



*where academics and faith go hand in hand*

# NEWSLETTER

## FIRST COMMUNION

Four second graders from St. Mary's School celebrated their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 26 at the Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia. Welcome to the Table of the Lord, Owen Johnson, Stella Haubrich, Olivia Buss, and Leo Jacobs!



## 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.

## REMINDERS

T 5/5 - Gr. 5 Ag in the Classroom Field Trip

W 5/6 - Gr. 6 Birch Coulee Field Trip

Th 5/7 - Gr. 4 Feed My Children Bracelet & Bake Sale

Th 5/7 - Grandparents' Day & May Crowning @ 1:15

F 5/8 - Gr. 4-8 Band Concert @ 1:00

W 5/13 - Gr. 5-6 Fort Snelling Field Trip

W 5/13 - **No PM Bussing**

Th 5/14 - K Graduation @ 10:30

F 5/15 - **Last Day of After-School Prgm**

M 5/18 - Gr. 7-8 MN State Capitol & Cathedral of St. Paul Field Trip

W 5/20 - Gr. 2-4 Children's Museum of Southern MN Field Trip

W 5/20 - Gr. 6-7 Adopt-a-Highway Ditch Clean-Up

W 5/20 - **No PM Bussing & Any Final Payments for 2025-2026 Due**

W 5/20 - Gr. 8 Graduation @ 7:00

Th 5/21 - **No AM or PM Bussing**, Mass, Field Day, End of Qtr 4, & Last Day of School

# PRESCHOOL & PRE-K SPRING CONCERT

The preschool and pre-kindergarten students performed their spring concert *Let Me Count the Ways!* on Thursday, April 30 in the school gym. The students demonstrated their knowledge of numbers both forwards and backwards and showed different voices that can be used to make music.



# THANK YOU TO PACT OF WILLMAR!

Social Circus is a unique program that uses circus arts as a fun and engaging way to support personal and social development. While students learn exciting circus skills, the primary goal of the program is to help participants build confidence, develop positive relationships, and strengthen important life skills. Grades 4-6 learned some of these skills and performed them for the school.



## REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

On Saturday, April 25, four sixth grade students participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Minnesota Science and Engineering Fair at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Congratulations to Deklan Peterson and Reid Swyter for earning blue ribbons for their projects and to Sam Papinaho and Maura Wendt for earning purple ribbons for their projects! Sam also placed second of all the sixth graders in the Engineering and Math category, and Maura placed first of all the sixth graders in the Family and Consumer Science category.



## STATE HISTORY DAY

On Sunday, April 19, six eighth graders represented St. Mary's School at State History Day at the Minneapolis Convention Center. 19,000 students in the state competed this year, which means they were in the top 0.5% in the state!

Skylar Zuhlsdorf and Sadie Zuhlsdorf created a website on Josef Mengele. Emma Tersteeg and MaKenna Evers created an exhibit board on Barbie. Kenley Everson competed with an exhibit board on general anesthesia, and Piper O'Neill produced a 10-minute documentary on Lilith Fair.



## 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

If you are interested in having your child(ren) attend St. Mary's School in the fall and have not already turned in a registration form, please do so today!



# THANK YOU TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE!



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On behalf of St. Mary's School, we sincerely thank Sene Zupke and Steph Lerud for their dedicated service on the Education Committee over the course of their two terms. Their time, insight, and commitment have made a meaningful impact on the committee's work.

The knowledge they shared through discussions, along with their willingness to contribute their expertise, has been a great benefit to the committee. Again, we thank them for the time, energy, and commitment they have given to St. Mary's School!

We are excited to announce that Nicole Buss and Kyle Athmann will be filling the two open positions. Thank you to Nicole and Kyle for saying yes! We are excited to have them join our Education Committee. Thank you to all of the continuing members on the committee as well! We are grateful for their service.



## DRESS CODE REMINDER

Please remember that shorts, skirts, and dresses need to be long enough and loose enough to wear to school. These items must be longer than a student's fists when his/her arms are extended down by his/her sides. Some items that fit in the fall may now be too short and/or too tight.

Sleeveless shirts need to be at least three (adult-sized) fingers wide. Spaghetti straps, racerback tanks, and muscle shirts are not allowed.

Yoga pants, leggings, and tight-fitting/spandex pants may only be worn if the shirt still covers the waistband of the pants when the student's arms are raised straight above his/her head.

We are the Body of Christ, Temples of the Holy Spirit, and Tabernacles for the Lord. May we always wear clothing that respects our bodies and that honors them as gifts from God.

## KITCHEN CORNER

Final stretch and only a few days left for our 2025-2026 school year. We have had some challenges, but we have made it through just fine. With the year winding down, we will be sending a survey to gauge how each of our entrees were received. We are looking at possibly dropping our six-week rotation (30 different dishes) down to a four-week rotation (20) based on the dishes that the students like best. This summer, the kitchen will be working on coming up with new options for the students (mostly the fruit and vegetable options) and look at increasing our homemade cooking. We hope that the students will be willing to try these new options next year and that they enjoy these items.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to email [mzimmerman@stmarysbi.com](mailto:mzimmerman@stmarysbi.com), and we will respond back as quickly as possible.

Have a great month! Michael Zimmerman and Cindy Woelfel

## CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL RAFFLE TOP SELLER TUITION SCHOLARSHIP & GIFT CARD

For selling the most Catholic United Financial Raffle tickets this year, fifth grader Sawyer Soukup received a \$200 tuition scholarship and a Build-A-Bear Workshop gift card. St. Mary's Co-Principals, Ms. Stacey Lambrecht and Mrs. Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson, awarded the prizes.

St. Mary's School earned a total of \$6,160 in profits from the annual raffle for Catholic schools.



## YEARBOOK ORDERS

2025-2026 St. Mary's School Yearbook orders and money are due by Wednesday, May 20. School yearbooks are \$20 each. Please contact the school office for more information or to order a yearbook.

## BINGO & RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

On Friday, April 17, the eighth graders hosted school-wide Bingo to raise money for their service trip to the Oak Street Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis.



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.



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## PLAY ISLAND PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION PAPERWORK

Play Island Preschool families, please turn in all paperwork from the Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten Registration Open House to secure your child(ren)'s spot(s)! Please note that there is currently a waiting list for the 3/4-year-old preschool classroom if not already on the list.

## 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR ON WEBSITE

[stmarysschoolbirdisland.com](http://stmarysschoolbirdisland.com)

### LOOKING AHEAD

August 31 - September 3  
Staff In-Service Days

W 9/2 - Back-to-School Open House  
from 4:30-6:00 PM

T 9/8 - First Day of School

September 8-11  
No AM or PM Bussing

Th 9/17 - School Picture Day

T 10/27 - School Picture Retakes Day