

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel  
Principal: Melodie Good



DECEMBER 2017

ADORATION 3:30	5
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CHRISTMAS VACATION	
DEC. 22-JAN. 8TH	
NEW	
SEMESTER BEGINS	
JANUARY 9TH	



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Wow! What could be a more appropriate exclamation or name for the birth of Christ. Wow! Is also the name of our nativity play being presented on December 20th at 6PM. Don't miss this modern day version of what happened the night Jesus was born. The night will be full of St. Mary's angels, wise men and shepherds telling the age old story. Christmas carols and the appearance of famous characters will not disappoint. Ms. Molly Chavez, music teacher, along with all staff members are working diligently to prepare the budding actors and actresses in their roles. Don't miss this traditional Christmas event.



FOR GOD SO LOVED  
THE WORLD HE  
SENT HIS ONLY  
BEGOTTEN SON.

JOHN 3:16



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

## MARTY ROTELLA VISITS BELEN

On December 14th, Grammy winner, Marty Rotella will be presenting an assembly for our students. He will do two shows for us on Thursday and he will entertain the parish Wednesday evening at 6:30. Marty uses song and story to bring Our Lady of Guadalupe to life in the story of The Tilma.

Marty's message to our students will be "to fall in love with, embrace, and live the happiness of Life in Christ." His visit to our school and parish is completely free but donations are gladly accepted. He will also have CDs available following the show.

## FALL SPORTS END ON A GOOD NOTE



**Cross Country** Girls JV and Varsity champions  
**Volley Ball-C** team championship JV-3rd place  
**Flag Football**- 7 Wins-3 Losses  
**Girls Basketball**-Still in progress

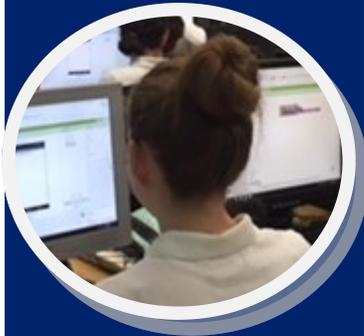
For several years St. Mary's has ruled the competition in Cross Country for the APIAL league. For the first time in a long while, volley ball competed in the championship bracket and came out on or near the top. Our flag football team amazed everyone with the power of such a young team. Made up of several 5th graders along with 6th, 7th and 8th graders, the team competed in the championship bracket and was knocked out in the quarter finals.



Please save your Box Tops for St. Mary's.



Do you use Amazon Smiles when you order online? I've already earned \$19. for St. Mary's through my orders. Get on board and you can help too.



Katherine Smith in 8th grade says she likes working with Dr. Forsythe and is learning how to create an app for an android phone.

### Christmas Store Coming

On December 15th, all students will be able to purchase gifts for everyone in their family. Once again the Parents Association is sponsoring our Christmas store. With a small amount of money, our students will be able to make everyone on their list a little happier on Christmas.

Each year parent volunteers prepare the store, help with shopping and wrap all the gifts purchased. This is a fun time for our students.

### Use Our Prayer List!

Our Saint Mary's Parents Association wants to pray for your requests. Anyone can go to [www.stmarysbelen.com](http://www.stmarysbelen.com) and look for the Pray For Us link, then add whomever needs our prayers. We will offer up our Most Holy Rosary for them on Wednesday at 8:25 before the 9 AM children's Mass. Prayer is so powerful! Don't miss this opportunity to offer up additional prayers for someone in need of them! The list is updated after each Wednesday Mass.

### SIX STUDENTS HEADED TO THE BELEN DISTRICT SPELLING BEE



Seventh grader, miss Amelia Griego (2nd from left) was the 2017 winner of St. Mary's Spelling Bee. Second place was Isabella Baldonado, and third place was Sara Martinez. The top six were rounded off by Rosie Bockisch, Maria Lucero, and Trysten Garcia. All six will be competing in the Belen District Bee on December 15th at Belen High School.

### Computer Classes Learning Code

Middle school classes have been working with technology coordinator, Sohaila Lucero each week to learn to code through a series of puzzles and tasks that allow them to make connections in programming with minimal adult intervention. These connections create apps for their phones, design a game or help them build their own programs. Coding is about the underlying logic, how to think critically and create things using the commands. With the help of Dr. Forsythe from Brain Hackers Association, our students will be taking part in a "game jam" competition that is happening in May sponsored by the Brain Hackers Association. This game jam is a statewide competition for middle through high school students to work in teams and create an app based on a broad science topic given at the beginning of the competition. This competition enhances our already strong Lab Learner science curriculum. Coding can help students in their other subjects, too—coding can improve soft skills like perseverance and problem-solving. Coding is especially beneficial to students who are struggling with reading and math. In addition, students often feel empowered when they can create digital media and share it with others instead of just being consumers of digital media.

