

THE MORNING STAR

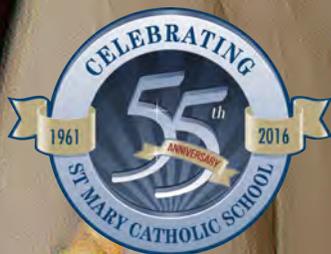
OF SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JESUS IS
AMONG US

COME SEE US!
Saint Mary Church

RCIA
A Journey of Faith

SAINT MARY
SCHOOL
Celebrates 55 Years!



FATIMA CENTENNIAL
A Message of Hope

Theology of the Body

WINTER 2017 • ISSUE 1

WWW.CHURCHOFSAINTMARY.ORG • 610.287.8156

THE MORNING STAR

OF SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ESTABLISHED 1926

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THE MORNING STAR

02 LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR
FATHER LOUIS P. BELLOPEDE

04 FATIMA CENTENNIAL
LISTENING TO OUR MOTHER
JOANNE MCHUGH

This year marks the centennial of perhaps the best known Marian apparition in modern times – the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, to three young shepherd children six times from May to October 1917.

06 RCIA - A JOURNEY OF FAITH
DEACON DON NICHOLS

07 THEOLOGY OF THE BODY
DEACON DON NICHOLS

08 JESUS IS AMONG US!
KEVIN CONWELL, PRINCIPAL

10 SAINT MARY SCHOOL
CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS!
SUZETTE MOYER

16 A LENTEN REFLECTION
DAWN BROWN

20-21 LENT DATES,
EASTER TRIDUUM AND
UPCOMING EVENTS
SAINT MARY CALENDAR

SAINT MARY
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

40 SPRING MOUNT ROAD
SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473
WWW.CHURCHOFSAINTMARY.ORG
610.287.8156



COME AND SEE!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

I invite you to Come and See the beginning of something very exciting in your life. A re-awakening of your faith - a new experience as you walk with the Lord Jesus. Saint Mary Parish is not like any other community, we are a family; a spiritual family. We walk together on the journey of life. We are a family of believers that struggle with the same struggles everyone experiences. We fall on the journey of life like everyone else falls. However, there is something different here at Saint Mary. We walk, share, learn and live as a family of faith. We are here for each other. We depend on one another through good times and bad, the sorrows and the joys of life. We are sustained and nourished by God's powerful Word and efficacious Sacraments of Unity, Charity and Love. In particular, we are nourished by the Eucharist - our Lord's Real Presence. We are changed! We become the people He has called us to be. We recognize that we do not go to CHURCH but are the CHURCH, which is His Mystical Body.

SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



ESTABLISHED 1926

Perhaps you have been away from Church for some time? Perhaps you are new to the area? Perhaps you feel alone and have no one to share life with? Perhaps you just want to Come and See? We do not judge! We do not question! We INVITE, We WELCOME, We are a warm community of BELIEVERS on the road to all that is GOOD and of GOD. Come and See what God is inviting you to experience here at Saint Mary Church.



You will be amazed and surprised that God only wants you to take the FIRST STEP and His Grace will lead you home. Home to a place of love, home to a place of peace, home to a place of faith that you really need.



I cordially invite to Mass this Sunday! May the power of the Eucharist transform your life by His holy grace. I invite you to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation so the power of God's Love can heal your brokenness and make you whole again. I invite you to Come and See the awesomeness that God has in store for you this day. Please do not pass up this opportunity. He is calling you by name to Come and See!

Saint Mary Parish has a dynamic school community. We will be glad to welcome you to experience Saint Mary School with its Two Divisions: Our Preschool Division (3 and 4 year olds) and our Kindergarten through Eighth Grade Division. We also have an after school program called CARES running until 6PM. Saint Mary's has an extensive Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) which is an educational ministry for children in Grades One through Six that do not attend our Catholic School. Come and See! Allow Jesus the Teacher instruct your children in the ways of Faith through our Parish Catholic Education Center.

**One Faith
One Family
One Spirit**

Our family here at Saint Mary has many Adult Faith Formational experiences for you to explore. Please browse through our E-Magazine and see what God is calling you to discover. I am sure you will find something that may spark an interest. If you are not a member of the Catholic Faith and have a desire to learn what the Catholic Church teaches and believes then RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is for you! Come and See! As you can tell - we are a Center of Faith, a community of believers, a family of God who desires to invite and encourage our brothers and sisters to experience the joy of being fully alive in God, May the peace and joy of the Lord Jesus Christ abide with you and lead you to a deeper relationship with Himself here at Saint Mary Church. Come & See!

