

THE SNOWBIRD CONNECTION

Learning Today . . . Leading Tomorrow

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Principal's Perspective

Dear St. Mary Cathedral School Families and Alumni,

First of all, I would like to thank all of the St. Mary School and parish families for making me feel so welcome this year. It has been my pleasure meeting many of you at the ball games, the fall play, the different Masses, and around town. It became very evident to me from day one that many individuals and families care deeply about St. Mary Cathedral School and everyone wants to see this school succeed in every possible way. It is with this thought in mind that I conduct my day-to-day duties. So thank you for entrusting your children and our school to my care.

As an elementary student, I was fortunate enough to have attended Catholic school. As a teacher, I spent many years teaching in an excellent Catholic school in Traverse City. As a principal, I want to continue and build upon our Catholic schools' tradition of delivering a top notch education in a nurturing, faith-filled environment. We can achieve this goal by combining our Catholic teachings with newer instructional tools such as NWEA testing, system-wide writing prompts, and collaboration among our many Catholic schools in the Diocese of Gaylord.

We have seen some of these tools being implemented this school year. Our students in the second to tenth grade all participated in the fall testing window of the NWEA. Our parents will be receiving their individual student's results within the next few weeks. We will repeat the process in the spring in order to see how much our students have progressed during the school year. In addition, since the start of the school year, our staff has been focusing on incorporating more writing



Principal Cynthia Pineda

practice in each and every class. Our goal is to make our students from elementary to secondary both proficient and comfortable with standardized writing expectations. Finally, as a Catholic community, we have many excellent resources right at our fingertips. Our goal is to utilize these resources more fully in the years to come in order to achieve excellence in all areas of emphasis.

From the entire St. Mary Cathedral School staff, I would like to thank you all again for your past, present and future support. We vow to continue the tradition of excellence here at St. Mary's.

God Bless,
Cynthia Pineda
 Principal
 St. Mary Cathedral School



Introducing the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Gaylord

A product of Catholic Education, Mr. Charles Taylor graduated from Bishop Ireton High School, an all boys Catholic preparatory school in Alexandria, VA in 1982. He went on to graduate from the University of Michigan School of Music with a degree in both music education and performance in 1986. Mr. Taylor presently holds a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University.



He has been an educator in northern Michigan for the past 23 years serving as band director for the Onaway Area Schools and the Gaylord Public Schools and as principal of St. Ignatius Catholic School in Rogers City. For seven years he served as an administrator with the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools as principal of Immaculate Conception Elementary School and for the past two years as principal of St. Francis High School. He and his wife Sharon of 18 years have 4 children; Allison Grace (9), Madelyn Rose (8), Charles Benjamin (3 ½), and Zachary Thomas (2). His hobbies are playing and listening to music, cooking, running and racing (5K, 10K, Marathon); and spending time with his family.



What's Happening Throughout the Diocese (a message from the Superintendent)

I was recently hired by the Diocese of Gaylord to serve as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools. The Catholic schools of the Diocese work together to provide a faith-centered Catholic education rooted in the Gospel message and evidenced in worship of God, and works of service to others. As we look to the future of our Catholic schools, we must remember the words of Jesus as He sent His disciples into the world to “go and teach” and to “make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.”

The seventeen schools within the boundaries of our diocese have a proud tradition as some of the earliest educational institutions to serve the many fledgling communities that comprised northern Michigan in the late 19th century. These consist of fifteen elementary schools (four of which are K-8), one middle school, and four secondary schools. **Although these schools operate on seventeen different campuses, they are very much one system with one Gospel mission, one faith integrated curriculum and one collaborative team of educators and support staff.**

The Diocese has invested in this superintendent position in order to have one person oversee all aspects of our schools -- from the financial challenges that face all educational systems today (both

public and private); to facilitating our many teams of educators as they work together to identify best practices and use data to inform instruction. Accordingly, since the start of the 2008-2009 school year, teachers have been called together in small groups to advance specific student learning initiatives.

