



ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The Mission of St. Margaret Mary School is to nurture a Christ – centered Community of Life-long Learners.

The Fifth Commandment

Thou Shall not Kill

The Fifth Commandment calls us to foster the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social well-being of self and others. We are called to create the culture of life and work against the culture of death.

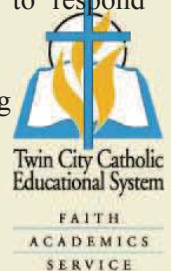
Our second graders have put up a bulletin board in the center hallway with the title “Treat all of God’s Creation with Respect.” When others respect what we have made, we know they are showing respect for us. When we respect what God has made, we respect God. God made every person and everything we can see. Respect for every person and all of God’s creation shows how much we love God.

God of all creation, thank you for creating me and all the other people of the earth. Keep me safe from harm. I will respect others because God made them and loves them the way I am loved. Amen.

Vocations

This is Vocation Awareness Week. Work is a fulfilling human vocation. We build up not only our world but the Kingdom of God. Work is a partnership with God---our share in a divine human collaboration in creation. It occupies a central place in our lives. Jesus calls us individually, by name. Each one of us---clergy, religious, layperson, married, single, adult, child---has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out His divine plan. Our challenge, is to understand our role, our vocation, and to respond generously to this call from God.

During the month of January, each of our classrooms is going to pass a “Vocation Bag” from student to student. This bag will go along with the class discussions about choosing a vocation in life. The bag will contain prayers and articles about vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We



REMINDERS

January

11.....Kindergarten to Barlow

11.....Preschool Story Hour at St. Mary Elementary 1 – 2 p.m.

12.....**Band Concert 6:30 at SG**

13.....Liturgy 8:00 Grade 1K

13.....Grade School Night at the SMC Boys’ Games

14.....Rite of Enrollment for First Eucharist 5:00 Mass

15.....IMAJN Mass 5:00

January 16th---February 1st
Fr. Mike’s visit to India

18.....FACES Meeting 8:00 a.m.

20.....End of Second Quarter
.....**Early Dismissal**.....
Preschool students with older siblings may stay until 11:30.
No afternoon Extended Care

23..... State of the Schools Address at St. Margaret Mary

ask that families use the bag, which will come home with your child, to talk about vocations and to pray for increased vocations to religious life.

First Eucharist Students

Parents of students preparing for First Eucharist will present their children to Father Mike and the Parish Community on **Saturday, January 14th at the 5:00 p.m. Mass**. Candidates who are preparing to celebrate a sacrament of initiation write their names in the Book of the Elect at the Liturgy. Parents of First Eucharist candidates are also asked to participate in a Parent Meeting on *either* **Monday, January 9th at 3:45 p.m** or **Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m**. Both meetings will be held in Friendship Hall (lower church) and will last about one hour.

Wines Around the World

Dear Parents,

The 14th annual St. Margaret Mary school fundraiser is coming up soon. The Wines Around the World, Denim and Diamond -Napa Style event is on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at 7pm. Tickets are on sale in the office for \$40.00 per person. We would be honored for you to join in this fun filled evening. We assure you, that you will be able to leave your worries at home and enjoy the tastes of California wines, desserts, art gallery, dancing and some amazing opportunities to bid on, very unique indeed.

New this year is a Grandparent and Grandchild sponsorships, which were distributed at the school Christmas concert. We will send home forms again in your child's Friday folder. We would like to thank our current Grand-Family sponsors: Gene and Barbara Moran honoring Luke Moran, Linda and Richard Nealy/ John and Cherry Starling honoring Mason Starling, Graham and Barbara Werner honoring Henry, Meredith and Andrew Werner, Pete and Elayne Peterson honoring Hannah and Alex Sherwood as well as Davis and Frankie Green, Barb and Tom Barrett honoring Katelyn and Megan Roloff, Madeline and William Okrie honoring William K. Peteroy Jr., Dick and Jennifer Bergstrom honoring Ellie and Emma Dimmer, Mr. and Mrs. Nykeil honoring Ellie, Jonah and Anna DeWitt, Mr. and Mrs. Butch Roth honoring Allie Strande, LeAnne Greene honoring Frances and Davis Greene, and Aidan and Sienna Anderson honoring Jim and Judy Rechlitz and Wendell and Jane Anderson.

The atmosphere will be wonderful so please line up your sitters. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you on February 11th.

