



NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

TH 10/2 - First Reconciliation
Parent Meeting (6:30 @ St. Al's)

W 10/8 - No PM Bussing

W 10/15 - Marathon Service Day

TH 10/16 - No School (MEA Break)

F 10/17 - No School (MEA Break)

F 10/24 - No School (In-Service)

T 10/28 - Vision and Hearing
Screenings (K & Grades 1-3, 5, 8)
(Please bring glasses to school.)

T 10/28 - End of Quarter 1

W 10/29 - School Picture Retakes

MISSION

St. Marys's School in Bird Island serves the area students in preschool through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academic excellence, self-worth, and faith development go hand in hand in a nurturing environment.

MARATHON



Marathon officially kicked off on Friday, September 26 with a school gathering in the gym. As is tradition, the eighth graders performed a skit to teach the rest of the school how to safely and respectfully collect donations. Fr. Joe and Fr. George announced the Marathon goal of \$55,000, and the students heard about the fun incentives they can earn.

Top Collecting Class (Week 1):
Water Balloon Fight

Top Collecting Class (Week 2):
30 Minutes of Recess and Ice Cream Treat

Top Collecting Class (Week 3):
Extra Dress-Up Day of Choice

Top 3 Classes: Pizza Party w/ Fr. George

Marathon Goal: PJ Day and Movie with Snacks in Gym and Extra Day of Vacation

MARATHON CONTINUED

The theme of this year's Marathon is "Kindness Begins with Us." Join in the fun with the following Marathon week dress-up days (October 9-15)!

Thursday: Hats off to Kindness
(Wear a hat with your church clothes.)

Friday: We Are Powered by Kindness
(Dress in your favorite superhero attire.)

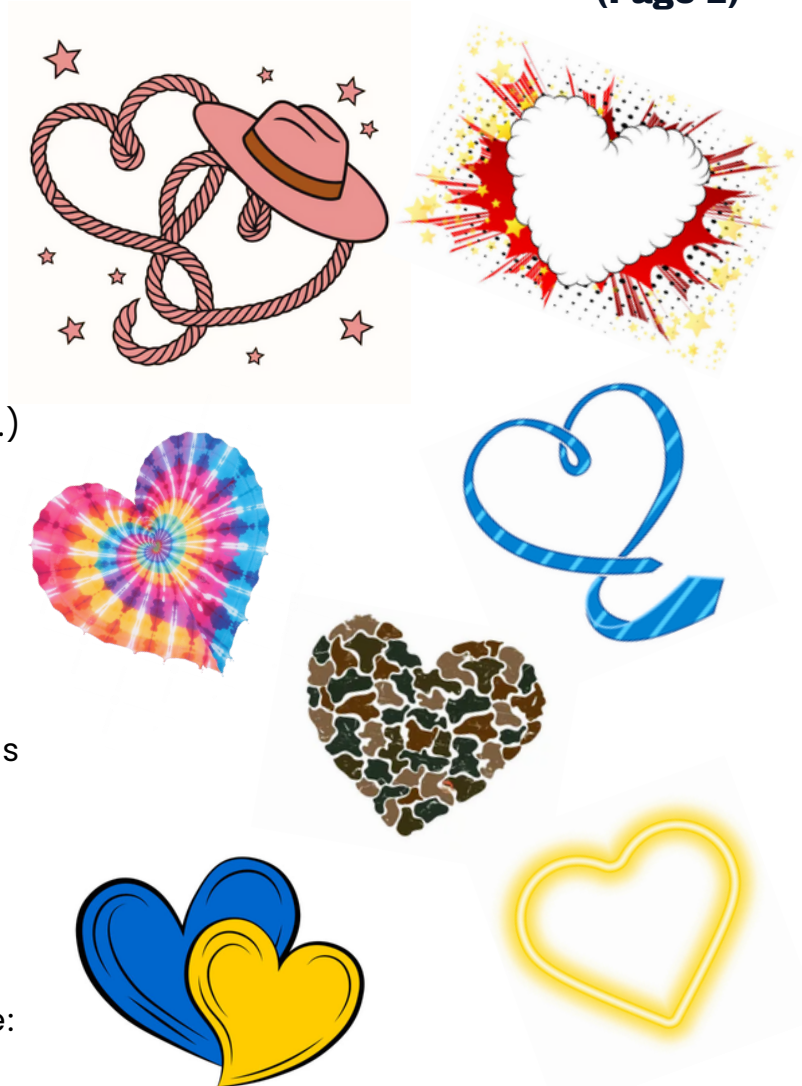
Monday: Kindness Ties Us Together
(Wear a tie, bowtie, or tie-dye.)

Tuesday: Don't Hide Your Kindness
(Dress in camouflage or neon.)

Wednesday: Share the Spirit of Kindness
(Dress in St. Mary's School spirit wear.)

For the seventh year, St. Mary's School students and staff will be participating in a Marathon of service around the community. Acts of service will include: picking up sticks and trash, raking leaves, pulling weeds, etc.

Please contact the school if you or someone you know has a suggested service site for fall lawn care.



