



# St. Mary Parish School 2016 UPDATE



Challenging Minds • Developing Character • Living Jesus

## St. Mary Parish School Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

St. Mary Parish School is turning 100 and you are invited! Since 1916, the school has been providing a quality Catholic education to thousands of students in our community. It's time to celebrate!

We encourage all alumni, former teachers/staff and family and friends of St. Mary Parish School to attend our celebration on **Saturday, September 10th.**

The event activities are as follows:

**2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** School tours by current families and students

**5 p.m.** St. Mary Parish Mass with Archbishop Listecki

**6 p.m.** Reception in the St. Mary Activity Center with food and cash bar; school tours continue



St. Mary Parish School has a rich history within the community of Menomonee Falls. Over 30,000 students have graduated from the school during its 100 year history.

At the annual meeting on January 1, 1916, the parish leadership approved plans to build the original school consisting of two classrooms, a hall and convent living quarters. The doors opened in September 1916 and the first class of two students graduated in 1919.

## Success for New Forensics Program

It was a successful season for the first St. Mary Forensics team. Offered for the first time at the school, forensics is an extra-curricular program that focusses on public speaking in a variety of formats. Our St. Mary forensic team concluded its season at the MLFA State Tournament in Neenah on Saturday, April 9. Together they joined 1900 students from 90+ different teams at the tournament. Everyone did an outstanding job in the qualifying rounds. SMPS students selected for the Power Round included: Lyla – Prose; Joseph – Prose; Abby – Storytelling. Each of these students earned a medal for qualifying for the Power Round. Lyla Becker took 3rd place at the State Tournament and was awarded a trophy. Scott and Michelle Fleischmann pioneered the start of new forensics program at St. Mary Parish School and served as coaches for the team.



The six state qualifiers: Bradley Grieb, Joseph Schaefer, Hanna Wiese, Abby Fleishmann, Lyla Becker and Ellie Lopata.

## LIVE JESUS!

*It is one of many service projects that is done throughout the school year but is unique in that the students in each grade work together and choose the charity that is meaningful to them.*

### The \$50 Stewardship Challenge

The \$50 Stewardship Challenge is a major component of the Lenten season for the students and faculty of St. Mary Parish School. Each year our students find inspiration to help so many worthy causes and raise the bar in the totals given to those organizations. This year the initiative raised a combined total of more than \$5,000 for 10 different organizations. The 5th graders broke the school record for money earned for a \$50 challenge with a total of \$3,355 presented to Zachariah's Acres. The \$50 Stewardship Challenge was begun to inspire St. Mary's children to "Live Jesus" in a way that is meaningful personally to them. It is one of many service projects that is done throughout the school year but is unique in that the students in each grade work together and choose the charity that is meaningful to them. See the list and more about the 5th grade's experience with local charity, Zachariah's Acres.

Grade	Teacher	\$50 Challenge Charity
1st	Mrs. Decker	One Hope 27
1st	Mrs. Pomroy	Community Memorial Hospital Healing Garden
2nd	Mrs. Harbury	The Heifer Project
2nd	Mrs. Halverson	Menomonee Falls Food Pantry
3rd	Mrs. Sorenson	Catholic Charities - Pregnancy Support
3rd	Mrs. Helnes	Catholic Charities - Pregnancy Support
4th	Mrs. Jaeger	Make a Wish Foundation of Wisconsin
4th	Mrs. Warren	Make a Wish Foundation of Wisconsin
5th	Mrs. Stroh	Zachariah's Acres
5th	Mr. Kelm	Zachariah's Acres
6th	Ms. Berens	Custom Canines Service Dog Academy
6th	Mrs. Budney	Custom Canines Service Dog Academy
7th	Mrs. Schmidt	Feeding America
8th	Mrs. Nennig	The Gathering
8th	Mrs. Ferderbar	Make a Wish Foundation of Wisconsin



## 5th Grade Sets School Record for the \$50 Stewardship Challenge! Raised \$3355 For Zachariah's Acres

While the snow was still thick on the ground, the fifth graders were daydreaming of warm days and treehouses. Each year the 5th graders read the classic novel *The Swiss Family Robinson* and like the characters in the book, using teamwork and ingenuity, they skillfully create a model treehouse of their own and learn about survival and the gifts of nature. It was these ideas that inspired the 5th graders to choose their charity. They researched many charities and after watching a video and going on a field trip to explore and help as a group they agreed on Zachariah's Acres as their charity for the \$50 Challenge. Zachariah's Acres is an organization with the mission to make the beauty of nature accessible to children with special health care needs. They foster an inclusive environment where children of all abilities can participate in a variety of nature based activities – hayrides, fishing, planting a raised garden just to name a few.