Love and prayers,

Father Bellopede

SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

40 Spring Mount Road • Schwenksville • PA • 19473

PARISH OFFICE CENTER HOURS Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Parish Office 610.287.8156

Saint Mary School 610.287.7757

Religious Education PREP 610.287.8156 am 610.287.4517 pm

Saint Mary FAX 610.287.4226

Internet Website www.churchofsaintmary.org

St. Mary School Website www.smsk-8.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday - 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 Noon

Monday through Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am and 4:00pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS: Sat. 9:30am - 10:00am and 2:45pm - 3:45pm

PREP 6:30 - 7:45pm Monday or Tuesday

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD Sundays at 10:30am

YOUTH GROUP Lifeteen: Sundays 1:30 - 3:00pm

Edge: 1st & 3rd Sunday 6:30 - 8:30pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

is all day, every day in our chapel.

BAPTISMS - 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at 1:15pm

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Registered members please contact the parish house at least six (6) months prior to the wedding date. A Pre-Cana session is required.

ROSARY The Rosary will be prayed daily before the 9:00am Mass and on Sundays before the 7:30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Daily after the 9:00am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR The Thursday before the first Friday of the month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA Mondays after 9:00am Mass

LIBRARY HOURS Saturday before and after 4PM Mass and Sunday 8AM - Noon

SCRIP ROOM HOURS 1st & 3rd Sundays: 8:15AM - Noon; 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: 9:45AM - Noon

Rev. Louis P. Bellopede, Pastor

Rev. Brian Kean, In Residence

Deacon Donald O. Nichols and Deacon David Kolesky

Mrs. Renee Jacobs, Director of Operations

Mrs. Mary Beth O'Connor, Business Manager

Mrs. Anamaria Hazel, Administrative Asst. Business & Operations

Mrs. Sandra Olzinski, Administrative Asst. to the Pastor

Mrs. Kathleen Wasniewski, Principal of PREP

Mr. Kevin Conwell, Principal of Saint Mary School

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF FATIMA: LISTENING TO WHAT OUR MOTHER TOLD US

This year marks the centennial of perhaps the best known Marian apparition in modern times—the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, to three young shepherd children six times from May to October 1917.

The year 1917 was a dark time as the world suffered greatly from the horrors of World War I. Yet that year, on May 13, three children—Lucia, age 10; Francisco, almost 9; and Jacinta, age 7—first saw a “lady of all light” above a small oak tree. During that first apparition, the Blessed Mother asked the children to return to the same spot on the 13th of each month for the following five months.

The children faithfully returned in June and in July, at which time the Blessed Mother promised that a great miracle would occur in October so that everyone might believe in the apparitions and in her message. Although Our Lady’s August appearance was delayed because the children were imprisoned, she appeared later that month, as well as in September. As time went on, more and more people gathered at the site of the apparitions with the children.

By the time of the sixth apparition in October, some 70,000 people were present and were treated to the great “miracle of the sun,” a startling spectacle in the noon sky in which the sun made three circles and zigzagged, a sign meant to affirm the apparitions and all that the Blessed Mother had said at Fatima. In 1930, the Catholic Church proclaimed the authenticity of the Fatima apparitions.

In her messages at Fatima, Our Lady pleaded with sinners to stop offending God, asked sinners to seek pardon, and asked the just to pray and make sacrifices so that sinners may not suffer eternal damnation in hell.

More specifically, Our Lady of Fatima requested several commitments from the faithful:

- Pray the Rosary daily
- Have devotion to her Immaculate Heart
- Receive Holy Communion on the first Saturday of the month
- Offer daily sacrifices for their own and others’ sins and for the conversion of sinners
- Wear the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel





During the Fatima apparitions, the Blessed Mother also warned of several consequences of not heeding her requests, including of another terrible world war, as well as immense damage that would come from Russia's abandonment of the Christian faith and embrace of communism. Our Lady also cautioned that many would be martyred, nations would be annihilated, and the Holy Father would suffer greatly.

Several subsequent 20th century events, notably World War II and an assassination attempt on the pope on May 13, 1981, appear to align with our Lady's revelations. In fact, St. Pope John Paul II appeared to affirm Our Lady's predictions with his pilgrimage to Fatima on May 13, 1982 to thank the Blessed Mother for her protection on the occasion of the attempt on his life.