A few examples of these Professional Learning Community teams are:

- High school principals and counselors have met together to address ACT scores and college readiness. This group will continue to meet to determine action items and to implement support strategies.
- High School Language Arts teachers met in October to determine a common ACT style writing assignment that was given to all high school freshman. This group will meet again in January to collectively grade all of the essays according to the same agreed upon rubric. This will begin to standardize writing expectations for all students across the diocese.
- Teams of administrators and select teachers have been in-serviced on how to collect and interpret specific school and classroom performance

data available from the MAP Test (Measure of Academic Progress). This is the computerized test that each student takes in the fall and spring. This data can be used to identify strengths and weaknesses relative to: 1) the diocese as a whole; 2) each individual school; 3) each individual classroom.

These are just a few of the groups currently meeting. As these groups begin to learn how to work together across the geographic boundaries of our diocese, other groups will form to address specific content areas and grade level expectations. Thus we have begun the process of not only identifying what is working, but more importantly, passing that on to each school. This can only serve to strengthen what is currently a very highly performing school district.

However, we must always remember that while our Catholic schools are recognized for excellent programs and student success; academic excellence is not the primary reason we ask the Catholic community to sacrifice to make schools available *and* accessible. Our schools must exist primarily to teach and pass on our Catholic faith, values and lifestyle to new generations living in an increasingly secular and humanistic society. To live up to this vision, our schools will continuously strive to be both authentically Catholic *and* academically excellent.

Catholic Schools Week

January 25-31, 2009

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social values in their students.



Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life — it is education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the United States.

St. Mary Prepares for CSW!

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2009 celebrates Catholic schools and their commitment to community service.

Teachers at St. Mary School are preparing a week filled with activities which underscores our school's commitment to serving the community and helping students learn how to make the world a better place.

Outside of school, several events are also planned:

- **Sundaes on Sunday** to thank the members of the parish for their support; this event will “kick-off” CSW on Sunday, January 25th following the 11:00 am Mass. St. Mary School Elementary choir will also share their talents during the Mass.
- **Family Appreciation Day** at Treetops Resort, Sunday, January 25th.
- **All-School Mass** at St. Mary Cathedral, Wednesday, January 28th at 9:00 am, with a **Patriotic Band & Choir Concert** at the school immediately following Mass—please join us.
- **Elementary Family Dance and Potluck** the evening of Friday, January 30th in the school cafeteria.

A complete schedule of events can be found on the school website at www.gaylordstmary.org

Snowbird Scoreboard!



GO! FIGHT! WIN!

Varsity Football had a great season, finishing at 7-3 with an unfortunate loss in the first round of playoffs.

Ski Valley All Conference

1st Team: JR Peter Spyhalski, JR Matt Churches, SR Chris Churches, SR Arron Sitkiewicz, SR Austin Lawnichak, SR Nick Purgiel;

2nd Team: JR Justin Malczyk;

Honorable Mention: JR Clay Becker

Junior Matt Churches also earned All-State Honors.

Varsity Volleyball, led by Coach Randy Schmidlin, improved from last year winning some great games and playing in a very tough Ski Valley Conference that saw three Ski Valley teams in the regionals. The team lost a tough and hard fought District game to JoBurg who they had beaten in the regular season.

Ski Valley All Conference

2nd Team: SR Jessica Schmidlin;

Honorable Mention: JR Grace Westerman

The **Cross Country** team did very well this season and was led by State Qualifier and Academic All-State Michael Topp. This was the second year in a row that Michael Topp qualified for State. Michael broke two St. Mary's course records this year, one at the Mancelona Invitational and the other at Ellsworth. Sarah Topp broke the female record for St. Mary's at the Mancelona Invitational as well. The team is coached by Dick Goepf who originally began the Cross Country program at St. Mary's in the fall of 1999 as a junior high program. The 2002 season was the first year of competition as an official MHSAA sanctioned team.

Ski Valley All Conference

1st Team: SR Michael Topp; **2nd Team:** JR Cody Rivers; **2nd Team:** SR Sarah Topp;

Honorable Mention: SR Jamie Topp

The Cathedral Players Continue to Delight Audiences



Oscar Wilde's comedy, "The Importance of Being Earnest" was The Cathedral Players first show of the 2008-2009 season. The Player's performed this show in 1978 also.

