St. Mary's Grade School

Love of Learning

Learning of Love

304 E. CLOUD | SALINA, KS 67401 | 785-827-4200

September 2017 St. Mary's Messenger

Introducing STEM to SMGS

According to the U. S. Department of Commerce, STEM occupations are growing at 17%, while other occupations are growing at 9.8%. STEM degree holders have a higher income even in non-STEM careers. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics workers play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy, and are a critical component to helping the U.S. win the future. STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy, and enables the next generation of innovators. This innovation and science literacy depends on a solid knowledge base in the STEM areas. It is clear that most jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science.

What is STEM?

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM is important because it pervades every part of our lives. Science is everywhere in the world around us. Technology is continuously expanding into every aspect of our lives. Engineering is the basic design of roads and bridges, but also tackles the challenges of changing global weather and environmentally-friendly changes to our home. Mathematics is in every occupation; every activity we do in our lives. By exposing students to STEM and giving them opportunities to explore STEM-related concepts, they will develop a passion for it and hopefully pursue a job in a STEM field.

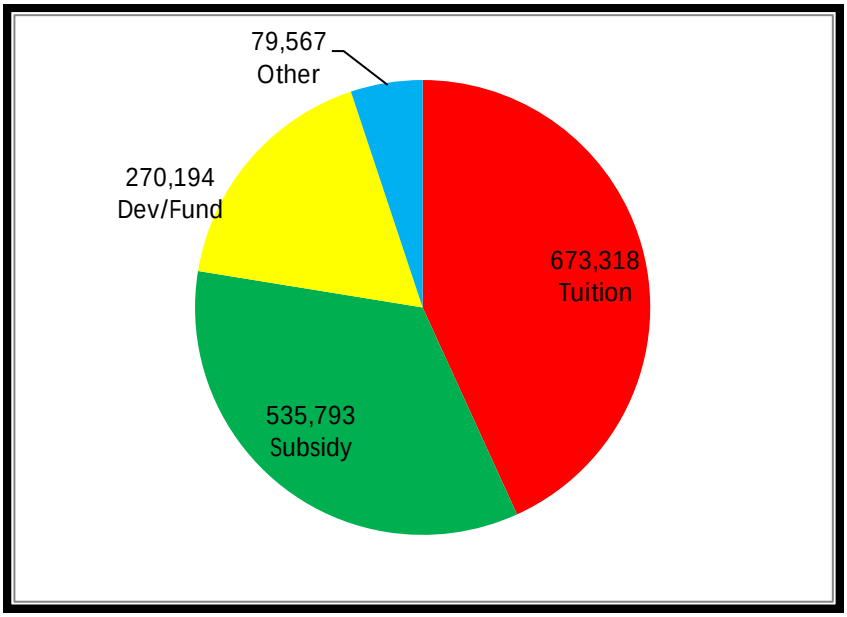
A curriculum that is STEM-based has real-life situations to help the students learn. STEM activities provide hands-on and minds-on lessons for the student. Making math and science both fun and interesting helps the student to do much more than just learn.

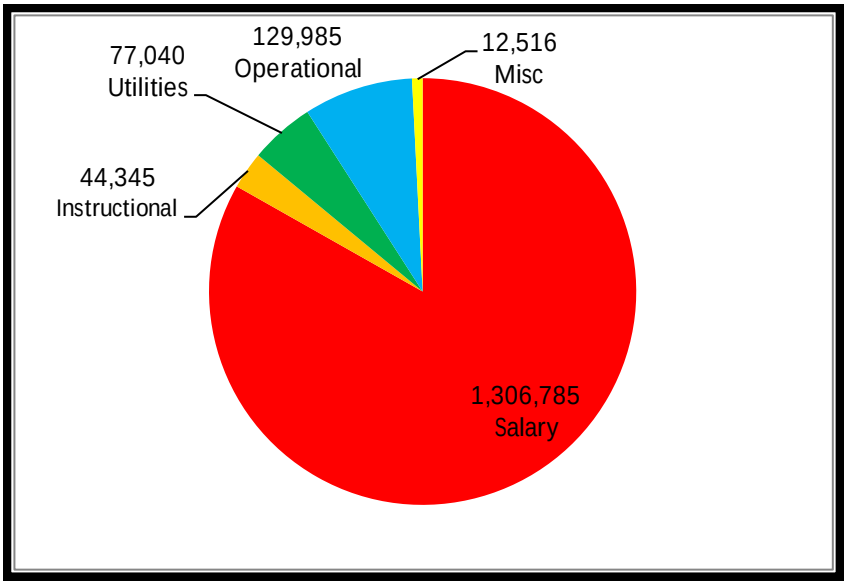
For several years now there has been a focus on building an infrastructure for technology in our building and adding more computers in multiple labs. Along with building a strong math curriculum and adding more integrated technology (i.e., computer coding) along with hands on science , we are now combining those programs to expose students to STEM activities to help them prepare for real world experiences.

