



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School Parent Newsletter ~ Week of March 11th

Mission Statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in Kindergarten through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academics, excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a safe environment.

What's happening at St. Mary's:

To accommodate for all who are planning to attend the State girl's basketball tournament to cheer on the BOLD girls basketball team St Mary's will be dismissing at 1:00 PM on Thursday and will not be in session on Friday. Good Luck Ladies!!

Lent: As the Lenten Season quickly approaches the students and staff will reflect upon our theme:

"Lord, Let Me Walk".

Romans 12:6-7 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, the prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach."

Throughout our Lenten journey the students will be encouraged to walk with Jesus this Lenten season through their actions of using their gifts to help others or to give sacrifices. Each time they are kind or help another or sacrifice for another or Jesus, they will write their action on a footstep. The students will put their footsteps on the hallway wall leading to the cross on the bulletin board. This will be a powerful visual for all to see. If you would like to come and view this inspiring action to our Lord please feel free to stop by the school and view.

We would also like to invite all to attend the following events:

- * March 12th at 10:30 AM we will come together to pray a Living Rosary which will be led by our 5th graders in St. Mary's Church
 - * March 19th at 8:30 Grades 1 & 7 will be leading our Lenten service in St. Mary's School gym. Please enter door # 1 of the school to attend this service
 - * March 26th at 11:00 AM Our 4th graders will be leading us in the Stations of the Cross. This will take place in at St. Mary's Church
 - * April 2nd at 9:15 Our Kindergarteners will be leading our 2nd Lenten service which will take place in the St. Mary's School gym. Please enter door #1 of the school to attend this service.
- Our events will start promptly on time and can range anywhere from 10 to 25 minutes in length depending on the event.



I can not express how powerful these events are due to the fact that they are being delivered to us through our youth. We look forward to you joining us.

Final 4 Reading Initiative: The 3rd Graders have read 37,320

minutes since the Read to the Final Four program launched in November. They came in a close 2nd in the Great Lakes Region. St. Mary's top reader is Charlotte Kaufenberg with a current total of 7314 minutes, which puts her in 7th place in the entire region! Congratulations to Charlotte and all the third graders who were so dedicated and determined to read and read some more! They have received some great prizes and books from the NCAA program and have enjoyed reading and learning about new things.



Science Fair News: St. Mary's Science Fair Open House is Wednesday, March 13th from 4:40 to 5:30 in the school gym. St. Mary's sixth graders have been working on their Science Fair projects since December to select, research and conduct their experiments. There is a variety of projects with topics in health, nutrition, chemistry, and environmental sciences. Project judging will be during school on the 13th between 12:30 and 2 p.m. Please join us at the Science Fair Open House and see all the great projects. Top projects from our Science Fair may go on to compete at the Regional Science Fair in Mankato.

Music Moments:



The preschool students have had the opportunity to attend both Music and PE classes this year as part of getting ready for transition to Kindergarten next year. After learning the fingerplay "Chop, Chop, Chippity Chop" and talking about different vegetables we would chop up and add to our own soup, the students watching an animated clip of the classic story, "Stone Soup." This sparked a great discussion about sharing with one another and how it is always nice to share what we have.

Math League: Congratulations to our awesome St. Mary's Junior High Math League students!

The results are in! The St. Mary's Junior High Math League has finished second overall by a narrow margin to Marshall in 5 Meets throughout this past year. We had five students achieve TOP 10 status in the Greater Minnesota division, receiving medals including: Mari Ryberg 3rd place, Gage Amberg 4th Place, Kylie Elfering 5th Place, Griffin Kubesh 7th place, and Hannah Schlomann 9th place! Amazing work math students! We are so proud of you for representing St Mary's!



We are excited to be partnering again with a fun, free, and truly easy fundraiser called **Shoparoo**! Schools nationwide are already earning hundreds and even thousands every year through Shoparoo and it's a great opportunity for us to really make a difference this year!

