



PARENT NEWSLETTER

January 2009

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

Volume I, Issue V

Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises; thank You for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for us, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew our commitment to follow Your Son Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for us, a time to cherish our family and friends, a time to renew our efforts at work, a time to embrace our faith more fully.

Walk with us, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through us, in spite of our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.

Amen.



Happy New Year

I am writing to you at the beginning of a New Year, a time when it is useful to reflect on the past, as well as look forward to the future. I would like to thank everyone for a tremendous beginning to my first school year at St. Mary High School. I can hardly believe that the year is half over, and I look forward to a wonderful second half. With the close of second quarter drawing near, we are about to enter our midterm examination period. Please be sure to take some time with your student and discuss their plans to prepare for these exams and how important it is to study for them, as they will account for 10% of their final grade. For your convenience there is a complete schedule of exams included on page two of this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy 2009. I have much enjoyed my time with your and your families and look forward to our future together.

Sincerely,

Nichole D. Nietsche

Principal

Catholic Schools Week

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2009

celebrates Catholic schools and community service.

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally the last

week in January, this year Jan. 25-31. The logo for the

observance shows the words "Celebrate Service" and

hands reaching out and surrounding a globe. The "t" in

the word celebrate is formed as a cross. The 2009 theme

links to a recently completed NCEA initiative, "Birthday Blessings for Pope Benedict."

During the pope's April 2008 visit to the United States, Catholic youth were asked to pledge hours of community service to honor the pope's 81st birthday. By the end of the campaign, more than 2 million hours of service were pledged. Three Catholic school students representing Catholic youth nationwide had the opportunity to deliver the pledged hours personally to Pope Benedict during a private moment at the Vatican Embassy, where the pope stayed during his Washington, D.C., visit.



Important Dates

January 1st—New Year's Day (No School)
 January 5th—Christmas Vacation Ends
 January 19th—M.L.K. Jr. Day (No School)
 January 20th—23rd—Midterm Examinations
 January 22nd—March for Life
 January 24th—Catholic Schools Mass
 January 24th—Catholic Schools / Falcons Night
 Jan. 26th—Jan. 31st—Catholic Schools Week
 February 6th—Winter Semi-Formal
 February 14th—Wine Tasting
 The Week of Feb. 16th—February Vacation

From the Guidance Department

Financial Aid Process—Seniors attending college in 2009 need to complete the FAFSA form to be considered for Pell Grants, Work Study, and other financial aid. All college-bound seniors are encouraged to submit their FAFSA form regardless of financial status. Students should apply on-line for their PIN now at fafsa.ed.gov. It is suggested that parents compile and file their 2008 income tax forms as quickly in January as possible. If you need assistance in this process, please contact Mrs. White.

College Applications for Seniors—The guidance department encourages seniors to have their college admission applications submitted to them immediately. Please make sure a check or money order is made payable to the college for the admissions fee, and that the application is signed and complete.

College Scholarships—Please contact the guidance department for a list of available scholarships and applications. In addition, the internet is also a great resource for scholarships and financial aid information. Students should notify us of all scholarships and awards received.

College Planning Book—Mrs. White has been working to create a *College Planning Handbook*. This book will be ready for distribution in the late winter / early spring and will prove to be a valuable resource for current eleventh graders as they begin their college planning.

The College Planning Process for 11th Graders—The guidance department has started to meet with current juniors to introduce the college planning process. These meetings will continue throughout the winter.

Midterm Examinations

Midterm Examinations are scheduled for the week of January 19, 2009. The exam schedule is as follows:

	<u>8:00 Exam</u>	<u>10:00 Exam</u>
Tuesday the 20th	Period One	Period Two
Wednesday the 21st	Period Three	Period Four
Thursday the 22nd	Period Five	Period Six
Friday the 23rd	Period Seven	Makeup Exams

Any students missing a midterm should schedule an appointment to make up the exam with their teacher. Students attending the March for Life must make arrangements to take their midterm examinations BEFORE the trip. Students who have not fulfilled this obligation will be ineligible to attend.

Please contact the school if you have additional questions.