Sincerely,

Julie Anderson and Meridith Starling, WAW Co-chair

Weather Warning

With the beautiful and unseasonably warm weather we have been having, it seems strange to talk about snow. But it will come!! We want to remind you of our policy in case there are school closings.

If either the Neenah or the Menasha public schools close due to inclement weather, all TCCES schools will close.

Whenever there is a delayed beginning of school, all half-day morning Kindergarten and morning preschool programs are automatically cancelled. All afternoon programs are held at the regular times. If school is cancelled at any point during the day, all events that are in any way connected to school are automatically cancelled.

The local television stations will provide school closing information. The following radio stations will also broadcast school closing information: WAPL (105.7 FM), WIXX (101.1 FM), WROE (94.3 FM), WNAM (1280 AM), WOSH (1490). If severe weather forces schools to close after children have arrived, the radio stations listed above will announce that information.

Prayers

Please remember in prayer the great-grandmother of Olivia (gr. 3) and Erin (K) Bahn, who passed away recently. Also, please keep in prayer our partner school, Holy Spirit of Darboy and Kimberly.

Job Opportunity

US Bank is looking for a part-time, professional administrative assistant in our Private Client Group. The opening is a job share position with approximately 20 hours/week (Wed 12:00-5:00/Thurs & Fri 8:15-5:15) and will be based in our downtown Appleton location. Responsibilities include client service, loan and sales support and general administrative duties. Preferred experience includes excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills; excellent customer service and problem resolution skills; and proficient computer skills, especially Microsoft Office applications. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Michelle Bauer at 830-6066 or visit www.usbank.com.

Thank You

We have received thank you notes from the Christine Ann Center, Harbor House, and the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. They are most appreciative of the money and items donated by our TCCES Elementary Families. Thank you for teaching your child to be grateful for his/her blessings and to help others in need.

MAP Testing

MAP testing is scheduled for the last three weeks in January. Teachers will determine the students or classes that they would like to have assessed. The winter testing gives teachers an idea of progress being made with particular students. These tests do not factor into the yearly progress. All students will be tested again in May. If you have any questions, contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools week is traditionally the last week of January and this year will be celebrated from Sunday, January 29th---Saturday, February 4th. Our theme for this year is Catholic Schools: Faith, Academic, Service. We will be sending a schedule home next week of activities planned for the week. Parents are always welcome at any of the activities and may also like to have lunch on one of the days with your child. Please let the office know before 8:15 if you are coming for lunch any day.

Each January, Mr. Sullivan, the TCCES President gives a State of the Schools address to inform all of our families of the accomplishments, challenges, and finances of our system. The dates for this address are:

Monday, January 23rd at St. Margaret Mary gym
Tuesday, January 24th at St. Gabriel cafeteria
January 25th at St. Mary Elementary gym

Please try to attend one of the sessions to learn more about our TCCES system. Registration material for next year will be discussed at the sessions. Registration packets will be mailed to all families registered this year approximately January 18th. Registration will be completed by February 10th.

Lost and Found

Please check out our Lost and Found table across from the office. There are many items there waiting for an owner. If you are missing items at your house, they are probably here! Any items not claimed by next week will be sent to St. Vincent DePaul.

The following article was the cover of the Girl Scout Magazine.

Monday Mission Moment

Last year Girl Scout Brownie Troop #2099 from Neenah, WI put forth a monumental effort on behalf of Hannah, a 9-year-old girl who was struggling with brain cancer. The girls held a bake sale and then donated an incredible \$2,500 to assist Hannah's family with medical bills.



This year, the troop is again doing great things to benefit the community, including projects that benefited Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Fox Valley and Goodwill. The troop also decided to forego a Christmas gift exchange to assist those in need.

And the best part is that Hannah is in remission, has returned to school, and joined her fellow third-graders in the Girl Scout troop!

According to Hannah's mother, "Hannah is doing well. After missing a whole year, she is glad to be back at school."

Susan Jares is Hannah's leader. She said: "We're excited to have Hannah with us. The girls love her; she is so sweet. She looks really good this year. She has that spark in her eyes again. Hannah enjoys the monthly Brownie troop meetings and taking part in community service projects, such as making fleece blankets for sick kids at Children's Hospital."

