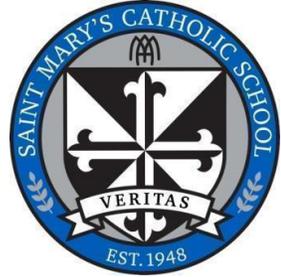




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

## ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 10  
October 19, 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:

**Oct 20: Chess Club to 4pm;**

**Oct 21: End of 1st Quarter; Vocations Day F/T (6<sup>th</sup>)**

**Orchard F/T (PK-5)**

**Oct 24: Book Fair (to 27<sup>th</sup>) Adopt a Student Thanks-A-Thon**

**Oct 25: F/T: Celebrate Creativity (6, 7,8); Bud Botanists; Legion of Mary**

**Oct 26: Report Cards; El Museo F/T (8th Spanish)**

**Oct 27: Parent/Teacher Conferences (11am-8pm)**

**Oct 28: NO SCHOOL**

*Are you an ambassador for Catholic Education? Hopefully, you are letting friends and colleagues know about our wonderful school. I did a little informal survey with our 7th grade students and here is some of what they had to say:*

- *I like the diversity of classes*
- *the family atmosphere*
- *the academic support and study halls*
- *teachers always make lessons understandable and are ready to help when you need it*
- *I like the student teacher relationship*

*The most often cited reason for loving St. Mary's was that students felt supported and that we are a family. The teachers and staff at St. Mary's genuinely care about each student. Their dedication to Catholic Education goes beyond the classroom. They are involved in Professional Development on in-service days, Saturdays, and throughout the summer. Our priority is always student success.*

*We were recently honored with the title "Best Elementary School" in Sarpy County. I would like to thank you for your support and invite you to come and see first-hand what sets us apart from other schools in the area. I hope you'll consider letting your friends, family, and colleagues know what a wonderful school we have. Our sense of community, as well as the spiritual and academic opportunities for students, families and staff, allows us to say we are the "Best Elementary School." Look for the special supplement in the Bellevue Leader later this month.*

*Patricia Wallinger*

*Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal*

**October Jeans Day Fundraiser.** Students raised ~\$36.45 for our October Jeans Day fundraiser. Proceeds will be donated to X.

**Middle School Awards Assembly has been scheduled for Friday, Nov 4th at 245pm.** Families can enter through the gym.

**Parent and Teacher Conferences.** Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, October 27th, from 11am-8pm. Parents are asked to sign up for conferences by using Sycamore or by calling the office. For Sycamore, login and click on "My School", then "P/T Conference." This method is the best way to easily compare teacher availability with your personal schedule. We look forward to getting to meet with you. Mrs. Ewing from BPS will be available from 12:30pm-3:45pm (Resource teacher). Parents, please be aware that all Special teachers:( Music, Art, Gym, Spanish, Technology,) will be in the gym.

**Basketball News.** We are now accepting basketball registrations. Registration forms can be found on school website. 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.



**Halloween Dress on Monday, October 31st.** Students will be allowed to wear jeans and an appropriately themed Halloween shirt in appreciation for their participation in the Halloween candy drive. There is no fee, nor is there the expectation of canned goods to participate.

**Celebrate Creativity...Important Notice/Reminder to Middle School Parents** Please send a sack lunch with your 6th, 7th and 8th grade student(s) on, Tuesday, October 25th, for their field trip to the Joslyn for Celebrate Creativity. They also need to bring something to drink in a plastic bottle or juice pouch - no glass containers or cans, please. Soda, water, gatorade, powerade, or juice are fine, but no energy drinks are allowed. Everything they bring must be disposable, including the bag they carry it in. Thank You!

