

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 2010

VOLUME 2, ISSUE VI

From the Desk of Mrs. Nietzsche

Dear Parents / Guardians:

It's hard to believe that we are over halfway through the school year and have entered the season of Lent. In preparation for Easter we will be asking our students to make small sacrifices. As you read this month's newsletter you will find many ways in which a student can make a small sacrifice toward the betterment of others. Maybe it is bringing in pennies for Pennies for Patience, or filling a rice bowl with spare change in memory of Thomas Awiapo's struggles, or perhaps, volunteering time at the soup kitchen or through the Kiwanis Club may be more appropriate. Whatever it is that your son or daughter do, please be there to support them in their mission and to commend them on their offering of self.

Blessings,

Mrs. Nichole D. Nietzsche

Principal

St. Mary High School

Springfield National College Fair



Sunday, March 7, 2010
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
The Big E

Register at
www.gotomyncf.com

Learn all you need about
your after high school
options in 90 minutes.

Athletic Physicals School Physicals



All athletes are required to have a current physical on file. Athletes who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to practice or play until the necessary paperwork has been completed. Mrs. Sue Malloy from Dr. Kenia's office will be at the school on Monday, March 8th to complete physicals for those students who need them. Please contact the school to make an appointment.

Dr. Taylor will be available to give physicals for the 2010-2011 school year on Wednesday, June 2nd from 8am - 12pm. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Marcia Pelli at the high school.

Spring Musical Bells are Ringing



St. Mary High School Drama
Presents:

Bells are Ringing

March 11, 12, & 13 @ 7:30
STM High School Gym

\$10 Adults
\$5 Seniors and Students

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Week Ending Feb. 5, 2010



John Ference
Basketball

Week Ending Feb. 12, 2010



Jeanette Peretti
Basketball

Week Ending Feb. 19, 2010
No Athlete Selected

Week Ending Feb. 19, 2010



Drew Malloy
Hockey

Week Ending Feb. 26, 2010



Steven DeMont
Hockey

From the Guidance Department

Financial Aid Process - Seniors attending college in 2010 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 2009 income tax forms as quickly in as possible. If you need assistance in this process, please contact Mr. Hourihan.

College Acceptances - Seniors, please do not forget to stop in to guidance and let Mr. Hourihan or Mrs. Jaszek know of your college acceptances and any scholarships that you have received.

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.

Juniors (SAT) - Juniors, please register online at collegeboard.com as soon as possible for the May 1, 2010 SAT. If you have any questions or need assistance, stop into the guidance office.

Information on FACTS Tuition Aid is now available. Applying online is fast and convenient and can be done now. Paper applications will not be available until January. Diocesan Aid is available for qualifying, participating Catholics. To be eligible you must be a registered, contributing member of a parish. Diocesan financial assistance is based upon need. To receive the maximum benefit, applications must be completed by MARCH 15, 2010. If you feel that you have a greater need than the Diocese or

your parish can provide, St. Mary High School has financial aid available. If you are interested in applying for aid from the school, please send a copy of your completed Diocesan Aid form to the school. If you are not Catholic, and therefore not applying for Diocesan Aid you may still qualify for STMHS Aid. Please send a copy of your W2 forms to the school for evaluation. If you have additional ques-

tions, please contact the Business Office directly at 413-568-5692.

IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING ON SUBMITTING YOUR FACTS FORM ONLINE, PLEASE REQUEST THE PAPERWORK FROM THE SCHOOL ASAP.

Also, STMHS Financial Aid forms are available and should be completed by Mar. 15, 2010.

From the Desk of Mrs. Sue Turrini

WORLD YOUTH DAY—MADRID SPAIN

World Youth Day 2011 will be held in Madrid, Spain. Pilgrimage leaders will be our own Fr. Brian, Patti Monroe (St. Mary's, Longmeadow), and Sr. Eunice Tassone (Church Outreach to Youth Center). The price per person in a twin bed is \$1895*. The itinerary for the trip is as follows:

- Aug. 8 - Depart New York on transatlantic flight to Barcelona (meals in flight)
- Aug. 9 - Arrival, meet tour escort for tours, etc.
- Aug. 10 - Barcelona/Montserrat/Barcelona
- Aug. 11 - Barcelona
- Aug. 12 - Barcelona/Zaragoza (Days in the Diocese)
- Aug. 12 - Aug. 15 - Zaragoza (Days in the Diocese)
- Aug. 15 - Zaragoza/Madrid
- Aug. 15 - Aug. 21 - Madrid World Youth Day Event
- Aug 22 - Madrid/New York

For more information please contact:
Fr. Brian McGrath
(413)562-5477

Community Service

Community Service Requirements - Community Service is a requirement for grade promotion and graduation from St. Mary High School. Please see the school handbook or your Theology teacher for specific requirements. An extraordinary amount of volunteer activities are available for our students. If you need some suggestions, please contact the school. Freshmen, remember that you must complete 30 hours - less than one hour a week, every week of the school year is all that you need to fulfill this requirement. Thank you to those of you who have worked so diligently to serve our community.

