

Pastor's Corner

My Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all who made Catholic Schools Week such a wonderful time at St. Mary's! You'll be happy to know that there is tremendous interest in our School among new folks, and it looks like we'll have waiting lists for many of the grades. In the fall we'll be adding a pre-K-3 group to our School.



Congratulations to our Eighth Graders who recaptured the Catholic Schools' Week trophy from St. Mark's! Good job!

This Sunday the Catholic Church celebrates World Day for Consecrated Life and World Marriage Day. Consecrated Life refers to persons who give their lives to God via Church-sanctioned vows. Some are in Religious Life such as Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order priests, while others live their consecrated life as lay persons in everyday life. On World Marriage Day, those who are called to this way of life are asked to rekindle the love they have for their partner.

In this country we also celebrated Boy Scout Sunday today, remembering the good work done by volunteers in this organization.

Remember that the Anointing Mass is on Monday, February 16th at 11 a.m. for all those who are ill in mind, body and/or spirit. Following the Mass, we will have a reception in the St. Mary Cafeteria.

Mardi Gras is right around the corner. On Saturday, February 21st, we'll be having our annual Mardi Gras dinner prepared by St. Mary's Cajun Chef, Clifton Lively. Tickets will go fast, and it's always a sold-out event. Therefore, now is the time to buy your tickets.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
- Father Bob

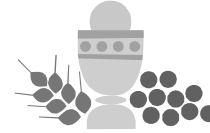


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Oops – Correction from last week's Pastor's Corner

The Spring Anointing Mass will be on
Monday, February 16th (President's Day) at
11:00 am in the Church
Following the Mass there will be a reception in the
St. Mary School Cafeteria.

Liturgies & Paraliturgies Including Mass Intentions



Saturday, February 7:

- 4:00 – 4:45 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 pm Mass – † Erma Jadin
Offered by Barbara and Tony Caracciolo
7:00 pm Mass – Joseph Suy and Family
Offered by Joseph

Sunday, February 8:

- 8:00 am Mass – † Bernard Nowel
Offered by Father Bob and Parishioners of St. Mary
9:30 am Mass – † Belisle Family
Offered by Irene Belisle
11:00 am Mass – † Vincent Carbonaro
Offered by Richard and Connie Petrone
1:00 pm Mass – † All Souls in Nguyen Family
Offered by Joseph

Monday, February 9:

- 7:30 am Mass – † Gordon Anderson
Offered by Lisa Pratt

Tuesday, February 10:

- 7:30 am Mass – † Arlene Plunkett
Offered by Frank and Frances Bindewald

Wednesday, February 11:

- 7:30 am Communion Service

Thursday, February 12:

- 7:30 am Mass - † Jack Spillane
Offered by Lois and Ralph Petrone

Friday, February 13:

- 8:30 am Mass – † Mary Pillepich
Offered by Adrian Jenkins

Saturday, February 14:

- 4:00 – 4:45 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 pm Mass – † Erma Jadin
Offered by Barbara and Tony Caracciolo
7:00 pm Mass – Joseph Thi
Offered by Joseph

Sunday, February 15:

- 8:00 am Mass – † Emily Chandler Kams
Offered by Steve and Patty Williams
9:30 am Mass – † Peter Schonning
Offered by Gunnar Schonning
11:00 am Mass – † James Donovan
Offered by Anne Donovan
1:00 pm Mass – Mass for the Parishioners

Weekend Mass Schedule at a Glance

Saturday Mass in English – 5:30 pm
Saturday Mass in Spanish – 7:00 pm
Sunday Mass in English – 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Sunday Mass in Spanish – 1:00 pm

To schedule a **Mass Intention**, to donate the **Altar Flowers** in memory of a loved one or special occasion, or for information on **Baptism**, please come to the Parish Office or call 762-5491.

Today's Readings

First Reading — Job finds life on earth to be drudgery; he is filled with restlessness (Job 7:1-4, 6-7).

Psalm — Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted (Psalm 147).