**Candy Drive Sponsored by Student Activities Council.** During the last two weeks of October, we will be collecting Halloween candy. The candy will be used to fill bags decorated by our students for the children living in Omaha shelters. The children living in the shelters are not able to go out and trick or treat like all of the other kids in the city. This project allows them to share in the fun of the tradition. To date, we've only received 3 bags and are really hopeful that we can do this service project. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**SCRIP.** Attached is a new SCRIP form that lists a new offering: VISA cards valued at \$50 and \$100. Also, as shown on flyer, the SCRIP program needs volunteers. Fun Fact: rebates to St. Mary's school last year were \$9,383.

**2016-2017 Parent Survey.** At the end of the month, St. Mary's school will release a parent survey. We are excited with this initiative. All parents are asked to take a few minutes to complete the survey. We appreciate your time and the insights that it will provide.

**Adopt A Student Program.** The Adopt A Student program is where benefactors donate to help students that otherwise could not afford to come to St. Mary's School. Each year we thank our benefactors to Adopt A Student by phone. A team of 8th graders personally call the benefactors to thank them for their support of St. Mary's School. We still need 3 more callers, please have your parents contact Mrs. Ortega at [jackiesortega@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiesortega@yahoo.com).

**Please save the date: Monday, October 24th.** We will start the evening off with pizza and soft drinks, and then make the calls. Please RSVP by Friday, October 23rd....a message went to 8th grade parents...this is a reminder.

**2016-2017 Yearbook.** That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The price will be \$15 during the time period of Sept 12-Oct 31st, and then the price will increase to \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 31, 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 (\*We have 7 patriotic cupcake mixes/ icing and 7 kits for patriotic M&M cookies that will be provided to volunteers to bake). Mixes can be sent home and are needed by November 10<sup>th</sup> (at drop off).

**Jr. Legion of Mary Prayer Intentions.** The Jr. Legion of Mary members will be praying for our school family and school staff prayer intentions. There is a box under the Statue of Mary in front of the office. All parents, students, and staff are invited to place the prayer requests in the box. On Tuesdays a member will collect the intentions. The requests will be prayed for at the meeting. There's no format. Prayer Intention should be simply written on piece of paper and does not need to be signed (unless requestor would like to share this).

**Safe Environment Training.** Any adult who volunteers at St. Mary's school is required to have a current Safe Environment certification. Your Safe Environment Training is valid for five years. If you have never been certified, you may sign up at [www.archomaha.org](http://www.archomaha.org). Go to Ministries, Safe Environment, Live training and find a location and date that will work for you. **St. Mary's will offer the next SE Training on October 20th from 6pm -8:30pm. You must register online to attend this session.**

**12th National Prescription Take-Back Day.** The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced that the 12th National Prescription Take Back-Day will be Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Take-Back Day provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means to prescription drug disposal, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Participating Locations: Hy-Vee 11650 S. 73rd St. Papillion, NE [and](#) Bellevue Police Dept. 1510 Wall St. (or check on-line)



**Book Fair.** Students and families are invited to enjoy our book fair the week of Oct 24th. The theme this year is "Bookaneer Book Fair (pirates)." Also, keep your eyes open for *Clifford, the Big Red Dog*, who may make an appearance. The book fair is open to parents Oct 24-26 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) from 1-4pm and during conferences (11am-8pm on Oct 27th).

**\*\*Volunteers are also needed for the Scholastic Book Fair Oct 24th-27th in the library.** Help is needed before (set-up), during, and after (tear-down). Specific days/time slots will be posted in SignUp Genius.

**Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016.** Please mark your calendars for the following dates in October (meeting in the entranceway near school gym): Wednesday, October 19th - Jr. High small groups – 5:30-6:30 p.m. (meet in the hallway outside of St. Mary's School gym).



**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 this first meeting.

If you have any questions please contact the co-chairs of this year's auction Brian and Bernadette Miller [millertime181@yahoo.com](mailto:millertime181@yahoo.com); Jeff Reed and Heather Weddle [heatherjeff4@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherjeff4@hotmail.com); and Kati Wilwerding [katiwil@cox.net](mailto:katiwil@cox.net)

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT - THE CHOICE WINE.** This is the same publisher who brings us "That Man Is You". We are excited to offer this program for couples of St. Mary's. No matter if you are a newlywed or been married fifty or more years, you can still start your journey as a couple by applying seven steps to a superabundant marriage. St. Mary's will be offering this 9 week program starting Sunday, October 23rd, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Dominican Center. Ted & Cindy Menzel will facilitate this exciting experience. For more information or to register for this program, contact RE office @ 402-291-7222.