This Oscar Wilde classic was performed November 19th-22nd in The Cathedral Player's Playhouse within St. Mary Cathedral School at 7:30 pm nightly, while the 1978 version was shown in the school's cafeteria.

This show was a delight from the first cucumber sandwich on, as Jack's double life caught up with him. The problems were resolved in an extremely charming and quite unexpected way as Jack and Algernon discovered the importance of being earnest while answering to the name of Ernest. The story was set in England around 1895.

The Cathedral Players are enjoying their new and best theatrical setting since their 1975 beginnings. A "portable" theatre has been constructed in the multi-purpose room of the school that includes: a 56 x 30 fully curtained stage, raised seating for every row of seats, a Player's Porch Dinner Theatre experience, a new sound system for the audience's listening pleasure, 16 microphones, and a basement storage area for costumes, props, hair & make-up supplies, set pieces, dinner theatre, etc. The Cathedral Players are very blessed to be in one complete space now.

The Cathedral Players continue to be blessed with many supporters of the arts and the many alumni that come back to help the organization continue its success. Stephanie (Mason) Fahler-1970, Mike Switalski-1974, David Platte & Patty (Mason) Blanzzy-1980, LuAnn (Pung) Deane-1981, Terry O'Connor-1981, Cathy (Diebold) O'Connor-1982, Dawn (Cherwinski) Ellison, Philip Mason & Molly (O'Connor) Reppuhn-1985, and Anna (Burns) Lovelace-2001 are the alumni currently involved with the Cathedral Players.

The spring show will be Rodger's and Hammerstein's "Cinderella." This 2nd time around show will come to the stage March 18th -21st at 7:30 pm nightly after its 1989 St. Mary debut.

The Cathedral Players are thrilled to share these delightful productions with you and the community in their new theatrical setting. Please make plans to come and see us and experience the lights of the stage once again.



Scene from "The Importance of Being Earnest" (l to r): Emily Wisniewski, Dan Brown, James Malleis, Katrina Deane, Caitlin O'Connor, Zachary Boerema, Jackie Cosgrove

Mission Trip to Matagalpa

A mission trip to Matagalpa was recently organized as part of the Global Solidarity between Gaylord and Matagalpa. Attending this mission trip (November 29-December 5th, 2008) were parishioners Dr. Chris Milan, Bea Kelly and Rudi Edel, as well as St. Mary School seniors Betsy Gast and Emily Wisniewski.

St. Mary student Betsy Gast shared the following regarding her journey: "Going on the mission trip to Nicaragua was an amazing experience. Each day we traveled to a different clinic to give the people medical attention. We saw 703 patients in the five days that we worked the clinics. Helping these adults and children was one of my favorite parts of the trip. (continued on page 5)

St. Mary Students Shine at Spelling Bee

St. Mary was well represented at the Knights of Columbus Council Spelling Bee. Ten of the fourteen spellers in attendance for the 4th through 6th grade contest were from St. Mary's School and three of our students placed in the top four!

Congratulations and super studying! Spellers attacked such words as "depreciate, psychological, perception and trepidation."

First place was Allie Rutkowski, a home schooled student and member of St. Mary Cathedral Parish (while her older sister Katie won the level two contest).



Second place was Savannah Sullivan, 6th grade St. Mary student. Gabby Schultz, a 4th grade St. Mary student took third place, and fourth place went to Geoff Wind, 6th grade St. Mary student.

The four top spellers will spell down at the Diocese Bee in January in Gaylord.



St. Mary School students who competed include:
 Back row (l to r):
 Geoff Wind, Connor Reppuhn, Bekah Myler, Savannah Sullivan, Brenden Gorney.
 Front row (l to r): Alphonse Buclay, Giorgi Nowicki, Olivia Kippe, Andre Buclay and Gabby Schultz.

