



January Edition
2016

Pastor: Ft. Clement Niggel
Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, N.M

At Saint Mary's School, we are committed to the growth of our Catholic identity, academic potential, and community involvement.

SAINT MARY'S PREPARES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND ACCREDITATION VISIT

IMPORTANT EVENTS

School starts	5
Pius Testing 8th grade	12
Consultative Council	13
Awards Ceremony	15
Early Dismissal	15
No School MLK Day	18
Science Fair	26
Catholic SchoolsWeek	31
CSW 5K	31
Student Mass at OLB at 10 AM	31

Catholic Schools Week begins the last day of January and continues into February this year. The Saint Mary's Parents Association, the Booster Club and the staff at Saint Mary's are busy planning events to celebrate the best investment in a child's future. Each day the school will be focusing on a different theme to include faith, family, community, students and staff. A schedule of activities will be coming home with the kids.

The chairman of our accreditation team will be making her first visit on January 28th. She is Ms. Christine Tax from Phoenix. Ms. Tax is an administrator at St. John Vianney Catholic School in Goodyear, Ariz. Saint Mary's has been working hard on a self study of every aspect of the school. Ms. Tax and her team will be doing a full accreditation visit at the end of February.



A Big Thanks to Saint Mary's Friends and Alumni Association Founders as They Pass the Torch!



For the past several years, Mr. and Mrs. David (Hossy) Sanchez, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Ulibarri and Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Salazar have provided new students at Saint Mary's with help to defray expenses for that first year of school in the form of the New Student Scholarships. After many dedicated years of support by this group, they are looking for some relief in heading up this non-profit association that is so valuable to the students at Saint Mary's. It has been many years since the founders themselves have had their own children attending Saint Mary's, and while they will continue to be strong supporters of the school, they would like to pass the management of this Association into new, capable hands. This founding group saw a need to help get enrollment up by providing help to parents who were contemplating sending their students to Saint Mary's. It is the hope that someone in Our Lady of Belen Parish will want to take this on in 2016 to continue the good work that the Sanchez, Ulibarri and the Salazar families started.

The Bird Word
Monthly Newsletter

Second Annual 5K January 31st —1 :30 PM



Last year's 5K happened on a cloudless day in January. The Saint Mary's Boosters Club sponsored the first annual event as a kick off to Catholic Schools Week. Over 60 participants walked or ran the 5K course. Entry to this year's event is \$20 per person which includes a T-shirt. If you register the day of it will be \$25. Registration forms will be in the church bulletin or at the school. Join us on the 31st!

SCIENCE FAIR FEATURES MANY STEAM PROJECTS

Middle School students have been hard at work on their projects and preparing for our Science Fair on January 26th. From engineering projects such as using solar power to desalinate water and how the weight of rotors affects the speed of a wind turbine to experimental projects such as the effects of music on running pace and whether more expensive shampoos really work better. Our Science Fair is sure to be filled with fascinating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math projects. Our top six entries will be eligible to compete at the Central NM Science and Engineering Research Challenge at UNM in March. If you would like to volunteer as a judge on the morning of January 26th please contact me at lbockisch@stmarysbelen.com.

Family Faith Formation



Parents are called to be the first and primary educators of their children. Yet many parents feel ill-equipped to take on this responsibility. "Adults cannot give what they do not have" so it is essential to grow in knowledge of the faith and grow in their own prayer life.

A "living faith" is just that—a faith that is lived in the day-to-day moments. Attending Mass on Sunday is essential, but we also need to live out the truths of our faith Monday through Saturday. It can be tough to see God while sitting in a staff meeting or taking kids to soccer practice, but when we do the little things with the love of Christ we are living our faith. Here are a few suggestions on ways to find moments throughout the day to pray and refocus. 1. Friar Jacks E-Spirations- a bi-monthly E-newsletter on inspirational muses on Catholic themes and "refresher" courses on Catholic basics. 2. Father Burke Master's Thought For the Day -short reflections on the daily scripture readings that can be sent to you via email or you can read on-line. 3. Minute Meditations—just what the title says, short meditations sent via email or twitter. 4. Visit NFCYM's Prayer Corner for even more resources on prayers and spirituality.



Mr. Sanchez



Mr. Torres



Ms. Carter

What is YOUR favorite place to read?
Mace thinks this is the best place to read about dinosaurs. If you are a kinder book helper in Mrs. Lopez's class, you get to read in the basket.



Hello and Welcome to New Teachers!

Saint Mary's welcomes back Mr. Myles Sanchez for PE and as Athletic Director. Myles left us three years ago to pursue other interests, but has returned to SMS to take Mr. Fresquez's place.

Our new Spanish teacher is Mr. Alfonso Torres. Mr. Torres is from Portales and has a Master's in Educational Leadership as well as his Spanish skills. Mr. Torres has two grandsons at Saint Mary's.

Leading our choir on Wednesdays will be Ms. Jennifer Carter, (mother of Rachel and Mace). Mrs. Carter is looking forward to getting back into music after a break being Mom. We are excited and happy to have our new staff members joining our wonderful staff.

Watch for schedule of Catholic Schools Week Activities!