Note from Advancement Office

Dear families,

I have recently been working with STS, an agency which facilitates the placement of foreign students interested in international education and cultural exchange. STS has over 50 years of experience placing

students from Europe, Scandinavian, South America, Asia and Eastern Europe. The great majority of their students come from countries in which they operate their own offices. These are Australia, Austria, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

I started this process in attempt to consider accepting 5-7 exchange students to SMC for the 2012-13 school year. As luck would have it, after filling out all of the paper work, we have had a male student from China apply to come to SMC for the 2nd semester of this school year. He is in 10th grade and speaks excellent English.

Now the fun part.....We need a host family. These placements are typically for a full school year but he would only be here for second semester of this year. **THERE IS A STIPENED THAT IS ACCOMPANIED WITH HOSTING STS STUDENTS.**

If you feel your family could open their hearts and home to this student, please contact me for more details. The host family need not be an SMC family, so if you know of someone who may be interested in a fabulous opportunity for a cultural exchange, please pass the word on as well. Also, please know that I will likely be looking for host families for next school year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Miller
Twin City Catholic Educational System
Director of Admissions

Special Visitor

We welcomed home a former St. Margaret Mary student last week. Patrick Costello attended school here and is now a third year Midshipman at the United States Naval Academy. He was in school to talk to the band students and take some time to play with them. Mr. Orth's former trumpet player now plays in the Drum and Bugle Corp at the Academy. Congratulations, Patrick, and THANK YOU for your service!



Patrick pictured with Mr. Hickey, Mr. Orth, and Mrs. Sajdak, veterans of Patrick's Days at SMM.



Baptism of Our Lord

"After Jesus was baptized, he came from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Mt 3:16-17).

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. We know that — since Jesus was born without sin — he did not really need to be baptized. And yet, Jesus welcomes his own baptism as an example for the rest of us and as a sign of his true identity. He is God's son, the living presence of God on earth. When we renew our baptismal promises, we proclaim our belief in the waters of baptism and our new and ongoing life in Christ.

Take some time this month to talk to your kids about their own baptism (even if you've told the story before!). Talk about who was there, how their godparents were chosen and the celebration after the ritual. Our kids love to hear fun details — our oldest dropped his pacifier in the font and our youngest howled loudly throughout the blessed event. What a great time to share that Jesus is with us always, even when things don't go as perfectly as planned.

It's Not That Easy Being (Ever)Green

By Cory Busse

My brother Tim used to eat tinsel. Why do I tell you this? Well, first, because it's hilarious. But more importantly, because it demonstrates that there's something about a Christmas tree that draws one to it. Even though your tree is probably bone dry and headed to the curb (or to its box in the storage space if your tree is artificial), who among us doesn't take heart in a living thing that thrives and grows year-round and maintains its color even in the harshest of conditions? Evergreens are an important symbol during the Christmas season in the Church. But why? What is it about the evergreen that it has become such an enduring symbol of our Catholic faith?



EVERGREENS REPRESENT HOPE

No matter where you live, winter can get pretty bleak. Especially after Christmas, and especially when it gets dark at 4 p.m. You don't have to live in a cold-weather climate to appreciate the persistence and beauty of evergreen trees. Heck, even 1.4 percent of those of you in Florida suffer from seasonal affective disorder. So, to see green poking through an otherwise seemingly barren landscape reminds us of the imminent return of spring, of the persistence of God's love for us even in the darkest of times.



EVERGREENS REPRESENT RENEWAL

In broadcasting, "evergreen" means content that's always relevant. The term comes from conifers that stay vibrant even when it's cold, dark and dry. Unlike their dramatic deciduous counterparts, evergreens grow new leaves year-round, continually replacing those they shed. It's no coincidence, then, that the New Evangelization that Pope Benedict XVI speaks about is a renewal of our faith. It's not a new faith altogether. It's simply the continuation and rediscovery of the beauty of the faith on an ongoing basis.



Green Up Your Space

Don't let the post-Christmas blahs take over your home! Keep the spirit alive by using evergreen in creative spaces.

