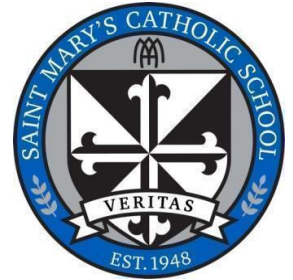




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!
ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER



Volume 15
November 30, 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 30: Progress Reports and Terra Nova results home today
Dec 1: Chess Club til 4pm;
Dec 2: Mass; Nutcracker (K-4); Fundraiser Pickup
Dec 5: Spirit Day
Dec 6: Legion of Mary

Students at St. Mary's Catholic School are excited for the upcoming Christmas season! As in years past, the students will be participating in several programs and activities that help them focus on Advent and Christmas, while preparing them for the arrival of our Lord in the form of an infant in the manger.

This past Monday, the entire school participated in our first weekly Advent prayer service. The goal of these prayer services is to make Advent a time of reflection, hope and peace. In the foyer is our school Advent wreath, a reminder of this time of anticipation. Classrooms, too, have their symbols of Advent on display.

Sometimes students are so excited about Christmas that we want to make sure the children remember Advent, too. To prepare their hearts for Jesus' birth during Advent, all of our students have received an Advent reflections or other Advent activity handouts. These activities and reflections help students focus on the gifts they receive from Jesus' birth and to share those gifts of God's love with others.

Our older students, serving as Advent angels, have decorated the halls with short sayings meant to inspire and remind us that we are special in God's eyes. We will give students and families the opportunity to donate to our "Winter Giving Tree". (New hats, mittens/gloves and or gently used

coats/jackets, snow pants, boots, blankets) We will also participate in Heifer International to raise money to purchase a life-changing gift to a family or community in need. These programs are designed to share the Christmas spirit with everyone. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we hope your Advent season is a joy-filled time.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

If you are concerned about the weather and we have not cancelled, it is a parent's discretion to decide not to attend class if you feel you can not safely drive to or from school. If this occurs, please let the office know: 402-291-1694 or cathy.braxton@stmarysbellevue.com. All announcements will be broadcast on local news stations.

SCRIP Special Orders. As you know there are a wide variety of SCRIP cards we keep in stock, but some selections require special orders. With Christmas around the corner, there will be offerings of special orders. Please see attached order form for special orders. Orders received will be submitted on-line and filled approximately weekly.

SCRIP gift certificates. Did you know that you can buy SCRIP gift certificates and give to them to members of our St. Mary's community? The process is the same as for other SCRIP orders...the SCRIP form has a box to indicate gift certificate.



Number: _____
**Project Hope
Gift Certificate**

This certificate entitles:

to \$ _____

Authorized by (signature of SCRIP rep): _____

Issued on: _____

A gift from: _____



Basketball News. Basketball season has begun. All teams except the 2nd grade will start playing this weekend. Coaches have schedules & will hand out to their teams. Uniforms will also be handed out at practices this week. This year we will need many volunteers to help in the concession stand and taking admission money at the door. If your team is playing at Home, then your team is responsible for the door and concession stand.

3rd grade Boys - Saturday Dec 3rd @ 10:05 at Home
4th/5th grade Boys - Saturday Dec 3rd @ 2:25 at Home

3rd grade Girls - Sunday Dec 4th @ 2:05 at Home
4th grade Girls - Sunday Dec 4th @ 1:00 at Home
5th grade Girls - Sunday Dec 4th @ 3:10 at St. Gerald's

6th grade Boys - Saturday Dec 3rd @ 9:00 at Home
7th grade Boys - Saturday Dec 3rd @ 11:10 at Home
8th grade Girls - Saturday Dec 3rd @ 12:15 at Home

6th grade Girls - Sunday Dec 4th @ 3:10 at Home
7th grade Girls - Sat., Dec 3rd @ 11:00 at St. Gerald's

All questions on practice times should go to the coach. For any other sports questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director, at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.

Student Activities Food Drive. Thanks to the families that participated. Our school community collected ~350 cans/boxes of food to benefit our local community.

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:
Thursday, December 1st - Jr. High Small Groups - 7:00-8:30 p.m. - Meet in school gym hallway to be directed to rooms.

Wednesday, December 7th - Jr. High Large Group Meeting - 5:30-6:30 p.m. - School Gym

Wednesday, December 14th - Jr. High Advent Party - 7:00- 8:30 p.m. - Parish Center

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.

Santa Photos. Picture orders/money will be accepted for Santa pictures up to December 7th (order form is going home today to all classes). All proceeds will be used to help families in need. Thank you to our 8th grade class and the Student Activities Council as they work to make Christmas special for others.



