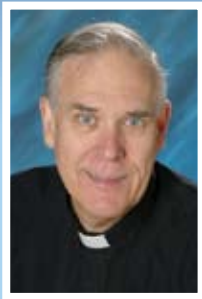


St. Mary's Catholic School



Message from the Pastor

My Dear Friends,

On April 17th of this year, Pope Benedict met with the leaders of the apostolate for Catholic Education in the United States. In his message that day at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., the Holy Father summarized the challenge for our Catholic community:

Countless dedicated Religious Sisters, Brothers, and Priests together with selfless parents have, through Catholic schools, helped generations of immigrants to rise from poverty and take their place in mainstream society. This sacrifice continues today. It is an outstanding apostolate of hope, seeking to address the material, intellectual and spiritual needs of over three million children and students. It also provides a highly commendable opportunity for the entire Catholic community to contribute generously to the financial needs of our institutions. Their long-term sustainability must be assured. Indeed, everything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that they are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.

St. Mary's School is a continuing vital local response to this challenge which the Pope described as twofold: the education of our children in faith and the nurturing of the soul of our nation. The parents, teachers and children of St. Mary's school embrace this challenge. I urge all of our parish and friends to be collaborators in this mission. We are proud of the life of our school.

To use the Pope's words, its long-term sustainability must be assured and so we must do everything possible to enliven the cooperation of the wider community in this outstanding apostolate of hope. I thank you for all you have done

Monsignor John M. Steiner

Educational Program at St. Mary's

Education is a shared responsibility among St. Mary's teachers, students, families and community that prepares students to be life-long learners. St. Mary's Catholic School Curriculum is based on a commitment to a strong academic experience, nurtured by faith, where Gospel values are integrated across the curriculum. Religion class is taught daily. The commitment is to maintain high academic expectations through the use of a variety of appropriate teaching and assessment models. The comprehensive instructional program and the learning environment provide students with knowledge, values, and skills needed for their present and future roles of leadership, participation, and service in their community.

Each student in this community is recognized as a unique individual with specific gifts and talents.

Through a formal process, goals, objectives and the curriculum philosophy are evaluated, revised and updated on a six-year cycle. St. Mary's Catholic School incorporates state and national guidelines as well as current Diocesan Curricula to develop grade level subject expectations for students. This year teachers are implementing a new Math program chosen because it is challenging and allows for lots of practice in basic computation. This year teachers are localizing the new Diocesan Language Arts Curriculum and which will be implemented during the 2009-10 school year.

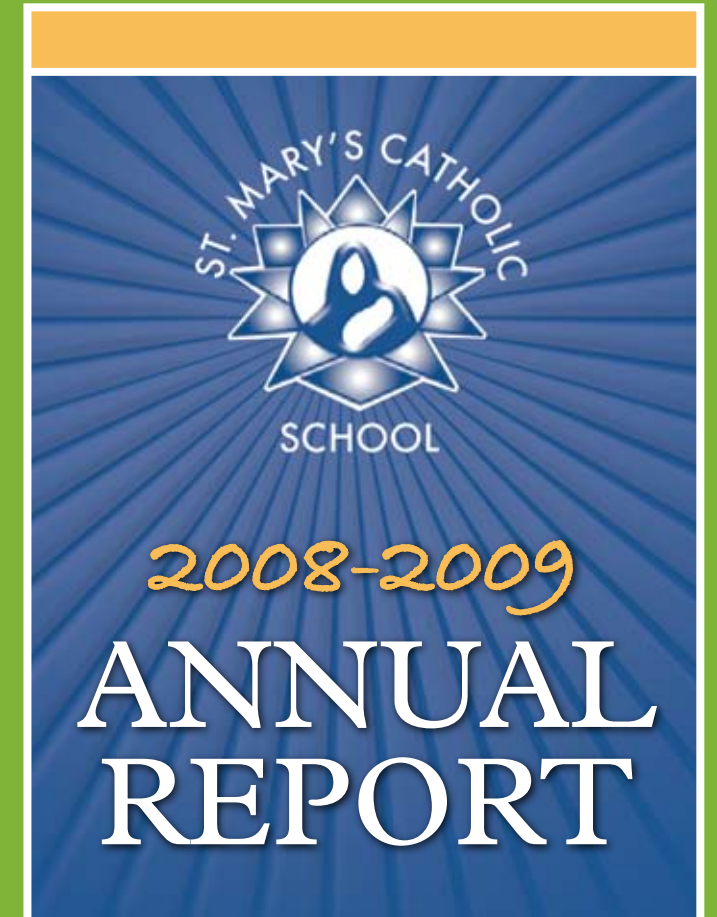
Student skills in the area of technology continue to be expanded, with a focus on integration of technology across all curricular areas.

