

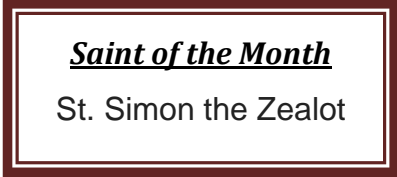
The Bulldog Barks February 15, 2019

Mr. Brookbank – Principal

brookbank.science@mystmarys.com

We will be in school on Monday, January 18th!

Exciting initiatives are moving forward at St. Mary's School. I have been in contact and attended meetings with personnel of Thomas More University. We are working with Thomas More educational consultants on a new school improvement plan. Specifically, we will structure a new curriculum that will logically show academic progression from grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. This plan will improve our use of technology and assessment of our academic progress involving our students. Please contact me if you have any questions. I will continue to update you on our progress.



Voucher Program

If you are a current voucher recipient, please send in a copy of your 2018 tax returns for next school year.

Does your family qualify for a voucher? If you are not sure, call the office or just send in a copy of your taxes and we will let you know if you qualify! You never know, until you ask.

ILEARN

Students in the 3rd - 8th grades have begun practice test sessions for ILEARN testing during school. Mr. Brookbank discussed what St. Mary's is doing to prepare for ILEARN, at the PTO Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

We would also like to offer students a snack on testing days and are asking for parents to send in individual snacks (store bought or homemade) and we will distribute to the classrooms. Students are only allowed to take one test per day, so they will be testing over several days. The older students will most likely be taking a test every day!

- ILEARN testing is scheduled for the week of April 22nd through May 17, 2019.
- IREAD-3 testing has been rescheduled for March 11 – 15, 2019.

Please do not schedule any appointments or vacations during these dates. I apologize for any inconvenience. All of this testing is state mandated and does impact our schools rating. *

MISSION FESTIVAL

Look under Mr. Waldon's section for information regarding the Mission Festival!

PTO – Fish Fry

I have clarified some of the positions and added better descriptions. For example Drive Thru used to just have 3 open positions. Now it is listed as Drive thru Outside taking orders, Drive Thru Inside Serve, and Drive Thru/Carry Out Desserts. So technically same amount of spots, just broken down a little differently so everyone know exactly what they are signing up for.

The only other thing we adjusted for schedules is allowing 5 Graders to be Minnows this year. The 6-8 classes only have 29 students and we need at least 10 minnows per week. The larger 5th grade class (16 students) has a lot of younger sibling of 6-8 students so it will allow for the same families to have

multiple minnows while a parent is working. Please sign your students (minnows) up for the same day that a parent is working.

Below is the link for signing up online. Signing up for MORE THAN 1 WEEK is strongly encouraged. There are 48 open spots per week, and around the same amount of school families so we need you to fill multiple spots. We have a group of volunteers that come help every week that are not school families and we are going to ask parishioners to help too, but the majority of our spots need to be filled with school parents.

<http://signup.com/go/yunzvSH>

As always, please call, text, or email with any problems, questions or suggestions. (859-240-9390 cell)
Thanks for volunteering,

Michelle Ryan
PTO President

Celebrate St. Mary's

Save the Date! Celebrate St. Mary's will be on Saturday, April 27th at Dearborn Country Club. More information will be sent home in the next couple of weeks.

The Art Department is requesting buttons, jewelry, pearls, polished glass, etc. to use on the 5th grade project. Please send to the school office.

St. Mary's MUSICAL!!!!

We are excited to announce that Linda Rehtin has created a play about the history of St. Mary's. Linda gathered historical information from Mr. Waldon. She also received stories and memories from various Alumni!

Linda would like to have a meeting on Tuesday, February 26th at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria to give an overview of the play and to ask for help. She will need help with set design, make up, costumes, practices, etc. The play is scheduled for Friday, May 10th!



We have created a separate page with information on *Keeping the Doors Open* campaign at the end of the Bulldog.

Donations can be made online at www.mystmarys.com.

Cash or checks can be dropped off or mailed to school office at 211 Fourth Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Make checks payable to St. Mary's School.

