

St. Mary's Catholic School

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*St Mary's,
Moving Forward and Renewing Our Commitment to
Quality Catholic Education*

Falcon's Pride

A weekly newsletter of the current events at St. Mary's Catholic School

February 2, 2016

Issue 61

www.stmarys-temple.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was wonderful to see so many families and new faces at Open House on Sunday. The treasures of St. Mary's were discovered by all and the final prizes brought smiles to the students' faces. Thank you to the faculty and staff for all their hard work in preparation for the day and to our Student Council and NJHS for their expertise in giving tours. It was a very successful Open House.

Yesterday our Student Council and NJHS students and moderators provided donuts and coffee to parents dropping their students off in the cul de sac. The hot coffee was a plus on the misty morning and who can say no to a donut?

Today Mary Ann Everett, Master Gardener, and her crew came and worked with each class on planting activities. Not only did the students receive a great lesson on gardening but they each got to create a fun plant project.

Tomorrow is Jump Rope for Heart from 8:30-2:00. I am proud of all who have donated and will participate tomorrow. This morning was the deadline for donations. If your child did not donate he/she will need to come to school in regular uniform and will be working on academics during the Jump Rope for Heart time.

Students who chose to participate may bring a water bottle with water only and should wear the following:

Junior High: P.E. clothes, socks and athletic shoes

Pre-K through 5th: Athletic shorts (finger length) Spirit shirt or last year's Walking for Education shirt, socks and athletic shoes.

The shoes and socks for all grades do not have to be school dress code but must be athletic in nature.

If you would like to help, and are EIM compliant, please meet Mrs. Bigon and I at the gym at 8:15 a.m.

Progress reports are being sent home on Friday. Please check your child's backpack. Also remember to fill out your intent to return and return by February 8th. I am currently working on the budget and do need enrollment numbers to determine tuition.

In last week's newsletter I informed you of two perfect opportunities for Christian Service hours for your 5th through 8th grader. I was hoping for a great response. Please read below and encourage your student.

Knights of Columbus and KJT Lenten Fish Fry: Each Friday during Lent. The sign-up sheet is in the office. This is for 5th through 8th grade only. We need volunteers for these evenings. Please sign up. 4:30-7:00

Our Lady of Angels maternity shelter fundraiser is at the expo center February 5, 2016. We would like to have some St. Mary's students as servers taking plates to the table during the dinner hour. We would like them to wear their uniforms and if they could be there at 6:45 pm for instructions. We should be done by 8:00 p.m. or earlier. Please let Mrs. Wyles know if you would like to volunteer. So far no one has volunteered ☹.

PSIA meet schedule is not yet available on the academic meet companion site for Giddings. As soon as it opens I will send it out. In the meantime if you have questions please let me know.

Have a wonderful week and God bless you for all you do.

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Wyles**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Dear St. Mary's Families and Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, well wishes and support for being selected as the honoree for St. Mary's Catholic School this past Saturday. As I received my award on Saturday, I couldn't help but to think of all the parents and staff that have volunteered and have helped me throughout the years. Their dedication and support to Catholic Education is a huge reason why I was selected and I want you to know you were all thought of and in my hearts on Saturday; it was a very humbling experience to receive an award on behalf of you.

I was overwhelmed with the amount of SMCS faculty, parents and parish staff that attended. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be there. "Thank you" Mrs. Wyles, Father Steve and St. Mary's School Board for inviting my family to be a part of the celebration and for all of your support. St. Mary's Catholic School will continue to be a very special place to me, thanks for letting me be a part of your child's life!

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Vargas**

Robotics is Coming to St. Mary's for the 2016-2017 School Year

We are very excited to announce to you that Robotics will be added to our Junior High electives beginning in the fall. We have much to learn and will begin with our Junior High and eventually move the club into some of the lower grades. Mrs. Jennifer Hassell will take the lead, teaching the Robotics elective next year. I have been in contact with other schools in the Diocese who are experts in Robotics. Mrs. Hassell will be visiting these schools to begin her training.

Volunteers Needed

In the past two newsletters I have shared with that Mrs. Shadburn and I will be visiting each parish and speaking on the benefits of Catholic education. We have received permission from each Pastor to have students read the first readings at all these Masses. I now have the full list of dates. Please help us fill these days. I do ask for students in grades 4-8 only. Each pastor has asked that the reader have some experience.

Please let me know if you will be able to help.