Fiscal Summary 2016-2017

Income	
Tuition & Fees	$673,318
Subsidy Income	$535,793
Development/Fundraise	$270,194
Other Income	$79,567
Total Income	**$1,558,872**

Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	$1,306,785
Instructional	$44,345
Utilities	$77,040
Operational	$129,985
Misc	$12,516
Total Expenses	**$1,570,671**





Last school year, St. Mary's Grade School's income was a total of $1,558,872. As the graph above shows, tuition and church subsidy represent about 75% of the income collected. Development, including Endowment income, comprise about 25% of the school's income.

On the expense side, total expenses for the fiscal year were $1,570,671. About 80% of expenses were for instructional & classrooms (teachers' salaries), the rest of expenses were for operational costs.

The cost per student for the 2016-2017 school year was about $5,400. This report includes all operations including PreK-6, Love N Learn and Extended Care activities.

Announcements

SCHOOL PICTURES

If you missed picture day or would like to have your child's picture retaken, Picture Re-take day is October 18th. Please have picture packets turned back into the office before this date if you wish to have your child's picture re-taken.

Security Procedures

Last year we installed a security system on our campus. During the regular school day, all doors will be locked, including the main front doors of St. Mary's Grade School and the Love 'n Learn Center. To gain access to the building, you must use the doorbell at the main entrance. With a monitor inside, the door will be opened for you to enter.

The security parking lot attendees have been instructed to route adults to the main entrance to enter the building. The security team will secure the west All Purpose Room door at 7:50 a.m. when the bell rings. Students that arrive after the bell will need to use the main entrance and report to the office.

This is also true for the Preschool and Kindergarten entrances. After the bell rings, the door will be locked and parents need to bring their children around to the front.

Fitness Tip - Get Fit as a Family

Create some fun dance moves. Put up a net and shoot some hoops. You can also visit a zoo, play miniature golf or enjoy other activities where a lot of ground is covered.

Open House

Thank you to all who attended our Open house on August 23rd. Those families who attended were entered into a drawing for books from the book fair and also Redwheel products.

Families that received a book are: Lyle Hair, Ben Roemer, Julia Diehl, Ansleigh Butler, Alexa Blackwell, Kolten Sprague, Digby Klenda, Nick Gardner, Adelyn Lee, Harper Turpin, Elias Gordon, Kaleb Hone, Lawson Rassette, Caroline Stone, Cheyenne Clark, Carson Power.

Families that received a Redwheel Product are: Bogart family, Marrs family, Pfiefer-Jackson family, Hadorn-Childs family (Flax).

First Fridays

Each month St. Mary's School commemorates First Friday with an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:05 liturgy. The student body says a rosary together led by the 6th grade class. Parents and friends are invited to attend.

From the Executive Director Texting/Email Guidelines

St. Mary's & Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School has an important communications tool. The tool utilized through Power School allows the school and staff to send text messages to parents or entrusted groups. It also allows the school to send voice messages.

As a result of this tool, staff has been instructed to communicate to parents and students utilizing the school's communication infrastructure which includes:

1) School website (there is a contact form to communicate and make inquiries to school).
2) Power School allows parents and students to track grades and assignments. Emails may be sent to teachers through Power School.
3) Text messaging for families may be sent periodically to remind parents/students of special events or special alerts.
4) Voice messaging: Periodically the school may send out a voice mail to families.

Uniform Reminders

Thanks to all students and families for complying with the uniform policy. Please look over the policy carefully in the parent handbook. Many times detailed items such as the color of belts or socks, no light-up shoes, hair accessories or make-up, can be accidentally overlooked. Thank you for reviewing it. We will have another uniform sale in January. Date and time will be posted.

