



St. Mary's Catholic Community Newsletter

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St. Mary's Mission Statement:

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, we exist to help people encounter and know Jesus Christ, to be healed and restored to a life of joy and peace.

My brothers and sisters in the Lord. I welcome you to our fifth issue of St. Mary's newsletter. If you have anything you would like to share for the future please send this to St Mary's Business Manager Monica Pittman at mpittman@stmarysboise.org. Thank you, and may God bless us all this Christmas. – Fr. John



A Few of our Favorite Things

By Monica Pittman

Merry Christmas! What a wonderful time of year this can be. Whether you celebrate with large family gatherings, or keep it small and simple, there is always something that makes Christmas memorable. Many traditions and memories are passed down through generations, and new ones are started each year and this newsletter is here to celebrate all our favorites!

The following are how some of us here at St. Mary's celebrate or remember Christmas. (In no particular order)

Kevan Grant (St. Mary's School Principal)

Favorite Tradition – Ever since my three daughters were young, we have enjoyed homemade potato soup in bread bowls for Christmas Eve dinner. Never once has anyone eaten the entire bread bowl, but the tradition would not be the same without them. Afterwards, everyone opens their Christmas pajamas and enjoys each other's company and a holiday movie in preparation for the next day's festivities.



Deacon Tom Dominick

Favorite Tradition – On Christmas Eve I usually assisted as deacon, and Bobbi and our children Samantha and Matthew attended, the early Mass. Afterwards, we would enjoy a simple dinner of clam chowder and sourdough bread. After dinner I would read, in front of the fire, Luke's gospel about Jesus' birth. Then we would put up stockings and sing Christmas carols.



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A Few of our Favorite Things(Con't)

By Monica Pittman

Patty Gabica

I am one of 6 children. My mother was a stay home mom. My favorite tradition is that my parents used to save all of the silver dollars and 50 cent pieces they were given in change during the year. On Christmas Eve they took all of us to dinner at Mom's favorite Chinese/American restaurant. We could order anything we wanted; Chinese, steak, hamburgers, etc. After dinner we went home and opened presents. It was a total family evening. Some years we even all piled in the car to attend Midnight Mass.



Roxanne Harlow

Our favorite family Christmas traditions usually include a big Italian dinner on Christmas Eve. It also revolves around Italian baked goods. From Tourchinelle to Ciamballone, to Viscout, to Conestrelle. For a description, call me at the office!



Monica Pittman

Favorite Tradition - As children, we were told we couldn't get up on Christmas morning until our parents said it was OK. So, we would go into our parents room and crawl into bed with them and ask "Can we get up now?" We are now all adults and if we arrive Christmas morning at my parents' house before (my Dad mostly) gets up, we will still go into their room, crawl into bed and ask if we can get up now.



Deacon Jazz (Jason Jaszkowiak)

Favorite Tradition: The Dice Game. One of our family's cherished Christmas traditions began when I was a child, and it continues to bring delight to this day. Each participant contributes a small, wrapped gift—something simple and inexpensive—which is placed together in a festive pile. A pair of dice and a tray are then passed around the circle. Each person takes a turn rolling, and whenever doubles appear, the player selects a gift from the pile (without opening it).

 Once all the gifts have been chosen, the game grows even more lively: players may "borrow" presents from one another until the designated time concludes. At the end, everyone opens the gifts they have gathered, sharing in the joy and surprise.



This tradition has become a wonderful way to ease the anticipation of Christmas, especially for the younger children, while also fostering fellowship and laughter among all ages. It is a simple yet meaningful reminder that the season is not only about receiving, but also about gathering together in joy and community.

Lupita Martinez

Favorite Tradition: One of my favorite Christmas traditions is "Pedir Posada" (which translates as asking for lodging for the Holy family) and placing the baby Jesus in the manger. On Christmas Eve, after Mass, we sing to ask for "posada". "Pedir Posada" is a Mexican tradition. Half the family waits outside the front door of the house with candles and a representation of the Holy Family, and the other half is inside, also with candles. Those outside sing the verses asking for lodging, and those inside respond singing too until finally the door opens and we enter with the Holy Family. Then, around midnight, we say a prayer of thanksgiving, and the youngest member of the family places the baby Jesus in the manger of the Nativity scene.



Immaculate Conception

By Monica Pittman

A Special Place to Honor Our Blessed Mother

On December 8, in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we joyfully unveiled a new chapel inside the church, just outside the Reconciliation Room. This sacred space is lovingly dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, and its centerpiece is a beautiful print of The Immaculate Conception of Los Venerables by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1660–65).



We warmly invite you to stop by, spend a few quiet moments in prayer, and reflect in the presence of our Blessed Mother. It's a peaceful place to connect with her grace and find comfort in her intercession.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Monica Pittman



Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

Each year, our parish joyfully celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 with a truly spectacular celebration. The church is transformed with beautiful decorations, creating a vibrant and reverent atmosphere that honors our Blessed Mother.



This annual celebration is more than a feast; it is a heartfelt expression of devotion and love for Our Lady of Guadalupe. From the music and prayers to the colorful adornments, every detail reflects the awe-inspiring dedication of our parish community.



