

The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



Pastor: Rev. John Kimani
Principal: Melanie Chavez



AUGUST 2026

AUGUST EVENTS

Staff Returns	3
First Day of School	10
First Day of School for Kindergarten	13
OLB Fiestas	14-16
Solemnity of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	15

Sports Season Has Begun

Fall sports are off and running! Students can sign up for Co-ed Middle School Flag Football, Elementary and Middle School Cross Country, Co-ed Elementary Volleyball, and Middle School Girls Volleyball.

St. Mary's Catholic School is proud to compete in the APIAL league, and we're ready for an exciting season of teamwork, determination, and Roadrunner pride.



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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL EXCITEMENT

The first day of school kicked off with energy and joy as students arrived ready to learn. Classrooms settled in quickly, routines took shape, and new friendships began forming everywhere you looked.

We're thrilled to welcome four new staff members to our school family. Miss Eliana Barela, a distinguished santera, joins us as our Kindergarten teacher. Our third graders will be learning with Miss Kathleen Worley, who brings seven years of experience from Holy Ghost. Mr. Jason Garcia will be leading our fifth grade class; he is originally from Veguita and now resides in Albuquerque.

Rounding out our new team members is Mr. Bobby Griego, our new custodian, who brings several years of experience from St. Mary's-Albuquerque and Belen Public Schools.

We can't wait to see what this school year has in store and to make unforgettable memories together.



2026-2027 THEME & SCRIPTURE

Each year, our seventh graders help shape the spirit of the coming school year by choosing a theme and scripture. Last year's class—now our amazing eighth graders—selected a powerful and hope-filled message:

A Century of Faith. A Future of **HOPE**.

Humble • Optimistic • Perseverance • Empathetic

Their scripture choice reminds us of God's constant presence: "May the God of **hope** fill you with joy and peace..." — Romans 15:13



At St. Mary's, we LOVE our 8th/Kindergarten Buddy Program! Every year, our eighth graders are matched with kindergarten buddies and help guide them through their first year at school. From special activities to attending Mass side-by-side, these pairs create memories—and friendships—that last for years to come.

ST. MARY'S FLOAT IN THE FIESTA PARADE

The Fiesta Parade was an absolute blast! Our amazing students showed up ready to shine and proudly show off their Roadrunner Spirit. A huge thank-you to Coach Griego, Ms. Flowers, and all the students who stayed after school to help decorate our float—your creativity made it unforgettable!

We just can't hide our
ROADRUNNER PRIDE!



SAINT MARY'S PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!



Did you get to enjoy one of our delicious Fiesta hamburgers? If you did, it was cooked with love by our AMAZING parent volunteers! Every year, our wonderful parents donate their time and talent to grill these crowd-favorite burgers, helping make this fundraiser a huge success for our school. We are so grateful for their hard work, dedication, and Roadrunner spirit!

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

Have you ever considered giving your child the gift of a Catholic education? A 2013 study found that 43% of perpetually vowed men and women in religious life attended a Catholic elementary school. A Catholic education provides not only strong academics, but also faith formation and a foundation that lasts a lifetime. If you'd like to learn more about St. Mary's Catholic School, we invite you to visit our website at stmarysbelen.com or call us at (505) 864-0484.

St. Mary's Catholic School is Turning 100!

Get ready to celebrate because beginning in January 2027, St. Mary's Catholic School will officially begin celebrating our **100th Birthday!** One of the highlights of this very special year will be our 100th Birthday Gala on February 20, 2027!

Calling all St. Mary's Alumni

Do you have pictures from your days at St. Mary's? We would LOVE to see them! We are asking our alumni to bring copies of any photos you would like to share with the school so we can include them in our Centennial Celebration.

The more pictures, the better! We want to fill our celebration with memories from generations of Roadrunners!

Help us celebrate 100 years of faith, family, friendships, learning, and memories!

100 Years Strong!

It's GREAT to be a ROADRUNNER!