



St. Mary Parish School

SPRING 2015 UPDATE



Challenging Minds • Developing Character • Living Jesus

St. Mary Parish School Receives Spirit of Excellence Award

The Spirit of Excellence program honors Wisconsin schools that achieve excellence in leadership development, school spirit, sportsmanship and service to school and community. St. Mary Parish School received the Spirit of Excellence Award for the second time in four years. A special kudos to our Student Council leaders for creating and submitting the portfolio that documented St. Mary Parish School activities in the areas of service, sportsmanship, academics, fine arts, sports, leadership and core values.

\$50 Stewardship Challenge

Father John kicked off the start of Lent with the annual \$50 Stewardship Challenge. Each classroom in 1st through 8th grade was challenged to take \$50 and find a way to increase the value and help others. The \$50 Stewardship Challenge was begun nearly five years ago to inspire St. Mary's children to live the Gospel message. It is one of many service projects that is done at St. Mary Parish School but is unique in that the students in each grade work together and choose how they will help others. It's a project that encourages the children to Live Jesus in a way that is very meaningful personally to them.

The initiative benefited 14 organizations. See the list and more about the 5th grade's experience with the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight on page 4.



St. Mary Destination Imagination Teams Compete at State! "Tweety Birds" Advance to Globals!

The St. Mary Parish School Destination Imagination Competition teams had another successful season. All three placed highly at the regional competition and advanced on to compete at the Wisconsin State Affiliate Tournament in Stevens Point in April. The "Seven Scary Tweety Birds" placed first in the Elementary Level for their Fine Arts Challenge and traveled to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee to compete at the Global Finals in May. The 2015 Global Final competition was presented by Disney and featured 1,400 teams.

The members of the "Seven Scary Tweety Birds" team are: Jake Pliska, Josie Pliska, Alex Kohls, Zachary Lauer, Sydney Topp, Aidan Finley, and Danica Joyner. Eileen and Matt Pliszka are their coaches.



Our other Elementary Level team, the "Rockin' Robots", took 2nd place in its level for its Technical Challenge at regionals and 9th place at the state competition. The team is composed of Lilly Salentine, Katie Pietsch, Lilly Alburg, Liam Jansen, Hailee Fisher, Kevin Lofy, and Brianna Pennings. They are coached by Linda Salentine.

Destination Imagination continued on next page

Ferderbar Earns Doctorate; Awarded for Outstanding Teaching and Service

St. Mary middle school teacher and alumni, Cathy Ferderbar loves to learn and she is passionate about passing on that love of learning to her students. "Children learn by doing, by experiencing and building meaning on the foundation of those experiences." "Having fun while learning nurtures lifelong learners," says Ferderbar who recently completed her Ph.D. at Cardinal Stritch University. Her hands-on approach to teaching actively engages her students in role-playing, simulations, field trips and project based learning. This October, Dr. Ferderbar was awarded the Celebrate Teachers and Teaching Award from the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM) for her exemplary work in service learning.

It was this hands-on approach in the classroom coupled with her ability help the students to learn while finding solutions to real issues that earned her the honor. St. Mary's Principal, Linda Joyner nominated her for the award and detailed Ferderbar's ability to accommodate to each of her student's learning style and bring educational concepts to life. "It is common place, for students to dissect, build, grow, write, sing, solve fictitious crimes, create visual



(Destination Imagination continued from cover)

The "Oh My – STMDI" Middle Level team were awarded 2nd place in their level for their Technical Challenge at regionals and placed 9th at the state competition. Team members are: Izzie Nielsen, Garrett Jansen, Tim Kohls, Anna Finley, Mackenzie Stewart, Colin Stewart, and Emily Riley and it is coached by Eric Nielsen. All teams competed against roughly, the top 20 teams in the State of Wisconsin who advanced from their Regional competitions, with the top two teams advancing from each of the 10 Regional contests.

Destination Imagination (DI) is a volunteer-led, cause-driven organization that inspire and equip students through project-based activities to become the next

generation of innovators and leaders. The goal is to help student teams learn to be creative in every aspect of their lives. The students involved are part of a special Challenge Program that allows each team to choose one of seven different challenges to compete. After weeks spent creating, developing and practicing their solutions, they go to a local tournament. Top-scoring teams advance to state tournaments. The Global Finals is the top level of competition. The programs are developed annually to ensure they are relevant and align to National Education Standards, STEM standards, ELA Common Core Standards and Mathematics Common Core Standards. The Directors of the St. Mary Destination Imagination Program are Jean Sorenson, Diane Harley and Jenny Stroh.