The Holy Father also used the occasion of his pilgrimage to consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In today's tumultuous times, it seems wise to learn about and understand the significance of Fatima. Our parish is planning several activities to commemorate the centennial of Fatima and to help parishioners become more familiar with Our Lady's message.

From May 7-15, Saint Mary's will host an **Our Lady of Fatima Novena**, and Our Lady of Fatima will be honored in a special way during the parish's **Annual May Procession on May 9**. Further details about these and other events will be posted in the Sunday bulletin and at www.churchofsaintmary.org.

Though the Fatima apparitions occurred a century ago, the Blessed Mother's message is still relevant today. As one Fatima apostle, Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira wrote, *"When the earth was in confusion, the heavens opened up and the Virgin appeared at Fatima to tell men the truth. She spoke an austere truth of reprimand and penance, but also a rich truth with promises of salvation."*

Follow us this spring to learn more about how Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph.



RCIA - A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Are you interested in the Catholic Faith? Do you want to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a journey of conversion to God the Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. RCIA is the process by which persons who were never baptized, or were baptized in another Christian tradition, become members of the Catholic Church.

We meet on **Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm until 8:00pm in the first room of the Annex.** These gatherings primarily are for inquirers and those on the journey to coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. And although they are primarily for people who are unbaptized, as well as those who are baptized Christians from other denominations, they are also open to Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. These sessions also are opportunities for you, and others that you may wish to invite, to ask those perplexing and difficult questions you may have about the Catholic Church. We invite you to learn what the Church teaches, and be introduced to some of our parish members who serve as catechists.

How does our parish attract inquirers who consider becoming Catholic? The short answer is you! When any parish has many inquirers year after year, it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit as parish members open their hearts to welcome others. Members of a welcoming and evangelizing community take seriously their call to share the Divine message of salvation. It happens in parish families, in the workplace, in gatherings with friends and neighbors, and in daily contacts. We give thanks to God as He continuously strengthens each of us who seek to do His will in offering a gentle, humble, and clear welcome to the Catholic faith! After all, Jesus commands us to "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." - Mark 16:15

Currently we have three individuals who are not baptized, who have been accepted into the order of the catechumenate, and are working towards receiving all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation

and Holy Communion) at the Easter Vigil this April.

In addition, we have several candidates from other Christian faiths at different stages of coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. Also, there are two baptized Catholics who are planning on receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion when our Archdiocese' newest bishop, Edward Deliman, comes to Saint Mary's in April to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our parish. Please pray for all of these people as they journey toward full communion in the Catholic Church.

GO OUT INTO THE WHOLE WORLD AND
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.

MARK 16:15

If you know someone who might be interesting in becoming Catholic, or if you'd like to learn more about the **RCIA**, please contact **Deacon Don Nichols** at dnichols@churchofsaintmary.org. May God continue to bless you on your own journey of faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.



From left to right: Crystal Everly - sponsor; Emily Swartwood - catechumen; Deacon Don; Sonny Dunn - sponsor; Spencer Forgette - catechumen; Steve Forgette - sponsor; and Jane Forgette - catechumen

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

If you're wondering if there's more to life than just "getting by" and are ready to focus on what really matters, then discover the extraordinary Catholic teaching known as the **Theology of the Body**. It will give you a revolutionary and fulfilling vision for life, as it offers a new way to authentically see yourself, your faith, your relationships, and your world.

Given to us by Pope Saint John Paul II at the beginning of his pontificate, the Theology of the Body is renewing marriages, awakening vocations, healing deep personal wounds, and setting people free to live the life of greatness to which we are all called. Through an in-depth reflection on the Scriptures, John Paul II seeks to answer two of the most universal questions: What does it mean to be human? How do I live my life in a way that brings happiness and fulfillment?

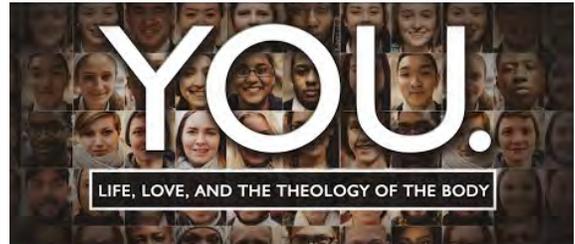
We are very excited to provide an opportunity for the entire family to learn more about this wonderful teaching right here at St. Mary's! Beginning Sunday, February 26th, we will offer separate age-appropriate sessions for adults, teens and middle school youth all occurring at the same time!