More Announcements

SCHOOL TARDY/ATTENDANCE POLICY ATTENDANCE

Compulsory attendance is a statutory requirement in Kansas for all children who are seven or more years of age, but less then sixteen years of age. Each school through its designated reporting officer shall report any child who is enrolled but not attending school including all cases of unusual and/or habitual absence to the appropriate local authorities.

Before any report is made that a child is not attending school as required by the law, the Executive Director shall serve written notice thereof, by registered mail, upon the parent or guardian of the child. This notice shall inform the custodial parent or custodial guardian that continued failure of the child to attend school without a valid excuse will result in a report being made to the appropriate law enforcement official.

School's Implementation:

A letter will be sent home if the following occurs in a 9 weeks' period

Five (5) unexcused tardies (parents have not called)

or

Five (5) Absences

Truancy Response: If excessive absences or tardies continue in the 9 week period after a letter is sent home, a report may need to be filed with SRS.

Attendance Policy

Procedure: Parents should contact the school before 8:00 a.m. if their child will be absent. Messages can be left on the school's answering machine during non-school hours. Due to reporting regulations, we must have a reason for any absences. For the safety of the child, an attempt will be made to contact the parent if the school has not received notice.

Tardies: **All classes begin at 7:50 when the bell rings**. It is very important to have students here at 7:50. Tardies are recorded and monitored. If you know your child will be late, please call the school. Children who arrive after 8:00 a.m. or 10 minutes after the p.m. classes begin will be marked tardy. Children who arrive late must report to the office. If the parent does not call, children who arrive late will be considered as an unexcused tardy. After 60 minutes, the child's tardy will be recorded as an absence.

Absences: All absences will be recorded and monitored each 9 week period.

Ill Students

If a student becomes ill at school, parents will be contacted to pick up the child. If the parents can't be reached we will use the emergency contact that was provided at enrollment. Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or over will be sent home. We ask that parents notify the school immediately if contact phone numbers change.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 14th Annual St. Mary's Extravaganza - Saturday, October 28th. Come enjoy a night out & meet new families. Buy your event tickets today. Stop by or call the school office to reserve your tickets.
See this newsletter for more information.

This year our teachers are focusing on ways to better integrate technology in daily lessons. The school is subscribing to a new service called Learning 360. The service provides information at different grade levels on educational topics both teachers and students can use for classroom projects. Our school infrastructure has a filtering system that protects our students from unwanted websites. However we recognize that not every home may be aware of the dangers of the internet or have filters to protect young children.

As a parent, the Diocese of Salina recognizes that you are the first educators of your children, and understands the struggles you face in keeping your child safe. One of the greatest threats to children's safety is found online – pornography, sexting and other dangerous practices are found everywhere, from computers to mobile phones. The majority of children and teenagers spend over 70% of their time attached to a screen or electronic device. These numbers are staggering and it leaves young people at increased risk for behavioral issues as they get older. Early exposure to pornography, violent video games, and social media overload can shape attitude, values, sexual inhibitions, as well as violent tendencies.

We encourage you to visit the new CMG Connect: Parents website, which has resources and a free video **A Safe Haven Starts at Home.** The purpose of **CMG Connect: Parents** is to help educate parents, teachers and other adults in risk factors and unhealthy internet usage.

We hope that through this free platform, parents can learn dangerous behaviors to watch for, set realistic computer/internet usage time, and establish open communication with their children or other young people.

In supporting the formal Bishop's statement on pornography, "Create in Me a Clean Heart", the Catholic Diocese of Salina is offering this new parent education webpage. To utilize these valuable resources, please create a free account at: www.CMGparent.org, watch the 18 minute video, and take the short quiz.

Please take a look at this website. Thank you.

St. Mary's Grade School Council met on August 28.

Reports from Staff – Mrs. Greenemeyer and Mrs. Kack were in attendance to discuss the new science, math, and technology changes for the upcoming year. STEM classes will occur on a weekly basis every Wednesday focusing on a specific subject each month. These STEM classes will replace Math Club and Young Einstein's. Members of the community will be asked to participate by educating the students on their specialized field. Computer coding will be taught as well. The school continues to grow the number of computers available for use by the students. Learning 360 will be a tool available to teachers and students to facilitate online research in a safe environment. Internet safety will be taught as well.

