



St. Mary Catholic Community School



FALL

Annual Wildcat Newsletter

2026 - 2027



Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,
Once again, we find ourselves at the beginning of a new school year. It's been quiet here on the campus. I actually look forward to hearing the sound of children on the playground. As always, our buildings and grounds have been polished and cleaned, ready for another year of learning and fun. We have a new PA system, and, we have a bus!

As you know, Fr. Declan McNicholas has become the pastor of our neighbor to the south, St. Matthias Church. We will miss him, but he's not that far away. I'm hoping that he might come back from time to time to celebrate a school Mass. We will be developing a closer relationship with St. Matthias, and I hope this will have a positive effect on St. Mary School.

We are so blessed here at St. Mary School! We have one of the best principals in the Diocese (as well as a great assistant principal), an outstanding faculty, a dedicated staff, super volunteers, wonderful parents, and amazing students. We also have a very special environment as a Catholic School where we can explore and live out the teachings of Jesus and his Church. We have a diverse community where Catholics and non-Catholics alike can thrive in an atmosphere that celebrates our common identity as children of one God.

I look forward to the year ahead and ask the blessing of our heavenly Father upon our entire school and parish family. If there is any way in which I can help you or your family, don't hesitate to reach out to me. We have so many adventures to look forward to discovering together! Keep that Wildcat / St. Mary spirit alive!

God bless you all!

Fr. Peter Muha



Dear Friends of St. Mary's,

Each year, I share a new theme with the faculty and staff of St. Mary's School. This year, the theme is **GRATITUDE**. We are all so blessed to have the opportunity to do God's work here, educating children in the ways and teachings of Jesus Christ.

In some professions—take a home builder, for example—the builder can look at the finished product and admire the craftsmanship and beauty of the work. In Catholic education, we operate on faith that our good work, although often unseen in the physical sense, will come to fruition in the hearts of our students as they go out into the world and make it a better place.

At our back-to-school meeting for teachers, I asked one of our graduates to give an update to our faculty and staff. Ms. Morgan Scott, SMS Class of 2017, is beginning her career as a Catholic school educator right here in the Diocese of Gary. Morgan shared that her teachers at SMS inspired her to follow in their footsteps. What a wonderful example of our work coming full circle!

The world of education is changing fast. AI has become a big part of everyone's lives, and we are teaching our students to use it for what it is—a tool. That tool is worthless if a youngster does not know how to think and discern independently. Real experiences, not artificial ones, are so important, in my opinion.

That is why, through the generosity of a donor, we acquired the bus you may have noticed parked behind Hammes Hall. It will be used to take our students on wonderful adventures and provide learning experiences that are real. Hopefully, these experiences will create great memories for our students and a true appreciation for the amazing and wonderful world that God has given us.

Everyone here at SMS is grateful for your continued support and prayers.

May God bless you and your family,

Tom Ruiz

Tom Ruiz

Principal

St. Mary Catholic Community School

Inside:

School Profile 2

Support SMS 2

Events 3

Alumni 3

Corp. Sponsors 4

St. Mary's Pledge

May God bless our
minds
to think our best
thoughts,

Our words to speak
kindly to one another,

Our hearts to
feel compassion,

And our hands to reach
out to one another
in compassion and care.

I promise always to do
my best and to treat
everyone with respect
and kindness.

I will follow the example
of Jesus and His
Mother Mary in all
things.

Today I promise to live
what Saint Mary
teaches.

We are all one
United in Christ!



Visit us at
school.stmarycp.org

Saint Mary School Profile

Enrollment:

Jr. PK – 8th Grade, 545 Students

Accreditations:

DOE & LUMEN Accreditations

“A” School Status

Faith Formation:

Students receive religious education every day
and attend mass twice a week.

Faculty:

Please visit school.stmarycp.org for a complete,
up to date, listing of our outstanding faculty, and staff complete with photos and bios.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

CYO Band, Choir, Student Council, Altar Servers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts,
Chess Club, Academic Team, Junior Academic Team, WSMW Student Run TV News
Program, Environmental Club, Science Olympiad, Girls on the Run, Rosary Club, Math Bowl,
Lego Club.

Athletics:

Boys and girls in grades 5-8 participate in the following CYO sports:

Basketball, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Track, Cross Country, Football (CP)



Support St. Mary's School

Occasionally people ask how they can support the next generation of students at St. Mary's School. To make a tax-deductible, monetary donation, please make checks payable to St. Mary Catholic Community School and send them to:

St. Mary Catholic Community School
Attn: Principal
405 East Joliet Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Want to support Catholic education at St. Mary's School with an online donation?



Simply scan the QR code



Your support is very much appreciated and will help add to the legacy of St. Mary Catholic Community School. If you have further questions please call
Mr. Tom Ruiz, Principal (219-663-0676)

Corporate Sponsorship:

St. Mary's Home and School Association is pleased to offer our Corporate Caring Sponsorship Package. We would like to invite you to join our efforts to offer our children the best education possible by advertising your business, or your employer's business exclusively to the St. Mary's School and Parish Communities. Sponsorship packages include tickets to attend all of the events, and year round advertising on our event posters, school newsletter, school website, facebook page, and at the SMS events. To learn more call Sarah Vicari at 219.746.1701 or email CorporateSponsor@stmarycp.org Please support those on the back of this newsletter, as they support Catholic education at SMS.

Upcoming Events

08-12-26 **School Resumes**

08-24-26 **Golf Outing**

10-9-26 **Grandparents / Special Person's Day**

11-11-26 **Spaghetti Supper** - St. Mary's iconic event

11-13-26 **Veterans Day Program** - 9:00 am

01-27-27 **Evening Open House**

Prospective families are invited to tour the school and meet the teachers.

01-31-27 **Pancake Breakfast and Open House** - Enjoy breakfast and tour the school!

02-6-27 **Celebration of Gifts** - Join us at our largest fundraiser of the year for dinner, dancing & silent auction bidding!

02-27-27 **Daddy Daughter Dance** - All St. Mary's parish dads and daughters invited

TBD **First Reconciliation** - Please remember our 2nd graders in your prayers!

TBD **First Communion** - Please remember our 3rd graders in your prayers!

TBD **Mother Son Bowling** - All St. Mary's parish moms and sons invited

TBD **Confirmation** - Please remember our 8th graders in your prayers!



For more information about any of the events above, please visit school.stmarycp.org and see the Home & School page or simply call our office at 663-0676



School.stmarycp.org

Be sure to follow us on:



@StMarySchoolCP



St. Mary Catholic Community School



@principaltomruiz

Use this hashtag: **#stmarycp**

St. Mary

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

405 E. Joliet St.

Crown Point, IN 46307

Phone: (219) 663-0676

www.stmarycp.org/school

NON PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 173

CROWN POINT, IN

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

