

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

October 2008

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

Volume I, Issue II

## Prayer in Autumn for Country Living

Good and generous Lord, You have once again brought the year full circle through planting and growing and ripening to harvest time and autumn.

Dear God, help us to use Your rich gifts as You want us to. Teach us to share them with our neighbor when he is in need. Make us see, in the marvelous succession of seasons, and in the growth and ripening of our crops, the merciful, generous hand of Your divine providence.

Help us to realize, too, that if we keep Your commandments and live according to the inspirations of Your grace, we shall also reap a plentiful harvest in the autumn of our lifetime: a harvest that we will be able to enjoy forever and ever, where no rust can destroy, nor blight spoil any least part of it.  
Amen.



## Autumn Greetings



Nathaniel Hawthorne said, "There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October." Not only does the season produce a pleasant effect on our feelings and play with our senses, but it also reminds us of the ever-changing power of life.

Many wonderful and exciting changes are happening as we enter the fall season at St. Mary High School. We welcome Father Jim Longe to our community. Fr. Longe has been assigned to work with Fr. Brian at St. Mary's Parish and we are anxious for him to become a part of our family as well.

We have just completed our first annual *Freshmen / Senior Week* and our student counsel is working to plan our first Pep Rally which will take place in Mid-October. We recognize that our students are playing hard on the field and working hard in the classroom. Our Respect For Life Club is working to prepare our *40 Days for Life* prayer service, while our Community Service Club has been hard at work on the Soup Kitchen, Ray of Hope Walk for Breast Cancer, and the Good Will Clothing Drive. Please take a moment to ask your son or daughter about all of the exciting things which they have taken part in over the last couple of weeks. I am certainly proud of our students and I am sure that you will be as well.

Sincerely,

Nichole D. Nietzsche

## 40 Days for Life Prayer Service

This fall, from September 24th–November 2nd of 2008, the Catholic community will be uniting for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history—the nationwide *40 Days for Life* campaign. People of faith are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion.

The campaign, which has generated measurable lifesaving results in more than thirty cities where it has been implemented, is made up of these components:

Prayer and Fasting—inviting people of faith throughout our community to join together in prayer for an end to abortion.

Community Outreach—taking a positive, upbeat, pro-life message.

In celebration of this campaign, St. Mary High School has invited Fr. Jim Longe of St. Mary Parish, to unite us in a prayer service on October 31, 2008.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

OCTOBER 9TH—PICTURE RETAKES  
 OCTOBER 23RD—HARVEST DANCE  
 OCTOBER 24TH—IN-SERVICE DAY  
 O  
 NOVEMBER 1ST—PASTA SUPPER  
 NOVEMBER 7TH & 8TH—FALL PLAY

**UP-COMING****COLLEGE VISITS**

October 3—Sacred Heart Univ.  
 October 6—Newbury College  
 October 8—UMass Amherst  
 October 9—WNEC  
 October 14—Holyoke Comm.  
 October 20—Elms College  
 October 24—Univ. S. NH  
 October 27—Stonehill College  
 October 29—SUNY Geneseo  
 October 30—Mt. Saint Mary  
 October 30—Lasell College  
 November 3—St. Joseph (Maine)  
 November 5—Johnson & Wales  
 November 6—Westfield State  
 November 7—Salve Regina

**SAT Information****Fall 2008 SAT Prep Course**

Westfield State College is hosting a preparation course for the December 7th SAT.

**Math:** Tuesdays, October 21st — December 2nd. (No class on Nov. 11th)

**Verbal:** Thursdays, October 23rd—December 4th. (No class on November 27th)6:30—9:00  
 Call community education if you have any questions (413) 572—8034.

Register by phone or by mail. Payment is due at the time of registration.

Students must register at least one week in advance.

**PSAT Registration Past Due**

PSAT registrations are past due. This test is required for all Juniors and **strongly encouraged** for all Sophomores. While the Sophomore's test results do not count, it is excellent opportunity for students to have practice, ease test anxiety and indicate whether a PSAT preparation course may be needed. If you have not yet registered, please contact Kimberlee Jaszek in the Guidance Office as soon as possible. The test will take place on Wednesday, October 15, 2008.

**Performing Arts Club**

The Drama Club is pleased to announce their selection of two one-act plays for the fall performance that will take place on November 7th & 8th.

*Paper or Plastic* is a zany comedy revolving around the experiences that checkout clerk Sarah will experience at her first job. With an assistant Manager who refuses to deal with unruly customers, crazy customers, a mysterious cowboy, and grocery cart hunters, Sarah is having a hard time getting to the heart of the matter: paper or plastic?

