



# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

*where academics and faith go hand in hand*

*St. Mary's School Parent Newsletter ~ 2024-2025 School Year ~ Edition 2*

*Mission Statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in preschool through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academic excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a nurturing environment.*

## What's happening at St. Mary's:

### Winter Raffle

Don't miss your chance to WIN this Ice Castle Fish House or some extra money! The 10th Annual St. Mary's School Winter Raffle has 9 awesome prizes and only 600 tickets sold! The raffle will be held on December 17th after the 7 p.m. Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Church. Each St. Mary's School family has received 4 tickets to sell. If you need more tickets, please contact the school office!

Grand Prize: Ice Castle Fish House Grandpa's Hideout

2nd Prize: \$1,000 Cash

3rd Prize: \$1,000 Cash

4th Prize: \$500 Cash

5th Prize: \$500 Cash

6th Prize: \$500 Cash

7th Prize: \$500 Cash

8th Prize: \$500 Cash

9th Prize: \$500 Cash

Tickets are \$50 each. How to purchase a ticket?

- Get in touch with any St. Mary's School family
- Contact Karen Smith at St. Mary's School at 320-365-3693
- Email us at [raffletickets@stmarysbi.com](mailto:raffletickets@stmarysbi.com)

ONLY  
600  
TICKETS



Drawing  
held on  
December  
17th

You do NOT need to be present to win!

\*Winners to pay sales tax.

This is your chance to WIN your DREAM Fish House or some extra money, plus help St. Mary's!





We are going to host a STREAM Family Night! Some of you may be wondering what this involves? Well....we would like to show you what STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art & Mathematics) activities we have available in our recently added Creative Corner room. You will get hands on experience with the many learning activities we offer our students. Come check it out! It will be here at the school on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm - 7:30pm



## VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

On Monday, November 11th, the 7th graders hosted St Mary's annual Veteran's Day program. This year's program featured the 6th grade band, 3rd grade ukulele players, and the hand bell choir. All of the students sang songs and were addressed by Tom Franzeen, a retired member of the United States Army who shared about his 26 years of experience. Our students honored the service of members of their families and community members. a

★ **God Bless our Veterans!** ★



## “The Secret of the Gentle Giant”

What a joy it was to visit St. Mary's School on November 22 nd and read my sweet little book, “The Secret of the Gentle Giants”, to a captivating audience. The children met Li'l Sammy Saguaro and had a chance to snuggle with him. They realized he wasn't so “prickly” after all! There were lots of giggles as they tried on Sammy's HUGE glasses. The children enjoyed all the whimsical characters that Lil Sammy met on his quest to discover why he was SOOO small, and King Crest was SOOO tall. Sammy taught them that “serving” isn't just about “a ball.” The “WOW “factor at the end of the story was seeing the book's characters come to life, in the real-life pictures of the cacti in the Sonoran Desert. The children were encouraged to be “Li'l Sammie's, to share THE secret and to find joy in seeking opportunities to serve others. “The Secret of the Gentle Giants” is a one-of-a-kind gift that keeps on giving. It reinforces to children the message of being born to serve the King. Please consider it as a unique gift forBaptism, First Communion, Graduation, a Graduation guest book, birthday or Christmas present.Hardcover books, as well as “Sammy Stuffie” gift sets are available for purchase. Please contact Meg Kubesh 320-522-0439 or dmekubesh@gmail.com if interested.



## Advent is approaching

Advent is the liturgical season that precedes and prepares for Christmas. It is a season of hope and of longing, of joyful expectation and of peaceful preparation. Many symbols and traditions are associated with Advent, especially the Advent Wreath with its four colored candles (three purple and one pink), but also Advent calendars, special Advent music, food, processions, and other traditions that may vary from one culture or region to the next. This year we will be celebrating four weeks of the Holy Family. We are all the family of God! During our prayer services this year we are going to do stories about Mary and Joseph. Please check out our school calendar for times of these services.