Soup Kitchen - On the first Monday of each month our school has committed to preparing and serving a meal at The Community Table in Westfield. During the previous school year 130 of our volunteers provided a meal for 612 people.

Dates for the remainder of the year are: April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, and August 12th.

Kiwanis Auction - The Key Club will be volunteering their time at the Kiwanis Auction at the beginning of March. Students who are not interested in joining Key Club, but looking for Community Service hours are welcome to join us. Please see Mrs. Schweitzer for more information.

Pennies for Patience - Key Club is collecting spare pennies for Pennies for Patience sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Operation Rice Bowl - On Tuesday, February 2, 2010, students listened to Thomas Awiapo of Ghana discuss the hardships and tragedy that he encountered growing up in Ghana. Thomas credits his survival to Operation Rice Bowl and now works on behalf of Catholic Relief Services encouraging others to support relief services. Awiapo, also spoke to students at Holyoke Catholic. Our schools have decided to take part in a friendly competition to see who can get the most donations to the rice bowls. Please support us by giving some spare change.

Eleventh Annual Spring Auction

*Spring is coming – and so is our auction/raffle! Please pay attention to the change of date. This year the auction will be held on **Saturday, March 27th**. The amazing annual event is in its 11th year and we are hoping to make it the most successful year yet!*



We truly strive for one hundred percent participation. Aside from the Win/Win this is our only other significant fundraiser and our budget depends upon it. We are looking for not only your participation, but your ideas as well!

Please let us know what you would like to donate – from a small raffle item to a big ticket item – anything and everything is what makes this wonderful event special! Plan to come – and bring friends!

Taking a green approach to fundraising we try to come up with a fun way to reduce waste. Last year our green-themed area was “Take a Seat”, where older chairs and benches were given a facelift. This year our theme is “Reuse, Reduce, Re-gift”. We will have special area set up with donated BRAND NEW re-gifted items. One person’s trash just might be another’s treasure. Do you have items that have been in your closet for sometime? Please send them our way.

SAVE THE DATE

May 6th 2010



STMHS SPORTS BANQUET

The annual Sports Banquet will be held at St. Mary High School in the gymnasium. This alcohol-free event will be locally catered and commend our student athletes and coaches for a job well done.

Notable Sports Accomplishments

Congratulations to Senior, John Ference for scoring his 1000th point in Basketball. We are proud of you and of a job well done.

Congratulations to Senior, J.R. Hughes for becoming the all-time leading scorer in St. Mary Ice – Hockey.

Congratulations to Senior, Sara Barnes and Freshman, Jeanette Peretti for being honored at the Girls & Women in Sports Day held at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Mary High School, serving Westfield and the surrounding communities for over 100 years, is to educate our students in a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum. Through a demanding academic program, students are challenged to reach their highest potential. Guided by the Gospel message and supported by parents, students are prepared in matters of faith and moral development. We value a caring and diverse community environment, inspiring students to mature into responsible young people.

“Lighting the way to the future”



St. Mary High School

27 Bartlett Street
Westfield, MA
413.568.5692

On the web at
www.stmaryhs.com

From the Desk of Mrs. Kimberlee Jaszek *Director of Admissions and Recruitment*

Are you the parent of an eighth grade student looking for an excellent high school experience? We are now accepting registrations for prospective freshmen. Not only do we provide students with a prestigious college preparatory education, including Advanced Placement courses, extra-curriculars, and top-notch athletics, but also 98% of our graduates choose to continue their education. We have the lowest tuition rate of any regional parochial high and are committed to remaining affordable for our families. Come see why St. Mary High School students ‘Light the way to the Future’.

Log on to www.stmaryhs.com or email Kim Jaszek at kjaszek@stmaryhs.com for more information.

A Note on the Annual Catholic Appeal

Dear Members of the St. Mary High School Community:

I am writing to ask your support for the 2010 *Annual Catholic Appeal*. The purpose of the appeal is to provide for the ever-increasing educational, human, pastoral, and spiritual needs of the people of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties.

Presently, over 4,400 students in Western Massachusetts attend Catholic Elementary schools, pre-k - 8th grade, and nearly 1,300 students attend Catholic High Schools. In addition to those attending Catholic Schools, more than 30,000 students from grades K-12 participate in parish-based religious education activities in the Diocese of Springfield. These students are taught by more than 1,800 catechists trained by the Diocese.

It is your support of the *Appeal* that enables our church to implement and administer these and other critical services in a comprehensive framework in order to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. The *Appeal* is critical to the success of Catholic Education in our Diocese. It is essential to remember that youth and young adults are the future of our Church and it should be our priority to provide them with outstanding opportunities for education and faith formation.

I invite you to make a gift of financial support to the *Annual Catholic Appeal*. Your generosity will greatly benefit not only our students, but students across the Diocese.

May God Bless you and your families.

Respectfully,

Nichole D. Nietsche
Principal
St. Mary High School