

THE ORBITER



"Encourage one another & build each other up" – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

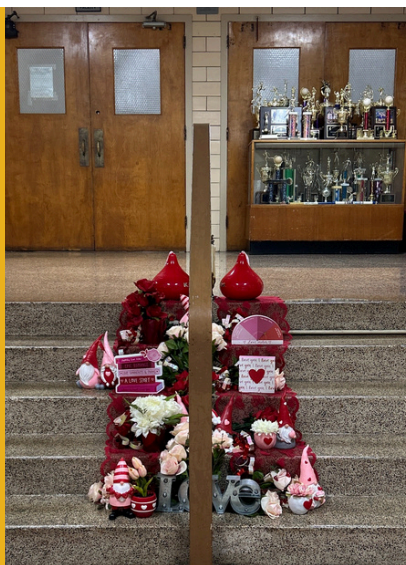
We had a new student start this month!

Jeremiah and Amelia Esquivel started with us this month! Jeremiah is in 4th grade and Amelia is in 2nd grade! We are so happy to have them both with us!



Upcoming Important Dates

- **March 5th** - Ash Wednesday School Mass
- **March 5th** - Student Council
- **March 6th** - Parent Info Night (Preschool/Pre-K/Kindergarten)
- **March 7th** - Stations of the Cross
- **March 14th** - March Dadness
- **March 15th** - Sham-Rock Dinner and Auction
- **March 21st** - No School
- **March 21st** - Basketball/Softball Banquet
- **April 4th** - Stations of the Cross



Written by: Annie McGrail

St. Mary's Catholic School has had a crazy February! We started off the month strong with the Kids Heart Challenge, celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day, Volleyball season is in full swing, many of our students are working so hard preparing for the WVC musical, and we ended the month preparing for a very busy month of events happening in March!

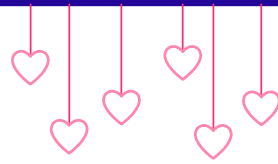
Rockets of the Month

Congratulations to the Rockets of the Month, Lyla Greenwood and Graham Naas! Good job guys!



February Highlights

The 4th and 5th Graders were asked what their favorite part of February was!



"Dodgeball in PE!"
-Chet Baumgart

"Our class Valentine's Day party!"
-Emeri Loehr

"Dodgeball! Mrs. Harpenau helps me learn, Ruby is so nice to me, and Miss Kristi makes us amazing food!"
-Justiss Johnson

"Dodgeball and Valentines Day!"
-Grady Keeps

"Recess and Carter's Birthday!"
-Jack Mann

"Winning the Kids Heart Challenge!"
-Cheyenne Aubrey

"Playing dodgeball in PE and the taste test in Science!"
-Jackson Woods

"My birthday and recess!"
-Carter Smith

"During recess I was playing basketball outside, me and Grady vs. Evelyn and Jack, and I hit a buzzer beater three pointer!"
-Jason Trapp

"Having a Valentine's Day party!"
-Bea Harness

"The Valentine's Day Party!"
-Lilly Earnest

"Lunch! The food is 100 out of 10!"
-Otto Tennes

"My favorite thing in February was at lunch when my friends made funny jokes that made me laugh! My other favorite thing was playing pixel warfare after school with my friends."
-Alma Smith

"Yesterday because it was Carter's birthday!"
-Owen Berberich

"The Kids Heart Challenge, and in art we colored Jenga blocks!"
-Evelyn Crummley

"Valentine's Day because it's so loving!"
-Spencer Young

"My favorite part of February is that we learned more about Jesus and God."
-Ruby Morningstar-Johnson

"I love the school, it's so fun and the class is so nice!"
-Jeremiah Esquivel

"Doing our blindfolded tasting challenge in Science!"
-Kade Deckard

"I loved Valentine's Day!"
-Eliza Kramer

"My favorite thing was Valentine's Day. My favorite part of Valentine's Day was the FOOD! It was so good, and there was also candy!"
-Elin Swanson



100 Days of School




DAR Essay Winners

Congratulations to our DAR essay winners! We are so proud of you!

Grade 8 - Amelia Crummley

Grade 7 - Kole Castino

They participated in a ceremony where they read their essay and were presented with a medal and certificate!



WHAT OUR STUDENTS LOVE ABOUT ST. MARY'S!



Lucy Mann

"I love that the food always tastes amazing, and that Mrs. Kristi puts so much hard work into it. I love the smaller class sizes because we get to do fun activities and go to Milk & Honey! I love how kind the teachers are to us and they understand us and help us when we need it. These are the reasons I love SMS."

Amelia Crummley

"St. Mary's is a really nice place to go to school! I love the teachers and friends you make throughout the years! They have amazing lunches made by Mrs. Kristi. You get to learn about God and the bible as well. We go to mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays and as one of the many non-catholic students, I feel as though I am treated equally and get the same experience as my fellow Catholic students! We wear uniforms which is okay with me because you don't have to think about what to wear in the morning. We take fun trips to cool places like marango cave and kayaking trips. St. Mary's is amazing and I would totally recommend!"