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT A
MATTER OF REPRESSING OUR DESIRES,
BUT OF REDEEMING THEM.

CHRISTOPHER WEST

For the adult sessions, ***An Introduction to the Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life***, renowned author and theologian Christopher West unfolds God's extraordinary plan for all of humanity. If you desire to live out the fullest meaning and purpose of your life, then join us for this amazing discovery! It will give a broad overview of the **Theology of the Body** and provide you with some resources to help you dive deeper into this eye-opening teaching. In these sessions you will learn why the redemption of our sexuality is the key to happiness, develop a "new lens" through which to see the world with greater clarity, see how God's mystery is

revealed through the body and spousal love, discover the truth behind the lies of lust and pornography and how they can be overcome, and learn the language of sexual love.



For the teen sessions, ***YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body***, is a unique program which reveals to teens their value as a person: their bodies, their sexuality, and their individual call to love. Filmed on location all over the world, the program features teens as well as respected Catholic leaders. It addresses, head on, many of the issues teens are already exposed to via entertainment media, societal pressures, and their own interactions with each other. The world has changed.

The modern presentation of personhood has challenges that didn't exist in the past. Today, teens are given conflicting messages on a daily basis, and an approach based simply on rules to be followed is not enough. They need to know that not only is each teenager a unique, unrepeatable gift of God, but so also is their sexuality, and all aspects of their lives.

For the middle school youth sessions, ***Theology of the Body for Teens (Middle School)***, is a program which gives sixth through eighth graders the answers to their tough questions concerning their bodies, their sexuality, and their future. It answers critical questions like: Who am I? Are there consequences to my actions? What is the difference between love and lust? How do I balance family, friends, school, God, music, TV, internet, texting, etc., in my daily life? How can I discern my vocation to marriage, priesthood, or religious life? How do I deal with bullying, gossip, peer pressure, pornography, divorce, etc.? Can I live my Catholic faith no matter how I messed up in the past?

Please prayerfully consider participating in this outstanding opportunity to grow in your faith!

JESUS IS AMONG US

Jesus is always among us. The problem is that we do not always remember. As possible future saints our task is to stay in touch with Jesus so that we follow him in our words and action.

Saint Mary Catholic School's purpose is to enable each and every child sitting in our school to learn how to stay in touch with Jesus, as to live a life that will lead to heaven.

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been an annual celebration of Catholic Education in the United States and our work to enable children to stay in touch with Jesus. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2017 was January 29 - February 4. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is **"Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."** At Saint Mary Catholic School we observe the annual celebration with Masses and other activities for our school community. Through these events, we focus on the value Catholic education provided to young people and our contributions to our parish, our community and our nation.

This year our Opening Mass had a wide range of participants. At each Mass our parents and students shared their love of Saint Mary's School. Parishioners were greeted at each Mass by our students in their uniforms. At the 10:30 Mass, Student



CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Community of Faith, Knowledge and Service



*Enrollment open for next year....call for a private tour!
Excellence in educating Preschool through 8th grade*



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Council led the procession, eighth grade students represented our students as readers, our teachers represented the faculty at the Offertory. The music was provided by alumni and the student choir. Saint Mary Catholic School is so honored and blessed to have such supportive families at our school. We succeed when we are all in to make our school the best it can be. Thank you with all our hearts!!

We started a new tradition this year with Career Day and we are committed to continue in the years to come! Adults presented their work lives and how they reached their career choice and what it takes to achieve success in their work! We had a great variety of careers from Police Officer to Nurse, Lawyer to Plummer! Student chose the career they where most interested in and learned a lot from the presentations. Let us know if you would be interested in being a presenter for the future!



Our Blanket Project was a real community effort! Many parents joined us over the week to prepare the 119 blankets that we will be sending to Children's hospital. Families bought the material, washed and packaged the blankets. Every student participated in cutting and tying fabric to make blankets for infants to teenagers. We are very proud of our efforts and send our prayers with our blankets! Praying that our efforts will bring comfort to those facing challenges at CHOP! We all had great fun with this service project!

Another new tradition is our Religion Bee! We had a great time showing off our knowledge of our Catholic Faith! Every student participated in a class Religion Bee and we ended up with 3 finalists from each Grade. On Friday we all gathered in the Parish Hall, the finalist took the stage in three different levels: Gr. 1-3; Gr. 4-6; and Gr. 7-8! After many questions ranging from "Who do we receive in the Eucharist?" to "Name four things all Confirmed Catholics should constantly be doing?" We had our winners!

