

St. Mary's Catholic School

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St Mary's,
Continuing Our Commitment to
Quality Catholic Education

Falcon's Pride

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

November 29, 2016

Issue 91

www.stmarys-temple.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I pray that you had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break. Advent is upon us and before you know it we will be celebrating our Lord's birth. Enjoy your days leading up to and beyond that day. They will be fun-filled and busy for all of us.

I wish to inform you of the resignation of our 7th grade teacher, Mrs. Kira Cuipek. I was informed of this yesterday morning via letter. Mrs. Cuipek has cited personal reasons for her departure (unrelated to health). I have secured Mrs. Patti Mendenhall, one of our long-time substitutes, to work with our students until Christmas vacation. Mrs. Mendenhall knows our school well and will help our students keep up with their normal routine.

I have begun the search for a new teacher. I know that God has a plan and I trust him to see us through this and help me find a good fit for our Middle School. Please keep us in your prayers.

Mr. Tim Hodge, from our parish and School Board, has asked our students for help. He writes:

"On December 17th at 11:00 a.m., we have a group of guys that are majority of Veterans and friends that go over to the VA nursing/recovery facility every year and serve BBQ lunch and give gifts to the patients there at Christmas time. The gifts are sundry items for them while they are there. They really enjoy it. We also feed the staff working too. I wanted to add a wrinkle to it this year, by having some kids singing Christmas carols. That being said, what a great idea to see if we can get a St Mary's School choir or some kids from St Mary's in a school shirt or jacket with the school logo singing for some Veterans!"

How wonderful to show our Christmas spirit to our veterans. If you and your child(ren) would like to help us build a group of carolers on this day please let me know. All grades are invited and parents are asked to join to. We will have a set list of carols that will be practiced with the students who have volunteered. Students may consider this a Christian service project.

On December 12th our students will attend Mass for our Lady of Guadalupe. Students are asked to bring a rose to present to our Lady during the procession on the 12th . Students will also attend Mass on December 8th for the Immaculate Conception and December 9th and 16th as our weekly Friday Masses.

Have a wonderful week!

God bless,

Mrs. Wyles

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Family Mass this Sunday

Please join us for Family Mass this Sunday at St. Mary's at 11:00 a.m. It would be wonderful to see the church filled with our students (in uniform please). The school choir will be singing and 5th grade has offered to prepare the Mass. See you then ☺.

Giving Tree During Advent

I am happy to inform you that we have been invited to participate in The Giving Tree Project again this year. If you are not familiar with this project, it is a way for us to give to those less fortunate at Christmas time. We now have a Christmas tree outside the office and on this tree are paper ornaments. Each ornament has written upon it the details of the Christmas wishes of a person in our community who is less fortunate.

If you would like to help one of these people, simply take an ornament, record with Ms. Morales or Mrs. Brown which ornament you have selected, and bring a wrapped gift back to school by Dec. 16th, using the ideas on the ornament. Attach the ornament to the wrapped gift so it can be given to the correct person. If you bring more than one gift please put them together in a bag or write the name on the second gift. If you have questions please ask.

Last year's response to this was spectacular. I have no doubt we will continue the gift of giving.

Please note Dec. 16th

On December 16th school will be dismissed at 12:00 for Christmas vacation. There will be no after school Zone care on this day. As well, faculty and staff will be leaving campus shortly after 12:00. Please make sure you have made arrangements to pick your child up on time on this day.

Christmas Cards for our Veterans

Christmas Cards for Hospitalized Veterans

Please sign and donate holiday cards for local hospitalized veterans. Just a simple message like "Merry Christmas! We are praying for you. Love, The Students of St. Mary's (or your name if you prefer)" is fine. The cards will be delivered to the VA Hospital the week of Christmas.

Thanks for your support of our Veterans!

Mason McHugh: Grade 8

Christmas Wreathes from NJHS

Dear St. Mary's Catholic School Families,

Christmas is around the corner and it is with immense exuberance I would like to inform you that our kids have been working hard and diligently to make the beautiful "Wreathes" for Christmas. The kids will be putting these wreathes for auction and the funds generated will go towards nurturing their various school activities. Therefore please join us and help in fulfilling our goal.

The wreathes will be displayed outside the office. Final bids will be taken the night of the Christmas concert, December 15th.

Thanks!

Merry Christmas!!!!!! To all of you.

Pictures will be up on the website soon. Take a look and call the school if you would like to place a bid and can't get here.

Mrs. Guleria and NJHS members

2nd Grade Bake Sale December 7th

On Wednesday, December 7th, 2nd grade class will host a bake sale. All items will be 50 cents a piece and donations are accepted above the cost of the items. The money raised will be used by the class to purchase toys that will be donated to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Bell County. They provide services to children in foster care. After we know the amount raised, students will select toys to purchase. The toys will be ordered through Amazon and delivered to the school. It creates great excitement in the classroom and is an opportunity for the children to be directly involved in this service project. Thank you for your support of our service project!