We are also pleased this year that Mrs. Carol St. Clair, formerly of St. Pascal's, is our on site food coordinator. We are preparing all of the food for daily hot lunch on site instead of purchasing it from Central Valley. Mrs. St. Clair is also coordinating the snacks for PreK and Educare. Students (and staff) are enjoying her fresh baked breads and cookies and the delicious lunches and snacks. We are still participating in the Federal Hot Lunch program, so we are able to offer free or reduced priced lunches to families to families that meet the income guidelines for these programs.

The staff of St. Mary's is dedicated to creating a learning environment and offering a curriculum with a commitment to Catholic Christian formation and excellence in education.



St. Mary's Catholic School
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"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

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21st Campaign for St. Mary's Catholic School Annual Drive

There are many exciting things that are happening at St. Mary's, and the purpose of this annual report is two-fold, to let you know about what is going on in the school and to ask for your financial support so that we can continue the mission of the school.

The words of St. Paul are our school theme for this year, "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." This theme is important because it speaks of our responsibility to live lives that model our faith – in other words to put faith into action. This community has been an example of putting faith into action since the doors of St. Mary's School opened 50 years ago on September 2, 1958.

A Catholic education goes beyond academics to include both the spiritual and social development of every student, providing the basis that will help them fulfill their potential, and serve their communities. We are proud of our tradition a strong religion curriculum and of our role in supporting parents as the primary educators of their children.

Your gifts given to St. Mary's for this appeal will go toward the benefit of the students of the school and will help us build faith in every student.

Last year your gifts helped to provide:

- New Math program (a rigorous program with an emphasis on computation)
- Supplemental materials for instruction including math manipulatives
- Bathroom remodel in the Educare
- Finishing touches on the remodel of the old garage to the library

This year your gift will help to provide:

- Supplemental teaching materials
- Funds to continue to make improvements and upgrades in the school's physical plant
- Increased funding of the Foundation

The donation you make to the Annual Drive makes a difference to the children attending St. Mary's today, and will make a difference to the students in the future.

Thank you!

Lauri Nauditt
Principal

Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic School is a parish ministry that actively assists families by fostering community while providing Catholic formation within a strong academic program.

2009 Annual Auction

Mark your calendar for the 37th Annual St. Mary's Catholic School Auction to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2008 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel. Join us for an evening



of dining, dancing and fundraising. Our auction chairs this year are Dan and Colleen Kinney. The Family Night Carnival will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009 at St. Mary's School. All moneys earned from the Auction are used to offset the operating costs of St. Mary's Catholic School. We are grateful for the generosity of our community.



Technology Report – School Year 2007-2008

A new IP phone system was installed in the parish and school with an accompanying upgrade to our internet service in October of 2007. A generous donation of 30 Dell Optiplex GX260 desktops allowed us to reach our goal of universal XP operating systems in the school. We contracted with PC Answers to provide improvements to the operation and security of the St. Mary's network and will continue to use their services on an as-needed basis. A new school website was designed and launched in the spring of 2008. We site-tested computer hardware which is designed to reduce the number of student desktops needed in each classroom. That technology is being used in the seventh grade classroom this year. The Technology Committee and the Development Office are investigating auction software options for implementation in 2009.

