

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel  
Principal: Melodie Good



APRIL 2018

FIRST COMMUNION	7
EARLY RELEASE	20
CONS. COUNCIL	20
ART/MUSIC ST. PIUS	20
MISSION TO MARS	20
FAJITA DINNER	22
FAITH CHALLENGE	27
BOOK FAIR	30

## MISSION TO MARS

The 5th graders are close to Mars link up day which will be April 20th this year. Students have been working on applying science, math, language arts, technology, and engineering skills to build their Martian habitats. They are working on their life support systems to sustain them in their colonies on link up day. This event is held each year at the Convention Center where other 5th graders from around Albuquerque gather to build the colonies.

## SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday September 8th, the OLB Parish Center and Gymnasium will turn into a huge science lab. St. Mary's STEM ADVENTURE SATURDAY will fill the rooms with hands on science activities for big kids and little kids from all over Valencia County. The event is free from 10 AM to noon and will feature Science Girl, Fractal Foundation, robots and lots of scientific demonstrations. Mark your calendars so you don't miss it.



Watch for  
Spring Luncheon  
Reservation  
Forms



101 N Tenth Street  
Belen, NM 87002  
505.864.0484  
stmarysbelen.com

*We need more kinders to open a second kindergarten-Enroll now!*

## TIME TO ENROLL IN ST. MARY'S PREK FOR FALL

Many of our PreK students are moving on to kindergarten next year leaving several spaces in our PreK classroom. If your child will be 3 1/2 by September 1st, they are ready for St. Mary's PreK. We have a half day and full day program that prepares kids for kinder. They are reading-ready when they leave our PreK. Our kinder teacher this year was able to spot immediately the students who came from PreK into her kindergarten class. These children were prepared for the academic demands of kindergarten because Ms. Cordova offers a wide variety of games and activities that help children acquire the pre-math and literacy skills. Come visit our PreK and see what your child may be missing.



PreK Easter Egg Hunt



PreK in Computer Lab



5th grade Reads to PreK

**Report From Architects**

Teachers and committee members are working diligently with Architects from Greer-Stafford. We recently received the report from the engineers about the status of our present building. Can you believe it? The cost per square foot to renovate our school is more than new construction!



The kinder –8th grade buddy program is one of the special things about St. Mary's

**FIESTA FIESTA!**  
 TO SUPPORT ST. MARY'S BUILDING FUND  
 APRIL 22, 2018 – 11:00AM-2:00PM  
 ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT  
 \$10 PER PLATE  
 MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE BUILDING FUND  
 FAMILY FUN EVENT 50/50 TICKETS ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR  
 FACE PAINTING

As we go to print, the second grade is in the lead for the racing chiles. The class that sells the most tickets wins an ice cream party.

**Historical Society Teacher of the Year**



Ronnie Torres of Belen presented Ms. Morgan with her award.

The Valencia County Historical Society presented 4th grade teacher, Ms. Megan Morgan-Cordova with New Mexico History Teacher of the Year. Ms. Morgan received a plaque and \$200 in recognition of her projects, activities, and dedication to New Mexico History. As part of the 4th grade curriculum, our students have made replicas of NM churches, painted retablos, worked at Whitfield Conservation area and maintained the Belen Community Garden.

Eighth Graders performed the living Stations of the Cross for the school and parishioners in the waning days of Lent. This is always a powerful reminder of what Easter is all about. After the stations, St. Mary's staff provided the last soup supper of this year's Lenten season.



**Scholastic Book Fair Coming**

There's a new sheriff in town and finally Scholastic is customizing our Book Fair for us. After asking for several years to have more appropriate teen books available to us—they are doing just that. They are offering us some of the tried and true classics that make kids better thinkers, better writers and more sympathetic to humanity. We will have some great coming of age novels and interesting non-fiction sure to get our middle school kids interested in reading.