After School Care

The After School Care Program will be supervised by Ms. McPherson in the 1st grade room from 2:35 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mondays - Thursdays and from 2:35 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Fridays! The cost is only \$2.25 per half hour! If you have any question about the After School Care, please call the office or email Ms. McPherson at mcperson.1@mystmarys.com.

Box Tops for Education

*** Buy * Clip * Send * Earn***



Box Tops Clips are found on hundreds of product packages and are worth \$.10 for our school. All you need to do is send them to school before they expire! You can also drop them off in the back of church and we will pick them up. St. Mary's has a goal to raise \$1,000 this school year.



Adopt a Soldier

Our Army Reserve alumnus, Morgan Wolfer, has been deployed. We plan to send many letters to her and her fellow soldiers. We also would like to send care packages that she can share. If anyone would like to donate to her care packages, please send the items to the 2nd/3rd grade room anytime during this school year.

Care Package Suggestions

Gum, Lifesavers, mints, *sunflower seeds* (*Morgan really likes these!*), trail mix, protein bars, beef jerky, single serving bags of chips, powdered drink mixes for individual water bottles, playing cards, DVD's, **baby wipes (very popular)** hand sanitizer, Chapstick, peanut butter cups, Rice Crispy treats, Band-Aids, board games, air fresheners, Little Debbie's, Frisbee, Nerf football, inspirational readings.

Cannot be Shipped or Accepted

Home-baked goods, glass bottles or jars, aerosol cans or sprays, expired food, canned food, lighters, matches or lighter fluid, hotel samples, VHS tapes, hard cover books and music.

Pull for Ronald McDonald House Charities



Recycled beverage tabs help support local Ronald McDonald House program, a temporary "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals.

There is a can by the front door of school, with the Ronald McDonald logo on it. Please bring in your beverage tabs and put them in the can.

Kindergarten – Mrs. Denning

amy.denning@mystmarys.com

We have made it through the 26 letters of the alphabet, and are focusing on our last letter- Qq - **combination qu(kw)**- keyword- **quilt**. (A combination is 2 letters that come together to make an unexpected sound.) We will code it with an arc under the **qu**. We will also be working with alphabetizing, syllables and compound words. After adding our **qu** words to the caterpillar, we ended up with a total of 557 words for the 26 letters of the alphabet. That's a lot of words we can read!

In math we will continue working on dividing by sharing, and play a card game to compare numbers through 10.

Please continue practicing counting money with your child, especially nickels.

Show-n-Tell for the week of Feb. 18 will be- **Bb**.

Have a super week!

Grade 1 – Ms. McPherson

mcperson.1@mystmarys.com

Mid Terms reports went home Thursday. Reports need to be signed and returned by Friday, Feb. 22nd! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress.

In Phonics the 1st graders will be learning the name, sound, meaning, and written form of **suffix – es**. They also learned that suffix –es is added to root words that end with **sibilant sounds**, which are hissing sounds (such as /sh/, /ks/, /s/, and /ch/). We also will be learning diphthongs ou (as in mouse) and ow (as in cow).

In Math we are practicing to tell time by the hour and half past the hour. We are also learning to divide shapes into halves and into fourths.

Grade 2 & 3 – Mrs. Grove**annmarie.grove@mystmarys.com**

We have been studying the properties and phases of matter. We learned that by taking advantage of the properties of materials, we can solve many problems. We understand why plastic was invented and brainstormed futuristic inventions that might be possible using new materials.

Captain Cash visited Thursday to teach us how to spend wisely. Next week, we will discuss saving our money.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Meyer**amanda.meyer@mystmarys.com**

Fourth graders are enjoying our graphing math chapter. Next week they will do a little more graphing but also learn about probability and combinations. We are ending our weathering and erosion chapter in science. Students have learned that weathering is the breaking apart, wearing away, or dissolving of rocks. Erosion is the moving of those sediments, which are deposited in a new place. Erosion is usually an important topic on state testing.

Third and fourth graders are excited to finally be working on their informative PowerPoint. They did all their research and planning first. Both grades also need to keep reading and taking AR quizzes. We have many students who have met their goal already!

I hope you have a good week and can join us Wednesday for the fourth grade mass!