Second Reading — Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel. I have become all things to all, to save at least some (1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23).

Gospel — Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases (Mark 1:29-39).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32; 1 Cor 10:31 — 11:1;
 Mk 1:40-45

Readings for the week may be found on
www.thestmaryparish.org - Click on *Worship*

AAMEN and the St. Mary Gospel Choir will present the Gospel Choir in concert on Sunday, February 15th at 3:00 pm.

The concert is free, and a reception will follow in the school cafeteria. A collection will be taken for the church debt reduction campaign.

Camillus Ministers Needed

If you are interested in becoming a Camillus Minister, please call Frank Grant at 392-6084



Scrip Card Information

If anyone is interested in buying Scrip cards to support St. Mary School, please contact Lisa Picken at 679-4120 or Catherine Jones at 798-2389 and we will be glad to assist you with Scrip.



AAMEN Corner

African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization is established by the Diocese of Raleigh to foster the mission of the Roman Catholic Church, spread the Gospel, celebrate the Sacraments, and form a faith community. To do this ministry, we must create an atmosphere in which individuals of African descent can maintain their identity, heighten their visibility, and enhance their lives as Catholics. The ministry will be concerned with nurturing those in the faith, reconciling those fallen away from the faith, and offering a church home to the unchurched through conversion to the Catholic faith.

Please Pray for Our Sick

Shirley Ammons	Janet Dow ell	Lindsay McDuffie
Robyn Baily	Madeline Dow ell	Elizabeth Militscher
Charles Baird	Lucy Cowen Gawloski	Kathy Murphy
Evelyn Baird	Shari George	John Pavolonis
Stephanie Barrows	Mildred Gibbons	Laura Purin
Cheryl Bezek	Kristal Grant	Geraldine Saburn
Arenda Bingham	Michael J. Gressman	John Slaughenhaupt
Judy Brooks	William Grundy	Adell Suhoski
Lecia Burns	Mary Haywood	John Leroy Trader
Mary Cahill	Andrew Kegl	Felix Usewicz
Florence Carey	Josephine Kidney	Catherine Veres
C.J. Carroll	Anna Lenortavage	Chris Watson, Jr.
Clara Carter	Francis Leonard	Jim Watters
Joyce Christine	Louise Leonard	Jeff Weeks
Jeanne Currier	Patrick Leonard	Sheila Weeks
Barbara DeBellis	Mary Eugenia Mazur	Jeff Wiener
Karen Kendig Doubek	Gary McDaniel	Sheila Wolfe

To add or remove a name, please contact:
bulletin@thestmaryparish.org or 395-2063.

St. Mary Nursery News

The nursery is now open for 9:30 Sunday Mass!

We are always in need of volunteers - contact

Allen and Kelly Sanderson at nursery@thestmaryparish.org or you may stop by the nursery before and after the 9:30 Sunday mass.

English as a Second Language Classes

Classes are Sundays from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm in the Tileston Building.

Volunteer teachers as well as clerical help is needed.

No experience is necessary.

Please contact the Church office.

The St. Mary Parish Bookstore:

Books & Gifts for All Occasions

Proudly serving the Cape Fear Deanery, the St Mary Parish Bookstore offers one stop shopping for Lenten, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA gifts.

Come in and browse our unique and affordable gifts including saints medals, religious jewelry, rosaries, bibles, books, crosses, crucifixes, and inspirational items for your home decor. We also have a wide variety of items for newlyweds and their parents, nurses, caregivers and those grieving or homebound. We are your local source for quality religious cards and Catholic gifts for all occasions. Please visit us on

Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm or Tuesday through Friday 10:00am - 3:00pm.

We are located in the Tileston Building or call 910-762-5491 ext. 59. The St Mary Parish Bookstore is a 100% volunteer staffed ministry of the St Mary Parish.

St. Mary Gospel Choir CDs are back!

