



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

We are nearing the time of year where we celebrate holidays focused on gratitude and family. We have much to be grateful for at St. Mary's School. We have a wonderful, caring staff. We have the support of the parents in creating an outstanding partnership for our students. And finally, we have incredible students, who challenge themselves every day to learn and live out their faith. They are why we are here as educators and we are grateful for that opportunity.

SMS Gives Thanks with a Grateful Heart

St. Mary's School started off our season of thankfulness and giving with our All Saints Mass on Monday, November 1st. The students are currently preparing for Advent and Christmas by collecting and donating food to the Melrose Food Shelf, continuing to pray for our families, friends, and community members, and beginning to practice for our Christmas Program, which will be held on Wednesday, December 15th, at the Marit Elliott Auditorium. Our Advent Sock Drive will also begin on November 29th; the school will be accepting donations of new socks until Christmas. We will then bring them to local organizations to distribute to those in need.



The 4th grade class hosted the All-Saints Day Mass



Sharon and Dave Gamradt dance while Bob Doyle and Cooper Wolff play music



OKTOBERFEST!

SMS staff hosted an Oktoberfest event on September 25th. This event was purchased at the Auction4Education by Jay and Marie Haskamp, who invited family and friends to celebrate the day with them. The group was treated to authentic Oktoberfest food, beverages, music, and games.

PROST!



GRANDPARENTS DAY FUN!

SMS celebrated Grandparents Day on Wednesday, October 20th with a mass, program, and lunch. The grandparents were able to visit the students' classrooms as well; the kids loved showing off their work and projects for their grandparents. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and participated in this fun event!



Henry and Violet F. with their grandmas

Daphne F.,
Briar and Burke H.,
Kenley G. and Lillian K.
with grandparents





Staff and students spent the 2020-21 school year discussing what an enrichment program might look like at St. Mary's School. Students answered questions to help provide the staff with information to guide them in designing a program to meet the needs of all learners. Some of the questions asked were: What interests do you have you haven't learned about yet? What do you want to do when you're older? How would you teach if you were the teacher? It was decided from the information gathered that for the 2021-22 school year we will be having a "Power Hour" during the school day one day a quarter, where a new skill is introduced to students. The teacher will focus on designing a lesson that introduces life skills while also incorporating academic learning, personal skills, and teaching to the whole child. Some classes have a new project each quarter, others will use the entire school year to complete one large project.



3rd grade learned about simple machines and created inclined planes, 2nd grade made constellations and team towers out of marshmallows and toothpicks, Kindergarten learned Spanish words and made tortillas!




- ♥ Thank you to our families, friends, and community members for pledging \$26,358 and over 700 prayers for our Marathon/Prayer-a-thon!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who purchased pizza from an SMS family; we sold over 3,400 pizzas!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall-o-ween Jesus event; it was spookily fun!



- Advent Prayer Services: November 29, December 6, 13, 20 at 2:15pm in the school gym
- Staff Retreat: December 3rd
- Christmas Program: December 15th, 1:00pm and 7:00pm at the Marit Elliott Auditorium
- Christmas Break: December 23-January 2
- SMS Auction4Education: **"Tailgating for 20 Years"** Mark your calendars for March 5, 2022! The auction committee is hard at work planning for a fun, unique event; watch for more info soon.



What is your favorite Thanksgiving food? Here are some of the fun responses students had:

- * Turkey (Lots of kids chose this)
- * Mashed potatoes; some even said with corn mixed in...
- * Pumpkin pie or fruit pie
- * No one said cranberries or green bean casserole; are you surprised at that?



In the season of giving, we invite you to share the Gift of Education with families in the St. Mary's Catholic School community by making a financial gift to The St. Mary's Education Endowment Fund. Please consider making a Year-End Charitable Donation to The St. Mary's Education Endowment Fund in one of these ways: donate by check, donate through life insurance, make an IRA rollover gift, or make a charitable gift of securities. Contact your financial planner or tax consultant for more information.

- You can purchase a **Tuition Gift Certificate** for an SMS family; these work great as Christmas gifts! Contact the school office at 320-256-4257 for more information.
- We have a before and after school program for school-aged children at SMS called **Kids Time**. Children can also attend on non-school days and all summer long. Call Ms. Amanda at 320-256-4257 or check out our website at <https://www.smsmelrosemn.org/sms-kids-time> for more information!