Christ the King February 6th and 7th

Saturday

5:00 p.m.----- Abby Rockwood

Sunday

8:00 a.m. (Spanish)-----Rebecca Gonzales

10:30 a.m.-----Faithann Go

5:00 p.m.-----Hannah Shadburn

St. Luke's February 20th and 21st

Saturday

5:00pm Vigil Mass_____

Sunday

8:00am _____

11:00am _____

5:00pm _____

Our Lady of Guadalupe February 27th and 28th

Saturday

6:00 p.m. _____

Sunday

8:00 a.m. (Spanish)_____

10:15 a.m.-----Reagan Smith

11:45 a.m. (Spanish)-----Paloma Navarro

6:00 p.m. (Spanish)_____

St. Mary's March 12th and 13th

Saturday

5:30 p.m. _____

Sunday

7:30 a.m. _____

9:15 a.m. _____

11:00 a.m.-----Isabella Garza

2016-2017 School Year

We are preparing to register families for the 2016-2017 school year. Our first course of action is to gather intents to return for next year and new student commitments. Tuition will be determined once we have an estimate of our enrollment for next year and assumptions from the Diocese. Tuition is calculated based on cost of salaries, benefits, general operating expenses and the number of students enrolled. Therefore, it is imperative that we know who will be returning next year. **A letter of intent has been attached to this newsletter. It is important that you take the time to fill it out and return it. The due date for letters of intent is the 8th of February. No fees are due with this form.**

At the bequest of the Diocese we will be moving over to FACTS Tuition Management for our tuition payments and for tuition assistance applications. We will also be moving into Ren Web, for all family information and students' grades. We will continue to utilize our current website for homework postings (or the individual teacher's homework webpage). More information on both will be given as we proceed.

Tuition assistance will be available for the 2016-2017 school year. The exact amount is not known at this time. We will let you know when applications are available online and the due date. Please be aware that there will be a deadline for applications and those who were awarded tuition assistance this year **must apply again. We will hold *Walking for Education in the spring to help raise funds for tuition assistance.* All who apply will be expected to help with this event.**

4th Graders are Duct Taping a Teacher to the Wall!?!

The fourth graders are raising money to help with their annual service project to make lunches and serve the less fortunate at Feed My Sheep. We will be selling strips of duct tape and allowing students to tape a lucky teacher to the wall after Jump Rope for Heart on February 3rd. Duct Tape will be sold for \$2.00 a strip.

God Squad's 3rd Annual Temple PD Stuffed Animal Drive

The cheer team/God Squad is still collecting stuffed animals this week to benefit the Temple Police Department. Temple officers carry stuffed animals with them in their squad cars to give to children that are involved in police interventions. Not only is the toy something for the child

to hang on to in order to help ease their fears, but it also gives officers and firemen a chance to create a bond with a child to help them realize that they are there to help.

Please help us by donating new or lightly used stuffed animals!! We will be collecting through February 10th, Ash Wednesday. This gives everyone time to do your Spring toy purging early. I know we all have piles of stuffed animals that our kids never touch. :)

We will be delivering the stuffed animals right after school on Ash Wednesday. We have already received quite a few stuffed animals but still need more so please bring what you can!! Thank you to those who have already donated!
St. Mary's Cheer Team

God Squad Service Opportunity

On February 10th, Ash Wednesday, the God Squad will be delivering the stuffed animals, that you have so generously donated, to the Temple Police Department! Anyone is welcome to meet us there. We will be at the Police Department from 3:30 to 4:30. We will then drive to Stoney Brook assisted living center in Belton. We will be visiting with the residents and sharing our home baked Valentine treats that we are bringing with us. Please feel free to join us for these service opportunities. If you plan to come to Stoney Brook, please bring a dozen Valentine cookies or other goodies of your choice.

Questions can be directed to Tamara Burdine tlburdine@msn.com or [325-650-3300](tel:325-650-3300)

Congratulations

St. Mary's placed sixth as a team out of 16 private and public schools competing at the 12th Annual Celtic Invitational! The tournament was very large with more than 200 students in grades four through nine competed in 13 events.

Eight-grader Francesca Higgins was named the tournament's Top Speaker, placing first in Impromptu Speaking out of 72 competitors and fourth in Oratory. Eighth-grader Hannah Shadburn was second in Soapbox Speaking out of 48 contestants. Second-grader Victoria Mosmeyer was fourth in 4-5 Storytelling, and fourth-grader Therese Mosmeyer was seventh in 4-5 Storytelling. Cate Barkis made the semifinals of 6-7 Poetry. Other Falcons competing included Ekon Malik and Volodymyr Ploskanych.

Chris Mosmeyer
English, Forensics, Social Studies

PTC News

Happy Catholic Schools Week!!

Thank you for everyone who stopped by the PTC table at Open House and wrote down one thing that you treasure, we appreciate not only the students but the parents and faculty that participated as well.