Donations that are compatible with our network and in good working order are always welcome. We are currently accepting desktops with Intel Pentium IV or its equivalent. Flat panel monitors would save energy and space which is at a premium in our classrooms! Color printers with USB cables are also welcome. Please consider us as you upgrade your personal or business hardware.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Thomas
Technology Coordinator

Physical Plant Update

This community has been able to accomplish great things for the students of St. Mary's Catholic school over the last few years through financial gifts from the community.

In 2005, money was raised to completely upgrade to more energy efficient lighting fixtures in the classrooms, preschool, and administration building! In 2006, we were able to replace the old playground play structure that no longer met code with a beautiful, state of the art, play structure. In 2007 the double garage that had been used for storage, was converted to space for a library, so that the preschool program could be expanded to include 3 year olds and to give us a bigger space for before and after school care.

This summer we were able to put a new coating on the primary unit roof. This coating will address some of the major roof leak issues that have grown steadily worse over the last few years. Mark Van Driel and Jim Borgmann, our amazing maintenance team, were able to take out an unused bathtub in the old convent area and add another toilet and sink in that space. This has allowed boys and girls in the preK/Educare to now have separate bathrooms, and will allow the school to be licensed to accommodate more children in our Educare. Wall mounted fans have been installed in all grades and have made the rooms much more comfortable in the hot weather. New paint also covers most of the walls in the school, and the 4th grade classroom has great new computer tables that are bracketed to the walls creating more space in the classroom.

If you would like to see these kinds of improvements continue, you can specify your gift to the annual fund, be dedicated to improvement of the school physical plant.

Volunteer Corner

"It is in giving oneself that one receives." – Saint Francis of Assisi

The importance of "volunteer" to our school has always been indisputably valuable, but this last school year, we were able to put some real figures to this already known asset with over 4000 hours of volunteer recorded!! Major fundraisers, such as Auction and Fun Run, and regular day to day operations, such as hot lunch and classroom enrichment programs would not be the success that they are without the dedication and sacrifice of our volunteers and the success of these very things are vital to the future of our school. Each family at St. Mary's Catholic School pledges to give 20 hours of volunteer time. We added a Volunteer Coordinator to the function of the Development Council last year to assist families in reaching this goal with the understanding that as each family contributes, ALL families, benefit. We are excited for this next school year and feel truly blessed to have a community of wonderful volunteers.

If you have a special skill or interest or if you just want to get involved, call Volunteer Coordinator, Theresa Amble or the St. Mary's Development Office.

Website Changes 2008

We have made a few changes to the Saint Mary's Catholic School Website this year. These changes occurred both on the front-end (user interface) as well as on the back-end (servers and programming). Herb Dierks has put in many volunteer hours programming and maintaining the web server and the databases.

The first thing that you will notice is that we have separated the look and feel of the school's website from the parish's website. The school also has its own unique URL (<http://school.stmarysspokane.com>). There are links from the parish to the school and from the school to the parish, but now they are treated and maintained as two separate sites. The school site has updated graphics designed by Katherine Waxman with additional work done by Jeanie Plett. The links have been reorganized in a more intuitive hierarchy that makes it much easier to navigate and to find what you are looking for.

On the back-end, more and better content editing tools have been put into place to make it easier for teachers, staff and volunteers to edit and update the site with the most current information. The teachers spent part of their in-service day learning how to update content on the website. There is a renewed enthusiasm for keeping everything fresh and up to date.

The school website is now physically on a different server, allowing it to tap into the other school databases. This adds much more functionality such as login accounts for parents. We have some things already built and in beta testing right now getting ready for release. There is a long list of things we want and will do in 2009 to make the Saint Mary's website a better source of information and a place to build community. Stay tuned for more great things to come and visit <http://school.stmarysspokane.com> often.

Gary Plett

Financial Report