## Play Island Fudge Fundraiser

Thank you to those who supported our fudge fundraiser. All orders will plan to be delivered before or after the preschool Christmas concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Advent Adopt-A-Family

For the Advent season, the families of St. Mary's School are going to again open their hearts and adopt 9 families in Renville County who are in need of some merry and bright at this time of year! Each class will "adopt" a family and bring in items that are identified as needs, along with some fun wants! We will be working in conjunction with the Renville County Social Services on this service project. If you would like to know how you can contribute to this, please contact your child's teacher. We are looking forward to finding joy in giving to others as we await the birth of our Savior!

## Preschool Christmas Concert

Please join the Preschoolers on Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 in the St. Mary's School Gym as we celebrate the upcoming Christmas Season! From singing songs about Santa Claus, playing instruments, or dancing around the Christmas Tree, these little voices are sure to warm your hearts.

## Recess guidelines

Students in grades PreK-5 will go outdoors for recess as long as the temperature and/or wind chill is above zero degrees. Therefore, these students are to have hats, mittens, coats, snow pants, and boots. If they come to school without any of these items, they will be outdoors without them. We do have a few mittens



## Poinsettia Fundraiser:

The 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes sold 488 Bachman's Poinsettias!! The plants will be delivered the weekend of Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds of this fundraiser will benefit their St. Mary's Middle School Educational Trip to DC/NYC in May 2025. Thank you for your continued support!

## Stuff a squad car



Thank you to all who supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "stuff a squad car challenge". We brought in 1,151 lbs of food for the Renville County Food Shelf. The class that brought in the most was 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (271.4 lbs)!! Thank you Renville County Sheriff's Office for putting us up to this challenge!! Thank you for your generosity!!



# Honor Roll

## A Honor Roll – Quarter 1

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Lilly Bauman, Lila Beckler, Brett Henslin, Elena Kubesh, Aiden Lerud, Logan Osthus, Adrian Medina Palma

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Amelia Dyrssen, Kooper Eiler, Kenley Everson, Piper O’Neill, Aubrey Stahl, Emma Tersteeg, Sadie Zuhlsdorf, Taylor Zupke

6<sup>th</sup> grade: Kara Eiler, Camri Elfering, Jackson Strandberg

## B Honor Roll – Quarter 1

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Hudson Edwards, Isaac Frank, Matthew Mohr, Paxton Thole, Mara Thurston, Charlie Visser

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Emma Jacobs, Aiden Nere, Aubriana Perez, Hadley Weis, Skylar Zuhlsdorf

6<sup>th</sup> grade: Keeghan Aikens, Anna Athmann, Camryn Bremseth, Ilsa Dahlgren, Taylor Gass, Sophia Hatch, Dylan Haubrich, Aubrea Herdina, Griffin Osthus, Sutton Weis, Hayden Zupke

## MARATHON GOAL REACHED!

We want to say a big congratulations again to the students for reaching their goal in the Marathon this year. As a result of their hard work, **they earned Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> off** and an early start to Christmas Break.



## Christmas Concert



*Please join the St. Mary's students as we explore the different signs of the Christmas season on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church. The signs of Christmas are everywhere. The important thing we must do for our children at Christmas is to make sure all these signs point to Jesus. Jesus, who came to earth a baby in a manger, to Christ who died for us on the Cross.*



## Upcoming Dates to Watch for:

- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> MASS 10:30 Prepared by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup> MASS 8:30 (Immaculate Conception) (Monday) Prepared by 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Followed by Eucharistic Adoration – Open to the public.
- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade BOLD/SMS Band Concert 7pm at BOLD
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> No PM Bussing
- Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Preschool Christmas Concert 6:30pm (Gym)
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup> K-8<sup>th</sup> gr. Christmas Concert
- 7pm at St. Mary's Church
- Dec 19<sup>th</sup> MASS 10:30 Prepared by K & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL – Marathon Reward Day!
- Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Break
- Jan 6<sup>th</sup> School Resumes

It is the policy of St. Mary's School to comply with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and all requirements imposed by/or pursuant to regulations issued thereto, to the end that no person at St. Mary's shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex marital status, status with regard to assistance, age, or disability and handicapping condition (if, with reasonable accommodations on the part of the school, the handicapped person could be accommodated) be excluded for participation in, be denied of, otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program, or in employment, recruitment, consideration, or selection, whether part or full time, under any educational program, employment or activity by St. Mary's School.