



Voice of St. Mary's
Parish Monthly
Newsletter

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Summertime at St. Mary's

4H Fair, SMS Golf Outing Bring Many People Together



The last half of July 2022 provided plenty of opportunities for St. Mary's people to serve, to share, and to have fun...all at the same time. And our parish responded in a big way...again!

The annual Livingston County 4H Fair, in one youngster's opinion, "is the best week of the year." For the St. Mary's family during the past few years, the week has brought many families and individuals together in the spirit of working side by side, sharing several stories and insights, providing a much-needed service for fair-goers, while raising needed and appreciated funds for both the parish and school. In fact, as has been noted previously, monies from the fair have greatly aided the installment of the new Security system on the parish/school grounds.

Whether it was a dessert that was donated, a shift

or two behind the counter, making mashed potatoes and gravy, frying chicken, spending a whole day at the grill preparing burgers, hot dogs, pork tenderloins, and rib eyes, or even just wiping down tables, Organizers Mark and Anne Corrigan appreciated everyone's effort. A message from the pair to all the participants said it all –

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR IN THE KITCHEN!... It was a great success and a lot of fun. Lots of smiles and fun were had by all. Thank you again for everything everyone did to make this year's fair kitchen a huge success. Mark and Anne Corrigan

Wolf Creek's Golf Course was the sight of the SMS Annual Golf outing on July 31...with a new format. Just nine holes...kids were included...lots of prizes

(Story, more pictures on Page 2)



4H Fair, Golf Outing Bring Out St. Mary's Best

(Continued from Page 1)

were awarded as well. Many of the same faces who the week before were working at the fair exchanged their aprons for golf gloves, enjoying a beautiful Sunday afternoon chasing a little white ball around the course.

Nineteen teams (over 80 golfers) participated in the Scramble event,



some with young children in their group while others had just senior citizens and still others were just out for a good time. Perhaps the most redeeming quality was the fact that everyone was finished playing in

less than 2 ½ hours, leaving plenty of time to mingle in the clubhouse to either have a bite to eat or just laugh sharing stories about



their play. Some even decided to go out and play another nine holes.

Organizer Taryn Tissiere, along with her helpers Allyson Saxton, Adelle Masching, and Rachel Baumann, was extremely pleased with the 2022 version of the golf outing, which supports school sports and other activities. "We wanted to get more

families involved, and this turnout was really encouraging. Lots of kids had a great time, as well as the adults. Let's hope that next year we will have even more people playing," Taryn said with a smile.

A great couple of weeks for St. Mary's Parish!



PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOL & CHURCH FAMILIES THIS YEAR

For 2022, we ask everyone to pray for specific church and school families each weekday. A list will be published each month in both the bulletin & in our newsletter. Please remember these families in your prayers each day for them to grow in their faith this year. Thank you.



- Mon. Aug. 22 Paul & Lori Francis' Family
Dan & Linda Fry's Family
- Tues. Aug. 23 Irene Fraher's Family
Diane Franklin's Family
- Wed. Aug. 24 Justin & Jacklyn Fry's Family
Marge Fraher's Family
- Thurs. Aug. 25 Nancy Fraher's Family
Chris & Kim Frauli's Family
- Fri. Aug. 26 Chris Gallup's Family
Mark Francis' Family
- Mon. Aug. 29 Jeffrey & Jacqueline Froelich's Family
Marilyn Gannaway's Family
- Tues. Aug. 30 Arlene Fry's Family
Mary Garland's Family
- Wed. Aug. 31 Tristan Garland's Family
Scott Garretson's Family
- Thurs. Sept. 1 Lawrence & Mary Ann Gleason's Family
Leo Hassinger's Family
- Fri. Sept. 2 Shirley Garretson's Family
Finley, Brooks, & Liam Lawrence's Family

- Mon. Sept. 5 John & Lisa Giordano's Family
Oliver & Case Owens' Family
- Tues. Sept. 6 Ellen Gayon's Family
Charlie Popp's Family
- Wed. Sept. 7 Paul Giordano's Family
Alex Ralph's Family
- Thurs. Sept. 8 Janice Galliday's Family
Elaine Runyon's Family
- Fri. Sept. 9 Wayne & Jaycerie Germain's Family
Ann Vogt's Family
- Mon. Sept. 12 Frank & Nancy Giovanini's Family
Aariv Chaudhari's Family
- Tues. Sept. 13 Santos Gonzalez's Family
Weston Haan's Family
- Wed. Sept. 14 Tera Graves' Family
Kennedy Krenz's Family
- Thurs. Sept. 15 Pete & Jodi Giovanini's Family
Amelia, Adam, & Alexis Legner's Family
- Fri. Sept. 16 Todd & Mary Gould's Family
Bruce & Everett Meiner's Family