Matagalpa (continued from page 4)



Picture taken at a well in Terrabona. Back row (l to r): Betsy Gast, Emily Wisniewski, driver from Catholic Relief Services, Rudi Edel, Veronica Alvarez (CRS in Managua), Dr. Chris Milan; front row: Bea Kelly, Nora Jarquin (Diocese of Matagalpa).

Another favorite aspect was being exposed to the new culture. I had never been out of the country before (except Canada) and seeing this different way of life was incredibly fascinating. For example, we were in Nicaragua the week before the Immaculate Conception and so we saw how each village celebrated in preparation for this special feast day. My trip to Nicaragua was an interesting and humbling experience."

Blacksmith Field Trip

This past October, St. Mary High School students traveled to local blacksmith, George Magsig's workshop. Using forge, steel, and hand tools, students heated and pounded metal to make distinctive crosses.

Blacksmithing has been in existence for about 6,000 years. Up until 1930, each town had its own "smithie" who created all their metal implements including tools, nails, pots, horseshoes, and decorative items.

Our students not only experienced this history lesson firsthand, but also connected with an artist in their community.



(pictured l to r) Jackie Cosgrove, James Malleis, Justin Rabish, George Magsig, and Megan Kippe

Strike Up "The Band"

For the past three years, Mrs. Mary Fain has dedicated herself to developing an outstanding band program for St. Mary's School. To begin the 2008/09 school year, Mary passed the torch of Band Director to Mrs. Rita LaVictoire and returned back to the middle school classroom to her love for teaching math and science.



This year there are three bands within St. Mary's, made up of 70 students; the Cathedral Band (grades 8 & 9), the 7th grade band, and the Beginning Band (6th grade). The Cathedral Band and the 7th grade band are busy preparing for the Band and Orchestra Festival on March 7th at Elk Rapids School. They will also be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th. The 7th-9th grade students have also performed at Homecoming and for Pep Rallies this year.

A Benefactor Concert was held on December 3rd, which included all band students. The concert was held to thank everyone who has so generously contributed and supported the program and to showcase the music the students have worked on since the beginning of the year. A Spring Concert will be held April 29th at 7:00 pm.

The band program continues to accept bottles and cans to help raise money to support the program. The recent citrus sale was a huge success and the funds earned from that will help pay for their attendance at the Festival in March, as well as other much needed materials.



Currently, the biggest need of the band program is new band chairs. Chairs that are specifically designed for a band room help students to sit up straight while playing their instruments and allow a more comfortable position especially for those with heavier instruments. The band boosters are initially looking to purchase 30 chairs at a cost of approximately \$50 each. If you are interested in contributing to the purchase of new band chairs, please complete and return the donation form on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you!

New Band Director Rita LaVictoire Shares Her Story

St. Mary Band Director, Rita LaVictoire is very proud of her Catholic school heritage—a graduate of Luke M. Powers Catholic Central in Flint. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music from Central Michigan University and has completed graduate work at Michigan State University. Rita was a band director in the public schools for eight years before she left teaching to raise her family. She also founded and directed the Jordan Valley Community Band over a period of fourteen years.




Rita and her husband Dr. Steve Wisniewski have five children, four of whom are currently attending St. Mary School. Their oldest is a recent graduate of St. Mary and is currently attending college. Their decision to move to Gaylord from East Jordan was made because of their commitment to have their children receive a Catholic education.

She takes great pride in sharing her love for music with the students at St. Mary's and is very excited about continuing the program into the High School.



Technology from the Classroom to the Air Waves

The high school technology classes, working in conjunction with Baraga Communications, wrote and produced several radio spots to run on the Catholic Radio Network. The spots included school and local news, sports highlights and an interview with Principal Cindy Pineda. The third graders also contributed to the show by conducting an interview with Mrs. Jenkins, Transportation Director of Gaylord Community Schools, about how snow days are determined. The school is grateful for the donations from Baraga Communications and the Altar Rosary Society of St. Mary Cathedral that allowed the school to purchase a high-quality microphone for the recordings. In Gaylord, the Catholic radio station can be heard on 92.1 FM. In addition, first through six grade students use National Weather Service equipment on school campus to report the weather live on Eagle 101.5 every school day during morning Convocation. Weather station equipment was purchased with Otsego County Community Foundation grant funds.