In *Whodunit* the detectives may not know who the killer is, but the audience sure does! An announcer presents the real facts, while the audience watches the experts as they struggle to solve the murder. Is it the butler? Is it Grandma?

Deserts will be sold during the intermission. Won't you come spend an evening with us that showcases our students talents?

St. Mary High School green & gold seat covers are for sale. If you are interested, please stop by the main office. They will also be for sale at the fall plays. All proceeds benefit the Drama Club.

## Community Service Club Hosts Goodwill Drive

Our Community Service Club will be hosting a clothing drive for the Goodwill Industries from October 6, 2008–October 14, 2008. Students may bring in clothing to their homeroom. Goodwill Industries has served Western Massachusetts since 1902. Their programs enable thousands of people with disabilities and other barriers find and keep competitive jobs.

## Reminders from PIC

The annual Holly Days Craft Fair— November 22 & 23

The PIC bus trip to New Your City is Saturday, December 13, 2008, leaving from Westfield City Hall at 7:30am. The cost is \$35 per person. Seating is limited. Call to reserve your spot.

## First Annual St. Mary's Schools

### Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Save the date! St. Mary Schools, in collaboration with Barnes & Noble Holyoke, will be holding its first annual book fair on October 24, 2008, from 9am–11pm. A percentage of your Barnes and Noble purchases made that day will benefit our school. Activities have been planned for the day (story time with school “celebrities”, arts and crafts, game table with prizes, painting sugar pumpkins, musical performances, and additional “surprises” throughout the evening). Please join us. Have some fun and support your school in the process!

## From Admissions

Parents: If you have a child presently in 8th grade or you know of a relative or friend who will be entering high school in September of 2009, please make note of the following information.

Open House for prospective students and their families will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008. This is a great opportunity to meet our administration, faculty and staff, learn about financial aid, meet students presently attending St. Mary's as well as some of their parents, talk with our athletic director, coaches and athletes and enjoy some refreshments.

The placement test for prospective ninth grade students who are interested in attending St. Mary's will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 8:00. To register for the placement test, please call the school or email Kim Jaszek—[kjaszek@stmaryhs.com](mailto:kjaszek@stmaryhs.com).

Shadow days may be scheduled by calling the school. Visitors must be in proper dress and must adhere to all of St. Mary's rules and regulations.

### JUST A REMINDER:

#### FOOD CERTIFICATES

(STOP & SHOP, BIG

Y & NORTH ELM

BUTCHER BLOCK)

MAY BE PURCHASED

AT THE SCHOOL ON

THURSDAYS.

“THE MIND IS NOT A

VESSEL TO BE

FILLED, BUT A FIRE

TO BE KINDLED.”

PLUTARCH



## From the Advancement Office

St. Mary High School

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**Visit us on the web...**

**[www.stmaryhs.com](http://www.stmaryhs.com)**

The 2008–2009 school year is well underway and it is great to see the excitement in all of our students. It is remarkable to witness the pride they share in our schools. You have an opportunity to build and sustain the momentum of pride. As we begin the 2008–2009 Advancement Drive, we want to reach out to you to explain the importance of this drive and ask for support. Your gift adds incredible value to our school in many ways. Your gift builds quality by strengthening our academic programs; your gift helps to attract, retain and develop outstanding faculty; your gift makes a Saint Mary’s education attainable for those in need of tuition assistance; and your gift enhances our facilities, learning resources and libraries. You will receive an Advancement Drive Envelope shortly by mail. They are also available by calling the Advancement Office at 568–1160. Please be as generous to the drive as you possibly can. Your donation really does make a difference. We are grateful for your continued support.

Kristin Hagen

Advancement Director

## 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.

## Harvest Dance

The Harvest Dance will be held on Thursday, October 23rd from 7:00–11:00.

## Passive Alcohol Sensor

Passive Alcohol Sensor is a hand-held device used to detect the presence of alcohol in the breath and in the air. It’s important to note that this device, which comes in many shapes and sizes, does not measure the amount of alcohol that may be ingested; only its presence.

As a safety measure, intended to protect the health and well-being of our students, the Passive Alcohol Sensor will be utilized at school dances before students are allowed to enter. We believe that this is a reasonable way to guarantee that our students are sound as they arrive at the dances and are equally safe as they leave.

While we have been given no indication that drinking will occur at the dances or on school property, we recognize the temptations that adolescents are faced with and choose to be pro-active in responsibilities to our students and their families. We appreciate your willingness to continuing to support measures that safeguard our students.