Thank you for the tremendous response we received in December from the sale of the Gospel Choir's CDs which sold out pretty quickly. The St. Mary Gospel Choir has restocked the St. Mary Parish Bookstore with 25 more CDs due to demand. Please visit the Parish Bookstore if you need a copy of the CD. Thank you for your kind and loving support of the Gospel Choir!

2008 Contribution Statements

are available for pick up in the Parish Office

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

St. Mary Altar Guild

Will be holding a Valentines's bake sale after all Masses this Sunday, February 8th.

Next meeting will be at the Blue Water Restaurant

Wrightsville Beach
 Monday, February 16th
 at Noon

The Week Ahead In Our Parish

Saturday, February 7:

Youth Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 9:00 am in the Church

Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 10:15 am in the Church

RCIA Classes* – 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Tileston

Sunday, February 8:

Nursery* – Available at the 9:30 am Mass

Faith Sharing* - 9:45 am in Tileston

English as a Second Language Class* - 11:00 am – 12:30 pm in Tileston

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* - 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the Church

Middle and High School Youth Group* - 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm in Tileston

Monday, February 9:

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal* - 7:00 pm in the Church

Hispanic Youth Group* - 7:30 pm in Tileston

Grupo De Alcohólicos Anónimos*
8:00 – 9:30 pm en el gimnasio

Tuesday, February 10:

Divine Mercy Chaplet* –
12:30 pm in the Chapel at Tileston

Adult Education* – 6:00 pm in Tileston

Wednesday, February 11:

Thursday, February 12:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* - 8:00 am – 9:00 am in the Church

Renaissance Choir Rehearsal* - 7:30 pm in the Church

Friday, February 13:

Grupo De Alcohólicos Anónimos*
8:00 – 9:30 pm en el gimnasio

Saturday, February 14:

Youth Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 9:00 am in the Church

Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 10:15 am in the Church

RCIA Classes* – 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Tileston

*denotes weekly activity



Knights of Columbus Council 1074

Come learn a little about your faith with Knights of Columbus Council 1074. On the first Tuesday of each month, we will study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Our guide will be the Compendium of the Catechism and discussions by Bishop William E. Lori Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. The sessions will start promptly at 7:30 pm in the

Council Chambers in Tileston.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Knights of Columbus is a family, fraternal organization of Catholic Gentlemen. The local council is Council 1074 and covers St. Mary and Immaculate Conception Parishes.

ST. MARY'S 5TH ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DINNER CELEBRATION SATURDAY February 21st

2008 6:30 pm

St. Mary school café

**Plenty of Beads & Doubloons with Good
Louisiana Food, Music & Revelry**



CHICKEN & SAUSAGE JAMBALAYA
CRAWFISH PIE

SHRIMP & ANDOUILLE GUMBO

LOUISIANA FRIED CATFISH

GREEN SALAD FRENCH BREAD

BREAD PUDDING WITH BUTTER PECAN RUM SAUCE

MARDI GRAS KING CAKE

Cash Bar of wine & aBita Beer
from Louisiana

COSTUMING & LETTING LOOSE ENCOURAGED

Tickets \$30 for adults

\$15 for children 6-12

Tickets Available in the

St. Mary Parish office

412 Ann Street

All Proceeds benefit the
Tileston restoration campaign

From the Office of Social Outreach

Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

By: Sister Isaac

Today's readings are about healing. Jesus and His Father not only heal physically, but also spiritually. I suspect there are times when many of us can identify with Job and we all know that the Book concludes with Job receiving blessings in abundance because of his trust and perseverance. Peter's mother-in-law was also blessed by Jesus and once she felt better she began waiting on others.

That's what happens here at the outreach. It is all about serving others because we have been blessed and healed ourselves. Hundreds come to us each week and receive these blessings and they are most grateful. As I type this today, the school children who are celebrating Catholic Schools Week with its theme centered around service, are coming to us with bags of hygiene products for our guests.

The Knights of Columbus had another fabulous food drive and we received hundreds of pounds of groceries for our shelves, plus donations that permit us to purchase at the Food Bank each week for .18 cents a pound. A lot of man and woman power goes into collecting the food, bringing it down the stairs and arranging our shelves so that all is ready to be distributed daily.

