

The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



Pastor: Rev. John Kimani
Principal: Melanie Chavez



SEPTEMBER 2026

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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September Saint:

Saint Francis Xavier

September Virtue

Zeal

"It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the 'two P's' seriously: prayer and penance."

-St. Francis Xavier



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CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. MARTINEZ

We are so proud to celebrate Mr. Johnny Martinez, who was recently honored by The Catholic Foundation as St. Mary's Catholic School Teacher of the Year at a special luncheon held at Sandia Resort & Casino. Mr. Martinez received a beautiful commemorative plate and a cash award, and enjoyed a delicious steak luncheon with fellow honorees and guests.

Mr. Martinez is deeply dedicated to his students and brings so much enthusiasm and creativity to his classroom. His students truly enjoy learning in his class, where they participate in engaging projects and have opportunities to share their learning through oral presentations. His commitment to helping students grow in confidence, knowledge, and communication skills is evident in all that he does.

Adding an especially meaningful touch to the celebration, Alyssa, a former student of Mr. Martinez's, was chosen to present him with his award. It was a wonderful moment and a beautiful reminder of the lasting impact teachers have on their students.

It was truly a lovely luncheon and a special celebration of an educator who is so deserving of this honor. Congratulations, Mr. Martinez! We are blessed to have you as part of the St. Mary's family!



Get ready for one of St. Mary's biggest and most exciting events of the year! Our **42nd Annual Fall Fest** is just around the corner and promises to be a fun-filled evening for our school and parish community.

Saturday, October 17, 2026
Rio Events Center (formerly the Elks Lodge)

Tickets are \$100 and include dinner for two and entry into the **\$10,000 drawing**, along with the opportunity to win additional cash prizes!

The excitement doesn't stop there! Guests will also have the chance to participate in **raffles for fantastic prizes, a brand-new ATV, and more.** Extra meals will be available for purchase for those who would like to bring additional family members or friends.

Come join us for an unforgettable evening filled with great food, exciting prizes, fellowship, and fun!

2026-2027 FALL FEST

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 ROAD-RUNNER!

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.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The posters have been displayed, the campaigning has taken place, speeches have been delivered, and the votes have been cast! Our St. Mary's Student Council Elections were an exciting and fun experience for our students.

Our candidates showed tremendous creativity with their campaign signs, and their speeches were thoughtful, entertaining, and full of enthusiasm. We are so proud of all the students who participated and demonstrated leadership and courage throughout the election process.

Please join us in congratulating our **2026–2027 Student Council Officers**:

President: Apollonia
Vice President: Lucia
Secretary: Kepha
Treasurer: Amrie

We also congratulate our Class Representatives:

Katy • Annie • Ezra • Lani • Tyler • Savannah • London • Santiago • Raylee • Ignacio • Viviana • Mia

We look forward to seeing the wonderful ideas, activities, and service opportunities our Student Council will bring to St. Mary's this year. May they lead with faith, kindness, responsibility, and a spirit of service as they represent their fellow Roadrunners.

WE LOVE OUR GRANDPARENTS!!

Whether you are called Grandpa, Grandma, Nana, Tata, Papa, Gigi, Mimi, or one of

the many other special names for grandparents, we love celebrating you!

Our annual Grandparents Luncheon was once again a wonderful success! There is something truly special about seeing multiple generations of our St. Mary's families gathered together around the same table, sharing a meal and making memories.

The hugs, smiles, laughter, and joyful conversations made the day especially meaningful. These are the moments our students will treasure for years to come, and the memories created will last a lifetime.

To all of our St. Mary's grandparents, thank you! Thank you for your encouraging words, loving hugs, prayers, wisdom, and countless blessings. Your love and support make such a beautiful difference in the lives of our children.

