



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Striving
for
Sainthood

"We, the family of St. Mary's School, are committed to promoting Catholic values to God's children through faith, Christ-centered worship, service and academic excellence."

St. Mary's Parishioners,

We continue to be blessed at St. Mary's! The teamwork I witness from the staff and faculty is amazing. When confronted with a problem recently, I saw them pitch in and work together to find solutions. I can think of few times in my career when I have witnessed this impressive "let's get it done!" attitude.

I find great joy walking through the building and looking into classrooms. I so often see our students fully engaged. Sometimes in small groups, sometimes in lecture, sometimes in quiet individual work. Watching the teachers teach, observing their expertise in the subject matter, managing classroom behavior and passing on the faith is satisfying.

Speaking of satisfying, we are fortunate to have a wonderful lunch program. The food service crew seamlessly provides a delicious and nutritious lunch every day. They have routines in place that make lunch service go smoothly day in and day out. And, there's nothing like the smell of homemade bread!

Our students are amazing! They are expected to work hard on their academics as they are striving for sainthood. We want them to use the gifts God has provided them to achieve in whatever ways they can. The honor roll is a way for us to acknowledge the hard work these students have done academically. Well done students! Thank you to the parents for encouraging and supporting their children's academic efforts!

Congratulations to our second quarter Honor Roll members! We are happy to announce our Honor Roll students from second quarter: High Honors with Distinction – Rehgan Martin, Taelyn Rennie, and Elsie Kolka. High Honor Roll – Haylee Altenhofen, Bristol Baumann, Izzy Berglund, Kyle Sulzer, Chayce Westfall, Caleb Kroening, Brayson Schneider, Mallory Sternberg, Hunter Altenhofen, Grant Hillman, Ellie Hummer, Anya Jacobson, Dane Kraft, Bennett Sapinski, Nathan Schroder, and Brandon Sulzer. Honor Roll – Ian Cihlar, Anthony Hahn, Oliver Kramm, Taunna Rindt, Levi Scheiderer, Madalynn Borchardt, Luke Cihlar, Arison Lawrence, Violet Mechelke, Parker Gage, Noah Kramm, Ignatius Loepfe and Ethan Scheiderer.

Congratulations to our outstanding spellers: Anthony Hanneman - 1st Place champion, Reid Rasmussen – 2nd Place, Ellie Hummer – 3rd Place, Brandon Sulzer – 4th Place, Brayson Schneider – 5th Place. These students competed in the North East Rural Region (NERR) Spelling Bee held here at St. Mary's. Anthony took first place in the NERR Bee. Anthony, along with Ellie, and Reid went on to compete in the CESA Bee.

Congratulations to the winners of the American Legion Auxiliary "What Freedom Means to Me" Essay Contest: Brandon Sulzer, 1st Place, Anya Jacobson – 2nd Place, and Meredith Blume – 3rd Place. These students will receive cash awards and are invited to read their essays at the next Auxiliary Meeting. Their entries will also be sent to the state council. *Continued...*

The following students competed in a Math League competition at Edgar Middle School: Caleb Kroening, Taunna Rindt, Elsie Kolka, and Brayson Schneider.

Our Catholic Schools Week celebration was full of competitions, roller skating, a trip to the children's museum, bingo, Mass at Newman High School with other schools from the diocese, and Grandparents Day. What a great way to celebrate our Catholic school. You can see the week's activities by visiting our website www.stmarysmarathon.org or our Facebook page.

The Mission Carnival was a great success. In total \$2,000 was raised. This money was sent to our two Diocesan Missions, our sister parish in Bolivia and to the Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II orphanage. This money will help support families in need.

We continue to have Family Adoration once a month. The next Family Adoration is set for Monday, March 18th at 6:30 PM. Parents enjoy the opportunity to bring their children and spend time with our Lord in Adoration. All are invited to attend.

During the Lenten season, we look forward to a more focused time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Stations of the Cross will be led by 8th graders on February 23rd and March 8th at 2:15 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's School. The support provided by our parish to educate our children is truly unique. Please continue to pray for all involved in the education of our students as we all STRIVE for SAINTHOOD!



Deacon Bryan Hilts
Administrator

Journey to the Foot of the Cross - 10 Things to Remember For Lent
(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

1. Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, Prayer-Fasting-Almsgiving, three things we need to work on during the season.
2. It's a time of prayer.
3. It's a time to fast.
4. It's a time to work on discipline.
5. It's about dying to yourself.
6. Don't do too much.
7. Let reminds us of our weakness.
8. Be patient with yourself.
9. Reach out in charity.
10. Learn to love like Christ.

