



St. Mary Catholic Community School



Annual Wildcat Newsletter

August 2015



Dear Friends,

Saint Mary's stands at the threshold of an historic past and a promising future!

Our 150th Anniversary Year of celebration reminds us that we are disciples on a journey – a journey back to God.

The Saint Mary's Story began in 1865 when people first gathered to celebrate Mass with Father Werhle – and the Story continues whenever we gather to celebrate Mass at Saint Mary's.

Of course, part of the Saint Mary's Story that we treasure is our beloved Saint Mary's School – serving children and families since 1872.

Our past is a treasure! Thousands of people – priests, nuns, students, parents and teachers – came before us on the journey. Our fond memories of them – their legacy to us – is a treasure.

Our future is full of promise! Just look at the people – young and old – who call Saint Mary's "home" today. We are different ages...different sizes...different shapes...different colors...different backgrounds. We are quite a diverse group – but all of us are disciples on a journey back to God.

Indeed, we do stand at the crossroads of an historic past and a promising future!

During this 150th Anniversary Year, let's be grateful to God for the treasure we have inherited. And let's strive to cooperate with God. Even as we make our journey back to God, let's pray that our inheritance becomes a precious legacy for those who follow us.

In Christ,

Father Pat

Reverend Patrick Kalich
Pastor

Opening our Arms to Serve Others



Dear St. Mary's Community,

It's hard for me to believe this, but I am preparing to begin my tenth school year at St. Mary's. My family and I continue to feel very blessed to be a part of this school and community. Much has changed since I began in the Diocese of Gary. When I began there were twenty-five schools. Since then we've closed several schools, and only five of the original principals that I started with are still with the diocese.

Much has changed here at St. Mary's School, too. We've undergone a technology revolution and now find ourselves leaders, not just in the diocese, but throughout the region. Our school has been awarded the state's highest accolade: FOUR-STAR status. We are one of only four diocesan grade schools to attain this status. Our parent community has continued to support and uphold the traditions that have made us great. Our students are working hard and going on to accomplish great things (four of Crown Point's top 10 graduates this spring are St. Mary's alumni and our students at Andean and other high schools are doing exceptionally well too). Our parish and extended community has also continued the tradition of supporting Catholic education here at St. Mary's. For that, we are grateful.

As I look to the future, I am optimistic. Pope Francis is an inspiration, and I have faith that Bishop Don will make Catholic education a top priority and lead us in the right direction. Father Pat has always been a rock, and I couldn't imagine a school with a more supportive pastor. What makes me most optimistic about our future is looking into the faces of our students. From our youngest to our oldest, I see children eager to learn about Jesus and do their best to live lives as He has taught us. I suspect that when the first school was built shortly after the parish was established 150 years ago, this is exactly what those founders would have wanted.

May God bless you and your family,

Tom Ruiz

L. Thomas Ruiz
Principal

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St. Mary's Pledge

May God bless our
minds
to think our best
thoughts,

Our words to speak
kindly to one another,

Our hearts to
feel compassion,

And our hands to reach
out to one another
in compassion and care.

I promise always to do
my best and to treat
everyone with respect
and kindness.

I will follow the example
of Jesus and His
Mother Mary in all
things.

Today I promise to live
what Saint Mary
teaches.

We are all one
United in Christ!



Visit us at
stmarycp.org/school



Saint Mary School Profile

Enrollment:

PK – 8th Grade, 510 Students

State of Indiana Recognition:

Exemplary Status

4-Star School

“A” Rating

ECA 100% Pass Rate

DOE & AdvancEd Accreditations

Faith Formation:

Students at SMS receive religious education every day and attend mass twice a week.

Faculty:

Please visit stmarycp.org/school for a complete, up to date, listing of our outstanding administration, faculty, and staff.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

CYO Band, Choir, Student Council, Altar Servers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Chess Club, Academic Team, Junior Academic Team, WSMW Student-Run TV News Program, CyberCats Robotics Club, Lego Robotics Club, Environmental Club, Science Olympiad, Girls on the Run

Athletics:

Boys and girls in grades 5-8 participate in the following CYO sports: Basketball, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Track, Cross Country



Support St. Mary's School

Occasionally people call and ask how they can support the next generation of students at St. Mary's School. To make a tax-deductible, monetary donation, please make checks payable to St. Mary Catholic Community School and send them to:

St. Mary Catholic Community School
Attn.: Donor Generosity
405 East Joliet Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Your support is very much appreciated and will help add to the legacy of St. Mary Catholic Community School. If you have further questions please call Mr. Tom Ruiz, Principal (219-663-0676) or Ms. Jan Mucha, Business Manager (219-663-0044).

Wish List:

\$20 Retiring Teacher Appreciation Fund

\$35 Box of Copy Paper

\$100 Athletic Equipment

\$300 Tablet

\$500 Computer

\$1,000 Student Scholarship

Corporate Sponsorship:

St. Mary's Home and School Association is pleased to announce our Corporate Caring Sponsorship Package. We would like to invite you to join our efforts to offer our children the best education possible by advertising your business, or your employer's business exclusively to the St. Mary's School and Parish Communities. Sponsorship packages include tickets to attend all of the events, and year round advertising on our event posters, school newsletter, school website, facebook page and at the SMS events. To learn more call Chris Wickard at 219.629.5566 or email chris.wickard@yahoo.com Please support those on the back of this newsletter as they support Catholic education at SMS.



Upcoming Events:

- 08-19-15 **School Resumes**
- 08-29-15 **Parish 150th Anniversary Mass and Picnic**
- 09-12-15 **Golf Outing** - Come join us at Youche!
- 10-02-15 **Teacher Appreciation Walk-A-Thon**
- 10-09-15 **Fall Family Fun Fair** - An evening of great food, fun, & games for the entire family!
- (TBD) **Knights of Columbus Chili Supper**
- 11-11-15 **Spaghetti Supper** - St. Mary's iconic event; Spaghetti Supper #54
- 11-13-15 **Veteran's Day Program** - All veterans & their families are invited to be recognized in a special way!
- 01-31-16 **Pancake Breakfast and Open House** - Enjoy breakfast and tour the school!
- 02-03-16 **Evening Open House**
Prospective families are invited to tour the school and meet the teachers.
- 02-06-16 **Celebration of Gifts** - Join us at our largest fundraiser of the year for dinner & silent auction bidding!
- 03-12-16 **First Reconciliation** - Please remember our 2nd graders in your prayers!
- 04-16-16 **Art from the Heart**
Art and hors d' oeuvres, a lively event in support of the SMS art program!
- 04-23-16 **First Communion** - Please remember our 3rd graders in your prayers!



For more information about any of the events above, please visit stmarycp.org/school and see the Home & School page or simply call our office at 663-0676



Alumni

Are you one of the one billion facebook users on the planet? Did you attend St. Mary Catholic Community School? If the answers are "yes" be sure to visit St. Mary's very own facebook page: St. Mary's School CP Alumni. You will find hundreds of photos from your grade school days all organized by the decade. Some go back as far as 1918. If you have old St. Mary's photos that you would like to share, please feel free to email them to truiz@stmarycp.org or simply bring them to our school office to be scanned. Nearly 900 St. Mary's alumni have "liked" the page and that number continues to grow. Check it out and take a walk down memory lane today!



St. Mary

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

405 E. Joliet St.

Crown Point, IN 46307

Phone: (219) 663-0676

www.stmarycp.org/school

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