



ACADEMY NEWS



St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

September 4, 2019

Our Mission Statement:

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

Gospel Reflection

GOSPEL

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

REFLECTION

The grace of God is freely given but it is not cheap. Jesus warns his followers to understand fully what the cost of discipleship is before continuing with him, to see with eyes wide open what it means to be a Christian. It will require sacrifice. But when we do these, we will open the space in our hearts to receive God's grace.

Important Dates:

Sept. 9th – Our first Parents' Association meeting will be on Monday, September 9th. All parents are invited. It will be held in the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. Many decisions are made concerning the "extras" for your child and the faculty at these meetings. Your input is always appreciated. It is also a way to participate in Fair Share Hours.

Sept. 10th – Magazine Drive Kick off

Sept. 10th – ACE Mtg. 6:00 p.m. in Joan's office

Sept 13th – Jr. High first dance 6:30-10:00 p.m.

Principal's Message



- We had such an amazing beginning to this school year! Everyone came in with big smiles and eager to begin.
- We realize learning the drop off and pick up procedure can be confusing. First, remember, you have to enter on HOPKINS STREET for morning drop off. This is a one way so you can NOT enter on Bliss. Second, there is no parking on the street and coming to the school for afternoon pick up. Our dismissal is from the parking lot only. Please make sure to enter the parking lot for afternoon pick up. Park your car in one of the lines, and please walk up to the front of the building to pick up your child. It is important to quickly get back into your car and be ready for when the line moves. By doing this, the pick-up line will move quickly and smoothly. If you have ANY questions about how this works, please contact the office and we will be happy to explain.
- School does begin at 8:30 a.m. Sr. Christine will not be at the door past this time which means you will need to ring the bell in order to enter.
- Just a reminder that Parent/Student handbooks are going home along with a separate Signature page which needs to be sent back to school by Friday, September 14th.

Fair Share Opportunities:

Advent Calendar Sponsorships:

We are gearing up for our Advent Calendar Raffle and are looking for sponsors to cover cash giveaways. If you or someone you now owns a company and would like to market their business to a targeted audience, please contact Christy at cbrill-dziedzic@stmaryslongmeadow.org or 567-0907. Sponsorships range from \$75-\$600. This is a wonderful, cost effective way to support Catholic Education. All sponsorships are 100% deductible.

Uniform Closet

Our uniform closet needs to be re-organized so that it fits neatly into the closet space. You can come in anytime when school is in session to work on this project. This is a great way to earn fair share hours!



Sr. Christine Celebrates Golden Jubilee

In the summer of 1969 when the world of science was preparing for a moon landing and the world of music was preparing for Woodstock, I was preparing to become a Sister of St. Joseph of Springfield. On the eighth of September in 1969, I entered the congregation in Mont Marie Chapel in Holyoke before the Holyoke Mall was even built.

From the time I started school at St. John the Baptist in Ludlow, I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. As I got a little older and met the Sisters of St. Anne, who were our teachers in Ludlow, I thought that I wanted to be a Religious Sister. I remember talking to my Mom about becoming a Sister as young as Grade 4.

When I graduated from SJB in 1965, I was able to go to Cathedral High School in Springfield. That was a big step for me, I was going from 42 students in my eighth grade class to 688 in my freshman class at CHS. There I met the Sisters of St. Joseph. I knew by 10th grade that I wanted to be a Sister of St. Joseph. I was 16 years old.

I was at CHS when there were almost 3000 students in the building and about 68 sisters. I loved every minute of it. We worked hard and played hard and accomplished great things. But all the time, I knew that when I left high school, I would enter the convent.

My parents supported me in every way possible. They were wonderful. My little sister, who was 10 at the time, wasn't nearly as excited. My mom told me that she moved back into their bed and cried herself to sleep for a few weeks. But she got used to it and now she is very excited about helping me to celebrate my 50th.

I entered the community with eight other young women on Monday, September 8th at 4:00 in the afternoon. We were all 17, 18 or 19. In the years to follow I went to the Elms College. All nine of us were heading to becoming teachers. We went to school every day just like the other freshmen, only we wore skirts and blouses and black silky veils tied together with Velcro.

In June of 1974, I graduated from the Elms with a degree in English and Elementary Education. I was ready to teach. In September of 1974, I came to St. Mary's SCHOOL in Longmeadow and remained here until 1988. During that time, I taught grades 2-6 at one time or another. Mostly I taught third grade, religion in Grade 2 and music in Grades 3-6. I loved every minute of it. I had followed God's lead. I was meant to be a teacher from the get go.

During my years at SMA, I started to study for my Masters' and decided that I wanted to teach reading. So I took summers courses and school year courses and received my Masters in Education with a concentration in Reading. I felt that it was time to become a Reading Teacher. So for the next five years, I was the fourth grade reading/language teacher at Blessed Sacrament School in Holyoke.

But God was still tugging at my sleeve and at my heart wanting more from me. I was called to study again in the Diocesan Program created for Potential Administrators. So now I could apply to be a Principal. In the spring of 1993, I applied for the position of Principal at Holy Trinity School in Greenfield. I felt that I was settled. I loved my school, I loved my teachers and I loved being principal. It was hard work, but being able to get to know children and their families in a completely different way was very rewarding. I stayed in Greenfield until 1998.

During those years, my parents became a little older and started to have some health issues. I decided I wanted to be closer to them and thus moved to St. Mary's Elementary School in Westfield. I remained there for 17 years. Those were very exciting years. In my time as Principal, we started an Afterschool Program, a Preschool and a PreK program and received NEASC Accreditation in the fall of 2004. Fast, busy, challenging years.

Sr. Christine continued...

In the spring of 2015, I prayed and decided to resign my Principalship in Westfield. At the same time, Mrs. McDonald had a part-time reading position for K-2. That seemed a perfect match. I would be coming back to where I started in 1974. My position has changed since then. I also teach a course in the Liturgical Calendar to children in Grades 1-8 and spend a little "God-time" with Preschool 3, PreK 4 and Kindergarten.

I have had a blest life. And so the theme of our Jubilee celebration on Sunday is "FOREVER BLEST." Please pray for me as I do for your every day. I am delighted to be back at St. Mary's ACADEMY. I work with Carey Widmer one of my third graders, and have taught some of the children of some of my other students. I will perhaps spend the rest of my working days here. I am now in my 46th year of teaching. And I wouldn't change a thing.

I wish that you could all be with me on Sunday, but that isn't possible. However, we will have a great celebration. Mrs. MacDonald will be there, all of my immediate family will be there and several great friends from my years in community. Of course, my Sisters will be there and so will my parents in heaven. They will be so proud. This is the day our God has made, let us be glad and rejoice.



- I would like to thank our Summer Crew who worked so hard during the hot summer days to ensure that our building was clean and ready for the start of school. Upon Mr. Borucki's return, he jumped right in and helped with this process as well. Thank you!
- Thank you to our faculty for their endless summer hours working to make sure the classroom was put back together, decorated, and worked with their curriculum so that the start of school would be seamless!
- Thank you to Mrs. Barrows for her summer hours preparing the new school year, sending out our Summer Packets, and working with our parents so that the first day of school would be a breeze!