SERVICE LEARNING WITH MRS. FERDERBAR

- School-wide recycling program and composting system managed entirely by students.
- Identify and remove invasive plant species project which has carried over into their own families and communities.
- Began a Garden Club and served fresh salads with vegetables, herbs, and spices, much of which was harvested from their school's garden.
- When an oil pipe broke in a neighboring community students discussed the long-term impact of the contamination to the groundwater and soil and designated a method of using bacteria to clean up oil spills and designed sanitary landfills.
- Organized the delivery of fresh water to 15 families in the area.

A Dream Come True! Lockers Installed in the School

There are some exciting new additions at St. Mary Parish School! Lockers have been installed on the second floor for students in 5th through 8th grades. Donated by Jeff and Lori Madison, the lockers were salvaged from an MATC building in downtown Milwaukee. They needed to be painted and cleaned up but Jeff and Lori thought the lockers would be a great addition to the school. They both took their time and made many trips to deliver them. While the lockers and delivery were free and a dream come true for the students, there was much work to be done to get the lockers cleaned up and installed. Funds were requested to cover the costs and several donated to cover the purchase of materials to attach them to the walls and form the bases, sound deadening boards (to insert behind them), and for paint. Our buildings and grounds staff and the "Do Dads" completed all the hard work to sand, prime and paint all the locker interiors and exteriors and complete all the installations of the lockers and attach new number plates.



Stage Curtains Donated

St. Mary Parish School lifted a stage curtain for the very first time at one of its theater performances. The beautiful blue velvet curtains were donated in memory of Marilyn J. Lenhardt, grandparent to St. Mary Parish School students Carson and TJ Schur. There is a plaque that has been added to the stage wall in memoriam and thanks for the donation.



Our Wonderful "Do Dads"!

The "Do Dads" are a volunteer group of men from St. Mary Parish that fulfill the many upkeep and building projects at the church and school. Whether it is painting or tuck-pointing brickwork at the church or installing the lockers and new water fountains in the school there is never a shortage of projects on the "honey do" list at St. Mary and this special group of men always are there to fulfill the need and with a smile on their face. The St. Mary "Do Dads" pictured here are: Dick Roskopf, Ken Wildt, Mark Wildish, Rich Borremans, Tom Pelt, Dennis Zyszkiewicz, Bill Zoulek, Mike Krawczyk and Ron Beilfuss. Not pictured are Dick Minue, Don Verbsky, Dick Humpal and Chuck Farrell.



5th Graders Welcome Veterans From Stars and Stripes Honor Flight; Earn \$3000 for Future Flights and Set Record for the \$50 Stewardship Challenge

On Friday, April 24th the St. Mary 5th graders presented a donation of nearly \$3000 to Charlie Wakefield of Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, the nonprofit organization that provides veterans flights to Washington D.C. to see the memorials that honor them. The students earned this money as part of the \$50 Stewardship Challenge presented to all students at St. Mary at the start of Lent. The students presented their earnings with a great sense of pride knowing the special journey they have been on that had brought them to this moment. Just the weekend before the 5th graders, their teachers and families waited for over five hours at Milwaukee's General Mitchell Airport to welcome home the veterans on the first Stars and Stripes Honor Flight of the year. They were armed with homemade posters and wearing t-shirts that were made special for the occasion. They cheered and shook the very hands of the veterans that they had written personalized thank you letters for



the "mail call" package each veteran receives on their homecoming flight. While most mail is from the family and friends of the veteran all the mail received is done to honor and thank a veteran for their service.

