

# St. Mary's Messenger

A newsletter of St. Mary's Catholic School



A ministry of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church

## Christmas Concert

The annual St. Mary's Christmas Concert and Pageant is always a wonderful event that students, teachers and families look forward to each year. The children work so hard preparing for this performance. The Eighth graders had the honor of portraying the nativity and Ruby Field, baby sister of St. Mary's students to Emma, Grace and Caroline, was angelic at the center of it all. This year the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades sang the Christmas Canon together; it was a beautiful tribute to the Christmas season and the spirit of cooperation and family that permeates our school. That spirit shone bright again when the entire student body graced the stage to sing their finale, *Something About Christmas Time*. It is such a blessing to come together to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in such a joyful way!



## Letter From the Principal

Dear Friends,

Students have returned from the Christmas break and classes have now resumed. We are gearing up for another celebration of sorts, Catholic Schools Week. Each year, St. Mary's, along with Catholic Schools around the country, takes this opportunity to celebrate our Catholic Identity. It is a chance to enjoy all the things that make ours a very special community, one that blends a strong academic program with our faith and the importance of family. This year, the theme of Catholic Schools Week is "Faith, Academics and Service". These three concepts are woven into everything we do, all year long. Now, during Catholic Schools Week, our students, faculty and parents will have multiple opportunities to come together and enjoy each other's role and participation in this week long celebration.

With February comes registration at St. Mary's School. I remain thankful for the three consecutive years of increased enrollment and am confident that 2012-13 enrollment will experience the same increases. Now more than ever, families value the academic excellence, faith based curriculum, and safety and structure St. Mary's School offers.

As we begin this year anew, I would like to wish you all a very holy, happy and healthy New Year. May 2012 bring you and your family all the blessings our Lord offers.

Prayerfully yours,

Mary Rushkoski



**OPEN HOUSE ~ January 29<sup>th</sup> 11:30 All are welcome!**

Coming Up...

January 29 through February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Catholic Schools Week

1/29 Annual Open House at 11:30, immediately following Catholic Schools Week Mass

2/1/12 Community service day~SMS students helping in the community

2/3/12 Special Person's day following the 9:30 First Friday Mass

2/3/12 "Holy Hoops"...St. Mary's Night at the Times Union Center~ Siena vs. St. Peter's

**March 6<sup>th</sup> - Open visitation day and Open registration for new families**

### Pennies from Heaven



To a family in need, the pennies do indeed seem heaven sent. The St. Mary's Penny Fund has been a source of tuition assistance to families struggling to provide their children a Catholic Education for years now. Recently however, more focus has been given to the fund with the addition of a handcrafted wooden, oak Penny Fund receptacle in the vestibule of church. Parishioners and visitors have been extremely generous in their deposits, as pennies seem to be replaced with one and ten dollar bills. I would like to thank all those in the St. Mary of the Assumption Parish who have generously given to our school families in need.

-Mrs. Rushkoski



At St. Mary's School we are blessed to have many talented and devoted Faculty and Staff members who help our children grow in mind, body and spirit, each and every day. Learn more about one of our new teachers, Miss LeBarron.

***Why did you choose to be a teacher?***

I chose to become a teacher because I really like helping others become successful.

***What do you love about our school?***

I love that St. Mary's School has a lot to offer students academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

I really like the Reading Buddy Program.

***What is your education background?***

I currently have a Masters of Science in Education, a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education, and an Associate in Applied Arts. I am New York State Certified to teach 5th-12th grade.

***What are your hobbies?***

I enjoy crafts, camping, swimming, boating, and bowling.

***In three-five sentences, what do you want us to know about you?***

I am a dedicated hard working educator. I put my best effort into helping the students achieve success.

### **Capital Campaign 2011-2014**

The St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Mary's School have kicked off the 2011-2014 Capital Campaign. The Campaign comes at the perfect time, as 2013 will mark the 100th anniversary of the parish and the 60th anniversary of the school. In preparation for these landmark anniversaries, we have identified areas in need of restoration in the facility, which are in need our attention. We are reaching out to parishioners, school families and alumni for their financial support. It is our hope that families will make a monthly pledge of \$40.00 over a three year period, which will allow us to attain our goal and fund the necessary improvements. Understand though that a donation of any amount within your budget will be greatly appreciated.

As our school community continues to grow and enrollment increases, we look to the future with the knowledge that St. Mary's School is a viable and vibrant school community, one that will be educating children for generations to come. Please help us to continue that work, to carry out the traditions and to fulfill the mission of this wonderful school.

### **And With Your Spirit**

The Roman Missal has undergone over a dozen changes to better align the English Mass with its Latin counterpart. Change can be difficult, especially for those of us who have been used to things one way for many many years. But we should all take a lesson from the St. Mary's students. They spent time in the early part of the school year preparing for the changes and have done a great job adjusting. If you need some help getting used to the new Mass, visit one of our student Masses and be inspired by their enthusiasm!



## Top Ten Reasons Why Kids Love Going to School at St. Mary's

We can learn about God and attend church.

The class sizes are small so teachers can give us extra help.

There are no fights at St. Mary's

We get to have fun while we learn.

The school is like a family because everyone is nice to each other.

It's easy to make lasting friendships at St. Mary's

The older kids help the little kids.

The teachers are nice.

We have fun activities and clubs that we can join.

Everyone greets you with a smile.



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