**Gr. 1 Lourdes Armstrong • Gr. 5 Sophia Cervantes
Gr. 8 Layla DeLorenzo**



We look forward to many Catholic School Weeks in the future. Please continue to support us in our mission to bring the Gospel to life in the lives of our children.

Saint Mary Catholic School is committed to academic excellence, and we encourage all of our students to fully develop and use their God given talents.

Building the faith, one child at a time.



1961 **SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS!** 2016

Building the faith, one child at a time.



Saint Mary Catholic School Celebrates Fifty Five Years

Our Past, Our Present, Our Future On November 25, 2016

SUZETTE MOYER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Saint Mary Catholic School opened their school year with a Mass for all the students, parents and parishioners. This year, 2016-2017 has special meaning for Saint Mary Catholic School. This year marks our 55th Year of being a parish school. As a Parish and a Catholic school we understand and believe that our school is under our Blessed Mother Mary's care and guidance. Our school is NOT a regional school but OUR parish school! Because of this beautiful blessing, we celebrated by hosting **Saint Mary Catholic School Alumni Open House, Homecoming Mass and Gala Dinner**. This open invitation was extended to all alumni, their families, friends and parishioners from 1961-2016.



Our class reunion celebration was on **Friday, November 25, 2016**. It was on this day and evening we were invited to look not just at our past BUT our future, as a Parish and a Catholic School!! The evening started with our Homecoming Mass of Thanksgiving - celebrated by our Pastor Father Bellopede, with Father McElroy (Pastor Emeritus) and Father Furey (former Parochial Vicar) as Concelebrants, assisted by Deacon Don Nichols, Deacon Dave Kolesky and Deacon Ed Hinson.

Following the Mass was a tour of Saint Mary Catholic School given by our elected Student Government Officers. Hors d'oeuvres were provided to us by our generous HASA members. Next we proceeded to the Parish Hall for a Cocktail Hour, followed by a catered Gala Dinner and Desserts. Saint Mary Drama Club did several Spring Musical Vignettes that sparked many happy moments from the past. The evening concluded with Alumni and friends exchanging e-mail addresses, cell phone numbers and asking, "When will we do this again?"



1961 SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS! 2016



Building the faith, one child at a time.



GALA HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sold Out!** 150 capacity seating
 - **Eighteen different classes were represented**
 - **Class of 1971** - Best representation!
- Seventeen alumni out of Nineteen attended

Principals in Attendance

Karen Coldwell, Principal July, 1989 December, 1996
Kevin Conwell, Principal December, 1996 - Present

Former Faculty

Sister Marilinda (Catherine Ginther), Anne Boeshore

OUR PAST

Saint Mary Catholic School has a rich history. In 1957, Pastor Father McCall who believed that if **Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church** was to continue to grow and spread the Holy Word of God, a Parochial School of our own was a spiritual must. A committee of 22 men and Father McCall determined that it will take at least "A DAY'S PAY EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT THIRTY MONTHS" from each family in the parish to make this a successful drive. (30 days a month X .40 for each day = \$12.00 a month from each family for the next 30 months = \$360.00 from each family.) Blessed by our generous families who sacrificed their own needs, our parish met their goal! Saint Mary Catholic School was opened on September 6, 1961. Our enrollment at that time was 137 students, all in only four classrooms. Each classroom combined 2 grades. The faculty consisted of 4 Sisters and one principal from the order of Saint Frances of Assisi. "Our Foundering Fathers" had a vision that must have been inspired by our "Blessed Mother Mary" to go out and build not just one school for all time, but a second new school in 2004 to meet the challenges to inspire, encourage, and dedicate our commitment to help grow their Catholic faith in each family!



1961 SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS! 2016



Building the faith, one child at a time.



OUR PRESENT

In 2000, **Saint Mary Parish** launched a Capital Campaign under the direction of Father McElroy and a committed board of dedicated men and women who embraced the vision of our founding Fathers, in building a new Catholic School due to increasing enrollment.