Spreading the Good News Around St. Mary's Parish

Bereavement Support Group

St. Mary's will offer a vicariate-wide Bereavement Support Group beginning Monday, September 12 from 6:30-8pm and ending on November 2 with the All Souls Mass. That special Mass will be held to remember the loved ones of the support group members, as well as relatives and friends of St. Mary's Parish who have passed away in the last year. The group will meet in the Parish Center (old rectory) and follow a series of readings and discussions. Deadline to register is August 29. All are welcome, no matter whom you have lost or how long it has been since your loss. To register or for more information, please call St. Mary's Parish office at 815-844-7683, Margo Law at 815-579-5102, or Katie Wille at 815-842-1233.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



A total remodel of the northeast storage rooms on the second floor of the convent has resulted in a new area for Level 3 of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Demo and rebuild by Kevin Murphy, wall repair and plastering by Father David, painting of the

rebuild by Paula Corrigan, Roger Corrigan, and Mick Peterson, and then the installation of carpet by the Wright's Furniture staff have created simply an ideal place for our children to learn even more about Jesus. CGS chairperson Kelly Krenz is really looking forward to this new addition, especially filling it up with items that the students will be using. "Scott Drilling is building shelving and



tables," Kelly noted, "I have already purchased seating to get us started." A couple of ceiling fan lights, a few outlets, and some touch up painting is all that's left to do before school gets started. If you would like to contribute to the CGS program in any way, please contact Kelly Krenz at krenz,kelly@stmaryspontiac.org or call her at (815) 945-7987.

IGNITE Youth Group

With the start of school coming upon us, the IGNITE youth group will resume their normal meeting schedule of Sunday evenings at 6:30. As before, the Youth Group will meet at the Parish Center in the 2nd floor Meeting Room.

Parish Directory

Start picking out those outfits and deciding about how you want your hair to look! The St. Mary's Parish Directory is back, and family photos will be taken during the weeks of October 18-22 and November 1-5. Look for signup information sometime in September. Parishioners will be able to register either on the parish website or after Masses. A full sign-up schedule will appear in an upcoming bulletin. Let's shoot for 100% participation!



the meaning behind Responsorial Psalm at Mass????

The psalms are older than Christianity itself. In reciting them, we take up formulas of worship that were used by the Jews in the Temple centuries before the coming of the Messiah. They're a proclamation of the Word of God in which the listeners also participate through the

refrain ordinarily taken from the readings of the day.

A prayerful response to God after hearing His Word

Through the First Reading, we've been listening attentively to the Word of God, and the Responsorial Psalm gives us our turn to respond. Why not sing the whole Psalm? The cantor singing the Psalm (or the lector reciting it) gives us another opportunity to meditate on how the Church raises her voice to God: what does she ask for? What was she praising? Many of the hymns we sing in Mass are inspired by this: the psalm is not only something addressed to the listeners by the cantor, but a prayer addressed to God. In this moment the cantor leads the faithful praying to God, and even the priest or bishop celebrating responds: together all of us gathered in worship praise God through the psalm, and we become the chorus of that prayer through reciting or singing the refrain.



Through our liturgical prayer, the whole Church prays to God. Sometimes our moods or concerns may not reflect what we're saying in the psalm: they could be joyful and filled with gratitude when we are suffering and in need of consolation. The psalm enables us to go beyond our own prayer to that of the Church's: we join our hearts in joyful psalms to everyone with cause for rejoicing and join our hearts in psalms of supplication with everyone suffering trials and in need of consolation. Sometimes they serve to sober us or cheer us when the reasons for our happiness or discomfort are superficial. It's not just the psalm today that helps us to pray and pray well: the psalms are a school of prayer that should shape all our conversations with God and all life's aspirations. Let's turn the Psalms into our vocabulary for prayer and for life.

Fostering meditation on the Word of God

When we respond to the cantor, we have an opportunity to foster meditation on the Word of God through repeating one thing drawn from the readings or the purpose of the celebration. In today's world of information overload, it's all too easy to let something enter one ear and pass out the other: it's the reflex that makes us respond "fine" when someone asks us how we're doing, even when we're miserable. Sometimes we have to repeat something to help it sink in. Our response helps some aspect of the readings of the day to reverberate in us a little, in our minds and hearts, so they don't just pass through our ears and vanish. We make them not just God's Words, but our words. (Courtesy of rcspirituality.com)

From the Principal's Desk...



