



St. Mary Catholic Community School



Annual Wildcat Newsletter

2019 - 2020



Dear Friends,

Thank you, Bishop Conlon!

Bishop Daniel Conlon is a CHAMPION! A champion for Catholic Schools!

He reminds the people he serves (in the diocese of Joliet, Illinois) that one of the great achievements of the Catholic Church in the United States was the establishment and operation of thousands of schools. These schools flourished for four primary reasons: a strong birthrate among Catholics, the desire of parents, the selfless sacrifice of religious sisters, and the commitment of pastors.

But things have changed! Bishop Conlon observes that the waning birthrate has resulted in a smaller pool of students. The precipitous drop in the number of women religious has raised the cost of operating parochial schools and has made tuition unaffordable or undesirable for many families. Many parents and pastors are willing to accept brief, weekly religious education sessions as an adequate substitute for daily schooling.

But Bishop Conlon is a CHAMPION for our schools: **WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH – THE TOUGH GET GOING!** More than a year ago, he established a Schools Task Force in the Diocese of Joliet – charging its members to recommend a plan to move diocesan elementary schools forward. The Task Force focused on governance and financial issues – without ignoring Catholic identity and academic quality – and eventually presented their report to the Bishop. He studied the recommendations and consulted with other groups in the Diocese. Last month he issued a decree establishing as policy the basic principles and specific strategies to guide decisions for the future of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Joliet – all with a view to strengthen schools and provide an opportunity for as many children as possible to attend them. Among the strategies decreed in the policy: since Catholic Schools are an important element of the Mission of the Church, all parishes will provide financial support – whether an individual parish operates a school or not.

The wisdom of school leaders in the Diocese of Joliet has been a blessing to Saint Mary’s – including Father John Belmonte, the Superintendent of Schools - who accepted my invitation to visit Saint Mary’s in March. Among the fruits of that visit: we are piloting a new initiative this year!

Saint Mary’s Church offered a tuition transfer credit to children enrolled last year in our weekly Faith Formation Program - providing an opportunity for them to benefit from the daily experience of a Christ-centered education in Saint Mary’s School.

Thank you, Bishop Conlon - and Father Belmonte - for inspiring us!

In Christ,
Father Pat
Reverend Patrick Kalich
Pastor

**Go,
therefore,
and make
disciples
of all
nations...**

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Dear Friends of St. Mary’s,

I hope this edition of our Annual Newsletter reaches you well! As I write this year’s letter, I feel extremely blessed that our faculty is strong, our enrollment is higher than it’s been in years, and we have a wonderful and diverse community of parents and students who are poised to start this school year. We look forward to collectively striving to make this the best school year in the long and storied history of St. Mary School!

You’ll find a new feature on page 3. It’s a teaser for our brand new Alumni Spotlight page on our school website. Please take a moment to enjoy this page. You’ll learn about Joey Mucha (2011) who recently graduated from Purdue and is embarking on a career in the exciting, cutting edge field of aerospace technology cyber security. You’ll also read about Elizabeth Gonzales (2016) who returned to St. Mary’s in May to share a message of kindness that she developed at St. Mary’s and is now sharing with the world. Both of these young people were deeply impacted by the Catholic education they received at St. Mary’s. Do you know others whose stories should be featured on this page? Please email suggestions to our new assistant principal, Mrs. Lisa Hughes (lhughes@stmarycp.org) with “Alumni Spotlight” in the subject line. We hope you’ll enjoy our collection of interesting stories about St. Mary’s graduates achieving success and living their faith.

What else is new at St. Mary’s? Our theater program has soared to new heights under the direction of Mr. Tony Rossi. Through a variety of fundraising efforts and a very generous matching donation from one of our parents, we’ve installed state of the art new stage lights. I look forward to seeing the impact on our various stage productions throughout the year.

As always, thank you in advance for your prayers and other support throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you at so many of our school activities, including our 58th annual Spaghetti Supper. See page 3 for a list of events and dates.

May God bless you and your family,
Tom Ruiz
Tom Ruiz
Principal

St. Mary's Pledge

May God bless our minds
to think our best thoughts,

Our words to speak kindly to one another,

Our hearts to feel compassion,

And our hands to reach out to one another in compassion and care.

I promise always to do my best and to treat everyone with respect and kindness.

I will follow the example of Jesus and His Mother Mary in all things.

Today I promise to live what Saint Mary teaches.

We are all one
United in Christ!



Visit us at
stmarycp.org/school

Saint Mary School Profile

Enrollment:

Jr. PK – 8th Grade, 520 Students

Accreditations:

DOE & AdvanceED Accreditations

“A” School Status

Faith Formation:

Students receive religious education every day and attend mass twice a week.

Faculty:

Please visit stmarycp.org/school for a complete, up to date, listing of our outstanding faculty, and staff with photos and bios.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

CYO Band, Choir, Student Council, Altar Servers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Chess Club, Academic Team, Junior Academic Team, WSMW Student Run TV News Program, Environmental Club, Science Olympiad, Girls on the Run, Rosary Club.