Student Council News

Dear Parents,

We're just weeks away from our Christmas season, and Student Council would like to help YOU get your Christmas shopping done early! In order to help you with this, we are pleased to announce SMCS's 1st ever Kid's Night! This fun-filled event will be held on Friday, December 2nd from 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the gym and cafeteria. Children may be dropped off as early as 6:00 p.m. to the members of the Student Council and volunteer teachers so that you may put on your elf hats and start shopping. We will be providing pizza and drinks, so bring your children hungry and ready to have some fun!

Student Council now has tickets for pre-sale in the office. Pre-buying your tickets will ensure we order enough food and have enough people on hand to run the activities. Tickets are \$15 for the first child in a family, and \$10 for each additional child. While the price is unbeatable, you'll enjoy a happy child and a few things crossed off your to-do list even more!

Please contact ssaaty@stmarys-temple.org if you have any questions. Also, please see the Kid's Night Flyer attached. We look forward to seeing you on December 2nd!

St Mary's Student Council

Christmas Parade News:

If you are available and want to help with this event please come to one or all workdays:

All are invited and welcome. We need volunteers on these days:

- ❖ Wednesday Nov. 30th 9:30-12:30
- ❖ Friday Dec. 2nd 9:30-1:00
- ❖ Monday Dec. 5th 9:00- 12:00
- ❖ Tuesday Dec. 6th from 8:00am. to 12:00pm. to clean the trailer after the parade.

We are in need of:

1. Fake Christmas trees (any size)
2. White Christmas lights
3. Something to mimic Snow for example spray snow, or White blankets, or sheets.

All of these items can be returned Right after the parade, Dec. 5 or 6, Except for the spray snow.

Thank you,
Lana Shadburn

Christmas Program Details for December 6th

We are preparing for our fantastic Christmas musical, *Angels Aware*, to be performed December 6, 2016, at Temple College! Here is the list of costumes:

Elementary Students (pre-K - 5th): **Girls** will wear white shirts with either skirts or pants in their Christmas color of choice (green, red, gold, or silver), and dress shoes. **Boys** will wear

white shirts and slacks in their Christmas color of choice (green, red, gold, or silver) or dark slacks, Christmas colored shirt and tie. Both boys and girls will wear a tinsel garland that will be provided for them.

Middle School Students: Boys will wear their Sunday best in the Christmas colors of their choice (green, red, gold, or silver), or dark slacks, Christmas colored shirt and tie and dress shoes. **Girls** will wear Sunday best (either skirts to the knee, or slacks) in the Christmas colors of their choice (green, red, gold, or silver), and dress shoes.

Our all-school dress rehearsals will be Tuesday, November 29 and Thursday, December 1.

The call time for students is 5:45 pm. Please do not drop students off before this time.

There will be no supervision available before 5:45 pm.

Upcoming EIM Workshops.

Austin: St. Thomas Moore Parish 10205 FM 620 N. Dec. 6th 6:30 p.m.

Box Tops for Education Competition

Please collect the Box Tops for Education off your groceries and send them into school to your child's homeroom teacher. For every Box Top that is donated, the school receives 10 cents.

There will be a competition between the classrooms from now until February 10th. The classroom with the highest average box top per student will receive a Pizza Party.

The Box Tops need to have the Expiration Date on them. When cutting, ripping or tearing them off the packages please be sure to keep the dotted line surrounding the Box Top visible. You may place your Box Tops in an envelope, plastic baggie, or on a collection sheet. Be sure to visit CashForYourEducation.com to print a collection sheet. This is a great way for your kids to track their collection progress.

You can also go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> to find out how you can use the New Box Tops Bonus App to earn even more cash for St. Mary's.

PSIA Coaching Schedules

Please check coaching schedules on the Google Calendar on the School website.

Celebrating Catholic Schools

This year's nominee for St. Mary's Catholic School is Mrs. Angie Stolp. Mrs. Stolp has been a dedicated member of the St. Mary's family for over 30 years and is very deserving of this award. The event will take place January 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt at Town Lake in Austin. The featured speaker this year will be Cardinal Dolan.

Please visit the Diocesan website for Catholic Schools <http://csdatx.org/>, and look for this picture. Help us fill the house in support of Mrs. Stolp! Ticket prices will go up to \$150 on December 1st so please purchase your ticket before then.



Amazon Smile

As you are getting ready for the holidays, don't forget to shop for their treats, and decorations at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to St. Mary's Catholic School.

#StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1297273 to stock up for the holidays and Amazon donates to St. Mary's Catholic School.

Raffle Tickets for OLG

Our Lady Of Guadalupe Catholic Church is selling raffle tickets that will take place December 11, 2016 (need not to be present to win) the following items included are:

- Grand Prize- 2007 Ford Convertible Mustang
- 2nd- Toshiba LED HD TV 55' TV
- 3rd- Stainless Steel and Porcelain Burner Gas Grill
- 4th- 7.9' 16GB iPad Air
- 5th- \$500 Visa Gift Card
- 6th- \$459 Gift Card Basket
- 7th- Dinner for 2 with Father Cesar Guzman valued at \$150

If you could please support our church it will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Mrs. Hilda Fernández de González (Brisa & Cielo's Mom)

*Please feel free to call or text me at [915-637-2050](tel:915-637-2050).

*Also you all can send money in an envelope in your child's backpack to be sent to the schools office with my name. Inside the envelope please send the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Tickets are numbered from 0681 to 0949

COST: \$20.00 cash or check

These fund are to help reduce the Church's Debt on construction and repairs made to building

Thank you again!

Hilda Fernandez [915-637-2050](tel:915-637-2050)

Recycle Ink with us

The box is ready to be filled. Bring in your empty ink or toner cartridges from home or the office. The money raised will help with office expenses. Thank you to Johnnies Office Systems for donating two big tubs of ink.

School Spirit Items

Have you had the chance to purchase our very cool looking Spirit items yet? We are proud of our school and want all to know. We have hats, koozies, cooler cups and stickers in the office. All have the school logo. Stop by the office and take a look.

I Give Catholic

To celebrate our unique Catholic Heritage, we are participating in a wonderful program entitled #iGive Catholic. This is a giving day created to rally the Catholic community on #GivingTuesday, November 29th –a global day of giving. It is a call to share our many blessings with St. Mary's Catholic School.

Please visit <http://iGiveCatholic.org> and select the Diocese of Austin and search for St. Mary's Catholic School, Temple.

#Giving Tuesday, November 29th (Advanced giving begins November 18th)

WHAT IS #IGIVECATHOLIC?

#iGiveCatholic is the first-ever online giving day for the Catholic community. This year, #iGiveCatholic is being celebrated by 6 Catholic dioceses in the southeast region: The Archdiocese of New Orleans, Diocese of Austin, Diocese of Baton Rouge, Diocese of Biloxi, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, and Diocese of Jackson.

The goal of the #iGiveCatholic Giving Day is to inspire our Catholic community to come together with giving in support of organizations that shape our souls: our parishes, schools, ministries and not-for-profit organizations. #iGiveCatholic's goal is to deliver \$1,500,000 to our Catholic organizations in a 24-hour period.

Let's come together to share our gifts lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. WHY HOST A DAY OF CATHOLIC GIVING ON #GIVINGTUESDAY? We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for purchasing gifts for loved ones - Black Friday and Cyber Monday. And now, entering its fifth year, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back that kicks off the charitable season.

This year on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, individuals and organizations around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. We know that, for Catholics, generosity and giving have a profound meaning. As children of God, giving is the ultimate expression of mercy as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless and preserve our Catholic heritage for future generations. Compelled to action by our shared faith, Catholics are energized to give back knowing that little is much when God is in it.

HOW DO I GIVE?

It's a simple process. A 24 hour period, between midnight and 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29th is the time to donate. Just go to www.igivecatholic.org, select our school, donate \$25 or more, finish the transaction and an email confirming your donation will be sent. Links are up on the school website. You can only pay by credit card (Mastercard, VISA, Discover and American Express). As it gets closer to the #iGiveCatholic date, we will be providing links to keep up with our progress, additional information about this event and answer questions you may have.

Important Dates to Remember

Thurs. Dec. 1st

Fri. Dec. 2nd

Sun. Dec. 4th

Tues. Dec. 6th

Thurs. Dec. 8th

Fri. Dec. 9th

Sun. Dec. 11th

Mon. Dec. 12th

Mon. Dec. 12th-Thurs. Dec. 15th

Thurs. Dec. 15th

Fri. Dec. 16th

Wed. Jan. 4th

*Spirit Day

*All School Mass 8:15 a.m.

*Kid's Night In 6:00-9:30

*Family Mass at St. Mary's 11:00 a.m.

(school choir will sing)

*Christmas Program

*All School Mass: Immaculate Conception

* All School Mass 8:15 a.m.

*First Penance Meeting 1:00-3:00

* All School Mass: Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Semester Exams grades 4-8

*Christmas Concert (details to come)

*All School Mass 8:15 a.m.

*Noon dismissal for Christmas vacation

*Second Quarter ends

*School reopens: 3rd Quarter Begins