Welcome to our new school year! I want to welcome our new families, both in Preschool and our other classes. We are blessed that you have chosen to send your children to St. Mary's School. I want to also introduce Mrs. Jamie Woolford as our Jr. High Religion Teacher; she stated she had planned, organized, and executed Catholic curriculum for grades 7-12 through St. Mary's Church for 10 years. Also, new to St. Mary's is Mrs. Cheryl Krueger. She will be teaching Jr. High Language Arts and Literature. When asked why she accepted this long-term substitute teaching position, she had no answer except she felt called to say yes! We are all certainly glad she did!

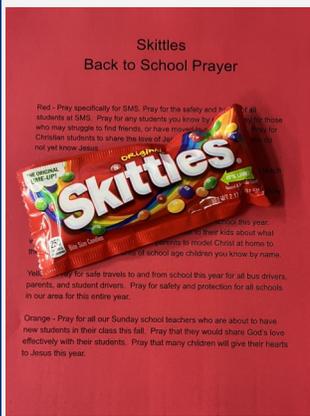


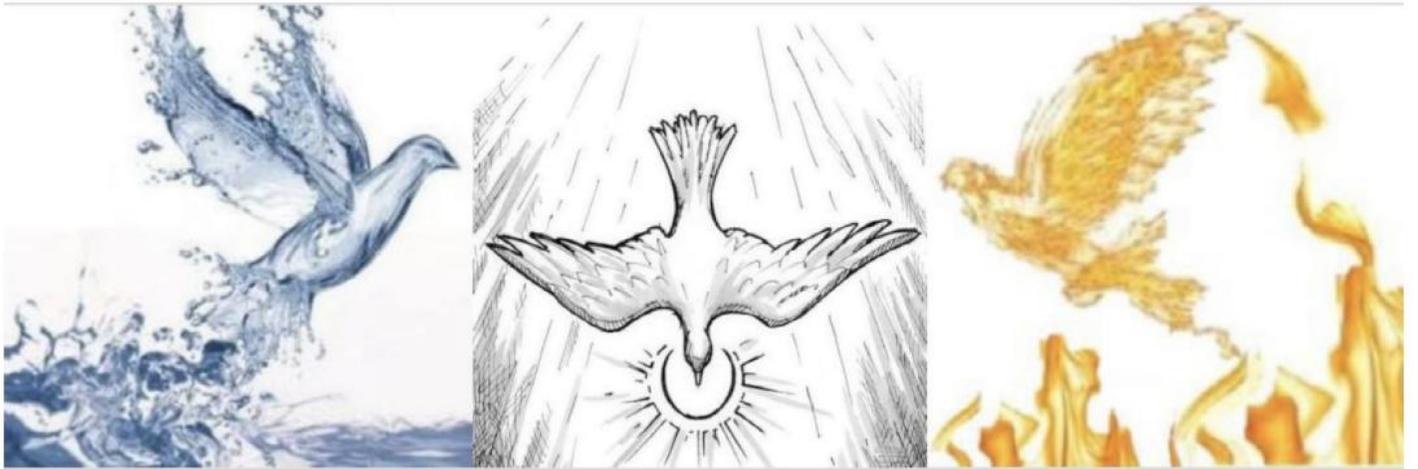
Our goal this year is to actively promote our faith by following our *Permission to Play Values*:

Unceasing Prayer, Healthy Teamwork, and Discipleship and by following these behaviors:

- It's Not About Me
- Tangible Faith
- Joyful

As you can see from the accompanying photos, we certainly had a wonderful turnout at our Back to School Night last Sunday. So many happy and excited faces!! Prayers for a happy & safe school year!! *Principal Karen Jones*





RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Have you been thinking about joining the church?

Do you have friends you would like to introduce to the Catholic faith?

Want to learn more about the depth and beauty of a 2000-year-old faith tradition?

Do you desire to grow closer to God with the support of a faith community?

The next session of RCIA will begin this September.

To join or ask questions, please contact the Parish Center (815-844-7683),

Kate Harrold (815-848-1705, kate.russow@gmail.com),

or Tyler Shrewsbury (815-674-5569, tshrewsbury94@gmail.com).

RCIA will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 8:00 pm

in the Parish Hall on the following dates:

September 7, 21

October 5, 19

November 2, 16, 30

December 14

January 11, 25

February 8, 22

March 1, 15, 29

April 12, 26

SCHOLARSHIPS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

\$383,282

awarded in the
last five years

We strive to ensure that Catholic education is affordable for all families.