Grade 5 – Mrs. Baker**leslie.baker@mystmarys.com**

Thank you to everyone for all of the fun Valentines and treats. We had a great time at our party. A big thank you to Mrs. McGraw, Mrs. Ryan, and Mrs. Wismann for their help!

This week we will be working on a food chain project in science, division of fractions in math, and learning about the settlement of Jamestown in social studies. In reading, we will be finishing our book, Island of the Blue Dolphins and learning about the real facts of our main character, Karana.

Midterms went home on Thursday. Please sign and return these to school as soon as possible. Keep reading for AR, the end of the quarter will be here quickly. Have a great week!

Grade 6 – Mrs. Rice**suzy.rice@mystmarys.com**

The 6th and 8th grades just had math tests. The 8th grade is beginning a week of word problems. They are writing a system of equations and then solving. They will have a test over word problems at the end of the week.

Midterms were sent home on Thursday. One copy should be signed and returned. The quarter ends March 11. The first Fish Fry is March 8. See you there!

Grade 7 – Mrs. Rector**kim.rector@mystmarys.com**

We briefly studied the causes and effects of World War II in sixth grade. We are going to take a look at modern Europe and discuss how the events of the past influenced the present.

Seventh graders are busy learning about ancient civilizations in Northern Africa and Southeastern Asia. They presented research on several ancient city-states. The eighth graders are continuing their study of the United States Constitution. We have had interesting debates about ratifying the Constitution and the argument between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Midterms were sent home on Thursday. Please sign and return if you have not already done so. Some lower grades were due to missing assignments. Students have the opportunity to improve their grades by keeping on top of their work. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Have a terrific week!

Grade 8 – Mr. Waldon

jim.waldon@mystmarys.com

We're getting excited for our Mission Festival which will be on Friday, March 1st from 12:30 until 2:00 P.M. Parents, grandparents, and friends in general are invited to help the 8th graders raise money for various missions and charities. Most activities cost 25 to 50 cents and include cake walks, free throws, golf, ring toss, face painting, a concession stand, pie in face (of three willing 8th graders), prizes, prizes, and more prizes. The GRAND PRIZE will be \$50.00 cash.

In seventh and eighth grade English, we've been working on writing arguments, and both classes are making steady progress in their respective novels. Some of the sixth graders have begun a new book, and others are continuing the *Frightful* series. All sixth graders have been working on English usage skills along with our regular journal writing.

Students planning to go to South Dearborn High School should have returned their materials to the guidance department at South Dearborn by today, the 15th. Anyone who has not done so should plan to get everything turned in this Monday because this has a major effect on the classes the students may take.

Thanks to everyone who supported our LaRosa's fundraiser! Our next restaurant fundraiser will be at Chipotle on April 6th, and we will appreciate your support.

Eighth graders are raffling a black 7" Samsung Elite tablet and are selling chances for a drawing to be held on February 28th. The cost of the chances will be \$5.00 each or 3 chances for \$10.00. Those who sell chances will earn credits for our class trip.

Remember that our next class trip payment of \$300.00 will be due on March 1, and payments are not refundable.

God bless!

7th and 8th Grade Science – Mr. Brookbank

brookbank.science@mystmarys.com

Beginning a new section concentrating on Genetics! Parents be ready for questions concerning Heredity. Traits good and bad will be discussed, be ready to take credit or blame your spouse! Basic vocabulary, history of human genetic progress as to where we were and where we are headed will be discussed. The eighth grade will delve deeper into principals of Genetics and discuss concepts of human probability concerning our genetic code. Seventh grade will be introduced to probability of genetic crosses and the Punnett square.

Kids Art Competition

The art guild has moved the kids art competition from our August show to our April show. They did this to make it a little more "kid friendly". The teachers do not need to do anything, the students should be able to do this independently. See attached for information and entry form.

Connie Powers, CRE

connie.powers@mystmarys.com

Our 8th grade Confirmation Class is ready to be Confirmed! Please pray for the following candidates as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at St. Louis in Batesville at 2 p.m. Eli Bruce, Jake Daugherty, Hannan Haverkos, Will Hollingsworth, Aidan Metz, Josh Murray, Jacob Pierce, Cyndi Tush and Ben Zigan.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We need more crochet-ers and knit-ers! You can help by attending Wednesday gathering or from home. Just give Connie a call at 812-926-0060. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Vacation Bible School - Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 24 – 28, 2019

Interested in assisting, call or email Connie Powers.

