

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## DECEMBER EVENTS

ADVENT RETREAT 2  
CHRISTMAS SHOP 11  
VACATION  
DEC. 19-JAN. 4

**Advent Giving**  
Don't forget to  
bring your canned  
food item for each  
day of Advent



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Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel  
Principal: Melodie Good

DECEMBER 2020

## MRS. MELANIE CHAVEZ WILL TAKE OVER AS INTERIM PRINCIPAL

A familiar face will be sitting in the principal's office at St. Mary's for the spring semester and it's not Mrs. Good. After many years of teaching different grades at St. Mary's, Mrs. Chavez will move into administration. The plan is for Mrs. Chavez to take over for spring semester as interim while a principal search continues. Mrs. Chavez is seeking her admin license through the Administrative Leadership Development program through Cooperative Educational Services. It will be completed in the spring and she will most likely be an applicant for the permanent position. Mrs. Chavez received her Bachelors degree from UNM and a Masters degree from the University of Phoenix. She began as a parent volunteer in 2001 and has worn many hats at St. Mary's since then. A few of her big accomplishments were chairing the Billy Jaramillo Basketball Tournaments and our Fall Fest. She has been recognized as Teacher of the Year and also Catholic Foundation Teacher of the Year. In 2019 she received a cash award from the Reardon Foundation for her students' participation in the Sparkle of Kindness pledge. Her three children Emmanuel, Izaiah and Kaeley are all St. Mary's alum. Her husband Mark, her sister Michelle and her mom, Dahlia Gallegos, have all been frequent volunteers at our school. She knows what makes St. Mary's a great school, and her love for the students and the school will be a good combination for its future success.

## ADVENT RETREAT

The students at St. Mary's participated in a retreat on Dec. 2nd in preparation for the birth of Christ. The day began with confessions and workshops followed. Core classes are not held on retreat days so that students can spend more time in spiritual activities relating to Advent. This year looked a little different since we couldn't invite guest speakers.



Third graders making a stained glass ornament.



**ADVENT GIVING**

St. Mary's students contributed to a Thanksgiving food drive for St. Vincent and are now working on an Advent giving calendar with a different food product each day until Christmas.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**

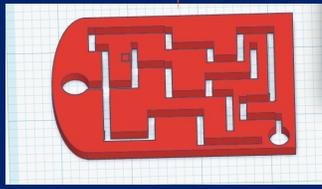
On December 4th, third graders at St. Mary's received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sixteen students began their confessions at 1PM and were then honored by the SM staff at a small reception in the Parish Center to celebrate this important day.



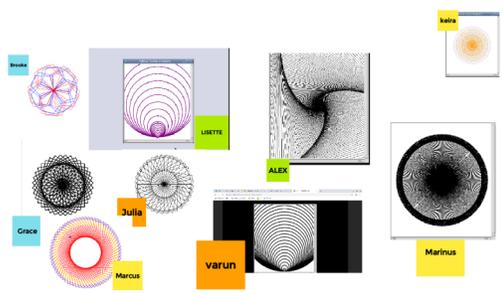
**STEM Class**



In STEM classes, middle school students are showing off their creativity by designing key chains in 3D and having them printed on the 3D printer. Seventh and 8th grade, as part of the robotics challenge they're taking part in with AFRL Stem Outreach (<https://afrlnm.com/stem/missions/robotics-challenge/>) have learned how to program geometric shapes and patterns using the python programming language.



Santiago Gutierrez designed a perfect key ring according to specs. Mrs. Lucero, the STEM teacher, was happy that his design followed the instructions to a tee, a difficult process.



**Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Knowledge**

Awards were given for knowledge to 1st grader Ezra Baca, 2nd grader Samuel Gallegos, 3rd grader Jude Baldonado, 4th grader James Woelber, 5th grader Amarisa Baca, 6th grader Linsey Sanchez (not pictured), 7th grader Elena Gallegos, and 8th grader Brooke Deleon.