In 2004, **Saint Mary Catholic School** opened her doors to students in early March. This new building included a State of the Art Technology Lab with enough computers for a complete class of 30 students. Included in our new school there are 18 Classrooms, a Library, Faculty Room, Nurses Office, Large Café and Full Kitchen. This year, **Saint Mary School** graduated 26 Eighth Graders. Our enrollment at this time has doubled since we first opened our doors in 1961. **Saint Mary Catholic School** has developed a rich history in the Foundation of Our Catholic Faith and in Academics. This enables our students to become individuals who value and live their faith. Our students are life-long learners and problem solvers who embody our Credo of Building the Faith, One Child at a Time. Our school community is committed to academic excellence and is accredited by the Middle States Association. Our well-qualified, state-certified faculty have an average of 20 years of teaching experience, and many of our teachers hold Master's degrees. With average class sizes of 19 students, we are able to provide children with the attention required to fully develop their talents. We also have a full-time Resource teacher dedicated to working with students who need special attention. Our students are blessed to have talented and gifted Art and Music teachers who recognize the God given gifts our students possess and help each student to develop them for the beauty and enrichments of our community and beyond!

Academically, **Saint Mary School** is proud that our students scored 34 points above the national average on the most recent Terra Nova standardized test. We are also pleased that Saint Mary's students received 10 of the 29 academic scholarships that Pope John Paul II High School is awarding to its incoming freshmen class. Also, **Saint Mary Catholic School** had two of our eighth grade students awarded the prestigious Neumann Scholarship Honor this school year 2016-2017.



1961 SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS! 2016



Building the faith, one child at a time.



OUR FUTURE AND OUR DREAMS

I look at Saint Mary Catholic School Alumni Homecoming Reunion as our future!! During this open house and at our Gala Dinner our school wanted to unveil our "Dream for the Future of Saint Mary Catholic School." What is our dream for our school? Stem collaborative classroom furniture, starting with our Science Lab and continuing to all classrooms. A Media Center for our students to have live television broadcasting daily to our total school which can be shared with our school and parish community. A media center will allow us to empower our students to find within themselves the potential to be successful as writers, reporters, camera technicians, editors and directors. Our dream for the Media Center would be housed in the back portion of our beautiful Library.

Our dream for our future can only become a reality with your help!

FIRST

We ask each of you at the start of every new morning to please say a Hail Mary for our Saint Mary Catholic School.

SECOND

Please call and make some time to have a guided tour of our school during the school day. Observe for yourself the great aspirations our committed facility and staff has toward helping each child grasp and understand the interconnectedness of their Catholic Faith and how to apply it to their daily life.

If you feel called to help us reach for our Dreams with a contribution please call:

THIRD

Father Bellopede, or Mary Beth O'Connor at the Parish Office Center • 610.287.8156

Kevin Conwell, Principal at Saint Mary Catholic School • 610.287.7757

"Thy will be done" in Saint Mary Catholic School "as it is in Heaven."



1961 SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS! 2016

Building the faith, one child at a time.





1961

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES FIFTY FIVE YEARS!

2016



"For it is in giving that we receive." St. Francis of Assisi

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS!

We extend much appreciation and whole-hearted thankfulness to these individuals and businesses for their enthusiastic commitment to Saint Mary Catholic School and the 55th Anniversary Gala Event. May God continue to bless your endeavors.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Our deepest gratitude to the following sponsors who have generously supported Saint Mary Catholic School goals with their donations. May God bless you in your service to the mission of Saint Mary Catholic School.

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SISTER CATHERINE ST. ANNE GUILD

Reverend Louis P. Bellopede • USA Floors, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

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Suzette Moyer, Director of Development • Elizabeth Pastorius, Administrative Assistant
William Fitzgerald, President School Advisory Board • Saint Mary School Advisory Board
Cathy Moore, President HASA • Saint Mary School Home and School Association
Paulann Bellino • Ann Boeshore • Kevin Conwell • Joni Fitzgerald • William Fitzgerald • Hank Fox, Jr.
Lori Fox • Margaret "Peggy" Hinson • Renee Jacobs • Angela Klisch • Virginia McElroy
Suzette Moyer • Mary Beth O'Connor • Sandi Olzinski • Elizabeth Pastorius • Susan Rodzewich
Lisa Roberts • Mary Schnaubelt • Sandra Shelton • Denise Sozda • Jane Weidemoyer

SPECIAL MENTIONS

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Rick Noone, Audio Engineer • Matthew Longua, Video Production
Robert Ryan Catering of Phoenixville • The Party Center of Phoenixville
Risher Van Horn Florists of Harleysville



SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON APRIL 25TH

7TH ANNUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION

SUPPORT SAINT MARY SCHOOL! VISIT WWW.SMSK-8.ORG



"let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" Hebrews 12:1

My Dear Friend!!

