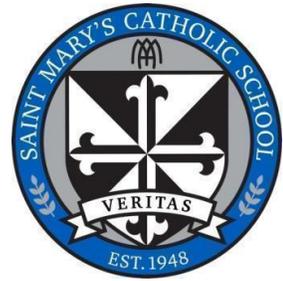




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!  
**ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 13**  
**November 9, 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 9: Last day to register for basketball**

**Nov 10: 5ths Grade Walking Field Trip (Library, plus); Chess Club**

**Nov 11: Veterans Assembly @130pm**

**Nov 13: Ministry Fair (St. Mary's Church)**

**Nov 14: Spirit Day; Home and School Mtg @6:30pm**

**Nov 15: Legion of Mary**

**Nov 16: Mass**

**Nov 17: Chess Club; Dairy Twist Food Night (4-8pm)**



*Our All Saint's Mass began with the Litany of the Saints. As the saint name was read, the first grade student representing that saint stood up. At the mention of "all holy men and women", we were all invited to stand. God calls us to be like the saints. Sometimes we may fail in this task, but starting anew and living with a spirit of mercy gets us closer to true communion with God. As we move toward the end of the official Year of Mercy, we can resolve to continue to be merciful and compassionate.*

*With this in mind, we have a couple of immediate opportunities for service. The Student Activities Committee is collecting canned and non-perishable items for the Bellevue Food Pantry. This collection runs during the month of November. Thank you for your generosity. The second activity is a chance this Friday to say thank you and to pay tribute to the men and women who have served and are serving in our military. The Veterans Day Assembly will be held at 1:45 in our school gym. Mrs. Feagan, Mrs. Shanker, Mrs. Thompson, and Miss Kallman have done an outstanding job of preparing this very special event. We will be especially remembering our P.O.W.s and M.I.A.s this year. Please join us.*

*Patricia Wallinger*

*Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal*

**St. Mary's Parish Ministry Fair.** In conjunction with Hospitality Sunday on November 13th following the 9:30, 11:00 and 12:30 Masses, various ministries of St. Mary's will showcase what they do to serve our faith community. Please plan to join us.

**Ministry Fair Volunteer Opportunity.** We are seeking parent volunteers to visit with prospective families and attendees of the ministry fair (2 parents at each Mass – 9:30am, 11am and 12:30pm). What a fun way to earn service hours and support St. Mary's. To sign-up, please call the office at 402-291-1694.



**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.

**St. Mary's selected Sarpy County People's Choice Award for "Best Elementary School" in 2015 and 2016.** The winners magazine will be published November 16th.

**When Is My Child Too Sick For School?** Proper care in the early stages of an illness can decrease recovery time for the ill child and the possibility of spreading the illness to others. Please see attached handout from the school nurse.

**Basketball News.** Registration forms were due today. Practices will start around mid-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 the middle of March. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.

**Leaving Extended Day or Homeroom Room for Basketball practice.** Parents who would like their children to be dismissed from Extended Day or Homework Room will need to have a permission form signed and on file. Please request from the Homework room or Extended Day. As a reminder, only students having practice would be dismissed (no siblings would be permitted watch practice). Any questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.

**El Museo Latino trip.** Special thanks to Home and School for supporting the 8th grade field trip to El Museo Latino. The students were led on a tour of the museum and saw intricate art from various Latin American countries. They viewed two life size ofrendas, altars set up to honor relatives who have died. Each student made a piñata. The class returned and had a pizza lunch sponsored by Home and School. Thanks to Mrs. Mansidor and Mr. Mba for assisting. Señora Sjostedt

**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.

**Catholic High School Open Houses.** Don't forget our local Catholic High Schools are having their open houses in November. A letter went home with our older students and post card invitations are being mailed directly from the High Schools. Placement tests are January 14th.

**Catholic Voice "Colors of Christmas" Art Contest.** Teachers are working with students (K-6th) on submissions for the annual Catholic Voice "Colors of Christmas" art contest. In addition to the joy of creating, the students are helping provide food to those less fortunate. This year, a sponsor will be supplying one can of food for every entry received. Art will be based on Matthew 2:9-11 – the three Wise Men following the star, bearing gifts to the baby Jesus. Three judges from archdiocesan schools will help pick the winners. The winning artwork will be on the front page and in the center section of the December 16th Catholic Voice Christmas edition. For more info go to [www.catholicvoiceomaha.com](http://www.catholicvoiceomaha.com).



**Soccer Challenge.** Congratulations to Nick Kouba won the Knights of Columbus State Soccer Challenge November 5th in Grand Island.

**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.

**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 11<sup>th</sup>.
4. To bake patriotic cupcakes and patriotic M&M cookies for the student refreshments. Mixes can be sent home and are needed by November 10<sup>th</sup> (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):

- 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).



**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!

**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.



**Ollie the Trolley Fun Night Saturday, December 10th 5-7pm.** St. Mary's School Gym Sign up after mass the weekend of November 27th or on Sign Up Genius (after Nov. 27). Search: SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com Trolley rides to look at lights Crafts for kids Special Christmas visitor Bring Cookies or Christmas treat to share!

Suggested donations: \$20/family or \$5/person.

## Congratulations to our Advent Bookmark Artist Selections:

Pre-Kindergarten: Elizabeth Coleman    Kindergarten: Dezirae Houlden    1st Grade: Chase Parson  
2nd Grade: Caleb Braxton    3rd Grade: Abby Lee    4th Grade: Delaney Meinders  
5th Grade: Hudson Ames    6th Grade: Bailey Yale    7th Grade: Lauren Leighow  
8th Grade: Isabella Medrano

Artwork will be presented to our parish as a “thank you” at all the Masses on December 3-4th. A collage of the artwork will appear in the newsletter the first week of Advent.

**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. Need 36 students and 18 adult volunteers (2 students at each entrance with one adult at each Mass). We can use more students per Mass if we have an abundance of volunteers. Students art has already been selected and is being made into Advent Bookmarks. Each year the students personally hand out these bookmarks as a way of saying Thank you to our parishioners for all they do for our school. Please call Jackie Ortega to schedule your Mass at 402-292-0238 or email her at [jackiesortega@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiesortega@yahoo.com) All students are to be dressed in their uniform. Thank you all for your continued support of St. Mary’s School. This will count as an hour of volunteer time for you and your parent should you both sign up.

## Home and School Association

**HSA Fall Fundraiser Update.** Product delivery date is **Friday, December 2nd**. A follow-up email will be sent out with pickup times and further instruction. 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](mailto:homeandschool.stmarys@gmail.com))

**Veteran’s Day Parade.** Thanks to all for coming out this weekend to support and honor our veterans. We couldn’t have asked for better November weather...about 25-30 staff, parents, and students participated. Thanks to the Millers for towing our beautifully decorated float (also thanks to our decorating team) along the parade route.



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