**ST. MARY
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL**

Kindergarten
Thursday, March 5th 4:30-6:30pm

Pre-Kindergarten
Thursday, March 12th 4:30-6:30pm

Guidance Office News

St. Mary Cathedral School has contracted with PrepHQ for a unique college preparation and career planning service. Parents and students can access PrepHQ through the school's website. Each student has a unique log-in and can customize college searches, career planning, scholarship searches, financial aid information and summer programs. Current students can also request transcripts and access specific colleges directly from this site. PrepHQ will also be used as a communication tool from the guidance office to notify students and parents about upcoming guidance related events. Another helpful feature offered on the PrepHQ site is the "My Organizer" section. This helps students track all of their activities, honors, employment and volunteer hours which will help them build an attractive resume they can use when applying to colleges and for scholarships.

Several of our students have already signed up and have started using the service. We expect all students to be actively using PrepHQ by the end of February.

Kristy Torsky
Director of Student Services

OCCF Mini-Grants Awarded

For many years now, the Education Committee of the Otsego County Community Foundation has provided both scholarships to St. Mary students and mini-grant funds to our teachers. We thank them for their continued financial support of our programs and to our graduating seniors.

This year, eight of our teachers submitted grant applications and two were awarded funding:

- **Hands on Our World \$1,000** - Mrs. Wind (3rd grade)
- **Buddies Across the Curriculum \$511** - Mrs. Borowiak (1st grade)

Congratulations on your creative teaching ideas!

Note: Over the past two years, grant funds from the Community Foundation have gone to support the following at St. Mary Cathedral School:

- Field Trip to Raven Hill Discovery Art Center (Mrs. Long)
- Young Meteorologists Weather Station (Mrs. Wind)
- Middle School Historical & Non-Fiction Novels (Mrs. Roggow)
- Music Composition Software (Mrs. Fain)
- Young American Outreach Tour (Mrs. Wyrembelski)
- Creative Play in PreK and Kindergarten (Mrs. Gregory)
- Reading Comprehension and Fluency Prog. PreK-2nd (Mrs. Borowiak)

Other New Faces at St. Mary School



Heather Esterline
HS Science



Betsy Speer
HS English



Diane Purgiel
6th Grade



Bethany Fisher
4th Grade



Ashley Johnson
3rd Grade



Jessica Kerfoot
2nd Grade



Jennifer McKinley
Administrative Asst.

Letters from Alumni

Class of 1937

Margaret (Mackowiak) Nelson
25770 Jennifer
Redford, MI 48239

I have many fond memories of my husband Billy, who passed three years ago after a long fight with cancer. My youngest son lives across the street from me, and takes care of the yard work. I have nine beautiful grandchildren. No great-grandchildren yet! It still seems like yesterday I was back in school.

Class of 1955

Mary Lou (Barker) Crisman
3347 Division
Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 534-9234
mommatoots616@yahoo.com

Since moving into my condo after my husband of 43 years died (6 years ago), I've become very involved with our local senior center.

I not only edit the monthly newsletter, but also design posters, programs, tickets and invitations for special events. I'm also the secretary on the Board of Directors at my condo complex. I'm the proud mother of three daughters and one son, grandmother to six fine young men, and one special granddaughter, and great-grandmother to three (adorable of course!) little boys with a fourth due in January.

In spite of the many valleys and mountains over the years, my "Special Buddy" in Heaven has always been looking out for me.

Announcements

St. Mary Athletic Director
Ben Kerfoot

St. Mary School is proud to have Mr. Ben Kerfoot (Class of 2001) as its new A.D. Ben is a recent graduate of Central Michigan University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Along with his responsibilities as A.D., he also teaches Middle and High School PE and coaches 7th/8th grade boys basketball.



