



December Edition
2014

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz
Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, NM

Guided by Catholic traditions and values, the mission of Saint Mary's Catholic school is to prepare our students for the future and for eternity.

Saint Mary's will Celebrate Advent with Traditional Christmas Story

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- First Reconciliation 2nd
- Advent Retreat 3rd
- St. Nicolas Day 5th
- Develop/Fund Raising Mtg. 3:30 PM 8th
- Oratorical Contest 11th
- Christmas Shop 12th
- Christmas Program 17th
- Early Dismissal 19th
- Christmas Eve Children's Mass 6 PM 24th
- Christmas Vacation Dec. 20th—January 5th
Students begin 1-6-15

On December 17th at 6:30, Saint Mary's students will perform the Christmas Story for families and friends in the new OLB Gymnasium. Students will kick off the Advent season with a retreat on December 3rd and from there they begin practice for the annual Christmas Program. This year, different classes will be featured performing their important parts of the night Jesus was born. If you haven't seen the Christmas story in a while, mark your calendars and join us .

Veteran's Day Program Well Attended

Over 25 Veterans and their families attended St. Mary's November 11th program. Veterans were given cards from the students and entertained with patriotic songs from the school choir. Marine veteran and teacher, Heather Sanchez, gave a tribute to fellow vets.



Veterans Mr. Rivera, Mr. Baca, and Mr. Zamora with family at Veteran's Day Program



The Bird Word
Monthly Newsletter

ATV Raffle

Saint Mary's students are in the home stretch of selling their raffle tickets for the beautiful blue 4-wheeler from New Mexico Tractor. The winning ticket will be drawn

on January 25th at the 5K run that will be our kick off to Catholic Schools Week 2015. The second prize is \$500 cash and the third prize is \$200. Parents-if you have tickets to sell, the last opportunity will be January 17th and 18th after

the Masses. If all money for tickets is turned in by December 19th, students can wear jeans every Friday during the second semester.



Saint Mary's staff wishes everyone a very blessed and merry Christmas!

Advent Retreat December 3rd

On Wednesday, December 3rd, students will be participating in an Advent Retreat. Kindergarten through 8th grade will hear a variety of different speakers and take part in several Advent projects during that day. The sisters of the Society of our Lady of the Blessed Trinity from Mora will be assisting in the retreat. Father Steve will also meet with the middle school students.



SAINT MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Mark your calendars!!! Christmas Shop is Friday, December 12th! All students will be given the opportunity to shop for inexpensive gifts for their loved ones. Gifts will range between \$0.25 and \$5.00, all gifts will be wrapped, labeled and returned to the student before the end of the day. Parents, WE NEED YOUR HELP! First of all, as you are pulling out your holiday decor and getting your home ready for the holidays, any small gifts you would like to donate to our shop, we will take! New or gently used gifts of any type are appreciated. Gift boxes, wrapping paper, tissue paper or gift bags are also welcome! Keep in mind, we are always lacking small gifts for the men in our lives! We will also need lots of help on the day of the Christmas Shop. Volunteers will be needed to set-up, wrap, deliver, cashier, help the younger children shop and budget, etc. You should be receiving an email soon with a link to signupgenius.com. You can sign-up for a specific time there. If you have any questions or concerns, email smpabelen@yahoo.com. Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner when we get back from Christmas break! We are looking for a few parents to help us plan the events for that week and we will need many more to help with the coordination and execution of the events from the 5K Fun Run/Walk, theme/event days, to the pancake breakfast that will finish off the week. If you are interested send us an email and be on the lookout for sign-up opportunities! Our Uniform Shop is always accepting donations of school uniforms as your child grows out of clothes. You can send those into the office anytime and our Uniform Shop coordinator will inventory them. If you are in need of additional uniform items, send an email to smpauniforms@yahoo.com with specific sizes/items and we will check our inventory and hopefully fulfill your request. This is our first year with the new uniforms so we don't have an abundance of inventory, especially when it comes to cardigans, jumpers and skirts which seem to have the highest demand. As time goes on we will hopefully be able to grow and be able to fulfill most requests and become a great service to the school! Also on our radar for next semester is the Father Daughter Event as well as the Mother Son Event. Stay tuned for details.



Advent Prayer for the Family Advent Wreath

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white candles or four violet candles can also be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal-- one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

First Week: All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. AMEN. **Second Week:** God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN. **Third Week:** Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN. **Fourth Week:** Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Flag Football Team Wins Runner-Up in Play-offs

After a year of having no football team, Saint Mary's staged a big come-back in the APIAL when 19 flag football players won 2nd place in the league play offs. Coach Jared Schmock led his players to the final games with a win in mind. Bringing home runner-up trophy was still a big success for the school considering we sat out a year for lack of a football team. Last year, students opted to join the first ever golf team instead. Those students will play golf in the spring this year. Way to go Roadrunners!

Christmas Float looked Great in Electric Parade

After weeks of planning by Mrs. Baldonado and Mrs. Lucero, the float became reality in the Miracle on Main Street Parade in downtown Belen. The fun ended with hot chocolate, cookies and goodie bags at the school immediately following.



For more information about Saint Mary's Catholic School go to www.stmarysbelen.com or see our Facebook page