Financial Report : Dr. Compagnone gave an end of the year fiscal report. (see chart on page 2 in newsletter)

Principal's Report – St Mary's is beginning a new 5 year accreditation cycle. The next accreditation will occur in 2022 for the entire diocese which is now considered a district. The Council was asked to review our school's mission statement and submit an analysis to prepare for the new accreditation cycle. Accreditation goals for the new 5-year cycle include converting to electronic portfolios with Power School.

The school is still enrolling new students. Currently the school has 301 students with 35 new families and 70 new students from Pre-K through 6th grade. There are also 37 new daycare students.

A public relations plan for this school year was also reviewed.

A Sacred Heart Leadership Team has been formed to improve communication between Sacred Heart and St. Mary's. This group will discuss important issues such as the accreditation process, policy recommendations, and major projects and updates. Cindy Compagnone will represent the grade school.

The September calendar was reviewed. An alumni list is being developed to reach out to alumni for school activities etc.

SCHOOL SAFETY PARKING LOT REMINDER

Welcome to a new school year. As many of you have observed our parking lot has gates to regulate the flow of traffic. Yellow arrows and blue lines have also been painted.

When dropping or picking up students, we ask that you follow the arrows. Drop students off on the west side of the school building or along the circle drive. Pull forward so that many students can exit at the same time. Students should exit from the right side of the car. Please **do not** drop students off in the middle of the parking lot. This causes cars to be stalled behind you and creates an unsafe situation for your child. If you wish, you may park your car in a parking space, but an adult needs to accompany the student (s) to a drop-off station. Drop-off stations are designated by blue hash marks.

In the afternoon, students will be instructed to use the blue crosswalks. We encourage parents to meet your student and not let them run into the flow of traffic. If a Sacred Heart High school sibling drives your child to school, please discuss proper safety precautions with them.

Please do not use the circle drive during drop-off and pick-up times. **We ask that cell phones not be in use while picking up and dropping off students in the drop-off zones.**

Lastly, we hope that as adults we are courteous to each other with the goal in mind that we want to be a Christian example to our children. We have maps in the office that illustrate the traffic flow. Thank you.

On rainy or cold days when the students wait in the All Purpose Room, often cars only let their child(ren) out right in front of the that door. This one car at a time causes long lines of cars to back up. As the cars circle around and are next to the west side of the building (approximately 6-8 cars at a time), please allow your child(ren) to exit the right side of the vehicle, walk on the sidewalk, and enter the All Purpose Room. By this procedure, cars will have very little wait time.

Have you registered you Dillons Card yet? Register your Dillons card and appoint St. Mary's Grade School to receive a percentage of all your purchases. Call the school office if you need assistance registering your card.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's School publishes this newsletter once a month during the school year, along with one special edition. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents informed about school events, general information, and to update parents on the academic progress of the school. We try to keep the newsletter compact, but informative. Please take time to read the articles in this newsletter.

Book Fair

The annual book fair will begin on Wednesday, September 13th and run through Tuesday, Sept. 19th. The doors will open at 8:00 and remain open until 5:30. The book fair will only be open on weekdays. The book fair will be held in the multi-media room off the library.

Each year the school has been able to get books for both the library and classrooms through the profits received in this project. Our new automated catalog and circulation system for the library was also purchased entirely from cash profits. This year's profits will go to fund the library.

Healthy Tips

Discover fast ways to cook:

Cook fresh or frozen vegetables in the microwave for a quick-and-easy dish to add to any meal. Steam green beans, carrots, or broccoli in a bowl with a small amount of water in the microwave for a quick side dish.

Please join in praying for our students, teachers and needs of St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Schools. We will pray a rosary every Friday morning following 8:05 Mass at St. Mary's Church. Moms in Touch

ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL

Extravaganza

A BENEFIT FOR ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL

October 28, 2017

5:00 pm

at ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL

Chris and Jennifer Yohe
2017 Chairspersons
Eric and Danielle Brown
2018 Chairpersons

Tickets for the event will be available at
St. Mary's Grade School office
Starting August 21, 2017
$30.00 for advanced purchase
$40.00 at the door .
Ticket price includes: Casino Games, Dinner, Drinks, Live and Silent Auction

Committees are now forming, please consider giving your time and talent to one of the committees listed below:

Classroom Art-Helping with the Live auction children's art projects
Live/Silent Auction- Procuring live and silent auction items
Decorations and Clean-up- Decorating the gym the day before and clean-up that night
Underwriting- Contacting donors to help with the underwriting of the event.
Games-Setting up the games for the event and helping run them that night.
Food- Taking care of the dinner and drinks that night.

