



February Edition
2015

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz

Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, NM

At Saint Mary's School, we are committed to the growth of our Catholic identity, academic potential, and community involvement.

REGISTRATION FOR 2015-16 BEGINS

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Consultative Cncl	4th
Fall Fest Mtg 6:pm	6th
Registration begins	9th
Dance 5th-8th	12th
No School (inservice)	13th
No School (Pres, Day)	16th
Ash Wednesday	18th
Lenten Retreat	18th
Early Dismissal	27th
SMS Soup Supper	27th

February is enrollment month for the next school year. Parents of students currently attending Saint Mary's must register prior to March 13th. Parents of students who are considering Saint Mary's for next year are encouraged to register their child early in order to guarantee a space in the classroom. In the last few weeks, Saint Mary's has enrolled six new students. Some of our classes are approaching full status. For new students, there are registration packets in the school office. For returning students, parents must get on Sycamore and fill out the forms, then pay the registration fee in the office. Saint Mary's is offering opportunities for new students and families to visit classes during the week of February 17th. Call the school office to make arrangements.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OFFERED SERVICE AND FUN



The Bird Word

Monthly Newsletter



Saint Mary's Choir sung *Proud to be an American* to First Responders at the Heart of Belen

Plaza. All Saint Mary's students walked to City Hall with more than 100 goodie bags to present to the police officers and firefighters from area departments. Patrick Castillo, a 7th grader, read a tribute to all present. Mayor Jerah Cordova, Fire Chief, Manny Garcia, and Police Chief, Dan Robb all addressed the students thanking them for their support. Continued pg. 2

ATV Winner Drawn During Catholic Schools Week Kick Off



Thank you New Mexico Tractor for supporting St. Mary's with our ATV! Mr. Patrick Wayne of Bosque Farms was the happy winner of the beautiful blue 4-Wheeler at our drawing to kick Off Catholic Schools Week. The Olmstead family sold the winning ticket.



SAINT MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Spring brings some fun activities for the SMPA to plan. The Father-Daughter and Mother/Son events are coming up soon. Please join us at the next meeting to be announced on Sycamore to make these the most fun EVER!

Lenten Retreat

Sister Caritas from the SOLT community in Mora will once again be here for the students' retreat on Ash Wednesday. After Mass, students will rotate through different presenters who will engage them in activities centered around the spiritual goals of the Lenten Season.

What is the Churches Official Position Concerning Abstinence During the 40 days of Lent?

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, *but combined they should be less than a full meal.* Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ALL SAINT MARY'S FRIENDS AND FAMILIES!



SAINT MARY'S PARENT ASSOCIATION IS THE BOMB!! ARE YOU AN ACTIVE PART OF THIS GROUP?

**Check out our video on our website
www.stmarysbelen.com**



Faith. Academics. Service.
Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools week continued... Sunday's 5K brought in more than 90 runners and walkers. Rod Baca brought his hot air balloon for the Kick Off and kept it tethered in the parking lot. On Tuesday, students invited their parents to morning prayer and then to enjoy some pastries and coffee in the cafeteria. Wednesday was family Mass where students invited parents and family members to come and sit with them during the school Mass, The fourth and eighth graders attended Mass at the Cathedral in Santa Fe with other Catholic school students. The Parent Association treated the staff to a fabulous lunch for Thursday's staff appreciation day. The 8th grade team won the Pictionary tournament with their teacher, Mrs. Padilla and earned the bragging rights to the spirit stick for a year. Students were treated on Friday to an afternoon of competition with the minute-to-win-it games in the gym—once again provided by the parent association. The Pancake Breakfast at Fat Sat's topped off Catholic Schools week 2015. Everyone had a great time celebrating school choice in Belen.

Saint Mary's Pacman 4-H Club

The students at Saint Mary's have their very own 4-H club. Each week, their leader, Rebecca Woelber, with the help of parent volunteers, guide the students through a host of arts and craft projects, nutrition and healthy living demonstrations along with a monthly lesson in parliamentary procedure. About 28 students attend weekly Monday meetings. This is the second year for the 4-H Club at Saint Mary's. Many of their projects have been exhibited at the Valencia County Expo in August. Mrs. Woelber recently received the New Leader of the Year Award from the Cooperative Extension Service for her outstanding job in leading this group of 4-H ers.