Cate Pyatt

"St. Mary's is warm and welcoming. The teachers here support you and are always there for you. With smaller class sizes, you get more one on one learning. Not only do we learn about Math, Science, and other subjects, but we get to learn about God. We go to church Tuesdays and Thursdays. St. Mary's is one big family."

Keirsten Malone

"I love St. Mary's because of the small classes. I feel like everyone is one big family and it's easier to get along with eachother. I also love the field trips. We go on a kayaking trip every year, but this year we went to Marango Cave instead. St. Mary's lunches are so good and we all love our cook, Mrs. Kristi. Sometimes we will have treats with our lunch like cake and cookies! I also love that sometimes we get to take trips to Milk & Honey!"



VALENTINE'S DAY AT ST. MARY'S

Our students had so much fun
celebrating Valentine's Day!





Congratulations on a great season!



Softball & Basketball Banquet



The St. Mary's staff wore our Aces gear to support the Lady Aces as they went on and won the Sectional Semifinals! Congrats to our Alumni, Madeleine Mann and Madi Stevens! We are so proud of you both!



Our cheerleaders were invited to cheer with the MCHS cheerleaders at The Hilltop! It was an exciting game and the girls had the best experience cheering with the MCJH and MCHS girls!



February Kids Heart Challenge

The Kids Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association ran from February 3rd-17th.



We are game changers, we can make a difference!

The Kids Heart Challenge helps earn money for the American Heart Association to help kids that have heart issues. It focuses on education of how being physical, drinking enough water, and getting enough sleep helps your heart. It also focuses on kindness and how this helps our heart in another way. A healthy heart will help us live longer and thrive!

The first week we focused on physical challenges playing yard games and having a blast in the obstacle courses. The second week we focused on kindness and made posters with words of encouragement and compliments. We made Valentine's for the Nursing Home, and created messages of love and encouragement for the staff of St. Mary's!



St. Mary's raised \$2,234.45 for the American Heart Association!

The kids received different prizes from the AHA for the amount of money they raised and if they completed Finn's Mission. The class with the highest dollar amount raised got an ice cream party and that was Mrs. Harpenau's Class with \$877.06.

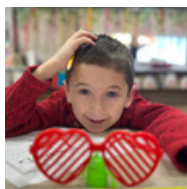


Nine students completed Finn's Mission and won a popcorn party with Mrs. Lucas: Amelia Crummley, Evelyn Crummley, Vivian Crummley, Cheyenne Aubrey, Hazel Drone, Josie Drone, Kayden Miller, Elsie Baumgart, & Walker Baumgart!



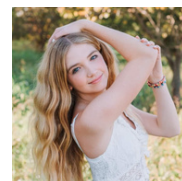
Virtue

The faculty and staff were asked to tell me about a time during the month of January when they witnessed a student or fellow staff member do something virtuous.



Waylon Joy

"I would like to highlight Waylon, a 1st-grade student. He demonstrates joy in the little things. His cheerful demeanor serves as a wonderful reminder for us all to find joy in our everyday experiences. I believe his actions truly embody the virtue of joy, contributing to the uplifting atmosphere at St. Mary's."



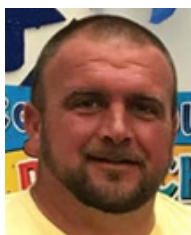
**Amelia Crummley
Temperance**

"I would like to recognize Amelia Crummley for her outstanding contributions over the past two quarters. Throughout this time, she has demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment, participating as a Rockets cheerleader, performing in college musicals, excelling as a student, and being a supportive friend."

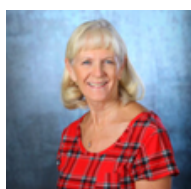
Amelia had adeptly balanced these various responsibilities while maintaining a positive attitude. Even during moments of exhaustion, when she might have preferred a break, she consistently found the strength to encourage and uplift those around her.

The virtue that stands out in Amelia's daily life is temperance. This quality embodies the enjoyment of life's pursuits in a measured and balanced manner. Amelia has successfully navigated her everyday commitments while making time for extracurricular activities and keeping her faith at the core of her endeavors."

Seth Swanson – Parent Humility



"Dad to 5th Grader Elin, demonstrates the virtue of humility. Following snowfalls, Mr. Swanson discreetly arrives in the dark and frigid temps to clear our teacher parking areas, alleyway, and student drop off areas. We want to acknowledge his humbleness and recognize him for his vitally important role in keeping our students and teachers safe."



**Mrs. Waterbury
Compassion & Patience**

"Mrs. Waterbury comes up with lessons that show the skills she has developed and her love of being a teacher. Her patience with her students shows her strength of character and love."

