

PARENT NEWSLETTER

November 2008

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

Volume I, Issue II

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, so much has been bestowed upon us. We lack for little and yet yearn for so much. Continue to teach us to appreciate what we have. Help us to give generously and freely of our bounty. We offer thanks for all that has been granted to us, and we express our oneness as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us...

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.
And lead us not, into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.
Amen



With Thanks

The initial Thanksgiving feast, held in 1621, was really a traditional English harvest celebration. The Pilgrims shared their bounty with the Native Americans because they had taught the colonists to plant and hunt. Without the Native Americans, the colonists might not have survived the harsh winter.



To us, Thanksgiving has become a holiday where family and friends gather to reminisce, share food, and give thanks for all of the blessings that we have been given. At Saint Mary we are exceptionally blessed to be able to work in an environment that enables children to grow in their Catholic faith. I feel personally blessed to be able to be part of a community where a strong partnership exists between students, parents, and school staff. I strongly believe that our Catholic school creates a supportive and challenging climate which affirms the dignity of all persons. We are a unique, faith-centered community which integrates thinking and believing in ways that encourage intellectual growth, nurture faith, and inspire action.

Meister Eckhart, the German Theologian said, "If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you', that would suffice." This Thanksgiving I am not only thankful for my faith, family, and health, but also for the opportunity to serve the Saint Mary community. May God bless your families with health, love, and abundant joy this holiday season.

Nichole Nietsche

Principal

A Warm St. Mary's Welcome to Sue Turrini

While it was sad to see Shelly Miller leave her position as Business Manager after nearly seven years, the Saint Mary's community is happy to welcome Sue Turrini to the position. Sue received her A.S. in Business Administration from Holyoke Community College, a B.S. in Business with a concentration in Marketing from North Adams State College and her M.B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Western New England College. Mrs. Turrini is the mother of Steven and Jeff, both Saint Mary students, and a younger daughter named Jenna. Sue will be splitting her time between both Saint Mary High School and Saint Mary Elementary school. You can reach her by calling (413) 568-5962 ext. 12.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- November 1st - Pasta Supper
- November 3rd—Wfld. Soup Kitchen
- November 4th—Prof. Day (No School)
- November 5th—Open House (6:30)
- November 7th & 8th—Fall Plays
- Nov. 11th—Veteran’s Day (No School)
- November 12th—WinWin Lottery Sale Begins
- November 15th—Placement Test
- November 22nd & 23rd—Holly Days Craft Fair
- November 26th—November 30th
- Thanksgiving Recess

UP-COMING**COLLEGE VISITS**

- Monday the 3rd—St. Joseph’s College, Maine
- Wednesday the 5th—Johnson and Wales
University
- Thursday the 6th—Westfield State College
- Friday the 7th—Salve Regina University

The College Application Process

Seniors are reminded that they should turn completed college applications in to the Guidance Office. Mr. Hourihan, Mrs. Jaszek, and Mrs. White are there to assist you in the process. We are beginning to meet with Juniors to discuss their plans for next year. If you have any questions, please speak to anyone in the guidance office.

Parent— Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on November 4th from 1:00–3:00 pm. All conferences are on a first come / first served basis. If your child’s teacher is busy we ask that you remain in the hall until he or she is available. If you believe that you need a lengthy conference, please call Mr. Hourihan in guidance to make alternative arrangements.

Win / Win Raffle Fundraiser

The Win/Win Raffle starts November 17th and will run through December 19th.

This drawing is one of the two major fundraisers for our school. The purchase of a raffle ticket will support Saint Mary High School’s pursuit in financially balancing the academic, social, and extra-curricular programs for our students.

Donation—\$5.00 per ticket

Drawing Site—Saint Mary High School

\$5000.00 Total Cash Prizes!

These tickets make great gifts and stocking stuffers. If each student sells four books we will earn \$30,000 profits for our school. Together we can do this!!!

Reminder

Physical examination forms were due to the main office before the start of the school year. We are still trying to track down these forms from a large number of students. If you have not turned in your form it is imperative that this be done immediately. All forms should be returned to Mrs. Ritchie in the main office.

Holly Days Craft Fair

The Holly Days Craft fair will be held on Saturday, November 22nd & Sunday, November 23rd. Volunteers are needed to help out at the event. This year we will have a “Homemade Table” with baked goods, food items, or anything home made. If you are interested in volunteering your time to work at the table, or are willing to make an item to contribute, please contact Mrs. Patty Schweitzer at the school.

From our Theology Classes

The members of the senior class made a novena to Mary during the month of October to pray for guidance and direction in making decisions regarding college. They prayed a decade of the rosary each day for nine consecutive days.