This is a great way to meet new families and be involved your child's school!!

Please contact Jennifer Yohe at theyohes@cox.net if you are interested in helping with any of these committees or have any questions.

St. Mary's Families-

We hope that you will join us this year at the St. Mary's Extravaganza. This event is a wonderful way to get to know other parents at St. Mary's, in a relaxed fun setting.

At Registration we will have a table set up where you can purchase your event tickets for $30.00 per person, and buy the Big Cash Giveaway tickets.

We will also be there to answer any questions that you may have about Extravaganza.

Looking forward to seeing you at registration,
Chris and Jennifer Yohe

GOLDEN TICKET

The lucky winner of the Golden Ticket will get to choose their prize before the auction begins, this can be any Live Auction or Super Silent Auction Item.

15 tickets will be sold, get yours today, they **SELL OUT FAST**. If you are unable to attend Extravaganza, you may contact the office and pick your prize the week before the event. Tickets are **$100.00** and only **15** will be sold. To purchase one, send money in an envelope marked Golden Ticket and return to the school office, they will also be available during registration.

ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL

2017 Extravaganza Giveaway

Please return to: St. Mary's Grade School
304 E. Cloud
Salina, KS 67401

As a courtesy we will cut tickets for you

Giveaway

1ST PRIZE $600.00
2ND PRIZE $300.00
3RD PRIZE $100.00

Thank you to the St. Mary's Grandparents for underwriting these cash prizes.

To be awarded on

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Need not be present to win

Three ticket for $5.00 donation
Ten tickets for $15.00 donation
Twenty-Four for $35.00 donation

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Partners *in* FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith. September 2017

St. Marys School

Thoughtful Moments

St. Wenceslaus

As the king of Bohemia, Wenceslaus worked closely with the Church to end the persecution of Christians in his country. He encouraged German missionaries, built churches, and cared for the sick and poor. His efforts at reform sparked opposition among the nobility. One morning, on his way to Mass, King Wenceslaus was assassinated on the church's doorstep in a coup led by his brother, Boleslaus. It is said Wenceslaus told him, "May God forgive you," as he fell.

All the difference

Jesus' Resurrection is the most important reality that shapes our Christian lives. It is this truth that proves that the Gospel is real. Those of us who believe in the Resurrection live differently. We live with hope.

"And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve … but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

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Resolutions for the new school year

Each new school year means parents can build on lessons learned from prior years and implement strategies to take families to a new level of love. Consider these suggestions:

Sacrament regularly. The most fundamental goal of a Catholic parent is to lead children to Christ. Make weekly Mass attendance a priority. Inspire in children the habits of examining their consciences, telling God they're sorry for their sins, starting fresh, and experiencing Christ's forgiveness with Confession monthly or more.

Encourage hard work. A child's job is to learn skills necessary for a successful adult life. Hard work is key. Assign daily chores to teach work ethic and responsible behavior. Put completed and excellent homework at the top of the list.

Discipline calmly. Parenting can be stressful and tempers can flare. Yet, no one wins in an unnecessarily tense situation. When you feel a storm coming on, take a deep breath and pray for wisdom. A calm, cool, and collected parent has more effect than a volatile one.

Foster virtue. To become spiritually successful entails developing a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. The Church suggests four virtues that are critical. These "Cardinal Virtues" are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Pick one to work on during each school quarter this year. See the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for help.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have beliefs that aren't in the Bible?

Everything Catholics believe is rooted in Scripture. Catholics believe the Bible contains truths but some are more obvious than others. The Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, interprets these truths using Scripture and the Tradition handed down from the Apostles.

Scripture and Tradition together "mak[e] present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no.80). Through the years, the Church grows in knowledge of Scripture and clarifies truths that were once unclear.

