

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel  
Principal: TBA



SUMMER 2019

SUMMER DINNERS M-F  
OLB PARISH CENTER  
FROM 4:45 TO 6:30PM

GIRLS DIG BEGINS  
JULY 11TH

USED UNIFORM SALE  
JULY 19TH

SCHOOL BEGINS AUG.  
12TH

## NEW PRINCIPAL TO BE NAMED SOON!

In May, Ms Melodie Good decided that it was time to join her husband in retirement and start training her mini donkeys to pull her newly purchased donkey cart. A committee has been interviewing candidates in order to have a new principal selected by the end of June. Ms. Good has been St. Mary's principal for the past seven years and has increased enrollment by more than 60 students since she started in 2012. When asked what her favorite part of being the principal was, she replied that she will miss the school wide morning prayer the most. "Praying with the students every day always lifted me up and set the right tone for the day." She is excited to meet the new principal and hopes that the new person will love and nurture St. Mary's in the coming years. Ms. Good has three children and nine grandchildren who will see a lot more of her in the coming months.



Happy Summer  
Time!

SAVE YOUR BOX TOPS!



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## GIRLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG TO BEGIN JULY 11TH

Beginning July 11th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls from St. Mary's will get their first experience digging into Belen's roots. Through a grant with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Community Action Grant for Girls in Archaeology, professors from UNLV and other universities will be sharing their summer jobs with our students. The girls will learn how to ask scientific questions and answer them with the empirical data that they collect, learning how to systematically collect data, learning how to apply basic mathematical methods to their observations and data collection, and learning how to be a cautious and critical thinker. Paired with a PhD student, teams of 2 girls will start the week by framing a hypothesis regarding the area of the site they are working on, and in the course of the week, they will gather enough data to be able to accept or reject their hypotheses. Their skills in writing and critical thinking will be enhanced with several short reports that they will produce on their finds from the excavation plot that they work. Drop by the corner of Wisconsin and Compana on July and watch what they are doing.

Stay tuned for the announcement of a new principal!

Send us a picture of you on vacation wearing your St. Mary's spirit shirt. We want to put you on our Facebook page. Send your picture to [smb@stmarysbelen.com](mailto:smb@stmarysbelen.com)

**MS. LUCERO NAMED 2019 STATE STEM TEACHER OF THE YEAR BY THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**



STEM teachers shape the future of our nation - introducing students to exciting new concepts and offering a glimpse into what's possible. The very best educators transform learning into a boundless adventure and prepare their classes to explore new frontiers of technology for the good of us all. The Air Force Association believes that recognizing those who educate America's youth is an important aspect of what AFA is all about. Every year, AFA proudly honors the commitment and achievements of these extraordinary teachers. Ms. Lucero teaches makerspace and coding to St. Mary's students and also organized St. Mary's first STEM Saturday ADVENTURE held last September.



**Still room for more travelers for the STEM San Francisco trip.**

Nine students have registered to fly off to San Francisco in June of 2020 to visit some of Northern California's most notable science and technology locations. If you will be a 7th or 8th grader in the 2020 school year, you can register for this trip. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Alex Carrillo at [acarrillo@stmarysbelen.com](mailto:acarrillo@stmarysbelen.com) for more details.



Urgent! St. Mary's needs an outstanding teacher for 4th grade. Do you know someone who would love to inspire our students and be part of a great team? Have them send their resume to [smb@stmarysbelen.com](mailto:smb@stmarysbelen.com)

**NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM STARTS PLANNING**



During the new team planning time, Ms. Gibson was introduced to Skelly, the resident skeleton.



Ms. Vera Gibson has joined Ms. Melanie Chavez and Ms. Alex Carrillo to form the new team of teachers for the middle school. Ms. Chavez is moving from elementary to middle school language arts. Ms. Carrillo will begin her 2nd year as the science teacher. Ms. Gibson comes to us with a Masters Degree from NMSU and has been working with Valencia County 4-Hers for 12 years. She is no stranger to many of our students. Ms. Chavez has a Masters degree from the University of Phoenix and is looking forward to middle school. Ms. Carrillo graduated from UNM in 2016 with a double Bachelors in elementary and special education.