One of Zachariah's Acres wishes is to build a wheelchair accessible treehouse and SMPS's 5th graders were enthusiastic to make that wish come true! The students used their \$50 (\$100 total) to buy seeds, soil, and supplies to grow 4 different herbs in the classroom. The students collected over 700 used milk cartons to use as their containers for the seedlings. They washed and prepped them for planting and watered and cared for them daily. Each student were then asked to obtain monetary

donations from family and friends. The goal was 4-\$20 donations per student. As a thank you for each donation, the students assembled the growing plants into mini herb gardens that contained a thank you note that included information about Zachariah's Acres and how to volunteer.

"It was an enormous amount of work, but it was so worth it," said Jenny Stroh, 5th grade teacher. "The students learned about Zachariah's Acres, how to set up a factory with an assembly line to increase productivity, and how a little work on everyone's part can really go a long way." TJ Kelm, 5th grade teacher added, "The students did an amazing job throughout the project. They learned the importance of helping others while they focused on quality and consistency during each stage of the project."

On April 8th, the SMPS 5th graders presented their donation of \$3,355 to very grateful Terry Bartowitz, director and president of Zachariah's Acres. "To be taught by children that the best leaders are best servers is a powerful perspective, said Bartowitz to a SMPS gym packed with students and visitors. He continued "...And you did it in such a grace-like fashion that I imagine your teachers and parents are proud as well. God has great plans in store for your lives and you are an incredible example to the community."



## SMPS Destination Imagination Sends Three Teams to Globals!

Four years ago, St. Mary Parish School made history when our very first Destination Imagination (DI) team qualified for Global Finals. In May, SMPS sent three teams to Knoxville, Tennessee to compete in this world-wide competition. Qualifying teams, from both public and private school, earn their way to Global Finals by competing and being a top finalist regionally and then at a state level. SMPS is one of only two schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to have DI teams that competed at Global Finals.

Making a return visit to Globals are the "Seven Scary Tweety Birds." They are an Elementary Level team who were a first place finisher at the state competition and finished 3rd at Global Finals coming in behind two teams from China and edging out a team from South Korea. The members of the team are: Jake Pliszka, Josie Pliszka, Zachary Lauer, Sydney Topp, Aiden Finley and Danica Joyner. Eileen and Matt Pliszka are the Team Managers.

The "7 Wicked Outstanding Warriors" received 3rd place out of 19 elementary teams at the state competition in Stevens Point. They also received the Renaissance Award for outstanding design, engineering, execution and performance. This award is only given to one team at state. They competed at Global Finals and finished 19 out of 96 teams. The members of the team are: Paige Holke,

Nick Lipski, Jack Nielsen, Brianna Pennings, Jessi Riesterer, Ella Rogowski and Brady Shea. Team Managers are Jeana Pennings and Jodi Riesterer.

The "Fab 5" is our only Middle Level competition team and were a 3rd place finisher at the state competition and finished 36th at Global Finals. This team was the first to receive the Aristotle Advancement Award for demonstrating exemplary displays of creativity, effort and overall performance. The members of this all-girl team are: Izzie Nielsen, Mackenzie Stewart, Grace Buth, Alexys Lofy and Anna Finley. The Team Manager is Eric Neilsen.

The purpose of DI is to teach students the creative process through STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), the arts and service learning challenges. DI inspires and equips students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. The SMPS DI program is led by Jean Sorenson and Diane Harley.

### Catholic School for Tuition

Almost 10,000 walked the Catholic Education Walk at Mary University, Milwaukee. Soles for Catholic Education. St. Mary Parish School ranked 1st in pledges and donations, secured directly to our Tuition Angels. Families in need of tuition assistance. Catholic Education Walk is scheduled for 2016. Donations are being accepted. Angel fundraising events in the Pick N Save on Appleton Avenue will be held on September 10th.

## Junior Art Docents Hold Graduation Ceremony

On Friday, May 13, 2016 St. Mary Parish School held a graduation for 13 5th graders who completed the Junior Docent School Program through the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM). The JDSP is a three-year program for 3rd-5th grade students that teaches vocabulary, history, and interpretation of the visual arts. The instruction provided assists in the development, awareness, and understanding of the visual arts in relation to history and cultures. Students explore and develop various verbal, visual, and critical thinking skills and methods and are able to apply visual arts knowledge and communication skills to a selected work of art from the collection at the MAM.

