



The Bird Word

Saint Mary's Catholic School



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Principal: **Melodie Good**
Pastor: **Rev. Stephen Schultz**

Guided by Catholic traditions and values, Saint Mary's prepares students for the future and for Eternity.

Important May Events

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| Spring Luncheon | 2 nd |
| Early dismissal | 2 nd |
| Book Fair/Fiesta week | 5-9 |
| Culinary Arts Café | 7 th |
| National Teachers Day | 7 th |
| May Crowning | 7 th |
| Talent Show | 14 th |
| Athletic Banquet | 15 th |
| PreK Celebration | 20 th |
| Kinder Celebration | 21 st |
| 8 th Grade Graduation | 21 st |
| Field Day and last day | 22 nd |
| Early Dismissal | 22 nd |
| Teacher inservice | 28 th -29 th |

Saint Mary's Staff : Second to None!

May 5th to May 9th is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Each and every teacher at Saint Mary's is hard working, dedicated to the students, and good at what they do. Year after year, the same teachers return to Saint Mary's to produce faith-filled learners and academic achievers. Read about them this month.

Coming from Raymond Gabaldon in Los Lunas is **Mrs. Catherine Vigil** who taught science and social studies at the middle school level. She noticed right away what a great group of kids attend our school. She served as the 8th grade home room teacher making sure 8th graders completed required service hours and prepared for High School. She had the responsibility of organizing the living rosary in October and the recent living Stations of the Cross during Lent. Besides leaning what it's like to be a Saint Mary's teacher with the many additional responsibilities of fund raisers and open house recruiting events, Saint Mary's kept Mrs. Vigil busy this year.

Scholastic Book Fair



Happy Hours 3-6PM Thursday

May 5th-9th

Saint Mary's Library

In her second year, **Ms. Lorena Castillo** teaches St. Mary's PreK. She has a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education from NMSU and is a former Saint Mary's graduate herself. She is moving toward incorporating the Catechism of the Good Shepherd into the Prek curriculum. Last summer she attended training in Denver on strategies to build a strong faith based program for the three and 4 year olds. This year Ms. Castillo also worked closely with our 7th grade girls to form a choir for our school Masses. Father Steve gave up his keyboard and she accompanied the girls at each of our school masses. She plans to continue taking an active role in the music for next year.

Ms. Heather Sanchez has the important job of getting third graders ready for their first reconciliation and Holy Communion. In her 10th year of teaching at SMS, Ms. Sanchez has been the third grade teacher and Holy Communion sponsor for as many years. Because of her technology skills, her friend, Mrs. Chavez, talked her in to helping with the yearbook. She also uses those technology skills to train new staff on Sycamore, our computer based student management system. You can see her in her classroom at midnight at the end of February uploading the yearbook to the publisher. Heather has a Masters from NMSU and an Ed Specialist endorsement from UNM. She was the 2009 teacher of the year.

Ms. Arleen Sanchez (no relation to the third grade teacher) is in her fifth year at Saint Mary's. After two years at the fifth grade level, she agreed to take second grade when a teacher resigned. She has found her niche. She adapted well to the curriculum and students at second grade. You can often hear her students reciting the Shurley English jingles as they learn about direct objects and prepositional phrases. It's amazing to see the writing and problem solving taking place in this second grade classroom. Ms. Sanchez received her Bachelor's from UNM and came directly to Saint Mary's. Three of her five children graduated from SMS.

Our Teachers Affect Eternity

Ms. Angela Padilla recently received the archdiocese award for **25 years of teaching** at Saint Mary's. Although she has taught at different levels, Ms. Padilla is most known for teaching math at the middle school level. When our students leave St Mary's, they are more than prepared for high school math. Teachers from St Pius report that our students continually test into the advanced math classes and do well all through math in high school. Angela was Saint Mary's teacher of the year in 2011 and received a cash award from the archdiocese. This year, Ms. Padilla taught art to all grade levels and put together an art show for parents in the fall and spring. Much of our students' art was recently exhibited at St. Pius for the archdiocese art show.



Mr. Jered Schmock is brand new to Saint Mary's middle school language arts. He holds a Bachelor's degree and a love for the subject of language arts. Mr. Schmock is getting up to speed on the rigor of teaching Shurley English to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, and selecting informational and literary texts for next year. He is a great role model for our middle school boys. He also showed a willingness to jump in and support our sports program when he took over for our AD at the Billy Jaramillo tournament. With a major in art, he is working on drawings skills with the kindergarten. He is looking forward to next year when he will hit the ground running.

Kindergartners have been under the instruction of **Ms. Rebecca Baca**. Ms. Baca has a Bachelor's degree from NMSU and is in her 6th year of teaching. Under her direction, the kinders have learned their letters, new social skills and are now taking Accelerated Reader tests on their laptops. The classroom is a beehive of activity that is designed to engage 5 year olds and prepare them academically for first grade. Ms. Baca is busy planning their end of year celebration.

Mrs. Melanie Chavez stepped up to the plate last year to take over a recently combined class of 4th and 5th graders. Not many teachers would be able to structure the time adequately to teach the two different curriculums successfully. Ms. Chavez has managed to do this for the past two years. Both 4th and 5th graders have learned to focus on their work and manage their time while achieving success in their core skills. The 4th graders and their parents are sad to learn she will not be going to 5th grade with them next year when the class once again splits up. Besides the stress of teaching two grade levels, Ms. Chavez voluntarily co-chaired our Annual Fall Fest and the Billy Jaramillo tourney. She has a very supportive family who jumps in to help her and St Mary's in these huge endeavors. If that weren't enough to keep her completely snowed under, together with Ms. Sanchez she takes pictures all year and puts St. Mary's year book together. This year is her 6th year teaching at SMS. She graduated from Belen High School, has a Masters degree from UNM, and she was the 2012 teacher of the year.

Mrs. Charlene Baca is in her 10th year of teaching at SMS. First graders for ten years have been perfecting their reading skills and learning math, religion, science, and social studies from Ms. Baca. It's easy to tell what a great teacher she is when you see our first graders get up at mass and proclaim the liturgy reading from the Lectionary. When Ms. Baca has spare time she writes grants for St. Mary's. This year, each of our teachers got a cash allowance to purchase books for their classrooms thanks to the 2013 grant from the Catholic Foundation. She recently submitted a grant request to help us pay for a renovation to our little boys and girls bathrooms. Ms. Baca also heads up our Renaissance Learning program that monitors student achievement through quarterly reading and math assessments. Ms. Baca received the Catholic Foundation award for teachers (CAT award) this past October. She received a thousand dollars to spend however she wanted. Most of that award went right back into her classroom.

The PE Coach and Athletic Director for Saint Mary's this year has been **Tomas Rodriquez**. As a first year teacher, he has been the link between the APIAL league and our school for scheduling games in our new gym. Coach has a Bachelor's degree from UNM and played for a time on the LOBO football team. Next year, the AD will be working with the newly formed Roadrunner Booster Club to support our Saint Mary's athletics.

Our thanks to our specials teachers: Ms. Liz Chavez, Ms. Linda Hughes, Ms Janet Sanchez, and Mr. Mory Young.

Hooray for our Graduating 8th Graders
Graduation Mass May 21st 6 PM

Elena Carrejo
Jasmine Day
Paige Klimkowski
Brianna Maize
Frank Marchi
Garrett Moore
Lyndsey Orris
Abigayle Sanchez
Raul Sisneros
Noah Trujillo



Watch for our summer edition in June