



where academics and faith go hand in hand

NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

W 1/14 - End Qtr. 2 & No PM Bussing
January 14-21
NWEA Testing

Th 1/15 - Start of Quarter 3

M 1/19 - No School (Staff In-Service)
January 25-31
Catholic Schools Week

W 1/28 - STREAM Night

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

W 2/11 - No PM Bussing

Th 2/12 - History Day & Science Fair

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

F 2/13 & M 2/16 - No School (Pr's Day)

ADVENT CALENDAR

Fun surprises were hidden behind the doors of the school's Advent calendar, including dressing like an elf, wearing Christmas socks and sweaters, adding prayer ornaments on a Christmas tree, and seeing what Ms. Lambrecht was quacking about at lunch.



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.



PRESCHOOL & PRE-K CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The preschoolers and pre-kindergarteners performed their Christmas concert in St. Mary's School gym on Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 P.M. The students explored the classic musical tale of *The Nutcracker* with scarves, plates, flashlights, parachutes, and much more! Santa also stopped for a visit.



K-8 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The kindergarten through eighth grade students performed their Christmas concert in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30 P.M. The concert was moved to an earlier time to accommodate BOLD's rescheduled concert later in the evening.

In the sleepy little village of Bethlehem,
something huge and miraculous
happened... the birth of the Messiah!
God sent His only Son to be born,
STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM.



THANK YOU FOR THE NATIVITY SET

Thank you to Eileen Gass for the blessed Fontanini nativity set! The beautiful set is currently on display in the school office for all to enjoy.



THANK YOU TO LOCKER REMOVAL HELPERS

Thank you to Doug Olinger, Jamie Lopez, Jason Valentin, Greg Haubrich, and Joe Walsh for helping to remove the old lower-level lockers. The new lockers were made possible thanks to generous donations at the school's annual prime rib dinner last April.

When the lockers were removed, a surprise mural was hidden behind them! The bus driver looks familiar....



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THANK YOU TO RAINBOW BALLOONS BY ANGELICA

Angelica Castro Cuineme of Rainbow Balloons by Angelica created, crafted, and generously donated incredible balloon decorations for the school's Christmas concerts. Please contact her if you are in need of balloons for a special event!



THANK YOU TO LAKESIDE PRESS

Thank you to Lakeside Press for printing and donating two new Pope Leo XIV photos for St. Mary's School and the church basement! The official image is approved for reproduction for Catholic institutional purposes through Vatican Media.

KITCHEN CORNER

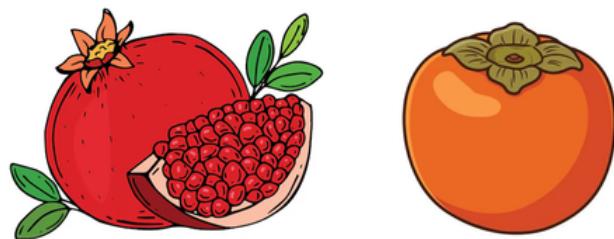
The first half of the year is down, and we are getting ready to finish the year strong!

We spent our Christmas break reworking the menu and the recipes for the students. Changes to recipes included the meatballs, meatloaf, and breakfast burrito. Tuesdays' breakfast items will be switched with Thursdays' items, so that the students will not have syrup on Mass days.

We have our ideas for "Unique Flavor Fridays" for the rest of the year, as the new flavors seem to be going well. We tried permissions in December, but the pomegranate seeds are still the most popular unique flavor we have offered.

Happy 2026 from the Kitchen Crew!

Michael Zimmerman and Cindy Woelfel



THANK YOU FOR THE STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS



St. Mary's School staff members thank everyone for the many Christmas gifts they received. The gifts are greatly appreciated! A special thank you is especially extended to all room parents who shopped for the gifts. Thank you for giving of your time, especially during this busy time of year!

Fun new fidget toys will be a big hit for students waiting in the office.

All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

James 1:17

WINTER RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Winter Raffle winners! Their tickets were drawn at the end of the K-8 Christmas concert.

Petri Papinaho - Fish House

William Schmitz - \$1,000

Nancy Meyer - \$1,000

Nancy Meyer - \$500

Janelle Dahlgren - \$500

Ron Brostrom - \$500

Andrew Mack - \$500



Grades 2/3 & 8

Advent Prayer Service



471 of the 600 Winter Raffle tickets were sold this year.



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.

Grade 4 Advent Prayer Service

LOOKING AHEAD

W 2/18 - Mid-Quarter 3

Th 2/19 - Bandorama @ BOLD

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

W 3/11 - No PM Bussing

Th 3/19 - Spring Concert (K-8)

F 3/20 - No AM or PM Bussing

F 3/20 - End of Quarter 3

M 3/23 - Start of Quarter 4

F 3/27 - Tim Orth Event

April 1-6
No School (Holy Week & Easter)

W 4/8 - No PM Bussing

Sat 4/11 - Prime Rib Dinner @ St. Al's

Th 4/23 - Mid-Quarter 4

Sun 4/26 - First Communion

Th 4/30 - PreS & PreK Spring Concert