As part of the completion of the program the 5th grade students must select a piece of art from the MAM that inspires them and sketch a representation of the piece and work them into a final form. At the graduation

ceremony, the students emulate real Art Docents by presenting these finished products to a group of family, friends and peers. "Immense gratitude to the parents of these fantastic students for supporting their child's three year journey in this program and all the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers that accommodated and assisted with each of the tour field trips," said Suzanne Shea, art teacher at SMPS. "A special shout out to Jenny Stroh," 5th grade teacher, "who prepared the students with their writing and oral presentations." The St. Mary Parish School students that graduated from the JDSP this year are: Lillian Alburg, Nathaniel Clayton, J.J. Eagleeye, Hailee Fisher, James Karczewski, Tyler Kelley, Kathleen Lynch, Allison Moeller, Cal Nimmer, Jake Pliszka, Josie Pliszka, Lilly Salentine, Sydney Topp.



## Exemplary Leadership and Service Earns St. Mary National Award

With strict criteria and a long list of outstanding schools in the running for this national award, St. Mary Parish School is among an elite group of schools across the country to be awarded the 2016 National Gold Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC). This is the second time SMPS has been recognized for its exemplary record of leadership, service and activities that serve to improve the school and community.

award demonstrates the leadership of the students and the value it serves as a part of our school and educational mission.

"I am proud of our student council's involvement and proud of all of their many accomplishments," said Karen Schumacher, guidance counselor and student council advisor, St. Mary Parish School.



The Gold standards for this award require the ability to demonstrate such things as leadership training for council members, teacher/staff appreciation activities, student recognition programs, school and community service projects, spirit activities, goal setting, financial planning and active participation in their state and national student council associations. The SMPS Student Council's success in earning this

The National Association of Student Councils (NASC) promotes and provides leadership development opportunities to prepare and empower students to serve their schools and communities. NASC is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). The NASSP—the preeminent organization and national voice for middle level and high school leaders—also sponsors the National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), which recognizes outstanding middle level and high school students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

## Sole's Walk Angel Fund

rs gathered at Mount  
kee, for the third annual  
on walk on Oct. 17, 2015.  
ed in the top five schools for  
ring nearly \$15,500 that goes  
I Fund which benefits SMPS  
ssistance. The 2016 Soles for  
cheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 15,**  
accepted now. Other Tuition  
nclude brat fries at the local  
venue. The next brat fry event  
11th from 10am until 3pm.



## History is made! 8th Grade Boys Bring Home Seton Volleyball and Padre Basketball Tournament Banners

History was made this year with two outstanding performances from the 8th grade boys volleyball and basketball teams. Both the Seton and Padre Tournaments are invitation-only for 8th grade teams and culminates the highest level of competition in the area for their respective sport. Those who are among the top competition are awarded a much coveted banner. This fall the St. Mary Parish 8th grade boys volleyball team won the Elizabeth Seton Volleyball Championship, securing a place in St. Mary Parish sports history.



For the second year, this boys volleyball team was 10-0 in league play. Prior to the Seton, the team had played in three other tournaments with only one loss in the third tournament to Holy Apostles in the championship game. It was only fitting that the two teams would face off again in the Seton Championship. The boys came ready to play and quickly shut down Holy Apostles winning 3-0 in a best of five match. "This group of boys did as well as they did because they played as a true team," said Coach Jill Jansen. "They knew they had to depend on each other, and each boy gave 100% to show that he was someone his teammates could depend on." The 2015 Seton Championship players are: #10 Ethan Burczyk, #2 Gavin Falvey, #3 Drew Jansen, #13 Adam Lopata, #5 Ben Minue, #7 Sam Nelson, #6 Ben Schultz and #7 Hans Stelpflug. Leading the team are Coaches Jill Jansen, Denise Stelpflug and Amber Minue.



The 8th grade boys basketball team capped a successful season by going on a competitive run during The Padre Serra basketball tournament in March. The team posted a 4-1 record in the 32-team tournament, losing in the semi-final to eventual champion Blessed Savior. The team bounced back to defeat St. Jude 49-47 in the third place game to secure the best finish for a St. Mary boys team in "The Padre" since the tournament began in 1959. Members of the team include: #3 Drew Jansen, #4 Sam Nelson, #5 Clay Lynde, #10 Ethan Burczyk, #13 Matt O'Donnell, #15 Charlie Pomroy, #30 Ben Schultz, #40 Dixon Seymour and #44 Sam Denor. The team was lead by Head Coach Dan Schultz and Assistant Coaches Jason Hartlund and Dave Denor.