As always, I pray this note finds you and your family in good spirits and health.

On **April 25th**, **Saint Mary Catholic School** students will participate in their

7TH ANNUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION!

This is our largest fundraiser which funds a host of school-wide programs that benefit each child. Every dollar raised is like rain on fertile ground. Kids grow through the arts, foreign language and other enrichment programs all of which are supported by the **Race for Education**.

The students walk as many laps as they can in an hour on our beautiful campus grounds. They build camaraderie with their friends, enjoy special treats and activities, knowing their effort is to help their school. It's quite a celebration. Most importantly, they gain a sense of pride, responsibility and ownership in their school which, in my opinion, is character-building and deserves every bit of attention.

This year, I have asked them to go the extra mile and set a goal to raise the most pledges per student. They are up for the challenge!

HELP ME SHOW OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY THAT THEIR PASTOR IS 'ALL IN'!
WILL YOU PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING ME?

I will be participating in the walk at 10:15a.m. - 11:15a.m. Stop by to cheer us on! The kids would love the encouragement and support!

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR DONATION

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$125 \$150 \$200 OTHER \$

Please make your check payable to: **Saint Mary Catholic School**

To make an online donation go to http://www.smsk-8.org/OurSchool/SAB_RFE.html

Would your company consider a matching gift? Tax ID: 23-1371958.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support, encouragement and love at all times!

Love and prayers,
Father Bellopede

Make an envelope! Kindly enclose your check, refold the form with Father's name and address facing out, and seal all edges with tape and mail.

Saint Mary Church • 40 Spring Mount Road • Schwenksville, PA 19473

Thank you for your support!!

FOLD HERE



FATHER LOUIS P. BELLOPEDE
SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
40 SPRING MOUNT ROAD
SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473

“let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1

FOLD HERE

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SAINT MARY LENTEN DINNERS

Join us for dinner every Friday in March
Friday, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st



Saint Mary Catholic Church • Parish Hall
40 Spring Mount Road Schwenksville, PA
4:00 to 7:00PM • Sit Down or Take Out



ENTER OUR WEEKLY BASKET RAFFLE DRAWING • A WINNER EVERY WEEK!
HOMEMADE IRISH POTATO CANDY ON MARCH 3, 10 AND 17TH!

ENTREES

Fried Fish Platter	\$10.50
Meatless Spaghetti, Roll	\$10.50

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Salmon on 3/3	\$12.50
Shrimp Scampi on 3/10	\$12.50
Baked Potato Side Bar on 3/17 	\$2.00
Pizza - 2 slices on 3/24	\$6.50
Crab Cake Platter on 3/31	\$12.50

ALL ADULT MEALS INCLUDE A CHOICE OF
TWO SIDES AND ONE BEVERAGE AND DESSERT

SIDES

French Fries • Cole Slaw
Tossed Salad • Meatless Spaghetti

Soup du Jour \$3.00

Pre-Orders/Reservations not needed
Thank you for supporting Saint Mary Church!

CHILDREN'S MENU

Small Fried Fish Platter	\$6.50
Meatless Spaghetti, Roll	\$6.50
Grilled Cheese	\$6.50
Pizza and a Movie Night 3/24	\$6.50

ALL CHILDREN'S MEALS (12 & UNDER) INCLUDE
A CHOICE OF ONE SIDE/BEVERAGE AND DESSERT
CHILDREN AGE 3 AND UNDER ARE FREE!!

DESSERT

Cakes • Cookies • Pies
Assorted Homemade Desserts

DRINKS

Coffee • Tea • Soda • Ice Tea • Water

FREQUENT BUYER MEAL CARDS AVAILABLE
AT THE DOOR. BUY 4 REGULAR,
WEEKLY SPECIAL OR CHILDREN'S MEALS AND
5TH ENTREE IS \$4.00 OFF!!!*

*excludes sides, soup and potato bar

Please visit www.churchofsaintmary.org or contact Saint Mary Office Center at 610.287.8156 for more information.

GIVEN FOR EACH OF US

A Lenten Reflection

As we prepare for the season of Lent so many things cross the mind. Lent is hard, Lent is so long, Lent is my diet, Lent is about what I give up, what are you giving up?