Shoparoo is school fundraising made easy: the free app turns pictures of your everyday shopping receipts into cash donations and sweepstakes entries for our school! Yep, it's that simple. No more cutting labels, selling door to door, or time-consuming coordinating. All you have to do is shop as you normally do, snap pictures of your receipts with the app, and voila Just shop, snap, earn!

Get started today:

1. Download the free Shoparoo app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store
 2. Select our school from the list and start taking pictures of your receipts - shop anywhere, buy anything!
 3. You can even select a grade to support and have fun with grade competitions!
- There's no limit to how much money we can raise with Shoparoo - the more supporters, the more we will raise for our school. Schools with just 40 supporters are earning an average of \$1,000 every year. That's free, easy money that we could be fundraising too. Check out shoparoo.com to learn more about this awesome app!

St. Mary's School raises an amazing \$5,270 in just six weeks!

2019 brought another successful Catholic Schools Raffle at **St. Mary's School**. Teachers, staff and the surrounding community of Bird Island united with students and their families to raise an outstanding total of \$5,270 for the school. The school averaged tickets sold per student, earning them an additional \$3,000 in Grant money from program sponsor Catholic United Financial!

Since January 11, students of St. Mary's have been selling \$5 raffle tickets as part of the Catholic Schools Raffle, a fundraising program provided free of charge by sponsor Catholic United Financial since 2009. St. Mary's is one of 89 schools in Minnesota and the Dakotas that were involved in 2019. Before that January start date, school leadership set an ambitious fundraising goal. Catholic United Financial provided all promotional materials, raffle tickets and prizes for the program at no cost. As the tickets were sold and money came in, families and staff counted their total. They were excited to know that they keep every dollar raised during the six-week ticket selling period, which ended February 24.

"Catholic United Financial has had a strong commitment to education ever since our founding 141 years ago. This year, our Catholic Schools Raffle again is one of the largest fundraisers for Catholic education in the Upper Midwest," said Harald Borrmann, president of Catholic United Financial. "Since we started this Raffle in 2009, well over \$8 million has been raised for participating schools. We are incredibly proud that 100 percent of the total has gone directly to the students, parents, faculty and administrators who have helped make this program such an unqualified success."

On March 5 the Raffle officially concluded with a prize drawing ceremony broadcasted live on the Catholic United Financial website. The prizes, valued at over \$40,000, included a new 2019 Chevy Trax SUV, vacation and travel packages, iPads, smart TVs and more. Catholic United also rewarded the hard work of the top student classroom at St. Mary's with a pizza party and the top selling student won a new Amazon Echo Dot – Kid's Version.

Funds raised by participating schools, like St. Mary's School are used to enhance school programs and facilities, including funding field trips, building playgrounds, supplementing tuition costs and providing new education technology

Science Museum / MMPA Visit: On Wednesday March 6th, St. Mary's students had the opportunity to



gather in the gym and be a part of a presentation by a representative from the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency as well as the Minnesota Science Museum. This presentation was an hour full of demonstrations and audience participation that gave some insight into where the electricity that is used in our homes and our school comes from. The presentation gave some insight into how energy can be stored as well as how people can be less wasteful with the electricity that they are using. There were demonstrations showing renewable and nonrenewable resources and how they have an effect on our environment. There was discussion about the wind farms as well as the solar gardens that have become more and more prominent in our areas as sources of energy that is converted in to electricity. This presentation was very insightful and sparked

some great conversations about electricity.

Upcoming Dates to Watch for:

- March 6th – Science Museum and MMPA assemble
- March 13th – Local Science Fair – Open to the public to view 4:30-5:30 PM
- March 22nd – Student attend the TOMF benefit pre-game
- March 23rd – TOMF benefit
- March 25th – **School will be in session for St. Mary's**
- March 29th – End of the Quarter
- March 28th - 7:00 PM Spring Concert
- April 6th – Prime Rib Dinner
- April 12th – Kindergarten Roundup 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Current Kindergartners will not have school this day)
- May 5th 10:30 AM Mass - First Communion
- May 9th – 10:30 AM Mass – May Crowning and Grandparents Day