and other events. Flyer with eNewsletter.



St Mary's Auction "All Hands on Deck" meeting. We are having the first meeting regarding the St. Mary's auction in the spring. The meeting will be held on November 7th at 6:30 PM in the school library; all committee chairs and volunteers will need to be in attendance. The auction is very important to our school and we are still in need of volunteers, so if you are interested in contributing to the success of this event please attend.

If you have any questions please contact the co-chairs: Brian and Bernadette Miller millertime181@yahoo.com; Jeff Reed and Heather Weddle heatherjeff4@hotmail.com; and Kati Wilwerding katiwil@cox.net



Parish Family Afternoon Movie: Mulan. Come on November 13th, from 2-4 p.m. in the Parish Center. Blankets & pillows are welcome to get comfy!

Couples in Christ invites all young couples to attend **A Wine and Cheese Evening with a Panel Discussion on Finances** at Saint Mark's Hall on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. There will be free babysitting in the Parish Center. Please RSVP to: Mary Sasek [402-990-4228](tel:402-990-4228) or mary.sasek@gmail.com

Topics

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

Presenter/s

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

Catholic Daughters Soup Dinner and Bake Sale. St. Mary's School Gym - 903 W. Mission Ave. Saturday, November 12th - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. A wide selection of hearty soups and delicious desserts will be available for purchase throughout the event. Proceeds support our Education and Scholarship fund. Crafters wanted! Tables are \$25. Call Peg Kallman @ 402-733-2915 if you would like to rent a table.

Home and School Association

HSA Fall Fundraiser Update. We are waiting on a delivery date from the vendor. A follow-up email will be sent out with the delivery date/time, as well as instructions for pickup. Orders made online by family and friends will be delivered directly to their homes. Thank you all for your support! If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us directly (homeandschool.stmarys@gmail.com)

Halloween Fun Night. Thank you to all who came out to our event last Friday. It was an evening filled with fun and treats. Of course, a big event like this wouldn't be successful without the help of our volunteers. A big "thank you" to the following families who made this a great night: Achterhoff, Balanay, Belcastro, Carlson, Clipp, Coleman, Frailey, Goodall, Kennedy, Kimsey, Koch, Kouba, Lammers, Legner, Manahan, McGarry, Medrano, Mlnarik, Mueller, Ramirez, Sasek, Seaman, Sjostedt, Torres, Valiente, Vargas, Wallace, Wallinger and Yale. Special thanks go out to Tina Tweedy (decorating mastermind/lead), Becky Feagan (photographer-photo booth), Carla Connelly ("Spooky Story Time"), and Peg Kallman (Monster Mash DJ). We also were thankful for our Middle School volunteers who assisted with games (*students, don't forget to turn in those Confirmation service hours).

Halloween Fun Night winners are as follows:

Best Pumpkin: Anna Mlnarik, **Best Decorated Parish Organization Door:** Youth Ministry, **Best Decorated Classroom Door:** 2nd Grade, **Best Adult Costumes:** Wessling Family, **Best Costumes:** Joe Dunham, Annisa Lucia, Hunter Wallace, and Rachel Marshall.

Veteran's Day Parade. Please join us this Saturday, November 5th at 10 a.m. in our honoring those who served and continue to serve our great country. The parade will begin out in front of the school and proceed eastbound down Mission Ave. Meet in the school parking lot by 9:45am and wear St. Mary's gear, royal blue, or red-white-and-blue! We will have some candy on hand, but please bring some of your own to pass out as well! We will also be using our parade float again this year. If you would like to help decorate, please arrive to the school parking lot at 8:45am on November 5th.

November HSA General Meeting. Please join us on **Monday, November 14th, @ 6:30 pm** in the school library for our next general meeting. We'd love to hear how we're doing. Participation counts toward your annual volunteer hours.

Dairy Twist Food Night. Our next food night is on **Thursday, November 17th, from 4-9 p.m.** Mention St. Mary's; our school makes 10% of sales. No scrip will be accepted that night.