## Former Principal Sister Nivard Hainault Passes Away

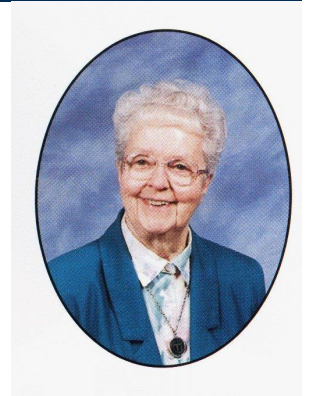
It is with sadness we announce the passing of Sister Nivard Hainault, 91. Sister Hainault passed away on March 2, 2016, at Saint Joseph's Convent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mary Catherine was born on March 25, 1924, the ninth of 14 children, to Albert and Delia (Chandonais) Hainault in Hubbell. She attended the former Saint Cecilia Grade School in Hubbell and was a 1942 graduate of Lake Linden-Hubbell High School in Lake Linden. She entered the School of Sisters of Saint Francis Order in August of that year and was received on June 13, 1943 and professed her final vows on June 21, 1945.

Sister Nivard held various teaching positions in the Milwaukee area before arriving at St. Catherine School in 1957. It was there that she met Fr. Weber who in 1973 asked her to be principal of St. Mary Parish School. He chose her for her ability to be both firm and affirming. She believed discipline was the key to a strong and enriching learning environment which earned her the nickname Sarge with the students. Her strength as a leader and proven success of her students long after they left St. Mary undoubtedly convinced parish leaders to

add a kindergarten program for the benefit of the younger children of the parish. Sister Nivard completed her time at the school in 1987. She called her time at the St. Mary Parish School a "joy" because of the people. The community appreciated good educators and as such the school was "stimulating, invigorating and lifegiving"

Following her time at St. Mary Parish School she served as the Elementary Administrator. She was the Pastoral Associate and Director of the RCIA Program at Saint Anthony's Parish in Menomonee Falls, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and involved in hospital ministry.

Sister had a special devotion to Saint Joseph and loved nature, especially colored leaves, birds, beautiful sunsets and butterflies, to name a few.



## Deacon Tom Monday Memorial Scholarship Established

"Living Jesus" has been the focal point of St. Mary Parish's Mission for many years. Deacon Tom Monday was instrumental in the development of this theme. His wish for all of St. Mary Parishioners is to passionately "Live Jesus" each and every day. Deacon Tom believed that helping others was an important part of being a Christian - serving our neighbors as well as those across the world. Leading our first and many subsequent Mission Trips to Honduras, he discovered that you can truly see the face of Jesus in those you serve. Deacon Tom felt that you are never too young to start helping others, and hoped that all followers of Jesus would go on at least one mission trip in their lifetime. In honor and loving memory of Deacon Tom, the Human Concerns Committee established the Deacon Tom Monday Memorial Scholarship Program for Mission Work. There were two recipients of the scholarship this year. Rebecca Schlieder and Zachary Schaeve were awarded the Missionary Explorer Scholarship.

Scholarships are available for students in middle school through college. Students are encouraged to apply for the following scholarships to be awarded each year to qualifying applicants. The scholarships offered are:

**Christian Formation Missionary Scholarship** is available for high school students participating in the Christian Formation Mission trip during the summer.

**Missionary Explorer Scholarship** is available for high school or college students who are 'finding their own Calcutta' by performing mission work abroad or other U.S. locations outside of the Christian Formation sponsored mission trip.

**Middle School Missionary Scholarship** This scholarship is available for middle school students (Grades 6, 7, or 8) participating in local mission work through the Matthew 25 program, other domestic mission trips, or international mission work.

**St. Mary Parish School**

St. Mary Congregation  
N89 W16297 Cleveland Avenue  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
MILWAUKEE WI  
PERMIT #4426

**St. Mary Parish School 2016 UPDATE****Holiday Bazaar Fundraiser  
for St. Mary Parish School**

Don't miss the first annual Holiday Bazaar held on Saturday, November 12, from 5-9 p.m. at St. Mary Parish School. Find the perfect items for everyone on your Christmas list! The Bazaar will be open to the public and feature a variety of unique arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing, accessories, specialty foods and other gift items. This event is a fundraiser for St. Mary Parish School.

**We Want To Hear From You!**

We are very proud of the many accomplishments of all our St. Mary Parish School students and alumni.

Our St. Mary Parish School community wants to know about your latest honor, career advancement, publication, ministry to others or other achievement. You can send your information and we'll include in the St. Mary Parish School Update newsletter as space allows. Please include names, dates, contact information to [schooloffice@stmaryparishschool.org](mailto:schooloffice@stmaryparishschool.org) or send to:

**St. Mary Parish School Office**  
**N89 W16297 Cleveland Avenue**  
**Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**  
**[schooloffice@stmaryparishschool.org](mailto:schooloffice@stmaryparishschool.org)**



Connect with us on Facebook for the latest news and community updates.