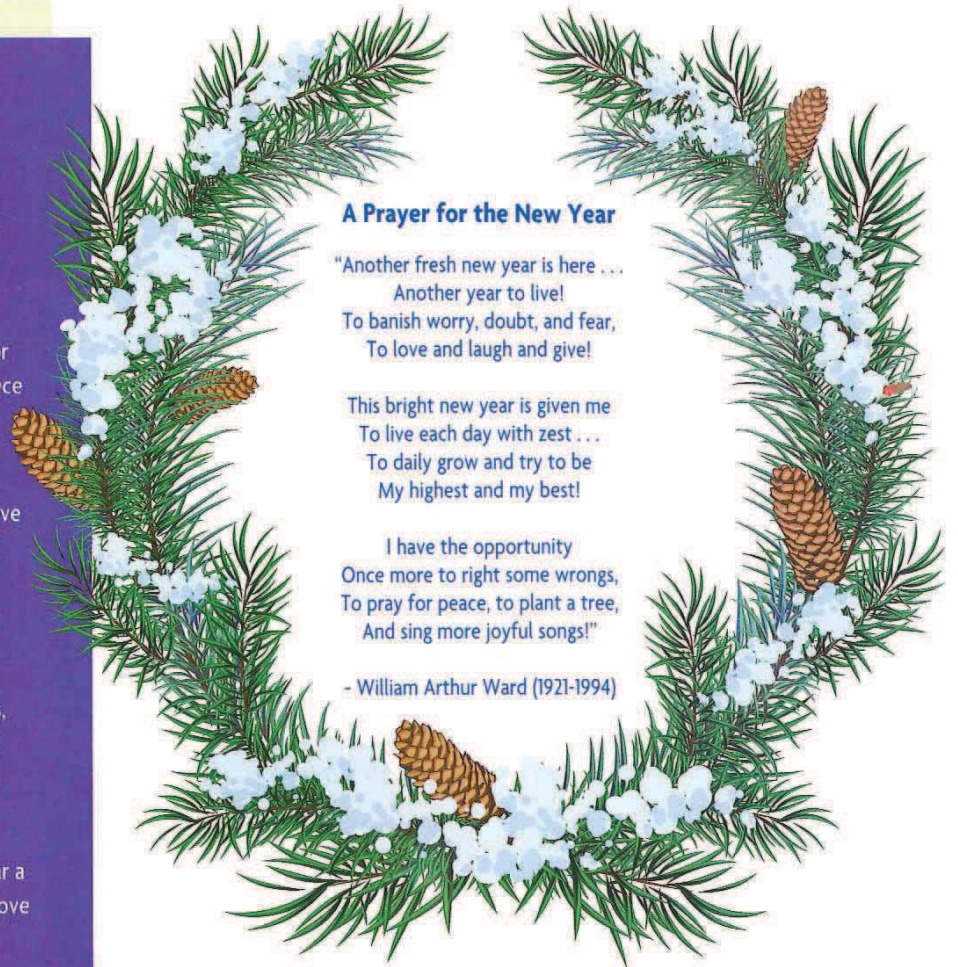
Come to the Table: Evergreens around a candle or mixed with pine cones make a beautiful centerpiece for a dining or coffee table and serve a daily reminder of God's renewal.

Open the Door: Hanging a sprig of evergreen above your front door is a great way to welcome guests with warmth and hospitality.

Create a New Year Tree: If you have an artificial tree, remove some of the more traditional Christmas ornaments and replace them with birds, peace signs, crosses and strings of beads — these are all appropriate to celebrate a New Year filled with God's blessings.

Focus on Christ: A sprig of evergreen near a crucifix helps us remember that Christ's love is everlasting.

Remember the Children: Place an evergreen branch in your kids' rooms (on the dresser, in a bookcase, above the closet) to keep the magic of the season alive a little longer.



A Prayer for the New Year

"Another fresh new year is here ...
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!

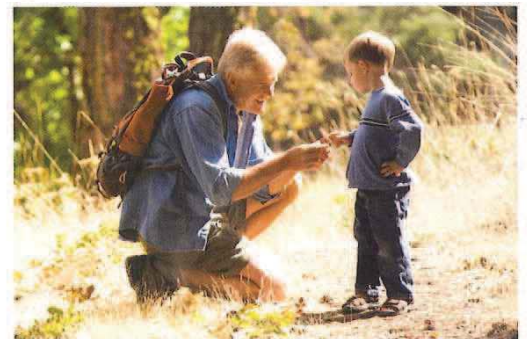
This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest ...
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
Once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
And sing more joyful songs!"

- William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)

EVERGREENS GROW IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS

Evergreens thrive in conditions where other plants can't. Acidic soil. Dry soil. Rocky terrain. Evergreens make their home where other, less hearty greenery wouldn't dare. In this way the evergreen represents the fact that the Catholic Church not only lives in the margins, it thrives there. We welcome the marginalized, as Jesus did. We do not work toward or expect an "easy" Church, or one that does not expect us to be durable. We are called to be lively Christians even in a difficult economy. Even when we disagree with one another. Even when times are troubling and our spirits may be low. In this way, we are called to be evergreen in Jesus' name.



