Faith Formation

As our St. Mary’s youth begin their Faith Formation year in September, there are many events planned throughout the year. New instruction and programs are being implemented throughout the Faith Formation program. Our high school age students have several special initiatives planned throughout the year. Those include two visits to the Beacon of Hope Shelter in Fort Dodge where a meal will be served to the men at the shelter. Another special project for high school students is to prepare welcome meals for St. Mary’s parishioners who are newly registered parishioners, families who have new babies, those who are sick including people going through chemotherapy. Students will prepare ﬁre meals for these people and families.

Students in Grades 7 - 12 are partnering with Meals from the Heartland and parishioner Jan Goche. Students will assemble meals for locals in need. The meals will consist of a Meals from the Heartland packet combined with ingredients to enhance the ﬂavor and make various casseroles. Adding the ingredients turns the meal into a more tasteful dish. This is a hands on lesson on the Corporal Works of Mercy. What a great way to teach students to be involved in their community. These meals will be distributed through the St. Mary’s food pantry.

Each year, we send a care package to our recently graduated St. Mary’s high school seniors who are now away at college. We anticipate sending approximately 35 packages to our youth. What a great way to support our young Catholics!

Saint Mary’s Legacy Society honors those who have included St. Mary’s in their estate plans. We thank and recognize those who choose to honor St. Mary’s through a legacy gift. An event was held on August 15th that provided fellowship for parishioners and to discuss ways to leave an estate gift for St. Mary’s. St. Mary’s parishioners Tony Christensen and Bruce Nelson shared stories and examples for leaving a legacy gift. Stories and examples were shared including tax-savings advantages for beneﬁciaries for some assets to be directed to charities rather than to family. St. Mary’s plans to host another event in the coming months.

If you have included St. Mary’s in your estate plans, please contact the Parish Ofﬁce to let us know your intentions. You will be welcomed into the St. Mary’s Legacy Society where we plan to gather annually to say thank you to those who intend to remember St. Mary’s through their long-term plans. Estate gifts can be given as unrestricted gifts to support the greatest need at the time of the gift or they can be given to speciﬁc areas such as tuition assistance, endowment fund, building improvements or other areas.

Stevensburg National Youth Conference

My name is Madison Frideres and this was my third and ﬁnal year going to Steubenville. Steubenville is an amazing opportunity to be surrounded by thousands of other youth who are growing in their relationship with Christ. Everyone is growing by participating in prayer, adoration, reconciliation, and the Eucharist. Through these events we see many different emotions among each other, all because of the love for Jesus and the realization that he is among us. It is so uplifting to see this and to be surrounded by so many priests, religious sisters, deacons, and even bishops. This year the topic was REVEALED and we were told that God is always trying to reveal himself to us. He wants us to show him the generous love that he has for us. The speakers talked to us about important topics that were applicable to our lives. Archbishop Peter Wells celebrated MASS on the Sunday morning and his homily was about how all we have the desire to be chosen, whether it be for a team, a club, a job, etc., but God always chooses us every time to be holy. From another speaker, Rachel Leininger, we learned that the suffering that we all undergo can lead us back to Jesus and give us opportunity to really experience his grace. Lastly, my favorite speech was given by Jason Evert. He talked to everyone about relationships and the meaning of true friendship. At this point in our lives it is very hard to ﬁnd, but true friendship is the most important. The youth relationships should change you for the better and help you become more of yourself. I am blessed to have been given this opportunity to attend this conference for three years. Thank you, Saint Mary’s Parish and Don Evans for making this trip possible for all of us. I recommend everyone who is able, to attend and see what it is all about. It is a great opportunity to grow in your faith and become closer to Christ on a whole new level.
Our first ever alumni reunion was held September 21-22 at St. Mary’s. We plan to hold our next alumni reunion in conjunction with St. Mary School’s 100th anniversary, which will be in 2020. Our first successful alumni reunion included alumni from Phoenix, Arizona, Des Moines, former teachers and a 93 year old alumnus! Thank you, alumni!

Alumni Spotlight

Each issue of The Bells of St. Mary’s, we feature an alumnus of St. Mary School. This issue’s Alumni Spotlight is Patricia Hamand. Patricia helped to plan and organize the September Alumni Reunion. Thank you for your support of St. Mary School and for helping to plan a successful reunion!