**FAIR TRADE DAY AT THE COLUMBAN FATHERS** Saturday, October 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Missionary crafts and foods will be available from Asia, along with arts from Catholic Relief Services. Here is your chance to do some good and support a fair and just cause, all while getting gifts for those who are near and dear to you. Gift wrapping will be available for free!

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS SOUP DINNER & BAKE SALE** St. Mary's School Gym - 903 W. Mission Ave. Saturday, November 12th - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come and browse and do some early Christmas shopping! 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.

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](mailto: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*

**The Mercy High School Treblemakers** are sponsoring their annual Show Choir Camp on December 3 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Girls in 4th through 8th grade can come to Mercy High School and learn how to sing and dance in a show choir, meet new friends, have fun and put on a show. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch and a T-shirt. Girls are asked to wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes to allow movement. Sign ups for the camp are due November 14. Please call St. Mary's office for registration paperwork.

**7th & 8th Grade Girls Dinner & Theatre: Wizard of Oz.** Event held at Mercy High School on Saturday, October 29th, from 4:30-9:30 P.M. \$20 for a backstage tour of Mercy's theatre department, dinner & performance. Register at <http://bit.ly/mhsdinnertheatre2016>.

## Home and School Association

**HSA Fall Fundraiser.** Our Fall Fundraiser is coming to a close on Wednesday, October 19th. Please be sure to turn in your fundraiser orders and money by the end of the day. Delivery date will be provided by the vendor once the St. Mary's order has been submitted. We've been told that it generally takes 2-3 weeks for orders to come in. 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](mailto:homeandschool.stmarys@gmail.com))



**Halloween Fun Night.** Mark your calendars for our annual event planned for **Friday, October 28th, from 6-8:30 p.m.** in the school gym. We have added some exciting new things (Photo Booth and Spooky Story Time), while also keeping with entertaining things from past years. Instead of Trunk-or-Treat, we are going to have a Trick-or-Treat Village thru the school (candy/goodies will be handed out). We are also having a Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Please bring your carved, painted, or decorated pumpkins to the school for display/judging (For safety reasons, no real candles in them, please). The Cake Walk is back again, so plan on bringing your quarters! The Monster Mash Dance is also back. Dinner will be offered for families; pre-order will be available before the event. Order form is attached.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 6:00pm – 7:15pm Dinner served
- 6:00pm – 7:15pm Games, Cake Walk, Photo Booth, Spooky Story
- 6:00pm – 7:15pm Trick-or-Treat Village
- 7:15pm – 7:45pm Costume Parade, Costume Contest, Best Door, and Best Pumpkin
- 7:45pm – 8:30pm Monster Mash (Dance)

This event would not be possible with volunteers. We are needing help with the following items, please go to Sign-up Genius ([link](#)) to sign up and help out with this fun event:

- Set-up for Event (10/28/16 12:00pm-4:00pm, school gym) 6-8 people
- Cake Walk (baked good donations) A lot!!
- Greeters (10/28/2016, 6:00pm-7:15pm) 2 people
- Cake Walk (10/28/2016 6:00pm-7:15pm) 2 people
- Games (10/28/2016 6:00pm-7:15pm) 6 people
- Working Kitchen (10/28/2016 5:45-7pm, 7pm-8pm, 8pm-9pm) 3 people - each shift
- Clean up of Event (10/28/2016 8:30pm-9:30pm, school gym) 8-10 people

**Upcoming HSA Events.** Mark your calendars.

- Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, November 5th
- November HSA General Meeting, Monday, November 14th
- Dairy Twist Food Night, Thursday, November 17th