The season of Lent is a wondrous opportunity to grow in faith and walk closer with the son of God, our Savior Jesus who though sinless gave his very life that our sin might be forgiven and we as believers would know everlasting life. He didn't just carry that cross for all of us, he carried that cross for each of us.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." - JOHN 15:13

How many of us would be willing die to save our child or grandchild, a family member, a distant relative, a co worker, the person you pass on the street?

Few of us can yes to all of these. Jesus knew they would come for him, he knew of his cruel impending death, he did not run, nor did he hide himself, he prayed fervently to the Father that the cup might pass him by, but only in accord with the will of the Father. In the very end when he was dying on that beautiful, terrible wood, he plead forgiveness for his foes. When we are mindful of this, we are mindful that Jesus our savior, "gave it all up" for us, the ones who do not follow as we should, who do not love with our whole hearts. Still he sees something worth saving in us, something worth loving for eternity! No greater gift was ever given, no greater love ever shown.

Let us begin our Lenten journey with Jesus at our side strengthening us, fortifying us, drawing us deeper into the mystery of the Father's love, for none come to the father except through the son. He longs for us, he thirsts for us as much today as he did upon the cross. This time, let us satiate our savior with our love! Let us view our Lenten sacrifice as a joy we can bring to our savior, let us reach gladly for his hand, eager to journey with him and share the burden so great that we have placed upon him.

Dearest Jesus,

We love you, our words fail us, yet our hearts are true, look into our hearts and know our love for you, our desire to walk in closer step with you. Wash us again, cleans us as on the day of our baptism, make us instruments of your mercy, inadequate though we are dear Jesus we submit to you, give us the words, the tools we need to bring others home to you, that they might know the love and peace of your divinity.



Allow us to trace each step with you, to die to our sin and rise with you refreshed, renewed in faith and thanksgiving for your great unending love for each of us. Guide us this forty days to a deeper love for you and your presence in others. Let us seek you in all those we encounter. Make us as shepards that would gather your lost sheep and return them to the fold, not by our own skill or savvy, but by your love and grace alone, working through us in accord with your will. We are yours Lord Jesus, grant us hearts to serve.

We ask all in your Holy name.

Amen

Lent Dates and Events

Ash Wednesday, March 1st – Mass at 9am, 12:05pm, & 7pm
(Ashes distributed only during Mass)

Stations of the Cross with Benediction: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and
April 7 – 1:30pm & 7:00pm

Parish Lenten Dinners: March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 – 4pm thru 7pm in Parish Hall

24 Hours for the Lord: March 24th & 25th

Friday, March 24th: Stations of the Cross with Benediction 1:30pm
Confessions 6pm–7pm • Stations of the Cross with Benediction 7:00pm

Saturday, March 25th Mass: – 9am • **Confessions:** 9:30am–10am
Confessions: 2:45pm–3:45pm

Latin Mass: March 25th at 12 PM

Palm Sunday Mass times: April 8th at 4pm and
April 9th at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am & 12pm

Palm Sunday Mass times: Saturday, April 8th at 4pm and
Sunday, April 9th at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am & 12pm

Living Stations: Sunday, April 9th at 7:00pm

Parish Lenten Penance Service: April 10th at 7:00 pm



Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday: April 13th - No morning Mass
Lord's Supper at the Evening Mass - 7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 14th Office of Readings and Morning Prayer - 9am
Stations of the Cross (no benediction) 12pm
Friday of the Passion of the Lord - 3pm

Holy Saturday: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer - 9am Blessing of Easter
Foods - 12pm • Confessions - 2pm thru 4pm
Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - 7:30pm

Easter Sunday Mass times: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am (Church),
10:30am (Hall), 12:30pm

Other Parish Events

Our Lady of Fatima Novena: May 7th-15th
May 7th: 7:00pm, **May 8th:** 7:00pm - no benediction,
May 9th: Parish May procession and novena 7:00pm, **May 10th:** 7:00pm
May 11th: 7:00pm, **May 12th:** 7:00pm, **May 13th:** Vigil Mass at 4:00pm
with Novena following Mass, **May 14th:** 7:00pm, **May 15th:** 7:00pm

Ascension Thursday Vigil Mass: May 24th at 7:00pm
Thursday Mass: May 25th at 9:00 am and 7:00pm

Pentecost Vigil Mass: June 3rd at 4:00pm
Sunday Masses: June 4th at 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:00pm

Corpus Christi Procession: June 15th at 7:00pm

Vacation Bible Camp: Tracking Mary: Mysteries and Messages
June 26-30th from 8:45am - 12:00pm