Saint of the Month

January – St. Simon the Zealot

In St. Matthew's Gospel, we read of St. Simon or Simeon who is described as one of our Lord's brethren or kinsmen. His father was Cleophas, St. Joseph's brother, and his mother, according to some writers, was our Lady's sister. He would therefore be our Lord's first cousin and is supposed to have been about eight years older than He. No doubt he is one of those brethren of Christ who are mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as having received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. St. Epiphanius says that when the Jews massacred St. James the Lesser, his brother Simeon upbraided them for their cruelty. The apostles and disciples afterwards met together to appoint a successor to James as bishop of Jerusalem, and they unanimously chose Simeon, who had probably assisted his brother in the government of that church. In the year 66 civil war broke out in Palestine, as a consequence of Jewish opposition to the Romans. The Christians in Jerusalem were warned of the impending destruction of the city and appear to have been divinely ordered to leave it. Accordingly that same year, before Vespasian entered Judaea, they retired with St. Simeon at their head to the other side of the Jordan, occupying a small city called Pella. After the capture and burning of Jerusalem, the Christians returned and settled among the ruins until the Emperor Hadrian afterwards entirely razed it. We are told by St. Epiphanius and by Eusebius that the church here flourished greatly, and that many Jews were converted by the miracles wrought by the saints. When Vespasian and Domitian had ordered the destruction of all who were of the race of David, St. Simeon had escaped their search; but when Trajan gave a similar injunction, he was denounced as being not only one of David's descendants, but also a Christian, and he was brought before Atticus, the Roman governor. He was condemned to death and, after being tortured, was crucified. Although he was extremely old - tradition reports him to have attained the age of 120 - Simeon endured his sufferings with a degree of fortitude which roused the admiration of Atticus himself. His feast day is February 18.

Cafeteria/Playground

Contact Aimee Hollingsworth at 744-8738, to sign up for cafeteria and playground duty. The schedule is online at www.mytmarys.com, under "Student Life", under "Cafeteria/Playground". If you can fill in one of the open positions, you can call the school office to let us know!

Lunch:

11:25 a.m. – Grades 4 – 5

11:35 a.m. – Grades K – 3

12:00 p.m. – Grades 6 – 8

Recess:

11 – 11:35 a.m. – Grades K – 3

11:55 – 12:20 a.m. – Grades 4 – 5

12:25 – 12:45 p.m. – Grades 6 – 8

Cafeteria and Playground hours:

Cafe: First lunch is served at 11:15 a.m., so arrive 10 – 15 minutes early. Serve two lunch periods and help clean up kitchen, wash dishes, etc. You should be finished around 12:45 p.m.

Playground: Arrive around 10:50 a.m. and help the teacher supervise students on playground, Activity Center or at the park (depending on weather). You should be finished around 12:30 p.m.

Cafeteria Volunteers:

02/18 – Diane Peters, 02/19 – Marge Beinkemper, 02/20 – Marge Waldon, 02/21 – Jill Zigan,
 02/22 – Monica Ramsey, 02/25 – Pat Scharf, 02/26 – Marge Beinkemper, 02/27 – Marge Waldon,
 02/28 – Charlotte Deville

Playground Volunteers:

02/18 – Carolyn/Bernadine, 02/19 – HELP NEEDED, 02/20 – Randi McGraw, 02/21 – Chris Strzok,
 02/22 – Chris Strzok, 02/25 – Carolyn/Bernadine, 02/26 – Carolyn Robers, 02/27 – Randi McGraw,
 02/28 – Chris Strzok

Lunch Menu: \$15.00 per ticket (5 meals)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18	19	20	21	22
Spaghetti Lasagna Tossed Salad Bread Sticks Green Beans Fruit Milk	Southern Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Corn Fruit Milk	Hamburger or Pizza Burger Fries Baked Beans Fruit Milk	Chicken Rice Bowl Corn Black Beans - cheese, lettuce, salsa and sour cream available Fruit Milk	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Carrots Bread Fruit Milk