Earlier this week the Columbiettes from St. Mark's dropped off 60 plastic baggies filled with hygiene items that we will distribute to our people on Valentine's Day! And a representative from the Linus Organization dropped off a dozen blankets for the children.

And speaking of blankets, I don't think the Outreach ever reported on the winner of our raffle quilt that took place just before Christmas. The winner is Tillie Marchese – everyone is so happy for her and she is too! And of course we are happy for the \$1100.+ dollars raised for our programs thanks to Mary Ann Kotas and her quilters!

So just as our God transforms us with healing love when we seem hopeless, we try to help others experience divine mercy by moving out of ourselves, and being on fire with the Good News, we are able to pray the responsorial psalm with full voice: "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted."

Special Need of the Week

Men and women's socks and t.p.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday from 8:00 am - 9:00 am and
Sunday from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and on the
First Fridays of the month from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

SAINT MARY PARISH BOOKSTORE

Winter Schedule

Your local source for Catholic books and gifts

Sunday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Have you heard about contra dancing?

It's an Americanized dance based on English, Irish, and Scottish country dancing and done to a few, easy-to-learn basic steps.

The Cape Fear Contra Dancers are holding their 13th annual Salty Swirl on Feb. 28th from

7:30-11:00pm in our own Tileston Upper room.

Why not join them for an exciting evening of family fun?

Want to know more?

Check out their web site – www.wilmingtoncontradance.info or contact JeanneBua @ 799-0164.

INVITATION TO MEN WITH SPIRITUAL HUNGER!

Come join Fr. Bob and a growing group of men who meet each Friday morning from 7:00 am - 7:45 a.m. in the Tileston Building. We study and reflect on scripture and simply share what is on our hearts and minds. Come join us as you are able. We welcome you!

Diocesan Events

Project Rachel Support Group

If you would like more information about the support group contact

Project Rachel at

(919) 852-1021 or email projectrachel@nc.rr.com.

For more information go to <http://projectrachelnc.org>.

Calls and appointments are kept strictly confidential.

Lookin' for a Little Luck of the Irish

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Wilmington are raffling off a 7-day/6night vacation for FOUR to Ireland. This trip includes round-trip airfare to Shannon, a rental vehicle, B&B lodging and 4 days of golf (or \$1000). You must travel between September and May. Drawing will be held March 7, 2009. Tickets are \$100 each and the net proceeds will benefit AOH charities and the Catholic Schools in Wilmington.

A Spiritual Journey to the Holy Land

Under the Spiritual Direction of Msgr. Tim O'Connor, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church - March 2-12, 2009.

Special Cash Discount Price: \$3459 from Raleigh-Durham plus airport taxes, current fuel surcharges & tips.

Please contact Msgr. Tim O'Connor at 919-468-6100

"Hunger No More"

On February 27 and 28, 2009, The Franciscan Coalition for Justice and Peace will assemble a cast of distinguished hunger activists to offer people of faith a deeper understanding of the root causes of hunger, and what we can do to solve hunger at home and abroad.

For more detailed information and registration, please go to our web

site: www.franciscancoalition.org or call

919-847-8205 (ext. 267 or 270).



Bishop's Annual Appeal

There are so many ways God is made visible in the world around us. The St. Mary Church sees God in the hundreds of thousands of people it takes care of every year by teaching, sheltering and caring for all who come to it for help. Your Church is coming to you now for help during the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Won't you please take a moment to fill out your Appeal pledge card? We are grateful for your commitment to your faith, and to the ministries of the BAA. Thank You

Lenten 2009 Reconciliation Services – Cape Fear Deanery**Reconciliation Service**

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March 2	St. Joseph	Burgaw	7 p.m.
March 5	St. Mark	Wilmington	7 p.m.
March 6	St. Therese	Wrightsville Beach	7 p.m.
March 17	Sacred Heart	Southport	7 p.m.
March 18	Sacred Heart	Whiteville	7 p.m.
March 19	St. Mary	Wilmington	10:30 a.m.
March 24	Immaculate Conception	Wilmington	7 p.m.
March 26	St. Stanislaus	Castle Hayne	7 p.m.
April 1	St. Jude	Hampstead	7 p.m.
April 2	St. Brendan	Shallotte	7 p.m.