Ollie the Trolley Fun Night Saturday, December 10th 5-7pm. All are invited to come and enjoy trolley rides to look at lights, crafts for kids, & a special Christmas visitor. Please bring cookies or Christmas treat to share! Meeting place is the St. Mary's School Gym. Sign up at Sign-Up Genius (after Nov. 27). Search: SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com. Suggested donations: \$20/family or \$5/person.

Volunteer Opportunity: Student Greeters Needed to Hand out Advent Bookmarks at all Masses December 3rd and 4th starting with the 5pm Mass on December 3rd. Basic instructions are provided before hand. Students are needed to be in uniform and come 10 minutes early to Mass. They get an hour of volunteer work for coming to Mass. Thank you to the students and adults who have already stepped up. We still need 28 more students to cover all 6 Masses Dec. 3rd and 4th (there's a special need for help at 12:30pm and 5pm on Sunday). We would like to have 6 students and 3 adults at each Mass to cover the 3 doors. This is the 6th year students will be handing out Advent bookmarks to parishioners as a personal gift for all they do for St. Mary's School. Hope to hear from you soon.



Christmas Day Mass Choir Invite. Mrs. Menzel and Miss Kallman invite all St. Mary's School students grades 2-8 (and recent alumni) to come and sing with us for the 9:30 am Mass on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th. If you are going to be in town and you are going to Mass on Christmas Day, let's make a joyful noise together as a school family! We will be sending home a flyer with details, and we ask that you contact the school office or Miss Kallman by email, pass-a-note or phone to let us know you are planning to come. We want to be sure to save enough room for any and all who want to join us.

Home and School Association

HSA Fall Fundraiser Update. Product delivery date is this **Friday, December 2nd, between 3-5 p.m in the school gym.** If you can not pick up your items during that time, please contact Craig Ames 402-658-5827 to make other arrangements. Thank you to all who volunteered to organize and distribute the fundraiser items this Friday.

Faculty/Staff Christmas Gift Collection. Christmas is only a few weeks away. It is a perfect time to express our thanks to our teachers and staff for all they do for our children. To keep in the spirit of the season (in lieu of individual gifts families might give), we are asking that each family prayerfully consider making an offering of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or any amount to demonstrate our gratitude. The money will be pooled together and distributed as cash to the various faculty and staff. **Return your gift in a sealed envelope labeled "Attn: Craig Ames - Faculty/Staff Christmas Gift" to the school office as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, Dec 9th.** The gifts will be presented at the Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon on December 19th. Cash or checks are welcome. Please make checks out to "St. Mary's Home & School Association" and in the memo include "Christmas Gift". Thank you for your generous support of our faculty and staff and in showing our appreciation for all they do for our children. May God bless you and your family this Christmas!

December General Membership Meeting. Everyone in the school community is a member of the Home & School Association. Thank you to all of you who are active members! We love to hear what you are thinking (We really do). Our next H&S meeting is **Monday, December 12th at 6:30 pm** in the school library. We look forward to your attendance! Remember that attendees are able to log one service hour for participating. *Please note, December calendar sent home in November incorrectly listed the meeting date on ~~December 5th~~. Please pen and ink this correction on your school calendar.

December Food Night. Our next food night is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 14th Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers in Papillion (Shadow Lake) from 5-9 p.m.** St. Mary's School will make 10% of all gross sales during that time.

Christmas Classroom Parties. Christmas parties are scheduled for **Friday, December 16th starting at 2:30 p.m.** Room parents should be reaching out to classroom parents for help shortly.



Lighting of the Nativity Set. Wednesday, November 30th 6:45 p.m. - Church Join us at St. Mary's Church for song, prayer and adoration as we usher in Advent! Refreshments in the parish center will follow the blessing of the Nativity and prayer service.

St. Mary's Ladies Guild's Annual Cookie Walk St. Mary's Parish Center Saturday – Dec 3rd 3–6 p.m. and Sunday – Dec 4 8:30 a.m. – noon (see attached flyer).

Seussical the Musical, Jr. Gross High School is having auditions for our gradeschool musical "Seussical the Musical, Jr" December 12th-13ths. Flyers previously were sent home. Any 3rd-8th grader who might be interested, please contact the St. Mary's office for more info or email: drama@gcgmail.org.

Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse Sales. There's no better way to save on books than at our holiday warehouse book sale, where you'll find 25-80% off thousands of items! Get gifts for kids, thank your teachers, and stock up on books, activity kits, posters, and more. Weekdays, Dec. 9-16: 10 a.m -7 p.m., Saturdays, Dec. 10 & 17: 8 a.m -4 p.m., and closed Sundays. 8619 S. 117th Street, La Vista, NE. (402) 894-2287