



October Edition



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.

IMPORTANT EVENTS	
Pet Blessing	5th
Living Rosary	9th
Early Dismissal	9th
No School (Columbus Day)	12th
Principal's retreat	14th-16th
Early Release P/T conf	22nd
Early Release	23rd
Priesthood Sunday Celeb	23rd
ANNUAL FALL FEST	24th
SMS Mass	25th
Halloween Parade	30th

Saint Mary's Annual Fall Fest on the 24th

Another year of planning is about to culminate in Saint Mary's big fund raising event, Fall Fest! The 600 tickets to be drawn are being sold as we speak; the roast beef dinner and fabulous desserts are being planned; and the many outstanding auction items are being gathered. This year we are auctioning off Southwest Airline tickets to San Francisco to see the 49ers play the Arizona Cardinals on November 29th. We also have airline tickets to anywhere Southwest flies with no black out dates. The class baskets are being prepared by teachers and parents. Some of the themes are "Book Lovers," "Christmas," "Tail Gating," and "His and Hers Cooking." Chairpersons Chris Smith and Julie Sanchez have been heading up the plans for the second year in a row. Our auctioneer will once again be Ms. Lorraine Garcia. Also, for the second year in a row, everything is digital so we hope to draw the last ticket around 9 PM while we still have a large crowd. If you have not yet bought a ticket to the event, they are going fast so come over to the school for yours!

Come to our Fall Fest on October 24th at the Parish Center



Family Night Bon Fire a Big Hit With Everyone

A big thanks to the Dads who offered to cook hamburgers for all the families who showed up to support the Roadrunners Volley Ball team and enjoy our annual Family Night Bon Fire. Other parents built a fire for students to roast marshmallows and cook their S'mores for dessert. An event that we hadn't counted on was the Belen Fire Department coming by at 11 PM (after everyone went home) to put out the obstinate fire. Thanks BFD—we thought it was out!



The Bird Word Monthly Newsletter

Students Commemorate the Pope's Visit



On a beautiful fall day, students from all classes gathered in the front of the school with Father Clement to plant some trees and shrubs. They dedicated the corner of the front yard as a "Francis Garden" in honor of the Pope's visit to the United States. Students have been learning of the Pope's love for our planet and the idea that we all must do our part to take care of it. A sign in the new garden says "Stewards of our Common Home." Many parents joined their children for morning prayer.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! Philippians 4:13

Saint Mary's Student Council Elects Officers

Ms. Kaeley Chavez will be leading the Roadrunner student council this year as they organize a plethora of activities for students. Another 8th grader, Darren Romero, will be helping Kaeley as Vice President. Secretary is 7th grader, Ms. Melany Bencomo and Treasurer is 8th grader, Adrian Maez. Student Council spun into action for the Grandparents Day luncheon. Their next big activity will be the Halloween Carnival for the whole school on the 30th and then the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 20th. The sponsors for Student Council are Ms, Melanie Chavez and Ms. Janet Sanchez.

Join us in the south courtyard of the church for our annual living rosary on October 9th at 9 AM. Presented by 8th Grade

Help Wanted

Saint Mary's is looking for a PED licensed Educational Assistant. First grade at Saint Mary's needs an EA. This person must be willing to satisfy all Archdiocesan requirements for school personnel as well as have a current EA license from the state of New Mexico. For more information, call the school at 864-0484. Please email a letter of interest and resume to mgood@stmarysbelen.com

Family Faith Formation



Many people are passionate about their faith but feel unable or unwilling to explain it to others or to defend it lovingly when it is misrepresented in the world. A Catholic school family faith formation program can help prepare parents to articulate their faith and experience great spiritual growth in their family. Saint Mary's Faith Formation Committee is trying to reach out to parents to help provide that connection between the spiritual development and knowledge that happens at school to parents who feel inadequate in continuing that education at home. Last spring we tried to get a book study going with Kelly's Rediscover Catholicism and we offered an adoration during Lent. This fall we are using Sycamore to respond in a blog to a reflection offered each week by Deacon Michael. It is our purpose to assist parents in their role as the primary educators of their children in teaching and guiding their children to live the Catholic faith. Please check out our blog on Sycamore and watch for our fall adoration date. We may even try to get another book study going.

For Moms and Grandmas! Improve Your Health!

Our Lady of Belen in partnership with the Valencia County Cooperative Extension Service will be offering the Strong Women Program, a FREE 12-week exercise program for middle-aged and older women on Mondays and Wednesdays starting October 19, 2015 from 11:00am- 12:00pm at Our Lady of Belen Old Parish Hall. The series will be led by Anne-Marie Wilson from the Cooperative Extension. A Physician's authorization is required for participation. For more information on the StrongWomen program contact Anne-Marie Wilson at 565-3002.



A big Thanks to our Roadrunner Coaches: Carolyn Mendoza, volley ball; Lorraine Cordova, and Ruben Martinez, Xcountry —all winners!

Our cross country Teams are tearing up the track at recent meets. Our students are competing with club teams as well as private school students and are finishing in the top ten each time. Practice has begun for flag football. Volley Ball wraps up next week.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Eighth Graders will participate in Flags for Life on October 2nd. These flags are a memorial to the number of children who lose their life each day in the US due to abortion. Every year 8th grade students assist OLB in placing these flags in October as a reminder to us all.

Saint Pius Royalty Alex Sais and Hannah Baca were recently crowned as Homecoming Court for 2015. Hannah and Alex are alum from St. Mary's class of 2012. Alex is also president of National Honor Society at Pius. We are so proud of our former students.