Images: Thinkstock, Shutterstock



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SATURDAY PRE-TEEN NIGHTS

Neenah-Menasha YMCA
Grades 3rd, 4th & 5th
6:30-9:00 PM

January 21: Whiffle Ball, Kickball, Obstacle Course, Scavenger Hunt, Dodgeball, Racquetball & Hip Hop Dance - (7:00-8:00 PM)

February 4: 3 on 3 Basketball, Flag Football, Racquetball, Obstacle Course, Gladiators & Circle Drumming

February 18: Soccer, Floor Hockey, Obstacle Course, Racquetball, Hip Hop Dance - (7:00-8:00 PM)
Capture the Flag & Circle Drumming

March 3: Whiffle Ball, Kickball, Obstacle Course, Scavenger Hunt, Dodgeball & Racquetball & Recyclable Art Project.

March 20: 3 on 3 Basketball, Flag Football, Racquetball, Obstacle Course, Gladiators & Recyclable Art Project.

Activities Available Every Night

Youth Center Fun: Foosball, Pool, Play Station, Ping Pong, Sports Wall, Climbing Treadwall & Wii

Pool Activities: InnerTubes, Kickboards, Noodles & Pool Slide

Cost:
YMCA Members - FREE
General Public - \$5/per youth
Parent Volunteers Welcome!
For more information, contact
Colin Specht at 886.2103.
www.ymcafoxcities.org



25th Semi-Annual
Neenah-Menasha Noon Optimists

B*B Gun Safety/Marksmanship

- Purpose:** To promote respect and responsibility for the shooting sports – including B*B Guns
- Eligibility:** Open to all Neenah and Menasha 5th grade boys and girls.
- Where:** Boys' & Girls' Brigade, 109 W. Columbian Avenue, Neenah
- When:** Saturday January 28, February 4,11,18,25 and March 3, 2012. All six sessions are from 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Make-ups are possible)
- Openings:** There are 12 shooting lanes available. We will accept the first 24 to apply. A waiting list will be established if necessary for future programs.
- Equipment:** 12 like-new Competition Daisy B*B Guns with target sights and all other equipment will be provided.
- Parents:** Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend. An informal B*B gun match is planned – with moms and dads – on March 3, 2012.
- Questions:** For more information, call Jesse Stumpf at 725-9204.
- Cost:** \$10.00 covers the fee for parent and child. Make checks payable to: Boys' & Girls' Brigade.
- Registration:** Send the completed form along with your \$10.00 payment to:
Boys' & Girls' Brigade, 109 W. Columbian Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956, Attn: Jesse Stumpf.
Registrations must be received by Monday, January 23, 2012.

B*B Gun Registration Form: Fee: \$10.00 Office Use _____

*****Return to the Boys' & Girls' Brigade*****

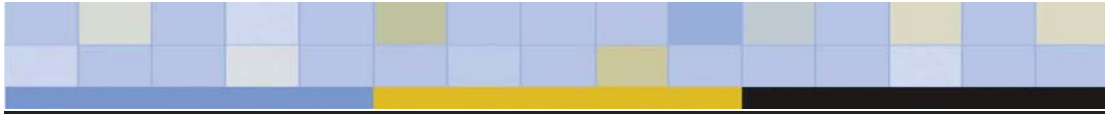
(Please print)

Name _____ Phone Number _____
 Address _____ Age _____ Birthdate _____
 City _____ Boy _____ Girl _____
 School _____ Grade _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in this B*B Gun Safety/Marksmanship Program:

Parent's Signature _____

Course dates are: January 28, February 4,11,18,25 and March 3, 2012.



St. Mary Central Basketball Grade School and Middle School Night

To: All Grade and Middle School Students

From: St. Mary Central Basketball Teams



You are invited to be our guest on **Friday, January 13** as the SMC Boys Basketball Team challenges Valders at 7:30 p.m. Please use the tickets below for free admission to the game. Feel free to come early to watch the SMC Freshmen and Junior Varsity teams with action beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Each student will also receive a coupon for a beverage and popcorn and be entered in a drawing for some great prizes. Please feel free to pass this note along to any grade or middle school students that would be interested in coming to a game!

Come out to see the excitement of SMC Basketball!



Admit one
St. Mary Central vs. Valders
Friday, January 13, 2012
St. Mary Central High School-7:30 pm

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