

# ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME 2, ISSUE II

## *From the Desk of Mrs. Nietzsche*

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Allow me to begin by thanking all of you who attended our Back to School Night earlier this week. Many parents took advantage of the time set aside to meet teachers and speak with myself and Mr. Hourihan. I also extend my gratitude to Fr. Brian for his presence, our teachers for their commitment to their students, and our facilities department for making sure that our building was in tip-top shape for the evening.

The months to come will be busy with events in our building and in your homes. I ask that you pay attention to our ConnectEd one call system, the school web site, and any correspondence that is mailed home, so that you do not miss any important events or alerts. Finally, please remember to continue to check your son/daughter's grades on Edline. Our teachers take their professional responsibility seriously and understand the critical importance of ongoing communication with parents. As always, teachers are willing to confer with parents when needs arise. We will use all modes of communication available to us to provide information to you in order for you to stay involved in your child's education.

Maintaining a safe, orderly and positive learning environment is, as always, a very high priority. Feel free to contact the school with any comments or concerns that require clarification.

Sincerely,

Nichole D. Nietzsche

Principal

## *Open House*

Attention parents of Prospective Freshmen:

St. Mary High School will hold its open house on the 4th of November at 6:30pm. Students and their families will have the opportunity to learn why an education at St. Mary's is a gift. We have the lowest tuition rate of any regional parochial school, and traditionally 98% of our graduates will continue their education. We are proud to boast that for the last two years 100% of our graduates went on to college. To learn more about our challenging curriculum, AP courses, athletics, and extra-curricular activities, please join us at the open house.

Through a lottery, ten \$1000 scholarships will be awarded (one scholarship, per school represented). You must be present to win. Come see why St. Mary students continue to "Light the Way to the Future". Log on to [www.stmaryhs.com](http://www.stmaryhs.com) for more information.

## **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ PSAT - October 14th
- ◆ Open House - Nov. 4th
- ◆ Fall Play - Nov. 6th & 7th
- ◆ Placement Exam (Prospective Freshmen) - November 14th

## Summer Dress Code Ends on October 2nd



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**Pasta Supper** – Save the Date! Our famous pasta supper, hosted by the Saints hockey team, will be held on



November 14th at 5:00pm in the High School gym. Delicious spaghetti and meatballs will be prepared by (who else but) our Italian parishioners. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 thru 12. Under 5 is free! Proceeds to benefit STM hockey. For tickets please call the high school at 568-5692.

**Extra-curricular Activities**

Please encourage your son or daughter to join an extra-curricular activity. If he or she is not interested in any of these activities, encourage him or her to start a new one!

- \* Golf (co-ed)
- \* Men's / Women's Soccer
- \* Cross Country
- \* Men's / Women's Basketball
- \* Hockey (co-ed)
- \* Softball
- \* Baseball
- \* Men's / Women's LAX
  
- \* Respect Life Club
- \* NHS
- \* Community Service
- \* Key Club
- \* Ping Pong Club
- \* Debate Team
- \* Film Club
- \* Mountain Bike Club
- \* Book Club

*Stop & Shop and Big Y Bonus Bucks*

**Earn \$\$\$\$\$ and Supplies for our School with Groceries!**

Do you shop at Stop & Shop or Big Y? Then it is time to register your cards for the 09-10 school year! Here is how it works:

**Stop & Shop:** With A+ Bonus Bucks points accrue with each purchase if you use your **registered** Stop & Shop card. At the end of the school year, we are awarded a check to spend as needed. Last year we earned close to \$1,000 with only 23 registered participants. Imagine if everyone registered their card! Go online at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) and follow the prompts. Our school ID is 05193.

**Big Y:** With BIG Y Education Express, points are earned to get items such as computers, art supplies, sports equipment, etc. You can register your card at the customer service desk. Our school ID# is 6488.

We have our own customer service department! If you wish us to register your cards, please email [kjaszek@stmaryhs.com](mailto:kjaszek@stmaryhs.com) with your last name and card numbers. Be sure to include all numbers on the back of the card. Please join us in participating in these valuable programs for our school.

*College Planning Night*

St. Mary High School will be hosting a College Planning Night in the gymnasium on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. While the evening is open to all, parents (and students) of the Junior and Senior classes are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to attend. The evening will begin with an introduction to the college application process by Mr. Michael

Hourihan and Mrs. Kimberlee Jaszek. Guest speakers will include: Mr. Peter Miller (Director of Admissions, American International College), Mr. Harold Santiago (Director of Admissions, Holyoke Community College), Mr. Troy Davids (Financial Aid Officer, Elms College), Mr. Richard Lenfest, (Athletic Director, Westfield State College), Mr. David Kells (Counselor, St. Mi-

chael's College), Mr. Martin Gaudrault (former STM graduate currently attending WNEC).