Name: Patricia Hamand
Family: Two children, Matthew, 25, and Kathryn 23. I also have one granddaughter, Kennedy, who is 2-1/2.
Occupation: Quality Assurance Specialist – Nationwide Insurance
Current town: Altoona, Iowa
What years did you attend St. Mary School? 1968 – 1976 (1st – 8th)
What is a favorite memory from your days at St. Mary School? In 7th grade, our class was putting pins on each other’s chairs. There was one classmate who was the most guilty at doing this. We finally got him back, during Religion class no less. He didn’t even think about checking his chair to make sure there were no pins (we all got very good at this), and he sat down hard. His mouth went wide open and he couldn’t say a word. Pretty sure Sister George knew what was going on as she quickly excused herself from the classroom. The minute she left, the entire classroom broke out in laughter. The culprit will remain anonymous, but to this day, I can still picture his face!

List three words to describe St. Mary School. Family, respectful, fun
What advice would you give to students who are attending St. Mary School? Always remember to be humble and kind.

Alumni Reunion September 21-22

Our first ever alumni reunion was held September 21-22 at St. Mary’s. We plan to hold our next alumni reunion in conjunction with St. Mary School’s 100th anniversary, which will be in 2020. Our first successful alumni reunion included alumni from Phoenix, Arizona, Des Moines, former teachers and a 93 year old alumnus! Thank you, alumni!

Save the Date for St. Mary’s 16th annual Gala fundraising event! All parishioners, school families, alumni and community members are invited to join this celebration and fundraiser for St. Mary School Gala. Gala will be held March 30, 2019, at Rustix in downtown Humboldt.

We are looking for unique packages for Gala 2019! Live and silent auction donations are welcome. Contact the Parish Office at 515-332-2856. We are seeking unique, handmade items and packages such as outings and dinner parties. Please consider donating an auction item! We need support from our parish, school, alumni and Humboldt community to make Gala a success!

Fr. Dan was busy this summer sending Gala solicitation letters to many national organizations. We have received wonderful gifts for our auction and have created a new “Catholic Celebrities” section of the auction. Highlights of gifts received include:
• Waterford Crystal Garet Decanter from the personal collection of Emeritus Bishop Lawrence Soens of Sioux City.
• “On Eagle’s Wings” sheet music autographed by composer Fr. Michael Joncas.
• Lou Holtz autographed photo with a letter authenticating the autograph.
• St. Joseph the Worker Statue and Christ the Good Shepherd Statue donated by Cardinal O’Hara of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and former Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux City.
• Dick Vitale autographed photo and signed copy of his book, Getting a W in the Game of Life.

Support St. Mary’s through SCRIP!

Purchase SCRIP cards after weekend Mass, in the School Office, or buy online! Online SCRIP purchases are a great way for alumni to buy Scrip and for family members living out of town to support St. Mary’s!

Online: Go to ShopWithScrip.com and follow the directions as noted. The St. Mary’s enrollment code is C38344CA6837. You can pay the company directly, or you can send your payment to St. Mary’s and we’ll send it in. If you have any questions, contact our school office.

App: Use the MyScripWallet app to purchase and use SCRIP cards right from your phone.

AmazonSmile

Amazon Smiles: Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Mary School whenever you shop on Amazon via the AmazonSmile site. Bookmark AmazonSmile on your desktop, https://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-0680236 On mobile or tablet, bookmark the AmazonSmile web page rather than using the App.

Any questions please call 515-332-2134.

Our Grade 3 students joined the St. Mary School students on the first day of school to raise the flag. St. Mary’s welcomed 180 students on the first day, and we look forward to a year full of learning, growth and fellowship through our Catholic faith!

St. Mary School Welcomes New Staff

Five new staff enjoyed their first day of school at St. Mary’s. Mrs. Julie Dodds is teaching Grade 4, Mrs. Tricia Gargano is teaching Kindergarten, Stephanie Larscheid is the Development Director, Shaunna Halvorson is the new Food Service Assistant/Associate and Shelley Davis is the School Secretary. Welcome!

Knights of Columbus Flag Raising on the First Day of School

The St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus joined the St. Mary School students on the first day of school to raise the flag. St. Mary’s welcomed 180 students on the first day, and we look forward to a year full of learning, growth and fellowship through our Catholic faith!

