

ST. MARY'S FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE SPRING NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE:

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All of us at St. Mary's School would like to thank our exceptional community, family, and friends for all the amazing support. Whether donations were monetary, time, or gifts, all are greatly appreciated. We have a great group of people working hard to ensure the longevity of our school and are very excited for the future. We are thrilled to announce that we are almost to our goal of \$103,000 raised this year!

BIG GIVE 2023 ● The Big Give in Valley County was held over a 24-hour period from March 16 to March 17, 2023. In that short period of time, St. Mary's School received donations from 26 donors for a total of \$7,620! This is a county-wide annual event with 33 different nonprofit organizations participating, so we feel very blessed that so many members of our community chose St. Mary's Catholic School as a recipient of their generous donations.

POCKET CHANGE CHALLENGE 2023 ● Our pocket change challenge kicked off Catholic Schools Week, with the intention of purposeful giving. Our goal was to disperse 350 envelopes in various dollar amounts, and allow generous collection time to impart a spirit of giving each day in our homes. While we didn't disperse all of the envelopes, we successfully raised approximately \$15,000. Even the students had the opportunity to pick envelopes and fill them collectively over the last two months to help support the school they love!

TRIVIA NIGHT 2023 ● The SMS Fundraising Committee hosted a fun and successful 2nd Annual Trivia Night on March 25th at the Ord Vets Club. It was a competitive night with 24 teams of 8, that enjoyed socializing, silent auction, dinner by Jubilee Events & Catering, and 10 full rounds of trivia questions, organized and emceed by St. Mary's School alumni Tracy (Scott) Stratman. The winning team was "The Helpful Hardware Folks", 2nd place "Quizekiel 25:17" and 3rd place "Husker Husbands". Best Costume went to "Crackademics" as Albert Einstein. We thank everyone who sponsored a team, donated or bought an item on the silent auction, the Vets Club for accommodations and staffing, and all the volunteers who helped make this a successful event. We plan to host it again next year and welcome anyone who wants to try out their trivia skills!



6TH GRADE ● GRADUATION

St. Mary's Catholic School has graduated six students in the 2022-2023 class of 6th Graders. On May 10th, Father Scott Harter led a service where we said "Good luck and God bless" to a special group of students. Proud parents, teachers, grandparents, other students, and special friends and family looked on as the students received their diplomas from their teacher, Mrs. Cargill. Following the service, a small cake reception was held at Gorak Hall. These young people excelled in many aspects of their education and were fine examples of service to others and their Heavenly Father. St. Mary's looks forward to watching these students continue their education and represent our school in their bright futures ahead.

We would like to leave you with the Class Motto from the first graduating class (8th grade) from St. Mary's Catholic School in 1956 – 67 years ago! "Take the world as you find it, but leave it better." May we all be inspired by these words.

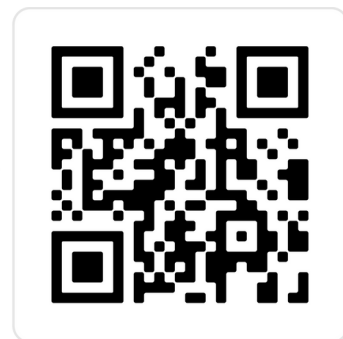


2023/2024 ● ENROLLMENT

The 2023-2024 school year looks to be another strong year for St. Mary's Catholic School. We look to have 9 kindergarten students, 6 first graders, 6 second graders, 2 third graders, 3 fourth graders, 3 fifth graders, and 6 sixth graders. To help spark interest in enrollment, banners were purchased and displayed near the school and highway. As a fun side note, a growing number of students have continued a family tradition of attending St. Mary's Catholic School, and 11 families actually have a second or third generation in attendance!

COUNTRY RUN JULY 2023

- On Saturday, July 1st 2023, the SMS fundraising committee will host the Annual Dan Klimek Sr. Ord Country Run which will be held at St. Mary's School in conjunction with our Annual Pancake Feed. Pre-Registration for the event is encouraged at <https://ordcountryrun23.itemorder.com/> or scan this QR code and follow the link onscreen for registration. In person registration is also available for the Run/Walk beginning at 7:00 am with the race to follow at 7:30 am. The public is invited to attend a free-will donation pancake feed and Open House from 8 to 11 am in conjunction with the Ord Country Run. Kick off your Saturday with a little exercise and a lot of pancakes!



SCAN ME

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Ord Country Run & Pancake Feed**

07/01/2023

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE VALUE OF SMALL & LARGE GIFTS

- Every little bit helps, every little bit is important! From large donations to small everyday giving, each gift we have been given is valued. One parishioner in particular, may not have much to give, but does make a point to stop and donate every chance he gets. This is not only important to St Mary's but an important lesson for all of us to replicate in our daily life. It's not size of the gifts we give, but the intention and priority to continue to give when we can!

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT AWARD

- While it is an honor just to be nominated, to win solidifies what a rewarding role we serve in a community that truly appreciates our efforts: "While this committee focuses on fundraising for the purpose of sustaining St. Mary's Elementary School, Valley County is lucky to have a flourishing private elementary school as an option for local families.

This Committee has done the work to continue the long-standing Ord Country Run, that would not otherwise likely have continued, and in 2022 did a great job of planning and putting on the first annual Trivia Night which was a great community event that brought in people from around the state and was held at the Veteran's Club, providing support for our local businesses, among other events such as hosting a concessions to attract shoppers to our area during the Junk Jaunt."

VALLEY COUNTY Annual Celebration



ALUMNI

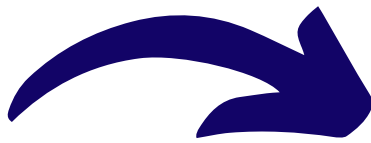
- **CALLING ALL ALUMNI!** If you receive our newsletter, would you please contact us with your current e-mail address and phone number. This will greatly improve our ability to contact you for future activities.

The St. Mary's School Fundraising Committee is a collaborative effort to sustain our school financially, strengthen our tradition of academic excellence, and ensure affordable tuition for our bright young students. Tuition covers less than half the cost to educate a child at our school. The remaining amount is covered by our committee, alumni, and the parish. Any gift of donations makes a huge impact towards covering our operating costs, maintenance of our school and facilities, and bridging the tuition gap to provide excellence in faith-based education to every student. Every donation large and small makes a difference here at St. Mary's School.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- **Attend or volunteer:** We have many events throughout the year, and we are always in need of helping hands and attendees to make our events successful and special! Contact the school to get involved!
- **Donate:** Donate your baked goods to an event or your hand-crafted items; every little bit helps keep our school going! ***If you can send a check, please make it out to SMS Fundraising or see below for Venmo/Paypal.***
- **Make a Match or Find a Match:** Can you, your business, or someone you know, or their business match contributions raised from our events? Contact Us! We are always looking for community champions!
- **Create a Lasting Impact:** Remember loved ones who have passed with a special gift and include St. Mary's School in your will. Contact us and we can help get you in touch with someone to plan your special memorial!



Donate Here



Please Donate or Pledge Future Contributions if you can. It takes our community of wonderful alumni, parishioners, and members, to keep St. Mary's School thriving for our children.

Donor Name: _____

Donor Address: _____

Donor City/St/Zip: _____

Charitable Contribution: _____

Charitable Long-Term Pledge: Monthly Bi-Annual Annual (Circle)

Long-Term Pledge Amount: _____

****Kindly detach and send with your check payable to 'SMS Fundraising' in the envelope provided****