The Seventh Annual Ignited by Truth Catholic Conference will take place February 13-14, 2009 at the Raleigh Convention Center. This year's conference will feature several nationally known authors and presenters. The event will begin Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., with an opening talk by Joseph Pearce, Professor of Literature at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida and former agnostic, having converted to Catholicism in 1989. Pearce will present two sessions. Other featured speakers are Catholic apologist Tim Staples, Catholic evangelist Fr. Larry Richards and Immaculée Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The Conference will conclude with the celebration of the Sunday Vigil Mass, the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Principal Celebrant.

Registration and additional information are available at
www.IgnitedByTruth.com.

Office of Youth Ministry

John Walsh, DRE
 762-5491 ext. 14
jwalsh@thestmaryparish.org

Catholic Family Retreats

The Christian Family Living Center
 Topsail Island, NC
 910-328-1584
May 8-10, 2009

Mother's Day Retreat – A Family Affair

Treat Mom to A Candlelight Dinner and Relaxing Beachfront Get-Away.

This is an opportunity to express the family's appreciation for their mother. A chance to communicate how much you really love her, reconcile the little hurts that arise in any family, and commit to love, honor and cherish her throughout the coming year. Ample time for relaxation and strolling the beach. Reconciliation and Mass will be celebrated.

\$70 ages 2-7; \$100 ages 8-adult. Family max is \$490.

June 19-21, 2009

Celebrate Father's Day Weekend

Take time to pay tribute to the most important man in your life at this oceanfront retreat center. Celebrate his love with this spiritually renewing retreat with fun, faith-based activities. Plenty of free time is scheduled for relaxation and strolling the beach. Reconciliation and Mass will be celebrated. \$70 ages 2-7; \$100 ages 8-adult. Family max is \$490.

National Catholic Youth Conference

Grades 9 - 12

"Christ Reigns"

November 19 – 21, 2009

Kansas City, Missouri

Contact Sandy O'Leary at 395-2063 for more information.

**First Communion**

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First Communion is celebrated during weekend parish liturgies. This allows for the entire parish to celebrate along with your family and friends. This year, due to our growing population, First Communion will be celebrated over two weekends: April 25 - 26, and May 2 - 3. All First Communicant families are asked to choose one of the weekend liturgies that they would like to attend. We can only allow a maximum of 12 families per Mass. Each family will have one row (seats 6-7 people) reserved. Extended family and friends are encouraged to sit in adjacent rows.

Please contact me with your Mass preference and I will do my best to make sure we can accommodate your request. If you have contacted me earlier and reserved your Mass time and date please call me just as a confirmation so I may ensure that all goes smoothly. If I do not hear from you by the date of our First Communion parent meeting (Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.) you will be asked to pick a mass at that time. During the parent meeting we will discuss dress codes, how the Masses will be conducted, what will be expected of First Communicants and of course answer any last minute questions/ concerns you may have.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in making sure First Communion will be a blessed and wonderful experience for all involved. I look forward to hearing from you and helping you in any way that I can.

John Walsh
 St. Mary Parish DRE

**40 Days for Life Spring Campaign begins soon.
YOU can help save lives!**

This LENT, from February 25th-April 5th, our community will join cities nationwide for one of the largest simultaneous pro-life mobilizations in history-the national 40 Days for Life campaign. 40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life effort that consists of: prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach. We are praying that, with God's help, this groundbreaking effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city and throughout America.

In addition to prayer and fasting to end abortion, please consider volunteering to pray for one or more hours during the 40 days outside of **National Women's Health Organization, Inc. 3613 Haworth Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609**. Please spread the word to others about this life saving effort.