What began as a school assignment about family genealogy sparked classroom discussion about their own family members who were US veterans and the sacrifice that goes along with earning such a title. They watched the movie Honor Flight, participated in Jonathan Lucroy's 5 Words on Freedom and began raising funds

for the veterans. "They wanted to learn more and to give something back to those who have given so much," said Jennifer Stroh, 5th grade teacher. "Armed with a tracking sheet and their entrepreneurial skills, the 5th graders have been negotiating services with the goal to raise \$1,000. That's enough to sponsor two veterans to go to Washington D.C." added Stroh. Students did jobs for family and friends to earn the money. For one student

Grade	Teacher	\$50 Challenge Charity
1st	Mrs. Grismer	Milwaukee Rescue Mission
1st	Mrs. Pomroy	Catholic Charities Outreach Program
2nd	Mrs. Harbury	Milwaukee Rescue Mission
2nd	Mrs. Halverson	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
3rd	Mrs. Sorenson	Ronald McDonald House/Children's Hospital
3rd	Mrs. Helnes	American Cancer Society Relay for Life
4th	Mrs. Warren	Make a Wish Foundation
4th	Mrs. Jaeger	Heifer Foundation
5th	Mrs. Stroh	Stars and Stripes Honor Flight
5th	Mr. Kelm	Stars and Stripes Honor Flight
6th	Mrs. Schmidt	The Pencil Project
7th	Mrs. Berens	Adopt a US Soldier
7th	Mrs. Koman	Pets for Vets in WI
8th	Mrs. Nennig	Feed My Starving Children
8th	Mrs. Ferderbar	Pathfinder Program of Milwaukee

We are so proud of our students for their stewardship efforts that benefited all the organizations!



they even chose to donate all their birthday money to the cause. "Raising money shows they understand the value of giving back. They have learned not only about the sacrifice these men and women have made but understand the gratitude we all should have towards our veterans for their service," said TJ Kelm, 5th grade teacher. Veteran Bob Smith knows what the money and the spirit behind the effort can mean to a former Marine. "I'm so grateful to St. Mary's, for what they're doing! They're making it possible for more guys to go, and I very much appreciate that," said Smith.

The 5th graders were very enthusiastic about learning and earning as much as they could for these veterans. The \$2700 the students raised set the all-time record for money earned in all the years that St. Mary's has done the \$50 Challenge. 5th grader Abbie Nelson said, "It feels amazing to help with this wonderful project. Knowing that we are helping out a veteran that otherwise wouldn't get this experience is breathtaking," Henry Pomroy added, "I am very excited and blessed to be a part of this project. It is an honor that we get to thank the veterans in the right way. I hope that we can send all

the veterans in Wisconsin to their memorial." 5th grader Mike Kelley concluded, "Their sacrifice was great. "We will never be able to match that sacrifice, but it's our duty to try." The 5th graders were featured on news radio AM 620 and made the daily news on TV Fox 6 and WTMJ 4 for their effort.

4/24/15

DEAR 5TH GRADERS, TJ & JENNI —
 I've be fortunate enough to attend several
 FUND RAISERS on behalf of the Honor Flight
 but I can't save I HAVE EVER BEEN MORE
 "MOVED" by your efforts. Aside from the
 DOLLARS, which in itself was extraordinary,
 your genuine enthusiasm & pride was truly
 REMARKABLE. You honestly STAND ABOVE
 as the finest group of young people I've had
 the pleasure of working with.

Charles Wakefield
 SSMAF





First St. Mary Students Graduate from The Junior Art Docent Program

On April 17, 2015, St. Mary Parish School held a Junior Art Docent graduation ceremony for 21 5th grade students who completed the Junior Docent School Program (JDSP) through the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM). This was the first group at St. Mary to graduate from this prestigious program. The JDSP is a three-year program for 3rd - 5th grade students, which teaches vocabulary, history, and interpretation of the visual arts. Students who participate in this program visit the Museum three times each year, over a three-year period, building on concepts and skills while using the Milwaukee Art Museum's Collection. Each visit is led by a trained docent educator who actively and creatively engages the students in the specific theme of the tour.

As part of the completion for the program, 5th grade students must select a piece of artwork from the MAM that inspires them—a painting, sculpture, glasswork or piece of furniture—and sketch a representation of the piece. They then take these sketches and work to

perfect them in a final form. At the graduation ceremony, the students emulate real Art Docents by presenting these finished products to family friends, and peers." This program has been such an incredible and enriching opportunity for these students," said Suzanne Shea, St. Mary art teacher. "They really have gained vast aesthetic knowledge, and speak so enthusiastically and eloquently about art appreciation. I find myself forgetting they are just 5th graders!"