Athletics:

Boys and girls in grades 5-8 participate in the following CYO sports: Basketball, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Track, Cross Country

Last Years CYO Champions:

7th Grade Girls Volleyball, 5th Grade Girls Basketball,

Recognition and Honors:

Indiana Scholastic Chess State Finals: School Record: 31 students qualified.

Academic Team State Finals: Top 10

Science Olympiad - State Qualifier



Support St. Mary's School

Occasionally people ask how they can support the next generation of students at St. Mary's School. To make a tax-deductible, monetary donation, please make checks payable to St. Mary Catholic Community School and send them to:

St. Mary Catholic Community School
Attn: Principal
405 East Joliet Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Your support is very much appreciated and will help add to the legacy of St. Mary Catholic Community School. If you have further questions please call Mr. Tom Ruiz, Principal (219-663-0676) or Mrs. Jan Mucha, Business Manager (219-663-0044).

Wish List:

- \$25 Teacher Appreciation Walk-a-thon donation
- \$50 Field trip assistance for students
- \$100 Theater production set/props
- \$250 Sponsor a child for band for the year.
- \$300 Chromebook for student
- \$500 Sponsor a club
- \$1000 Playground Equipment
- \$1400 Pavillion banner at Bulldog Park

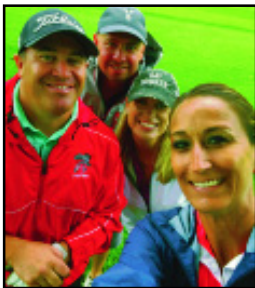
Corporate Sponsorship:

St. Mary's Home and School Association is pleased to offer our Corporate Caring Sponsorship Package. We would like to invite you to join our efforts to offer our children the best education possible by advertising your business, or your employer's business exclusively to the St. Mary's School and Parish Communities. Sponsorship packages include tickets to attend all of the events, and year round advertising on our event posters, school newsletter, school website, facebook page, and at the SMS events. To learn more call Amanda Wysocki at 708.927.0636 or email awysocki@stmarycp.org Please support those on the back of this newsletter, as they support Catholic education at SMS.



Upcoming Events

- 08-14-19 **School Resumes**
- 09-06-19 **Golf Outing** - Call 663-0676 to register!
- 09-20-19 **Teacher Appreciation Walk-A-Thon**
- 10-04-19 **Fall Family Fun Fair** - An evening of great food, fun, & games for the entire family!
- 11-13-19 **Spaghetti Supper** - St. Mary's iconic event
Spaghetti Supper #57
- 11-15-19 **Veteran's Day Program - 9:00 am**
All veterans & their families are invited to be recognized in a special way!
- 01-22-20 **Evening Open House**
Prospective families are invited to tour the school and meet the teachers.
- 01-26-20 **Pancake Breakfast and Open House** - Enjoy breakfast and tour the school!
- 02-01-20 **Celebration of Gifts** - Join us at our largest fundraiser of the year for dinner, dancing & silent auction bidding!
- 02-22-20 **Daddy Daughter Dance** - All St. Mary's parish dads and daughters invited
- 03-14-20 **First Reconciliation** - Please remember our 2nd graders in your prayers!
- 04-25-20 **First Communion** - Please remember our 3rd graders in your prayers!



For more information about any of the events above, please visit stmarycp.org/school and see the Home & School page or simply call our office at 663-0676



Visit our New Alumni Spotlight Webpage: stmarycp.org/school/smccs-alumni

St. Mary's School - St. Mary's Graduate Accepts Position at Top Secret Space Division of Lockheed Martin

Joey Mucha graduated from St. Mary Catholic Community School in 2011 and Andean High School in 2015. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Cybersecurity from Purdue University - West Lafayette this past May. Mucha has a strong desire to help others and believes that his challenging Catholic education and faith formation helped him secure his new Cybersecurity job in the Space Division of Lockheed Martin Corporation. Joey will soon be working on classified projects involving space exploration for Lockheed Martin.... *To read more, visit stmarycp.org/school and visit the alumni page.*



St. Mary's School - St. Mary's Alumnus Returns to School to Share Message of Kindness

On Wednesday, May 29th, St. Mary Catholic Community School graduate (class of 2016), Elizabeth Gonzalez, returned to her alma mater to deliver a simple but powerful message. The theme of the presentation given to the 4th thru 7th grade students was...Be Kind. "The feeling I get when I am presenting is entirely energizing. Knowing that I am fueling the fire of the next generation of kindness is one of my biggest joys in life," Gonzalez stated. After interacting with the students, Gonzalez moved the group outside to continue the memorable experience... *To read more, visit stmarycp.org/school and visit the alumni page.*



St. Mary

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www.stmarycp.org/school

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