31% of our students have received scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EMPOWER IL, INVEST IN KIDS ACT

Available to **ALL** income-eligible families, based upon availability of funds on a first come, first served basis, pays up to 100%.

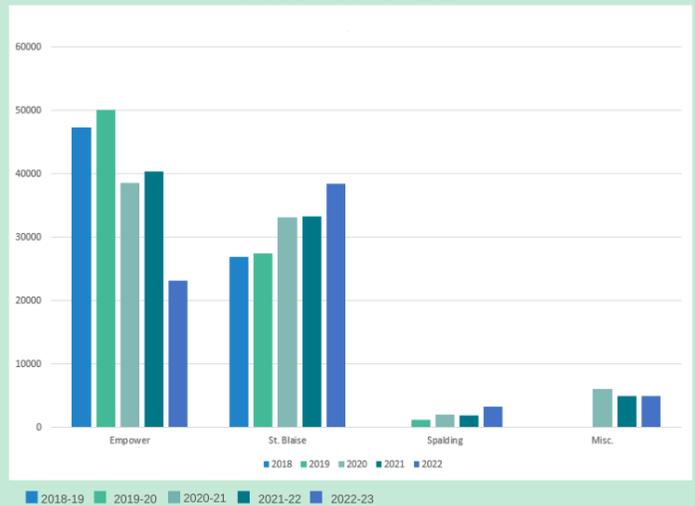
JOHN LANCASTER SPALDING, DIOCESE OF PEORIA

Available to income-eligible **CATHOLIC** families, partial scholarship based upon fund availability.

ST. BLAISE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Available to **ALL** income-eligible families, partial scholarship based upon fund availability.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



100%

Every student, regardless of faith, receives a tuition subsidy from St. Mary's Parish.

- Operating expenditure per pupil St. Mary's: \$6,873 (2020-21)
- Operating expenditure per pupil Dist. 429: \$13,965*
- Operating expenditure per pupil Dist. 90: \$13,976*
- Operating expenditure per pupil State of IL: \$14,747*

*Data Source: Illinois Report Card (2020-2021).

WAYS TO HELP

- Donations made to Empower Illinois are eligible for a 75% tax credit on State of IL tax return. Matching gifts may be available.
- Donations to the St. Blaise Scholarship Fund may be deductible as a charitable contribution on Federal tax return.
- Donations to the Annual Diocesan Appeal support the John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship funds.



From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson

All good things must come to an end.

I don't know that, back in 2001 when this publication began, if any of us thought it would still be around in St. Mary's homes ten years later, let alone 21 years. That original group was in the "Now," trying to come up with a product that would reach as many as possible in the moment. Who would have known how far the reach would actually get?

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been associated with our parish newsletter for the past twenty-plus years. It was a chance to serve the needs of the parish. The people who have contributed, the priests who have given guidance, the events that were covered, and the memories in both print and pictures have made this entire journey worthwhile. The readers have been extraordinarily kind as well, oftentimes sending encouraging words along the way.

We were there for the building of the new addition and the dedication ceremony that went along with it; we've covered numerous 1st Communions and Confirmations; all the graduating classes that moved on from St. Mary's School; changes in personnel in both the rectory and the school; we've learned about Gonzaga and Steubenville; Block parties that brought a multitude of people together for lots of fun; we celebrated our Sesquicentennial like no other; 4H Fairs and golf outings found us capturing several special moments; our newsletter helped us get through a pandemic by keeping our faithful informed; we joined a procession through the streets of Pontiac on Corpus Christi Sunday; and our parish now is as vibrant as it has ever been.

And that's probably one of the biggest reasons a change in our communications approach needs to be made. In order to reach the public, our newsletter has to grow, has to evolve; has to adapt. What we've been doing, for probably the last year or so, is just hanging on to old approaches. News stories we featured were a month old; pages in the newsletter came from pages in the bulletin; nothing seemed fresh. This decision is what is BEST for St. Mary's.

I have thoroughly enjoyed writing this "Back Page" segment for St. Mary's parishioners. I can't lie; I going to miss it. Maybe whoever takes over will continue the practice. I sure hope so. We need voices willing to share thoughts, ideas, and beliefs...to evangelize.

Let's not forget that being Catholic is pretty special, especially in a world that tries to denigrate our beliefs. History has shown that God will NEVER quit on us. We can't stop...not now! We have SO much going for us here at St. Mary's. My departing wish is we all —young/old, male/female, moms/dads, students/grown-ups —become the BEST version of ourselves. That's what God wants; that's what we can do! Today and everyday!

God bless you all! Thank you!



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