The entire school was treated to a talk on religious vocations. The boys heard about the life of the priest from Fr. Gary Dailey, diocesan director of vocations, and the girls heard about the life of a religious sister from Sister Mary Ferguson.

Our school community gathered in prayer for a greater respect for human life. This service was led by Father Jim Longe, the new associate pastor of Saint Mary Parish. It was held in conjunction with the Forty Days of Life Campaign and sponsored by the Respect Life Club.

During the month of November, our school will have a book of remembrance in the theology classrooms to remember those who have died. Students will be able to write names into it throughout the month as we pray each day for their deceased loved ones.

Drama Club

Our Drama Club will present two one-act comedies at 7:00pm on November 7th and 8th. We have about fifty students involved in the productions. Tickets will be available at the door and are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. "Whodunit" is a murder mystery, but the audience is given the ending at the beginning of the play so they can watch the action unfold. "Paper or Plastic?" is the story of the many interesting characters encountered by a high school girl after getting her first job at a grocery store.

Mark your calendars for our spring musical production of "Bye Bye Birdie" on March 12th, 13th & 14th.

Community Service—Soup Kitchen

Members of Saint Mary High School serve at the Westfield Soup Kitchen, located on Meadow Street, on the first Monday of each month at 4:00am. We prepare and serve dinner to approximately sixty guests, usually finishing at approximately 5:30 pm. We are always looking for volunteers. Students and parents are more than welcome to help us with this year-round, monthly commitment of our school. For more information, contact Mrs. Patty Schweitzer or Mr. Robert Lepage.

Saint Vincent de Paul Food Drive

We have started our food drive and this year have selected Saint Vincent de Paul. If you can spare some non-perishable food items please consider contributing. Items can be brought to the school in left in Mrs. Sue Salvas' classroom. We thank you in advance for your contributions.

JUST A REMINDER:

FOOD CERTIFICATES

(STOP & SHOP, BIG

Y & NORTH ELM

BUTCHER BLOCK)

MAY BE PURCHASED

AT THE SCHOOL ON

THURSDAYS.



“LIGHTING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE”

Open House

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

Attention all prospective freshmen: The high school will host an Open House on the 5th of November at 6:30 pm. The mission of Saint 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. We have the lowest tuition rate of any regional parochial high school, and 98% of our graduates continue their education in college. Come see why St. Mary High School students “LIGHT THE WAY TO THE FUTURE”.

Ten \$1000.00 scholarships will be awarded to in-coming freshmen. You must be present to win. One scholarship will be awarded to a student from each of the nine Parochial 8th grades, as well as an additional scholarship to a prospective student from the public school 8th grade.

Log on to www.stmaryhs.com for more information.

Annual Parish Sponsored Ski Trip

Can you believe that Winter is coming? One good thing about Winter is St. Mary Parish's annual Ski / Snowboard trip to Sunday River. This year, the trip will take place from Wednesday, February 18th–Saturday, February 21st 2009. Four wonderful days in up in the White Mountains, carving up the seven mountains that make up Sunday River! Every morning there will be a huge breakfast, then it is off to the slopes for a day of skiing. For those who do not ski, there is time to be spent on the sledding slopes or hanging out in the lodge. When we get back to the *Town and County Inn*, we will have Mass and dinner. After dinner there will be plenty of time for the indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi and arcade. Once again, we will be taking a *King Ward* luxury bus ride up and back, as well as to and from the mountain. This trip has been purposely scheduled for February vacation with the hopes that whole families will join us. High School, Junior High, and older youths without parents, as well as adults or parents without children are also welcome.

\$350.00 Triple Occupancy

\$390.00 Double Occupancy

Non-skier / 5 and under—\$135.00 discount (18 and over please add \$30.00 more)

Application forms are available at the rectory or the school's main office. \$80.00 deposit to reserve your spot. \$200.00 due January 1st. Full payment due January 15th.

Join us for some fun and adventure.

From the Athletic Dept.

While it is not yet the Winter season, Mr. Collins, Athletic Director, has been working non-stop to promote our new Girl's Lacrosse team. Ladies, if you are interested in this sport and plan to sign up, please email Mr. Collins at: m.collins@schoolsofwestfield.org.

Additionally, he has been working to promote the Girl's Softball Team. He truly believes that we have the talent to compete if the interest is there. Please contact him if you might like to play.

Magical Evening of Giving

The Athletic Department's Magical Evening of Giving Ticket Sale will come to an end on November 14th. All remaining tickets and money is due back to Mr. Collins on this day. If you are still interested in purchasing a ticket please see any student athlete for information.

Tickets are valid for Sunday, November 23rd from 6:00–9:30 pm.

The mall is open exclusively to ticket holders. Additional savings are available at participating stores. Tickets may be used to enter numerous raffles with prizes including a \$1000.00 mall gift certificate.