Chicken Dinner Annual Women of the Spirit Tradition

St. Mary’s Women of the Spirit will host their annual Chicken Dinner on Sunday, November 11. Join us for this annual tradition!

A Successful Gala 2018 raised over $100,000 for St. Mary’s

The 2018 Gala, A Masquerade Ball, was the 15th annual fundraising event held on April 14, 2018. Despite a blizzard, more than $100,000 net proceeds were raised for St. Mary School. A memorable evening for St. Mary School!

A Successful Gala 2018 raised over $100,000 for St. Mary’s
Plans are underway for expansion and renovation of our parish and school facilities. Funding will come from a capital campaign, which will be St. Mary’s first campaign in 35 years. Look for news in the coming months regarding a capital campaign for St. Mary’s. We invite all parishioners, alumni and school families to get involved with this important project for our future.

Grandparents/VIP Day was a favorite day for our students and their family members. This year, we celebrated on September 28 with the theme, ‘Grandparents and grandchildren create a chain of love linking the past with the future.’ A special and memorable day was had by all!

Mrs. Bormann’s 2017-18 Grade 2 students presented a Bible to Mary and Ron Reedy in memory of their late son, Everette Paul, in celebration of what would have been Paul’s 40th birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Reedy gifted $40 to each of the former students that would have been his classmates. The classmates, in turn, gifted the money back to the school. This donation was used to purchase Bibles for the lower elementary students which will be enjoyed by students for many years.

Grandparents/VIP Day

Future building projects for St. Mary’s Parish & School

Plans are underway for expansion and renovation of our parish and school facilities. Funding will come from a capital campaign, which will be St. Mary’s first campaign in 35 years. Look for news in the coming months regarding a capital campaign for St. Mary’s. We invite all parishioners, alumni and school families to get involved with this important project for our future.

Development Council Members

Scott Becker, President
Culley Holm, Vice President
Susan Blanchard, Secretary
Jill Nedved
Marta Elson

Former Development Council members Karen Berte and Kathie Nelson concluded their commitment to the council in May following 20 years of service. Thank you, Karen and Kathie, for your contributions to the Development Council and to St. Mary’s!

Catholic Identity

A core value of St. Mary’s is our Catholic Identity, which is integrated in the curriculum. In the May 2018 National Catholic Education Association Assessment of St. Mary’s Grade 5 students (current Grade 6 students), 92% responded that their school/parish religion program helps them grow in their Catholic faith. The Catholic faith is integrated into the St. Mary’s curriculum and it is evident this makes a difference in the lives of St. Mary’s students. In this picture, first and second grade students are shown in an unprompted prayer before a game at recess.

St. Mary’s STEM Lab

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

St. Mary’s STEM Lab offers students in PreKindergarten through Grade 6 the opportunity to collaborate within groups through experiment, design, and creation through a hands-on approach. Technology Coordinator Mrs. Diane Dix, leads the STEM program along with Mrs. Michelle Havlik and Mrs. Sarah Dielemann facilitating in the STEM Lab. Students learn many skills which include 3D design and printing through a website based CAD program, computer coding, circuits and creation of circuit layouts. Students also construct and code various robotics. Internet safety and technology skills are taught to students in grades K-6. Students learn keyboarding, creating of documents and spreadsheets as well as slides for creating presentations. With the STEM and Technology program being offered to students, they are introduced to possible career opportunities through this unique program.

In May 2018, St. Mary’s students in grades 5 and 6 collaborated with Algona Bishop Garrigan students on a design project constructing tetrahedrons to create geodesic domes. Garrigan and St. Mary’s students plan to collaborate four times this school year on STEM projects and other educational projects. This is a great opportunity for Catholic students and teachers in the region to interact, collaborate and learn.

St. Mary School has a wish list for the STEM Lab and there are opportunities to donate to the program’s needs. Current needs include:

- iPads with protective covers valued at $350 each. Donations can be made to fund all or part of the iPads.
- Crafters plywood in 1/4 inch or 3/8 for STEM projects used in design and construction. Please drop plywood pieces off at school or call school to arrange a drop off, 515-332-2134.
- Do you have old barn wood? We welcome donations of old barn wood as well! The barn wood will be used for a classroom Gala project.
- Classic LEGO boxes with 790 pieces in a variety of colors.

Thank you for supporting St. Mary’s outstanding STEM program!