

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 3 EARLY DISMISSAL
- 6 NO SCHOOL
- 22 ATV JEANS INCENTIVE DUE
- 28 SCHOOL PICTURES

For more information about St. Mary's School visit our website at: [www.stmarysbelen.com](http://www.stmarysbelen.com)

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Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel  
Principal: Melanie Chavez

SEPTEMBER 2021

## ST. MARY'S 2021-2022 STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS



The students of St Mary's have voted and they have chosen who they want to represent them for this new school year. The students speeches were phenomenal this year and the campaigning went smoothly. Here were the final election results: Elias Zamora-President, Earon Tsoisie-VP, Olyvia Sanchez-Secretary, Roque Sanchez-Treasurer, Cole Rodriguez-8th grade Representative, Isabella Baldonado-8th grade Representative, Abran Sisneros-7th grade Representative, Genevieve Sanchez-7th grade Representative, Maya Rodriguez-6th grade Representative, Abby Montoya, 6th grade Representative, James Woelber- 5th grade Representative, Tripp Gibson-5th grade Representative. Dominick Sisneros-4th grade Representative, and Isabella Carrillo-4th grade representative. Congratulations to all!!

## Fruit of the Holy Spirit & Class Saints

This year, at St. Mary's, each class was assigned one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit and were asked to choose a saint that represented their class. The eight grade was given "Gentleness" as their Fruit of the Holy Spirit and they choose St. Francis de Sales as their class saint. Each morning during morning prayer, an eighth grader would explain to the rest of the school what it means to show gentleness and would give us facts about St. Francis de Sales. Did you know that St. Francis de Sales was a lawyer before he became a priest? He was consecrated bishop in 1602 and founded the Visitation of the Holy Mother with St. Jane Frances de Chantal. St. Francis de Sales also wrote the devotional classic *Introduction Into a Devout Life*.



For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.  
Ephesians 5:8-10

*We still are “collecting” Box Tops for Education at St. Mary’s. Instead of clipping the Box Tops, all you have to do is download the Box Top App, choose St. Mary’s School, and scan your receipts. It is just that easy!*

*“Be the Light”*

*Leader~Inspirational~Generous~Holy~Thoughtful*

**Looking Ahead:**

The 37th Annual Fall Fest will be held on October 23, 2021. Due to COVID restrictions it will be virtual again this year. The classes have put together some **AMAZING** baskets and there will be some incredible trips that you will be able to bid on. The trips include:  
National Finals Rodeo Championship with 3 Nights in Las Vegas & Airfare, Private Kentucky Bourbon Trails Tours with 3 Night Stay & Airfare, NCAA Final Four Championship Package with 3 night stay & Airfare, Dallas Cowboys Game and Player Meet & Greet with Tailgate and 3 night stay & Airfare, Sommelier Wine & Cheese Experience in Napa Valley with 3 night stay and Airfare for Two, Disney World Resort Family Adventure for 4 that includes Airfare for 4!

## Benefits of a Catholic Education

Why is Catholic school important? A quality Catholic education can give students a solid foundation in academic subjects, preparing them well for college and careers, and can give them a sound spiritual foundation, preparing them for life more broadly. The value of Catholic school is that students have a place to grow and thrive as a whole person.

If you’re considering Catholic school for your child(ren), here are some benefits to consider that a Catholic education gives to our students:

1. **Higher Graduation Rates:** Historically, Catholic schools tend to have higher graduation rates than public schools — a demonstration of Catholic educators’ commitment to keeping students engaged with their education. A 2018 study also found that Catholic school students went on to experience higher graduation rates from college, compared to their peers who had attended public school.
2. **Low Student-Teacher Ratio:** A benefit of Catholic schools is that they tend to have a lower student-teacher ratio than public schools. The average student-teacher ratio for public schools in the U.S. is approximately 16-to-1, while the average student-teacher ratio for Catholic schools is 12-to-1. This significant difference can allow teachers in Catholic schools to engage more effectively with each student in their classroom.
3. **Higher Achievement and College Readiness:** Catholic school students demonstrate higher achievement levels than public school students. Catholic high school students also go on to have higher GPAs in college compared to college students who attended public school.
4. **Emphasis on Religious Values:** Students in Catholic school benefit from a common thread of Biblical values woven through all their academic classes.
5. **A Sense of Community:** When your child’s school is part of your church parish, your whole family can enjoy stronger bonds with other parishioners. Rather than having separate groups of church and school friends, students at Catholic schools benefit from one especially rich and tightly woven community. Catholic schools also tend to place a high priority on involving parents in their children’s education, which brings members of the group even closer together.

*The BIRD WORD*



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