"Coach of the Year"—Bob Cherwinski

Bob Cherwinski (Class of 1973) earned Top Choice 2008 Coach of the Year honors in his first year as Head Coach of the Snowbirds. Bob served as the Snowbirds defensive coordinator for the past 13 years before being promoted to head coach over the summer and did a spectacular job getting the Snowbirds back into the playoffs. Bob is a graduate of Central Michigan University and is employed as the Postmaster of the Mancelona post office.



Military News

If you have a loved one in the military that you would like us to pray for please email alumni@stmarycathedral.org. Any news or updates can be shared as well.

Alumni in the Arts

In the next issue of this newsletter, look for the feature: *ALUMNI IN THE ARTS*. Each issue of the publication will carry an article about one of St. Mary's alumni that has maintained an active interest in the arts and, in one way or another, has distinguished him or herself.

We invite alumni to share their stories with the readers of this newsletter; your experience at St. Mary School, any higher education you received, what you've been doing since school and how you've applied your gifts to real life. You may also include a photo. Please send info to the Alumni office either by mail or email.

Note: For those shy and modest artists, we may contact you in this regard.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Marriages

- Molly (1994) Cotant** and Jim Harrington, who were married September 8, 2007.
- Micah Doyle and Sara Lyn (2005) Haske**, who were married June 7, 2008.
- Patrick (1997) Cotant** and Polly Carlton, who were married June 7, 2008.
- Jeremy (2001) Krzemien** and Kristin Johnston, who were married June 21, 2008.
- Hendry Villegas and Kerry (2000) Skinner**, who were married July 26, 2008.
- Clark (2001) Switalski** and Nicole Putt, who were married August 2, 2008.
- John Mellein and Jamie (1998) Roper**, who were married August 23, 2008.
- Scott Payton and Kristen (2002) Skiba**, who were married August 30, 2008.
- Chadwick Croff and Amy (2003) Williams**, who were married September 6, 2008.
- Silverio "Syl" (2004) Mazzella, III** and Jessica O'Rourke, who were married September 20, 2008.
- Cameron Lahring and Jody (2001) Boyd**, who were married on September 20, 2008.
- Philip White and Audrey (2000) Cook**, who were married October 4, 2008.
- Charles Fox, Jr. and Danielle (1996) Koscielniak**, who were married October 11, 2008.

**Send all marriage, birth, anniversary,
death and class reunion updates to:**

**ST. MARY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL ALUMNI OFFICE
606 N. OHIO AVE.**

GAYLORD, MI 49735-1999

(989) 732-5448 FAX (989) 705-3585

EMAIL: alumni@stmarycathedral.org

Deaths

In loving memory we continue to remember in prayer the alumni who have died since the publication of our last newsletter.

Sister Mary Paphnutia Jurek, Class of 1931

Balbina (Gapinski) Konecki, Class of 1936

Leonard "Ike" Luzenski, Class of 1941

Rosalie "Francis" (Piortnoski) Lang Class of 1943

Robert Moore, Sr., Class of 1949

Elizabeth "Betty" (Moore) Leiter, Class of 1950

Lloyd Theisen, Class of 1954

Charles Masley, Class of 1968

Births

- Cameron Zachary Kerfoot**, born February 5, 2008, to **Zachary (1995)** and Jessica Kerfoot.
- Emma Marie Horsell-Sehl**, born March 18, 2008, to **William (2006) Horsell** and Jamie Sehl.
- Connor Michael Koza**, born March 20, 2008, to **Steve (1997)** and **Katie (2000 Derenzy) Koza**.
- Elijah Lawrence Bigelow**, born April 1, 2008, to **Kody & Rebecca (2004 Warren) Bigelow**.
- Carter John Slezak**, born April 15, 2008, to **Nathan (2002) Slezak** and Lindsay Kastl.
- Christian Edward Rendtorff Aude**, born May 11, 2008, to **John Rendtorff Aude** and **Christine (1983) Muzyl**.
- Alivia Marie Croff**, born June 1, 2008, to **Chadwick and Amy (2003 Williams) Croff**.
- Calvin Michael Skowronski**, born June 9, 2008, to **John and Sandra (1999 Prusakiewicz) Skowronski**.
- Holly Renee Elam**, born August 19, 2008 to **Jason (2002)** and Jessica Elam.
- Samuel Joseph Kuznicki**, born September 27, 2008 to **Stephen and Amy (1996 Burzynski) Kuznicki**.