The St. Mary students who graduated from the JDSP this year are: Lyla Becker, Isabella Christensen, Maddie Connor, Lilly Eggers, Kaitlyn Holub, Julia Miller, Abbie Nelson, Andrea Noll, Nolan Schuster, Payton Seymour, Grace Spears, Hally Bowles, Mason Connor, Sahej Grewal, Garrett Jansen, Alec Larson, Izzy Nielson, Eden Pierce, Leah Schaeve, Anderson Stroh, Emma Stueland. Congratulations to all the graduates for their hard work over the past three years.

9.10.16
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100 years!

St. Mary Parish School 100th Anniversary

In 2016 St. Mary Parish School will celebrate its 100th year as a school. **Please save Saturday, September 10, 2016 on your calendars as we will honor our parish with a special mass at 5 p.m. and a celebration will follow.** A committee has been established to plan and coordinate the celebration on September 10th as well as events throughout the year. If you would like to help please contact Jenny Grieb at J-sgrieb@wi.rr.com or 262-253-1340.

Mike Kelley Inducted into Badgers Hall of Fame

St. Mary Parish School alumni Mike Kelley highlighted this year's inductions into the University of Wisconsin Athletics Hall of Fame. Kelley played for the UW men's basketball team that made a magical-run to the Final Four in 2000. Kelley is an all-time leader in steals with 275 and was named the Big Ten's Defensive Player of the Year in 1999. It was his outstanding defense paired with team leadership that lead the team on a trip to the Final Four that is still talked about today. Kelley is married and his four children currently attend St. Mary Parish School. For a detailed story about Kelley please go to uwbadgers.com.

Carly Townsend Player of the Year

St. Mary Parish School alumni Carly Townsend was recently named the Gatorade State Volleyball Player of the Year. This award recognizes outstanding athletic and academic success and exemplary character on and off the field. She claimed First-Team All-State recognition from the Wisconsin Volleyball Coaches Association and was named the Journal Sentinel's Area Player of the Year. Townsend is a Senior at Germantown High School and finished the season with 582 kills, 689 assists, 65 blocks and 42 service aces while posted a .583 hitting percentage to lead Germantown to its first state tournament appearance since 2005. Townsend has maintained a 3.04 GPA and volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, as an organizer for the Germantown Community Scholarship Fund annual banquet and as a youth volleyball coach. She has signed to play volleyball at the University of Toledo, an NCAA Division I school.

We are currently updating our database of family, friends and alumni of St. Mary Parish School. If you or someone you know would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, updates and invitations to school functions and fundraisers please send your contact information to:

St. Mary Parish School Office
N89 W16297 Cleveland Avenue
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

schooloffice@stmaryparishschool.org

We Want To Hear From You!

We also welcome updates and stories of interest of all kinds! Send information about your family, honors received, appointments, career advancements, publications, ministry to others and other activities of interest. We'll include your news in The St. Mary Parish School Update newsletter as space allows. Please send names, dates, recent activities and locations to our school address listed above. Photographs are encouraged.

Name:

Year:

Home Address:

City, State Zip:

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Recent Activities:

In Loving Memory

DEACON THOMAS C. MONDAY



Co-worker, a mentor, a servant of God... our friend!

Born ~ October 4, 1940

Diaconate Ordination ~
 April 28, 1990

Born to Eternal Life ~
 March 9, 2015



Follow us on Facebook for the latest school news and community updates.

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

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St. Mary Parish School **SPRING 2015** UPDATE

Catholic Sole's Walk Raises Over \$16,500 for Tuition Angel Fund

The second annual Catholic Sole's walk was a great success again this year. Our pledges surpassed our goal and to date, we have received over \$16,500 in pledges and donations that go directly to St. Mary Tuition Angel Fund. The Tuition Angel Fund benefits families in need of tuition assistance and helps more families have access to the excellence of a Catholic education. St. Mary Parish School is currently ranked in the Top 5 Schools for donations! This event makes a real difference at our school and we thankful for the continued support, dedication and enthusiasm of our school. Not only did this walk raise awareness of the benefits of Catholic education, we made a huge statement about how important Catholic education is to our communities. One Step...One Soul at a time.



Save the date for the 3rd Annual "Soles for Catholic Education" walk scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015.