Thank You

The Saint Mary Community wishes to extend our thanks for your part in making our Win/Win lottery a success. We not only met, but exceeded our goal!!! Thank you for your support of St. Mary High School and Catholic Education.

Midterm Exam Exemption Program

As a way of recognizing the academic achievements of its students, STMHS has instituted a program to benefit those students who maintain a GPA of 3.30 or better. The guidelines for this program are:

- a. 3.30 or better GPA
- b. A or A- in each term grade or exam
- c. Teacher permission
- d. No more than 3 tardies per quarter
- e. No B or less in any term grade is eligible for exam exemption

Exam exemptions are as follows:

Freshmen—no midterm exemption, one final exam exemption

Sophomore—One midterm exemption and one final exam exemption.

Junior—Two midterm exemptions and two final exam exemptions

Senior: Two midterm exemptions and three final exam exemptions.

All exemptions must be teacher approved. If you are exempted from a midterm exam you are ineligible to be exempt for that same final exam.

Catholic Schools Night with the Falcons

Saturday, January 24th 2009

Catholic School's Night with the
Springfield Falcons

6:00 pm Doors Open

7:00 Game



Come and show your Saint Mary High School spirit at the second annual *Catholic Schools Night with the Springfield Falcons*.

Represent Saint Mary High School, cheer on our local team, and be present as our National Honor Society officers are recognized on the red carpet.

Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Auld Lane Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

We twa hae run about the braes,
An pou'd the gowans fine
But we've wander'd mony a weary itt,
Sin' auld lang syne

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd,
Sin' auld lang syne

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right gude will ye,
For auld lang syne

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

“LIGHTING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE”

St. Mary High School

27 Bartlett Street
Westfield, MA 01085

Phone: 413-568-5692

Fax: 413-562-3501

E-mail: admin@stmaryhs.com

Visit us on the web...

www.stmaryhs.com

Trivia Night

Saturday, January 10, 2009

Starts at 6:30

St. Mary High School, Westfield

Teams—Minimum of 4 Players

Maximum of 10 Players

\$10.00 Per Player

Beer and Wine will be available for purchase.

Please bring your own snacks.

Call Andy Hunter – (413) 527-5249

Reserve your table today!

From the Advancement Office

Are you a Florence Savings Bank customer or know someone who is? If so, the Advancement Office can use your help. The Customer's Choice Community Grant Program allows Florence Savings Bank customers to vote for an organization of his/her choice to receive up to \$5000.00 in grant money. We are asking you to vote for St. Mary's Schools Advancement program if you are a customer. If we are granted any money it will be distributed evenly between the two schools. If you would like to nominate us, please contact Kristin Hagen (413) 568-1160 or go to the bank's website: www.florencesavings.com to cast your vote! Thank you.

March For Life – Washington, DC

Our school will once again be sponsoring a trip to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life. This demonstration is held each year on January 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Those who are attending will leave the night before and travel overnight by bus. Once they have arrived in Washington, participants will attend a Mass at the MCI Center with about 15,000 other young people. After Mass, they will join a quarter million others who will peacefully march on the National Mall. Following the march, they will board the bus and arrive back in Massachusetts around midnight. Since January 22nd falls during mid-term exams this year, students who go on the trip will work out a schedule with their teachers so that all exams are completed before January 22nd. Any junior or senior interested in attending the march is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lepage at rlpage@stmaryhs.com.

Constant Contact® Email Service

In the next month our school will begin using Constant Contact®, an online email service, in order to send notices to parents such as the monthly newsletter. This will allow the school to save hundreds of dollars in postage throughout the year, and become more eco-friendly. If your email address is in our Edline system you have been automatically signed up. If not, you can email Mr. Lepage at rlpage@stmaryhs.com in order to join. Since this is a professional email service, if you choose not to receive emails from Saint Mary's, there is an unsubscribe link in every message sent. Also, we have created different lists so that emails are sent only to those parents that are affected by the notice. For example, an email explaining the senior retreat will only be sent to parents of seniors. Along with Edline® and ConnectEd®, we're hoping our use of Constant Contact® will further ease communication between school and home. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lepage.