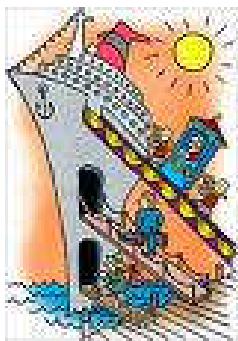
It is our hope that parents and students, no matter where they are in the selection or application process, will have an opportunity to have their questions and concerns addressed.

*Italy Trip*

Sign-ups are on-going for the trip to Italy in April. Father Brian (ordained in Rome in 1992), and Father Jonathan Reardon (recently ordained after studying for 4 years in Rome, current Pastor of St. Thomas Church in West Springfield) will be leading a 10 day pilgrimage to Rome (with masses at the tombs of St. Paul, St. Peter in Chains, St. Mary of the martyrs inside the Pantheon and the tomb of St. Peter), Orvieto (chapel of the True Presence), Assisi (birthplace of St. Francis and St. Claire), Bologna and Turin (where the Shroud will be on display). For more information and a registration form, check the main office of the high school, the main entrances of the church, or call the rectory. We will be having an informational meeting on 10/25, at 7pm, in the high school.

## Drama Department - Fall Production, Don't Rock the Boat

Are you ready for a cruise?  
Tired of autumn already?  
Our drama club proudly presents their fall production of "Drama and Desserts", featuring the play, Don't Rock the Boat, a comedy by Tim Kelly. This play takes place on a Caribbean cruise ship like no other, with a hilarious cast of crew and passengers. The production is sure to bring some light-hearted fun to your fall evening.



Save the Date

November 6th & 7th

7PM

St. Mary High School  
Gymnasium

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
BOOKSELLERS

St. Mary's schools will be hosting a book fair at Barnes and Noble, Holyoke, Thursday, October 29th and Friday, October 30th each day from 9am - 11pm. Enjoy various activities such as "story time" for little ones, crafts, music, game tables, and more.

A portion of your purchase will benefit our schools. We look forward to seeing you there.

## From the Desk of Mrs. Ritchie

A significant number of students have not turned in their consent forms for permission to photograph, internet usage, etc. These forms are past due and must be returned to the main office IMMEDIATELY. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### New York City

#### Bus Trip

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Leaving:

Westfield South Middle @  
7:00am

Departing NYC @ 7pm



Limited Seating - \$35 p/p

Contact Patty Schweitzer for more information or to reserve.

### Food Certificates

We sell food certificates for Stop & Shop, Big Y, and North Elm Butcher Block.

They cost no more than paying cash!

We keep track of the number of certificates you buy. In the December & June billing periods we credit 5% of your total gift certificates purchases towards your tuition bill. No one else benefits but you. Not only can you purchase the certificates, but sell them to friends and family too.

(Big Y has a 2% discount 10 months out of the year-we buy in bulk twice a year @5% to pass a larger savings on to you)

**Certificates are sold every Thursday\*.**

Call the school for more information.

*It is so easy.....*

**\*\*\* Due to scheduling conflicts, food certificates will only be sold on Thursdays. Orders can not be filled on other days of the week.**

### YEARBOOK ANNOUNCEMENT



Seniors must turn in all required materials to Ms. Salvas by October 9th. This includes, senior portrait selection, class wills, senior quote, and baby pictures. Due to strict deadlines this date **CANNOT BE EXTENDED**. Materials not received by October 9th **WILL NOT BE PRINTED IN THE YEARBOOK.**

Thank you for your timeliness and consideration on this very important matter.



**Join us for a bite to eat at Friendly's Night!**

Tuesday, October 20th

5pm - 8pm

Westfield Shops

20% of Friendly's profits will be donated to our schools.

Please join us, have a bite to eat, and support our schools.

**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”**



**Blankets**

**\$20**

**Now Available in the Advancement Office**

**Show your school spirit with a “Saints” blanket!**

These beautiful 4x6 blankets are hunter green with gold “saints” logo. Warm sweatshirt material blankets are durable and perfect to sit on while cheering on your favorite Saints team or for curling up with a good book at home. Blankets come with a detachable nylon handle for easy transportation and are machine washable.

Simply call Kristin Hagan at 568-1160.

***A Note from Kristin Hagan, St. Mary Advancement Office***

The 2009-2010 school year is underway and it is great to see the excitement in all of our students from PreK to Elementary to High School. It is remarkable to witness the pride they share in our schools. You have an opportunity to build and sustain this momentum of pride.

As we begin the 2009-2010 Advancement Drive I want to reach out to you, our high school parents, to explain the importance of this drive and ask for your support.

Your gift adds incredible value to STMHS 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 St. 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 in the back of the church or by calling my office at 568-1160. Please be as generous to the Advancement Drive as you possibly can. Every donation really does make a difference. We are grateful for your continued support.

Kristin Hagan

Advancement Director