



November Edition



Pastor: Ft. Clement Niggel
 Principal: Melodie Good
 Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, NM

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

THANK YOU OLB and ST. MARY'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR SUPPORTING OUR FALL FEST

IMPORTANT EVENTS

6th,7th,8th field trip	2nd
5th grade retreat	4th
Oratorical Contest	6th
Archbishop's Dinner	6th
Early Release 1 PM	6th
First Reconciliation	9th
Veterans Day program	11th
7th grade field trip	12th
3rd 4th grade field trip	13th
Thanksgiving Luncheon	20th
Early Release 1 PM	20th
No School	25-27th

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Every year, after our very successful fall fundraisers, I always think "No way can we top this!" And every year, we just keep getting more sponsors; we bring in bigger and better auction items, and we see more people come through our doors. It just gets better and better for our students. Our two chairpersons for the event, Chris Smith and Julie Sanchez, have really taken us to the next level. The digital format, which was the brain child of Dell Olmstead, has taken the event from 6 hours to three hours. I have other Catholic School principals ask me all the time how we do so well with our fundraiser. The secrets to our success are something that none of these other schools can replicate. Our secrets are such awesome, dedicated parents and wonderfully supportive parishioners. Our Lady of Belen parishioners, who seem to all have some connection to St. Mary's, stop over to the school to see if we need auction items. They come in to buy our tickets. They volunteer to help at the event. It's an amazing relationship and a necessary one to make sure that our students are nurtured and educated in a strong, Catholic, family oriented environment. Saint Mary's staff has big plans for our success. We want to see a state of the art science lab for kinder through 8th grade. We want to renovate our building to update it and make it more energy efficient. We want our Catholic School to be the best for 88 more years!



2015 Fall Fest Winners

Ms. Jeon Sanchez and her father were two happy people when the last ticket was drawn Saturday night at the annual Fall Fest. Jeon purchased her ticket from her relative here at Saint Mary's and was even putting in some family volunteer hours to help out that night. Winning the grand prize was the last thing on her mind! We appreciate Jeon's support and the support of all our parents and families who came to the event!

The excited winner of our ATV drawing was Rina Olguin, mother of our 6th grader, Christina. They can't wait to go over to New Mexico Tractor and haul that 4 X 4 home to their garage. This is the third year that New Mexico Tractor has sponsored our raffle. Mr. Albert Benavidez has been wonderful about hauling the ATV to our various events where we sold tickets. We really appreciate his generosity. Congrats Rina and Christina and thank you New Mexico Tractor!

**The Bird Word
 Monthly Newsletter**



Third graders are getting used to the new chairs.

Virco Rocking Chairs are a hit with kids


Teachers are not as excited as the students, but the new rocking chairs are growing on them as well. Research shows that the rocking motion soothes the brain and facilitates concentration along with the ability to think logically. This provides overall better cognitive processing. These chairs were made possible through a grant from the Catholic Foundation.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever.

Thanksgiving Family Dinner Reservations
 If you are able to join your child for our annual dinner on the 20th, please get your reservations in by **Tuesday the 17th** so we'll know how many turkeys we need. Adult-family members are \$6. Children not at St. Mary's are \$3. We cannot take late reservations this time. We ran out of food at our Grandparents luncheon and don't want to risk that.

Fifth Grade Students Will Participate in Mission to Mars
 Ms. Cordova and Ms. Lucero have attended Mission to Mars training sponsored by the Airforce Research Laboratory-La Luz Academy. Link-Up day for the Mars Mission is scheduled for March. Scientists and engineers are responsible for the colony of long-term living quarters and food on Mars. Participating fifth graders must plan and build the necessary facilities and life support resources for these researchers and present them at the culminating Link-Up Day. This project is one of our on-going STEM projects. Middle school students work on Lou-Vee air cars, box kites, and transformation projects that incorporate engineering, math, science and technology.

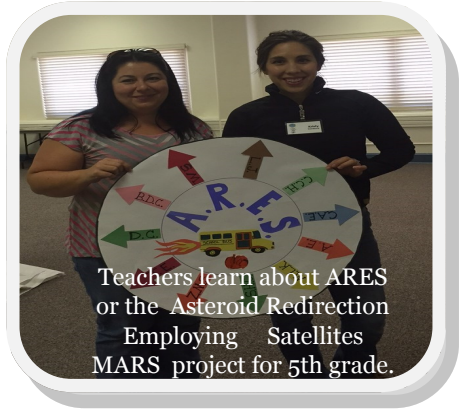
Family Faith Formation



It looks like a happy coincidence that our American feast of Thanksgiving should come at the end of the Church year where properly a thanksgiving ought to come, but actually it is no coincidence at all. The Pilgrim's feast was another manifestation of the sense of God that is common in all men, and the need they had for giving thanks to Him. Everywhere men have had thanksgiving feasts to whatever gods they worshipped, celebrating their harvests, the end of their journeys, their protection under a divine providence. For thousands of years before a rite and feast of thanksgiving was dictated in the law of Moses, their forms appeared everywhere, out of the instinct of man. After the Exodus, the One True God made it a law for the Jews. *Three times every year you shall celebrate feasts to me: Thou shall keep the feast of the unleavened bread. . . . And the feast of the harvest of the first fruits of thy work. . . . The feast also in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in all thy corn out of the field. (Exod. 23:14-17)* These are the things our children learn in school about this great national feast of Thanksgiving, and they love to hear the stories that go with the preparations. It is part of our history. Tell them, if they do not know, that George Washington made it a national feast by proclamation in 1789, with words of homage to the One True God:


Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly implore his protection, aid and favors. . . .

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Pac Man 4-H Fall Projects

Saint Mary's 4-H Club, led by Ms. Brenda Jiron, has had a month of fun activities. Most recently they toured the Ag Science Center pumpkin patch to gather pumpkins and learn about the crops grown here in the county. A specialist from Whitfield Wildlife Conservation presented a lesson in September on pollution to the 35 students enrolled in 4-H. Students will learn about rocks and minerals next week at their weekly meeting along with their weekly hands on activity.



GIVE THANKS
 FAMILY • FRIENDS • GRATITUDE