We hope everyone enjoyed Spirit Night at Gogo's. It was something different and we would love your feedback on what you thought of it.

Next spirit night will be Wednesday February 24th at Pizza Wings and Things in Temple. The flyer will come out soon with all the details.

We hope everyone has a great week and thank you for your continued support,
St.Marys PTC

Save the date!!!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 10th, for the St. Mary's Church Festival at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The funds raised at the event will go to supporting the insurance payment on the entire St. Mary's campus.

Each class will be supporting the event with a basket that will be auctioned off during the event. More details will be coming soon from your child's homeroom teacher.

We look forward to coming together as a church and school community for a day full of food, fun and fellowship!

Sports News

Last two weeks for basketball has been busy. Our students started off playing Live Oak on January 19th here at home, and again had home games against CTCS on January 21st where the JV girls won. All teams played some good basketball.

Then on Friday January 22nd the girls basketball traveled to CTCS to play in their tournament. The Varsity girls won both games on Friday to advance to the championship game on Saturday. The JV girls won one game and lost one so they were tied by points on advancement. They won the coin toss and also advanced to the championship game on Saturday. They played Live Oak on Saturday and came up short, but did come in second in the tournament. Way to go.

This past Saturday we held our 8th grade basketball tournament here at the gym. It was a very busy day with some good basketball games going on. I want to thank all who helped out at the tournament, without you this tournament would not be able to happen.

TRACK STARTS THIS WEEK. Practice will be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at Holy Trinity High School. The students will be bused over to Holy Trinity High School after they are dismissed from school here. You will pick your son or daughter up at Holy Trinity High School at 5:00 PM.

Nita Bigon
St. Mary's Catholic School
nbigon@stmarys-temple.org

Important Dates to Remember

Mon. Feb 1st-5th

Sat. Feb. 6th

Sun. Feb. 7th

Tues. Feb. 9th

Wed. Feb. 10th

Fri. Feb 12th

*Catholic Schools Week continues: see attached flyer for details

*Holy Trinity Gala

*Cupcake Sale for the Pre-K

*Cupcake Sale for Pre-K after all Masses

*Fat Tues./Valentine parties

*Ash Wednesday All School Mass 8:15 a.m.

*Stations of the Cross 2:30 in the church

*Knights of Columbus/KJT Fish Fry

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C **February 7, 2016**

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8

Isaiah describes his vision and call from the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138:1-5,7-8

A song of thanks to God who saves us

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (shorter form, *1 Corinthians 15:3-8,11*)

Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel that he announced to them.

Gospel Reading

Luke 5:1-11

The fishermen (Simon, James, and John) leave their fishing boats and follow Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Last Sunday, we heard how Jesus was rejected in his hometown of Nazareth. In the verses that follow, Jesus travels to the town of Capernaum and begins his ministry of teaching and healing. While in Capernaum, Jesus cures a man possessed with a demon and heals Simon's mother-in-law. After spending some time there, Jesus prepares to preach in other places. The fact that Jesus had previously been in Simon's home and healed his mother-in-law suggests that this encounter is not the first between Jesus and Simon Peter. We can read today's Gospel, therefore, as a description of the developing relationship between Jesus and Simon Peter.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches from Simon's boat. Jesus turns to Simon and instructs him about where to lower the fishing nets. Simon and others have been fishing throughout the night and have not caught anything. Simon protests, claiming that such an effort would be futile. Simon ultimately obeys Jesus and lowers his nets into the deeper water as directed. Notice here that Peter calls Jesus by the title "master." He already recognizes Jesus as a person of authority. They catch so many fish that the nets begin to tear; Jesus' presence has created abundance out of scarcity, just as it did at the wedding feast at Cana, which we heard at Mass just a few weeks ago.

Simon Peter becomes a follower of Jesus immediately. He calls Jesus "Lord"—the title given to Jesus after his Resurrection—and protests his worthiness to be in Jesus' presence. Today's Gospel, therefore, marks a turning point in the relationship between Jesus and Peter.

Two of Simon's partners are also named as witnesses to the event described in today's Gospel: Zebedee's sons, James and John. Yet Jesus' words are addressed only to Simon. Jesus gives Simon a new job, telling him that he will become a different kind of fisherman. No longer will he catch fish; instead he will catch people. In these words, we hear the beginning of the leadership role that Peter will have within the community of disciples. Peter was chosen for this role. His task will be to bring others to Jesus. Already he is doing so; the Gospel tells us that all the fishermen with Peter also left their nets and followed Jesus.

We continue to speak of Peter's leadership and influence in the Church today when we call the pope the "successor of Peter." We participate in the mission of the Church when we bring people to Christ through the example and positive influence of our lives.