



October Edition
2016



Pastor: Rev. 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.

ANNUAL FALL FEST ON THE 29th

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Third grade meeting	2
Pet Blessing	4
Living Rosary	7
No School	10
St. Pius 8th gr. Mtg	12
Tickets due incentive	12
Early Release	14
All tickets and \$\$ due	21
Parent conferences	27
Early Release	27 & 28
Fall Fest	29
Halloween Parade	31

The countdown is on to Saint Mary's largest annual fund raiser. This year's event promises to be a huge hit. Since the drawing became digitized a few years ago, the actual event doesn't take near as long, and the drawing is able to continue while the auctions are taking place. It's a lot more fun in a shorter period of time! Some of the featured auction items are:

- *Family pack of 1-day Disney Park Hopper Tickets valued at \$620.
- *International Hunt through Ojo Caliente Outfitters valued at \$4700
- *49ers vs. Jets NFL game on December 11th
- *10 Class Auction items
- *Several themed baskets

The chairpersons this year, Julie Sanchez and Christine Smith, have been working for the third year in a row to see if they can top their last year's revenue for the school. This year, the money will go to pay off the new science lab.

Word of the month-Rosary



LIVING ROSARY

Middle school students will be offering a living Rosary prayer on October 7th at 10 AM in the front yard of Saint Mary's. Parishioners are invited to attend this praying of the rosary. Please enter through the front gate of the school.



Have you bought a ticket for the bright red 4 wheel Kawasaki Mule? Drawing will take place at the Fall Fest! We have tickets!

Thank you New Mexico Tractor!



The Bird Word Monthly Newsletter

SMS Student Council Elects Officers

The first event for the student council this year was the Grandparents Luncheon in September. New student council members are now busy planning the Halloween parade and carnival that will take place on Halloween. The new officers are President: John Dieterichs, Vice President: Sofia Castillo, Secretary: Mathias Sanchez and Treasurer: Guinivere Mayse. Sponsors are Mrs. Morgan-Cordova and Mrs. Solis.



Watch for Standards Based Grading

When your child has a C in math, what do you know about how much your child knows. Does he/she struggle with subtraction but has mastered addition? Does he/she know multiplication tables but now hasn't figured out division? You can't tell from a C grade. The focus of traditional grading is on what concepts are covered by the teacher. A standards based classroom focuses on what the student has learned and is able to do. Both teacher and student are aware of the standard and what is required to meet the standard. Last year the kindergarten and first grade were standards based. This year at St. Mary's, the second grade will be going standards based after the first grading period. The Archdiocese is asking all the schools to transition to standards based report cards. The staff at St. Mary's is looking at how we will move from letter grades to numbers representing proficiency levels in the upper grades. We will be providing more information as we make the transition. Teachers always know where their students struggle. Hopefully, we will communicate that better to parents in the future.

In honor of Rosary month, St. Mary's teachers have contemplated making a rosary garden in the front yard. We would like to collect enough patio stones or slate type rocks for the "beads." We are looking for donations of the stones. If you know someone who might be getting rid of pavers or has some extra ones, please contact the school. They don't have to be matching.

Priesthood Sunday October 30th

Priesthood Sunday is the last Sunday of the month. This day is set aside to honor our parish priests for their service to our Parish. A simple note, a smile or a phone call to assure them of your loving care and gratitude for their presence in the life of Our Lady of Belen will go a long way to serve the greater good of our wonderful and growing Catholic Church.

Asbestos Proclamation

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and Saint Mary's school comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) by providing access to the management plan at the school. The plan is kept in the Principal's office and will be updated as various situations develop and inspections are completed. Arrangements may be made with Saint Mary's school to review the materials. Any questions may be directed to the principal of the school or the Executive Director of General Services at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

8th Graders Honored at last home volley ball game.

Taeya Padilla and Melanie Bencomo played their final SMS home game.



Elementary sports has made its debut at Saint Mary's. Over forty students in first through 4th grades have signed up to play volley ball, or run track and cross country through the APIAL League in Albuquerque. Parent volunteers, Brian McKay and Kristy Cordova signed up to coach. The games or meets take place at schools in Albuquerque or here in Belen. The season runs from August to October. The basketball and soccer season for first through 4th graders will begin in the spring. We are building future Roadrunner athletes in a fun and nurturing atmosphere.

October is Rosary Month



Do you know how to pray the rosary? The month of October is a good time to commit to praying the Rosary everyday. The Rosary will bring great peace and holiness to your life. It is a powerful instrument for conversion. Stop by Saint Mary's and pick up your own Rosary card with instructions on how to pray the Rosary complete with all the prayers and mysteries. Don't forget to attend the living Rosary on October 7th at the school.