**Mrs. Vickie
Patience & Compassion**



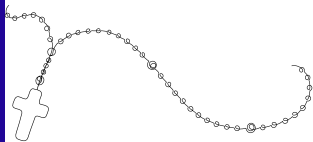
"She is truly a virtuous person. She approaches situations with patience and kindness. She wears many hats and does everything with compassion and understanding. Her selflessness and dedication inspires those who know her."



**Mrs. Whitney
Gentleness**

"Mrs. Whitney exudes calm with our entire school family. From Preschoolers to Eight Graders to faculty and staff, Mrs. Whitney is slow to "upset" and models the virtue of gentleness in all situations."

*"The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God."
-St. Gregory of Nyssa-*



Jacob Smith
Patience & Kindness



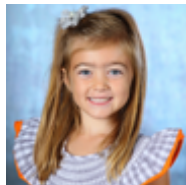
"Jacob is patient and kind to his classmates. He allows them to get in front of him in line and patiently waits for directions."



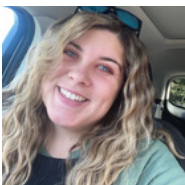
Mr. Hillyard
Forbearance

"Mr. Hillyard has to deal with an array of situations. He takes his time to figure out problems and goes the extra mile to come up with plausible solutions."

Sadie Macke
Peace

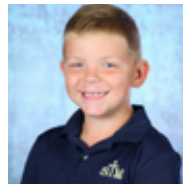


"Sadie often tries to help others with their conflicts. She tries to make peace between her classmates."



Ms. York
Love & Patience

"Ms. York is such a blessing to our school. She demonstrates love and patience with her 3rd graders every day and it's obvious that her students adore her. Her lessons are fun and creative, and she ensures that every student understands their mistakes. I'm thankful for her positivity and kindness she brings to our school!"



Drew Naas
Unity

"While 3rd grade was deciding what virtue to focus on for February, joy and kindness were suggested. As we talked about these two virtues Drew raised his hand and said "Ms. York, shouldn't we try and show all the virtues instead of just choosing one or two to work on?" Drew made it to where all his classmates and Ms. York stop and talk about how we can show all the virtues throughout our day."

"In PE, I often see Drew trying to help his group work together when playing games."

Evelyn Crummley



"Today in the cafeteria they were short staffed and no one was dumping trays. Evelyn offered to help and do that!"



Easton Ile
Kindness & Self-Control

"During class, Easton offered to help another classmate who was struggling to follow along with the lesson. He displayed kindness and self-control, when he could have easily done the opposite. I'm very proud of him!"



"Be constant in practicing every virtue, and especially in imitating the patience of our dear Jesus, for this is the summit of pure love."

- St. Paul of the Cross, priest (1694-1775 A.D.)



Saint Mary's
...the Spirit is in the School



Chris Lavelly
Principal of St. Mary's

**"Tell us about yourself
and what your
favorite part of being
principal is?"**

Hello there! I am Chris Lavelly, and this is my fifth year as the principal of St. Mary's School. I graduated from Rivet High School in 1996, the Catholic High School in Vincennes, IN. In fact, I was born in Vincennes and still live there, but I began teaching third grade in Sebring, FL. After four years of teaching, I moved back to Vincennes and taught at both Catholic schools for nine years. I have three wonderful children, Madison (21), Nora (11), and Cohen (10). If I have spare time, I like to play video games, watch movies, play guitar, hike, and camp. My favorite sports teams are the Indianapolis Colts and the St. Louis Cardinals.

My favorite part of being a principal is getting to see all of the kids each day. Over the past five years, I have enjoyed seeing all of the students learn and grow. I have watched them try new sports, sing in Church, and get excited when they lose a tooth or complete a project. St. Mary's School is a family, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

Taco Night

Monday, March 10th

St. Mary's Rockets vs Mt. Carmel



At Allendale



5:15pm

**WALKING TACOS & HOMEMADE
BAKED GOODS**

All money raised will go to the St. Mary's Rockets
Volleyball team for new equipment!



LADY ROCKETS
MARCH DADNESS
2025

LADY ROCKETS VS THEIR DADS

\$5 GATE FEE
HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS
SHOOTING COMPETITIONS
LOTS OF FUN!

14 MARCH
6PM IN THE SMS GYM

This is a fundraiser for the Lady Rockets. All money raised will go towards new practice equipment & camp fees.

**ST. MARY'S
YOUTH**
Group

WEDNESDAYS
6-7:30PM

4-12th Grade
are welcome!

Location: St. Mary's Church Parish Center
Join us for Fellowship, Food, & Fun!

SM
Saint Mary's

Monthly editions of "The Orbiter" will be posted on Facebook, St. Mary's School website, and copies will be available in the office.