31887

Compañeros en la fe

Ayudando a nuestros hijos a crecer en la fe católica. Septiembre de 2017

St. Marys School

Momentos para pensar

San Wenceslao

Como rey de Bohemia, Wenceslao trabajó con la Iglesia para terminar con las persecuciones a los cristianos en su país. Animó a los misioneros alemanes, construyó templos y se ocupó de los pobres y los enfermos. Su afán de reforma se topó con la oposición de la nobleza. Una mañana, cuando iba a misa, el rey Wenceslao fue asesinado a la entrada del templo por su hermano Boleslao. Se dice que al morir Wenceslao le dijo: "Que Dios te perdone".

Toda la diferencia

La resurrección de Jesús es la realidad más importante que da forma a nuestras vidas cristianas. Es la verdad que prueba que el Evangelio es real. Los que creemos en la resurrección vivimos de forma diferente. Vivimos con esperanza.

"Pero si no quieren servir a Yavé, elijan ahora a quién servirán... Lo que es yo y mi familia serviremos a Yavé" (Josué 24:15).

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Propósitos de año nuevo para el nuevo curso escolar

Cada nuevo curso escolar ofrece a los padres la oportunidad de aprovechar las lecciones aprendidas en cursos anteriores y poner en práctica estrategias para llevar a sus familias a un nuevo nivel de amor. Tengan en cuenta estas sugerencias:

Reciban los sacramentos con regularidad. El objetivo fundamental de los padres católicos es llevar a sus hijos a Cristo. Hagan prioritaria la asistencia semanal a misa. Habitúen a sus hijos al examen de conciencia, a decirle a Dios que se arrepienten de sus pecados y a experimentar el perdón de Cristo con la confesión por lo menos una vez al mes.

Animen el esfuerzo. El trabajo los niños consiste en aprender las destrezas necesarias para triunfar como adultos en la vida. Asígnenles tareas diarias que enseñen ética en el trabajo y comportamiento responsable. Coloquen los deberes terminados y bien hechos al comienzo de la lista.

Disciplinen con calma. Ser padres puede ser estresante y a veces se puede perder la paciencia. Pero nadie gana en una situación innecesariamente tensa. Cuando sienta que se empieza a agitar, respire hondo y pida sabiduría. Los padres tranquilos, serenos y compuestos logran mejores resultados que los irascibles.

Promuevan la virtud. Para triunfar en lo espiritual se necesita desarrollar la disposición regular y firme de hacer el bien. La Iglesia sugiere cuatro virtudes que son críticas. Estas "Virtudes Cardinales" son la prudencia, la justicia, la fortaleza y la templanza. Elijan una para practicarla este año durante cada cuarto del curso escolar. Consulten el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*.

¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

¿Por qué creen los católicos en cosas que no están en la Biblia?

Todo aquello en lo que creen los católicos tiene sus raíces en la Sagrada Escritura. Los católicos creen que la Biblia contiene verdades, pero unas son más obvias que otras. La Iglesia, guiada por el Espíritu Santo, interpreta esas verdades usando la Sagrada Escritura y la Tradición transmitida por los Apóstoles.

La Sagrada Escritura y la Tradición unidas "hacen presente y fecundo en la Iglesia el misterio de Cristo" (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, nº 80). A lo largo de los años, la Iglesia gana en el conocimiento de la Sagrada Escritura y aclara las verdades que antaño no eran claras.

31887

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day—No School	5	6 Fall Pictures Main Day	7 Fall Pictures LNL	8	9
10	11	12	13 Book Fair—Multi Media Center	14	15	16
17	18 Grandparents Day Mass	19 Book Fair	20 Fall Fundraisers begins	21	22	23
24	25 School Council 5:30	26	27	28	29	30

Student to Student

The NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) has started a campaign in order to help students in Catholic Schools in the Houston area. Look for more details in the Red Folders.

Heavenly Father,

Bless St. Mary's Grade School and the many people who advance our mission
May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others.
May our community always support one another and exhibit hospitality to newcomers.

Fill our minds with knowledge and wisdom.
May our understanding of the world help us to grow in appreciation for it.

Fill our hearts with gladness.
May we always turn to you in times of need.

Fill our hands with the tools we need to serve others.
May we show them your unceasing love through our actions.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.

St. Mary Queen of the Universe, pray for us.

Through our Master Teacher, Jesus our Lord.

Love of Learning

Learning of Love

United In Christ - Body, Mind and Spirit

St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary's School
304 E. Cloud
Salina, KS 67401

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