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A Ministry of St. Mary's Parish

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Week of 10/19/16 - 10/25/16

**No matter how many promises God makes, they are always "Yes" in Christ.  
And we say "Amen" to give glory to God.  
2 Corinthians 1:20**

### *Saint Mary's Academy Mission Statement*

Saint Mary's Academy promotes academic excellence within a Christ-centered Catholic community. Students from Pre-K through Grade 8 learn acceptance and appreciation of others and develop to their full potential within a nurturing family environment.



## Gospel Reflection

### Gospel for this weekend:

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and I pay tithes with my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

### Reflection:

Although the Pharisee's prayer was true liturgical prayer, he trusted so completely in himself that he left God out of his life. His prayer began as thanksgiving but ended in praise of himself. The tax collector worked for the Romans and was despised by the Jews, but Jesus praised him because he knew his place before God. How we stand before God is important. In humility, we know that all we have comes from God. With such humility, our lives can praise God, and we can trust that God will be merciful to us.



## Principal's Notes

- I would like to thank everyone, students, parents, faculty, and staff for all of the hard work in preparing for the Accreditation team's arrival on Sunday. We had a very successful visit. The team members were very impressed with who we are as St. Mary's Academy. Thank you again. We will know if we are re-accredited by early December.
- A link to Sign-Up Genius has been sent to each family so that you may sign up for your Parent/Teacher conference. Please make sure to return them as promptly as possible so that the final schedule can be set.



## Important Dates

- Reminder that there will not be school this Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. There is an in-service day for the faculty and staff.
- Next week will be our last week for summer uniforms. Our winter uniform will begin on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Family Frolics. This is our Halloween party where families come together in the gym dressed in costume, or not, and enjoy each other's company while the children have many activities to keep them entertained. Please feel free to bring your dinner and/or light snacks for the evening or you may purchase dinner and/or snacks here at school. We will have DJ John with us also to provide music for the evening and trick or treating. We are currently looking for eight families to participate in the haunted hallway. This means decorating a classroom door and handing out candy! Also, we need six families to help us by carving a letter in a medium sized pumpkin. Each of the six pumpkins will have a different letter. If you are interested in helping, please call the main office or contact Diana Eisenbeiser, Parents' Association president. These are great activities that can be done by the whole family.



## Fair Share Opportunities

### Advent Calendar Raffle:

Calendar Raffles went home yesterday. This is the first fundraiser towards our development efforts and incredibly easy. For new parents, selling 21 calendars may seem like a daunting task, however everyone likes cash and you will be surprised how many you sell by simply mentioning it to friends, family and co-workers. In order to reach our goal of \$20,000 we are shooting for total school participation. Remember, all money raised goes directly to enhance your child's academic experience! This year, we made a few changes. First, if you sell 21 calendars, your family will receive FOUR fair share hours AND a dress down day. Second, if your family sells 10 calendars, you will receive TWO fair share hours. Finally, by signing up for church sales (sign up sheet included in your packet), your family has the opportunity to earn more dress down days and fair share hours. Please support this fundraiser by selling! For questions, contact Jenna at [jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org](mailto:jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org)

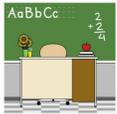
### Sock Hop:

Time is running out! Buy your Sock Hop tickets today in the main office, or on our web site. Don't miss out as we kick off our 50th anniversary celebration together!



## Angel Acts

- I would like to thank everyone who has worked so diligently on our Self-Study in preparation for our Re-Accreditation. This work allowed us to see what we do well and it also identified what we needed to take a closer look at. We have been able to make some changes through this close look at ourselves. Thank you.



## A Teacher's View

It is hard to believe that we are already in the middle of October. Fall is here and the second graders have been busy learning and discovering new things.

We are enjoying reading many wonderful stories this year. We recently read a play in our reading books and discussed the narrator and characters. We are also reading fables which teach the students wonderful morals to use in everyday life. We are using a Big book to read the story "Make Way for Ducklings". The students enjoy reading this book especially for the fact that the setting of this story is Boston, Massachusetts.

In math we have used the math manipulatives to learn about tens and ones. We are learning about place value, expanded form, and how to compare numbers. We have also worked on problem solving and the steps it takes to solve a word problem correctly. We also worked on adding and subtracting and before you know it we will be adding and subtracting two digit numbers. The students understand the importance of practicing their math facts every day.

In Social Studies we learned about communities and places that people live. We completed a project in which we studied Massachusetts. We learned about our state flag, state bird, and state flower. Our state bird is the Chickadee and our state flower is the Mayflower. We discussed Boston and the Public Garden while we read the story "Make Way for Ducklings".

In Science we will be learning about life cycles. We will complete a fun project to model the life cycle of a butterfly. We will use supplies including rice, pipe cleaners, and tissue paper to help with our models.

This is a very exciting year for the second grade for they will be making two wonderful Sacraments this year. We have already learned a lot in Religion and we have begun to use the Second Step program. The Second Step program teaches the students how to handle their feelings and solve problems effectively.

We have been doing some writing exercises for the season of Fall. We are working on a Halloween acrostic poem and will be writing Halloween stories. We have also written a poem using opposite words to describe pumpkins.

We have accomplished so much already this year. It is a joy to work with such wonderful children each and every day. It is going to be a great year full of learning and happy memories.

Mrs. Widmer