To learn more and to sign up for one or more hours please visit us at www.40daysforlife.com/raleigh. For additional information please email: prayforlife247@aol.com All are welcome.

**Celebrations
January 29 – January 31, 2009**



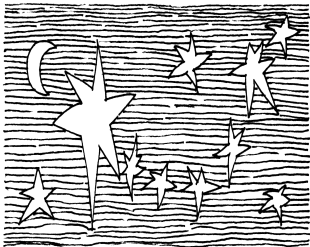
Baptisms
Hadley Gavrilien



Wedding
Eric Scott and
Rebecca Lipka



In Memoriam
Gerardo Chavira Ramirez
Gladis Yolanda Roque
Dayanna Huerta Roque
Ronald Josué Turcios Roque



**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2009**

(The Lord) tells the number of the
start and calls them by name.

--Psalm 147:4

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**Liturgical Minister's Schedule
Weekend of February 14 – February 15**

For Masses in English
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
-Schedule does not show substitutions-

	Saturday 5:30 p.m.	Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	A. Doran D. Bryant E. Flewellin M. Friedrichs D. Harris W. Harris D. Snell	M. Adkins B. Grace L. Newton O. Niles L. Parker S. Parker D. Thompson	T. Graham P. Gross L. Johnson B. Murtagh J. Murtagh Y. Sims G. Worsley	T. Bennett C. Bennett T. Bruhn A. Edwards F. Metzgar M. Metzgar D. Paul
Lectors	P. Reddy H. Pennington	N. McDonald C. Grant	N. Burrell A. Cousineau	P. Marriott R. Clifton
Altar Servers	C. Andree N. Vaughan D. White	K. Black C. Martinez B. Sheehan	E. Dowd M. Harris B. Jackson	B. Craddock C. Craddock L. Craddock

R U a Secular Franciscan, and looking for a local fraternity?
or

R U wondering what it would be like to become one?
The local fraternity meets the third Sunday of the month at
2:00 PM

For more information contact:
Frank Bindewald at 452-7603 or fbindewald@ec.rr.com
or Linda Perunko at 399-7695 or lperunko@ec.rr.com

How Long Have You Been a Parishioner at St. Mary?

Let me know when you will (or have already) celebrated
5, 10, 15, 20 years or more and
I will publish in the bulletin.
(5 year increments only please)

Stewardship of Treasure

"For everything is from you and we only give you what we have received from you."
---- 1 Chronicles 29:14-16

January 25, 2009

Envelopes Mailed: 1212 Children's' Envelopes Received: 1
Envelopes Returned: 379 Total Children's Offertory: \$ 1.00

	OFFERTORY	BUDGET	EDUCATION
01/25/2009	\$ 14,504.42	\$ 15,250.00	\$ 77.00
07/01/08 to present	\$ 476,247.51	\$ 475,900.00	\$ 17291.14

Thank you for generously supporting the
Church with your time, talent and treasure.



Bulletin Editor

Please be patient with me as I move things around in the weeks to
come for an overall better bulletin.
Let me know what you think!!

If you have news, information and/or events that you want to see in
the bulletin, please email them to me at:
bulletin@thesmaryparish.org or call 395-2063.

Sandy O'Leary
Any errors and/or omissions are solely my mistake.



ST. MARY Catholic School



From the Desk of Joyce Price, Principal

With a very successful celebration of Catholic Schools Week behind us, I would like to thank all of you who volunteered in any way to make the week such a success. Many of you were tour guides on Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday sharing your experiences of our school with prospective parents. I appreciate those of you who adjusted your weekend schedules to have your children participate in the opening Mass on Sunday.

Great thanks also go to my faculty and staff who worked longer hours than usual to plan and be present at each of our special events, depending on the need. Mrs. Hudson and her volunteers served over 650 breakfasts to parents, grandparents, and children during the week. I saw the pride in many of those grandparents' eyes as they greeted their grandchildren and enjoyed the work posted in the lower school hallway.