St. Mary's School
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Bob Brookbank, Principal	brookbank.science@mystmarys.com
Beth Legge, President – School Commission	beth@mccabesflowers.com
Randy Dennis, Vice President - School Commission	sdrdennis@hotmail.com
Michelle Ryan, PTO President	michelle51703@yahoo.com
Ann Hutchinson, Administrative Assistant	ann.hutchinson@mystmarys.com

As of 02/14/2019:	\$704,186 raised
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Current Progress:

1. Mr. Brookbank is assessing if we can offer cafeteria next year. Mr. Brookbank and Mrs. Brothers have had meetings with individuals from St. John’s regarding how they run their cafeteria. We need the cafeteria to break-even or have a profit at the end of each school year.
2. A letter of intent for enrollment for next school year was sent out. **Please return the completed form to the school office**, it was due by Friday, February 8, 2019. This should help in planning for staffing K-8 grades and hopefully provide some indication as to the viability of a pre-school for 2020-2021. He will be following-up that letter with direct phone calls and/or meeting with school-age families to encourage and recruit more student to increase the school census. Other more external efforts to market and recruit for the purpose of increasing the school census are still in the planning stages and/or are being considered for use in the total sustainability plan.
3. Bob, Ann, Mollie are working on the budget for next year. Once the details of the budget are finalized, the Finance Committee will need to approve the budget.
4. As far as a pre-school.....unless there are at least a double digit enrollment commitment, it would be too early to say we are having a pre-school for 2019-2020. It most likely may be 2020-2021 before we can prove a sustainable enrollment to for feasibility; however, as has been proven by the success of the funding campaign..... only God and time will tell.

Pending:

We still need a group of volunteers to organize a campaign to recruit more students and marketing for our school! Lyndsay Hays has volunteered to head this committee. We will be looking for additional volunteers to help her with:

- Mailing out to local and non-local business owners. We have a list of small and large businesses that we can solicit for a one-time donation or a pledge amount for the next 3-5 years.
- This group of volunteers will also would for fundraising (above what PTO currently does), grant writing, seeking long term pledges, etc.

If you would be interested in being part of this committee, please contact Lyndsay at 812-907-0312.

Calendar of Events:

Tuesday, February 26th	Linda Rehtin – Musical Meeting at 7 p.m. in school cafeteria
Wednesday, February 27th	Early Release – Students will be released at 12:35 p.m.
Friday, March 1st	Mission Festival (Activity Center)
Friday, March 8th	3Q Ends
Friday, March 8th	Fish Fry – 1 of 5
Tuesday, March 12th	3Q Report Cards sent home
Wednesday, March 13th	St. Mary’s School Open House from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. -This is for parents of students entering Kindergarten through the 8th grade for the 2019/2020 school year
Monday, March 18th – Friday, March 22nd	Provision Spring Break
Friday March 22nd	Fish Fry – 2 of 5
Monday, March 25th – Friday, March 29th	Spring Break – No School
Friday, March 29th	Fish Fry 3 of 5
Friday, April 5th	Fish Fry 4 of 5
Wednesday, April 10th	Early Release – Students will be released at 12:35 p.m
Thursday, April 18th	4Q Midterm
Friday, April 19th	Fish Fry – 5 of 5
Thursday, April 25th	4Q Midterm Reports
Saturday, April 27th	Celebrate St. Mary’s at Dearborn Country Club
Friday, May 3rd	Oldenburg Academy – Picnic for all incoming Freshman from 5 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 5th	1st Communion Mass at 11 a.m.
Monday, May 6th – Friday, May 10th	Teacher Appreciation Week
Friday, May 10th	St. Mary’s Musical – time TBD
Monday, May 13 – Friday, May 17th	8th Grade Class Trip
Monday, May 13th – Tuesday, May 14th	CYO Camp – 6th and 7th grade students
Wednesday, May 22th	End of 4Q
Wednesday, May 22nd	Kindergarten End of Year Celebration at 1 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22nd	8th grade graduation at 6 p.m.
Thursday, May 23rd	Last Student Day! – Grades 1 – 7