



where academics and faith go hand in hand

NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

T 12/2 - Mid-Quarter 2

M 12/8 - Cash Calendars Due

M 12/8 - Band Concert
(7:00 @ BOLD)

W 12/10 - No PM Bussing

Th 12/11 - Preschool & Pre-K
Christmas Concert
(6:30 in Gym)

T 12/16 - K-8 Christmas Concert &
Winter Raffle
(7:00 in Church)

December 22-January 2
No School (Christmas Break)

MISSION

St. Mary'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.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

St. Mary's School honored veterans with its annual Veterans Day Program on November 11. As is tradition, the seventh graders hosted the program and shared parts of their interviews with veterans. Kindergarten through eighth grade students performed patriotic songs with their voices and other instruments.



St. Mary's alum Ava Schlomann shared her experience at the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State, and guest speaker Patrick Nelson of Loyalty Point Leadership shared his experiences of serving in military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and working in the NFL.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOOD DRIVE WEIGH-IN

St. Mary's School participated in the fourth annual Renville County Sheriff's Office Food Drive to help local families facing food insecurity this holiday season. On the afternoon of November 18, officers held a weigh-in at the school. Each class was challenged to bring in the most food (by weight). St. Mary's families brought in a total of 1,131.4 pounds of food, and the kindergarten class was the winning class with 255.4 pounds of food. Kindergarten students will enjoy donuts with county officers.



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NFelementary Surprise from the
Minnesota Vikings for Grade 4



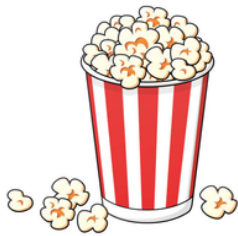
Turkey Cards for Residents of
Island Living from Grades 2/3



MARATHON REWARD DAY

The entire school enjoyed a Marathon Reward Day on November 25 (the last day of school before Thanksgiving Break). The students and staff wore pajamas to school, preschool and pre-kindergarten watched movies in their classrooms, and K-8 watched *The Peanuts Movie* in the gym. Students brought blankets and enjoyed real movie theatre popcorn from Golden Ticket Cinemas in Willmar, full-size candy treats, and Capri-Sun pouches.

Thank you again to everyone who helped St. Mary's School surpass its Marathon goal, thank you to Golden Ticket Cinemas for donating half of the bulk popcorn for the movie, and thank you to Fr. George Schmit for providing the rest of the popcorn, candy, and juice for the movie!



THANKSGIVING PARADE

Grades 1-4 learned about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. The first graders read the book *Balloons over Broadway* and then created their own balloons for a parade. The fourth graders surprised everyone by joining the parade with their own balloon creations! And, the second and third graders programmed Bee-Bots for their own mini Thanksgiving parade.



KITCHEN CORNER

Three months down, and the holiday season is upon us!

Our "Unique Flavor Fridays" have been a huge hit. We have had the students try fresh figs, pumpkin hummus with pita chips, and fresh pomegranate seeds. They loved the pomegranate the most, with students asking to come up for seconds. This month, we are going to be sampling persimmons, something we haven't even tried.

We are looking to make some changes to our menus, starting in January. Some of the entrees that do not get as many seconds will either be redone or changed into something else. We will also be looking at both breakfast and after-school items, too. Starting the 2027-2028 school year, the USDA will be lowering the sodium maximum for grades K-8 down from 1,000 mg to 950 mg. So, we are going to start that conversion beginning in January. Some changes include making our own Caesar and Ranch dressings to better be able to control the sodium levels.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and look forward to a wonderful 2026!

Michael Zimmerman and Cindy Woelfel



CASH CALENDARS

<div>  ST. MARY'S SCHOOL Calendar Cash Drawing Bird Island, MN 55310 \$10,700 in Cash Prizes </div>			
January	February	March	April
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May	June	July	August
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September	October	November	December
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51 Sundays - \$50 Each..... \$ 2,550 New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas - \$100 Each..... \$ 400 310 Weekdays/Saturdays - \$25 each..... \$ 7,750 Total Payment Amount..... \$ 10,700			

St. Mary's Cash Calendars are still available for \$30 each in the school office. However, all money and calendar stubs need to be turned in by Monday, December 8.

A winning calendar is drawn for every day of the year, and each winner is automatically mailed a check the week of his/her win. A person can win multiple times, as calendars are returned to the drawing after each draw.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR REMOVAL OF LOWER-LEVEL LOCKERS

Additional volunteers are still needed to help school custodian Jamie Lopez remove the old lockers on the lower level of the school (in the hallway outside the fourth and fifth grade classrooms) on Saturday, December 20. The new lockers will be installed over Christmas Break. Please email Erin Wendt at ewendt@stmarysbi.com or call her in the school office at 320-365-3693 if you are available to help with the removal. Thank you!

FREE LOCKERS

The old lower-level lockers that will be removed will be available for FREE on Monday, December 22 and on Tuesday, December 23. If you are interested, you will need to come to the school, haul the lockers to your vehicle, and take them away on one of those days. No lockers will be saved past December 23, as the installer of the new lockers will be disposing of the old lockers.

Please contact Erin Wendt in the school office to be added to the list.

Please note that the 60 lockers may be removed in 20 sets of three, as the lockers share side walls.

WINTER RAFFLE

St. Mary's School Winter Raffle will be held on Tuesday, December 16 in St. Mary's Church immediately following the K-8 Christmas Program. Tickets are \$50 each, and only 600 tickets will be sold.

Grand Prize: 2026 Ice Castle 6.5' x 12'
V Special Fish House

2nd Prize: \$1,000 Cash

3rd Prize: \$1,000 Cash

4th Prize: \$500 Cash

5th Prize: \$500 Cash

6th Prize: \$500 Cash

7th Prize: \$500 Cash



Contact a St. Mary's School family or the school office to purchase tickets. Raffle tickets will also be sold before and after Masses the weekends of December 6/7 and December 13/14 at St. Al's in Olivia and at St. Mary's in Bird Island. Stop at the table to buy a ticket from one of the Winter Raffle Committee members.



WINTER RAFFLE CONTINUED

2026 Ice Castle 6.5' x 12' V Special
Fish House Specifications:

- Single Axle Frame
- Hand Crank Winch System
- 4 Holes
- Cedar Trim
- Flat Ceiling
- Vinyl Wood-Look Floor
- Fantastic Roof Vent
- 30 x 42" & 14 x 27" Windows
- Upper Cabinet
- Raised Panel Doors
- 2 Burner Cook-Top
- Camo Cushions
- 20,000 BTU Furnace
- 2 - 30" Bunks (Storage & Top Rail)
- LED Pkg. 12V & 110V Recepts
- St. Mary's School Colors!



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

W 1/14 - End of Qtr. 2 & No PM Bussing

Th 1/15 - Start of Quarter 3

M 1/19 - No School (Staff In-Service)

January 25-31

Catholic Schools Week

T 2/10 - P/T Conferences (3:30-7:00)

W 2/11 - No PM Bussing

Th 2/12 - P/T Conferences (3:30-7:00)

F 2/13 - No School

M 2/16 - No School (Presidents' Day)

F 3/6 - No School (Diocesan FF Day)

W 3/11 - No PM Bussing