Thank you to all of our families who sent in personal care items for the poor of Sr. Isaac's ministry. Her shelves were empty before our donations arrived. Over 260 meals were delivered to the Good Shepherd House for dinner on Tuesday evening. Your children are learning that when each of us does just a little, so much can happen for so many. We will soon announce the winner(s) of the Home of Hope book collection.

Your children made cards for the veterans at the Veterans' Hospital in Fayetteville. A first grader had made a pretty lacy card which when opened read, "Happy Valentines' Day from GOD". Can you imagine the reaction when that card is opened? Cards were also made and sent to seminarians who are studying to be priests in our diocese. It always helps to receive some encouragement, especially from children.

THE TROPHY IS BACK! Yes, our 8th graders made us proud as they won the annual basketball game against St. Mark School's 8th grade class. They played this coed game with such great sportsmanship and won 28-27 in the last 28 seconds! It was sooooo exciting! Thank you goes to Ms. Warrender for organizing this event with our sister school. In the afternoon, the lower grade students heard Fr. Bob, while the upper grades heard Sr. Isaac speak about their chosen vocations.

We ended our celebration week with Mass in the morning and the Talent Show in the afternoon. The annual show was another standing room only event in our beautiful auditorium. Thank you to Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Brown for organizing the entertainment. We are so proud of the students who shared their talents with us.

Appreciation and thanks go to Mrs. Watts and her Catholic Schools Week Committee for organizing a week of events that brought together our students, their families, and our faculty and staff in celebration of the great gift we have in St. Mary Catholic School.

Mrs. JoAnn Daley, our development director, has done a fine job of organizing the advertising of our school through newspaper, television, special event coverage, and Open House opportunities. We welcomed over 60 new families during this past week. I thank all of you who have shared your child's experiences at our school so that other children may possibly receive the excellent values based education that we offer.

Dates to Remember

February 16 – President's Day – No Class
March 7 – Doctor's For Tomorrow Event – 7:00 pm

St. Mary School is happy to partner with the physicians and medical residents from South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) in a family event offering two teacher vs. student challenge games!

Saturday, March 7, 2009

The 7:00 pm game will be between the St. Mary School 8th grade (**watch out, they're hot!!**) and the faculty/parent team followed at 8:15 by a game featuring the SEAHEC residents versus their attendings!

Sponsorship of this event will give great exposure to your business! There are many levels for sponsorship from programs, to t-shirts to entire banners!

Please contact JoAnn Daley for more information at
762-5491 ext. 10

So, bring your Advil and come on out!

News from Mrs. Karn's Art Class: Winter Art, Heart Art, and Mardi Gras

We have been very busy since the holidays with winter art. "Mitten weather", "snowy pines", and "snow people" represent just a few of our projects. We're also gearing up for Valentine's Day with special cards and "heart art". Mardi Gras masks and noisemakers will soon be made for our school parade and celebration. Be sure to look for the work of our talented student artists in our halls and cafeteria!

St. Mary School Falcons Sports Boys and Girls Basketball Schedule February 9 – February 14 Tournament Games

Check webpage for tournament details

8th Grade February Fundraising Blast Mark Your Calendars

2/13 Family Movie Night
6:30pm - **Tileston Auditorium**
"Kung Fu Panda"

Admission is \$10.00 donation per family
Concessions will be available

2/20 Ice Skating Fundraiser
7:30pm-10:00pm - **Wilmington Ice House**
Admission: \$10.00 (skate rental included)

****You must mention St. Mary at the door****

2/26 Chick-fil-a Dinner Night
@ Chick-fil-A Mayfaire

**Also please purchase your Chick-fil-a calendar for \$6.00 (contains over \$32.00 in money saving coupons). Please call Chris Neal at 395-5477 or 332-6625 or Caryn Walsh at 795-8764 for details.

All proceeds to benefit the 8th graders trip to Camp Don Lee