Grade 8 Marathon Skit

TEAMING TOGETHER TO MAKE ST. MARY'S THE BEST

For the 2025-26 school year, Mrs. Tracy Bertrand-Sigurdson and Ms. Stacey Lambrecht will be sharing the duties of school principal. Both will have individual responsibilities as well as shared responsibilities in their roles as co-principals of St Mary's School.

To make this transition possible, Mrs. Sigurdson requested a reduction in her contract (reducing her summer hours). Ms. Lambrecht accepted an increase in her administrative hours (both during the summer and the school year).

Ms. Lambrecht's key roles will be guiding and advising St. Mary's teachers, coordinating programs for excellence, and overseeing curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Sigurdson's key roles will be in the areas of recruitment, admissions, finances, fundraising, and serving as the school's liaison with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Education, the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence, Play Island Preschool, BOLD Public Schools (Title services and non-public funding), and the local community.

Together, they will tackle all of the other tasks and things that transpire from day to day. Together, they will work to support the learning, growth, and success of St. Mary's School.



MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

On Friday, September 19, all students in grades 5-12 in the Diocese of New Ulm gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Ulm for the first biennial Mass of the Holy Spirit. The students participated in praise and worship with Sonar and celebrated Mass with Bishop Chad Zielinski and priests from around the diocese.

A Mass of the Holy Spirit serves as a moment for all gathered to seek the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and to open their hearts to the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (wonder and awe).

KITCHEN CORNER

2025-2026 Volume 1

September 30, 2025

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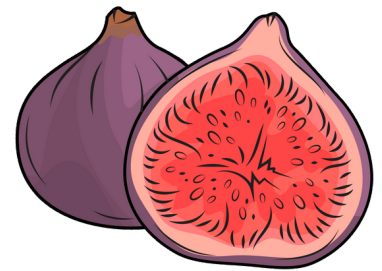
We are pleased to have this space to share exciting information happening in the kitchen for the 2025-26 school year.

In case you didn't know, we are now offering fresh fruits and vegetables (included with lunches). This seems to be going very well, and the students seem to enjoy it. We also started doing a "Unique Flavor Friday" where we offer, on the third Friday of the month, a produce item that the students may have never sampled. For the month of September, we brought in fresh figs, and the student seemed excited to try them. We have more planned for future months.

Also, we are now able to make more homemade products than in the past. Some items that are now made in house are: breakfast burritos, meatballs, and turkey sausage patties. We are doing this to be able to control what ingredients and nutrients are going into the students' bodies, and it allows us to control the sodium and sugar contents.

We are looking forward to sharing more with everyone in the future and trying to make St. Mary's Food Service the best it can be.

Michael Zimmerman and Cindy Woelfel



PARKING LOT SAFETY REMINDERS

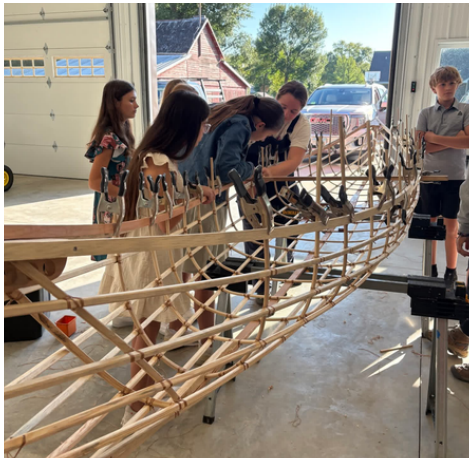
Our school parking lot is busy at drop off in the mornings and at pick up in the afternoons. Please remember the following safety protocols:

1. Please use 10th Avenue as a one-way entrance in the mornings and in the afternoons.
2. The drop-off line is parallel to the school building.
3. If you are going to park and bring your child(ren) into the building, please pull into the parking spots facing the baseball field next to the gaga pit and basketball hoops.
4. Please do not park next to the playground, creating multiple lanes of vehicles, as it makes it dangerous for crossing and seeing children.
5. Please drive slowly in the parking lot at all times.

Thank you for watching out for the safety of all children!

URBAN WILDERNESS CANOE

Thanks to CSCOE (Catholic Schools Center of Excellence), the sixth and seventh grade students had the opportunity to build a 15-foot canoe from scratch! St. Mary's School received a grant, which provided for two certified teachers from Urban Wilderness and all of the necessary materials. The students rotated in small groups to build the canoe, and Todd and Trish Sheehan generously provided the use of their shed for the building space. When the canoe was finished, one group of students portaged the canoe from the Sheehans' shed to St. Mary's School.



It is the policy of St. Mary's School to comply with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and all requirements imposed by/or pursuant to regulations issued thereto, to the end that no person at St. Mary's shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to assistance, age, or disability and handicapping condition (if, with reasonable accommodations on the part of the school, the handicapped person could be accommodated) be excluded for participation in, be denied of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program, or in employment, recruitment, consideration, or selection, whether part or full time, under any educational program, employment, or activity by St. Mary's School.

LOOKING AHEAD

M 11/3 - No Shorts (Until April 1)

**T 11/4 - Parent/Teacher
Conferences (3:30-7:00)**

**Th 11/6 - Parent/Teacher
Conferences (3:30-7:00)**

**T 11/11 - Veterans Day Program
(1:00 in Gym)**

W 11/12 - No PM Bussing