St. Mary Cathedral School *Alumni Association*

We are currently in the process of establishing an active Alumni Association for St. Mary Cathedral School.

The purpose of an Alumni Association would be to:

- provide a link between St. Mary Cathedral School and its network of alumni;
- promote a shared spirit among alumni, students, faculty, staff and administration through projects that benefit our alma mater;
- help instill a sense of pride and loyalty in all SMCS students to St. Mary Cathedral School; and
- strive to make the school aware of the value of its alumni and the alumni aware of its vital role in the school's future.

If you would be interested in providing input toward the establishment of this organization, please contact the Alumni office at (989) 732-5448, or email alumni@stmarycathedral.org.

THANK YOU !

“All That Jazz”

- The Roaring 20's

The 11th Annual FUNd Fest was celebrated this past October, as the gymnasium and Multi-purpose room at St. Mary School were transformed back in time to the Roaring 20's.

Over \$117,000 was raised for the school through this one event and we thank you for your participation and generosity.

The 2009 event is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th, so mark your calendars now! We hope to once again count on your support.

The *Snowbird Connection* is a great way to keep our alumni informed of the school's many exciting events and projects, as well as the updates that we receive from our Alumni.

Another way that we can communicate more efficiently is through the use of email. ***If you would be interested in receiving news and updates via email from the Alumni Office, please send your email address along with your name to alumni@stmarycathedral.org.***

Note: Your email address will NOT be shared with any outside parties and will only be used for communications regarding St. Mary Cathedral School and related alumni events and activities.



Would you like to become an Athletic Booster?

The Athletic Association brought the “Athletic Boosters” back to St. Mary's this year.

It's a great opportunity that gives people that are interested in St. Mary Athletics a chance to be involved and help out our Snowbird Athletes. All athletic programs benefit from donations received through the Athletic Boosters.

If you'd like to become an Athletic Booster, please send your \$50 donation by completing the form on the last page of this newsletter. You will receive a monthly newsletter that includes updates as to how the teams are doing. Thank you for supporting our Snowbird athletes throughout the years!

Your fellow alumni would love to know what you're up to!

Simply fill out and return the form below with your recent life's happenings and send via the post office, fax or email.

Name: _____ (Maiden Name): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Class of: _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Here's what is going on in my life: _____

Thanks to all those who make donations to St. Mary Cathedral School!
Continue to keep the spirit of St. Mary's alive by making a donation.

Yes, I want to make a difference and support my alma mater!

Please print

Name: _____ Class of: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send your tax deductible donation to:

St. Mary Cathedral
Attn: Alumni Office
606 N. Ohio Ave.
Gaylord, MI 49735-1999

I would like my donation to support the following: (check all that apply)

- Endowment Fund \$ _____
- Tuition Angel Fund \$ _____
- Athletic Booster \$ _____
- Band Booster \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
St. Mary Cathedral School

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



**St. Mary Cathedral School
Alumni Office
606 North Ohio Avenue
Gaylord, MI 49735**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Parents

If this publication is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives with you, please call the alumni office at (989) 732-5448 or email us at alumni@stmarycathedral.org with his or her new mailing address.

Thank you!

Save the Date

January 25-31, 2009
Catholic Schools Week

March 5, 2009
Kindergarten Open House
4:30–6:30 pm

March 12, 2009
Pre-Kindergarten
Open House 4:30–6:30 pm

March 18-21, 2009
Cathedral Players present
"Cinderella"

April 25th, 2009
School Carnival

April 29th, 2009 – 7pm
Spring Band Concert

May 28th, 2009–5:30 pm
Baccalaureate

May 31st, 2009–Graduation

Mission Statement

St. Mary Cathedral School is committed to:

- Nurturing lifelong discipleship in the Lord
- Promoting academic excellence
- Cultivating God-given talents