We were grateful to come together as a parish in this beautiful tradition, to pray, give thanks, and experience the joy and grace of Our Lady's presence.



From the School

By Kevan Grant

Dear St. Mary's Families,

St. Mary's Catholic School has had a wonderful start to the 2025-26 school year.

- St. Mary's had 48 new students join the school.
- St. Mary's retained 95% of our teachers and staff.
- St. Mary's has revamped the hallways to make them more inviting and engaging.
- St. Mary's has had a large number of students looking to be baptized.
- St. Mary's is helping provide regular altar servers at weekend masses.
- In the classroom, St. Mary's students are excelling in every way imaginable.
- St. Mary's enjoys incredible support from Fr. John and the entire parish.



St. Mary's Catholic School is thriving. It is a blessing to work here each day with the staff, families, and students as we work cooperatively to fulfill our mission:

OUR MISSION:

St. Mary's School is to provide a Catholic environment that instills academic excellence while preparing the whole child for life-long personal and spiritual growth, empowering them to become global citizens.



As we continue to make the most of the current school year, we always have an eye to the future. In the coming months we will be marketing the school in regular periodicals, digital billboards, attending the Private Education Fair - January 10, 2026 at JUMP, promotional spot with KTVB in January, and other engaging community events. While all of this is great, nothing beats word of mouth....

If you know anyone who might be curious about St. Mary's - Here is a one page summary highlighting some of the great things about St. Mary's.

[Why St. Mary's?](#)

Idaho Tax Credit - Due December 31, 2025

St. Mary's needs ongoing financial support from the community which helps us keep tuition reasonable and meet our operating expenses. The Idaho Tax Credit provides a tax credit for individuals, families, and corporations that are able to donate to the school. Below is additional information about the tax credit. You can also find information on our website at : [Idaho Tax Credit](#)

- [Introduction Letter](#)
- [Examples and QR Code](#)



Festival of Trees

Congratulations to the St. Mary's Band, Choir and Mexican Dancers for showcasing their talents at the annual Festival of Trees. St. Mary's is the only school in the valley performing with all three. Thank you to Ms. Hailey Yraguen for leading the efforts to create a magnificent tree from St. Mary's. Go Festival of Trees!

From the School (Cont)

By Kevan Grant

Annual Gala - Imagine If - January 31, 2026

Make sure your calendar is marked for the greatest social event of the year. The St. Mary's Annual Gala is being held Saturday, January 31, 2026. Tickets will be available shortly. This is the largest and most significant fundraiser for St. Mary's School.



Right now is a great time to share your time, talent, and treasure to make sure the event is wildly successful. If you are able to help, volunteer opportunities are available through the [Parent Quick Links](#) and [Track it Forward](#) - Contact Kristen Colter.

Tuition Raffle

Only 250 tickets will be sold at a chance to win \$5000! - Winnings can be used for tuition at any qualifying school including St. Mary's, Bishop Kelly or colleges and universities. Click here for more details and a chance to enter - [Imagine If Gala Tuition Raffle](#)

Partnership Page - St. Mary's school initiated a partnership page on our website to share information about businesses that are associated with and support St. Mary's. If you are looking for something, I encourage you to check out the directory. If you are interested in listing your business, please contact Mandy at the front office. We would love to continue to grow our partnerships and encourage support for our local businesses.

Catholic Schools Week - January 25-30, 2026



Catholic Schools week is a wonderful time to celebrate the wonderful blessing of Catholic education to all of us. We will have a detailed schedule as we get closer to the end of January. A couple of items to note:

[Alumni Breakfast](#) - Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:30 - If you are an alumni of St. Mary's, please join us for a special breakfast in your honor. Tours will be available following breakfast.

Ringing of the Bells - Friday, January 30, 2026 - 2:45-3:15 - Each year the student body and staff celebrate the end of Catholic schools week by ringing bells on State Street. You are welcome to join us or drive by and honk.

St. Vincent de Paul

By Mel McLenna



St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Box Project 2025

Thank you, St. Mary's parishioners, for participating in the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Box Project. In this family-to-family act of charity, families share the tradition of Thanksgiving by preparing food boxes and giving them to other families in need. In financial and actual food contributions, our parish provided Thanksgiving for over 230 families this year.

Families registered to receive food at St. Vincent de Paul food pantries and at Boise and West Ada schools. 150 sets of Thanksgiving food were given to Idaho National Guard and Air Guard families. 69 families at the Marsing migrant camp received food. All members of the grandparents raising grandchildren support group received food for Thanksgiving. St. Vincent de Paul hoped to provide Thanksgiving food for about 20,000 adults and children this year. Final numbers are not yet available.

The dedicated work of our St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and Callabaros de Colon was key to the success of this effort in our parish. These men register parishioners to donate food and distribute empty boxes and shopping lists. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, they collect the food and transport it to Expo Idaho for distribution to those families who had registered to receive it.

***Thank you
St. Mary's, for
your generosity
and willingness
to help the less
fortunate in our
community.***



St. Mary's Food Bank

By Susan Thometz

Quarterly Update from St. Mary's Food Bank

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly update! We want everyone in our St. Mary's community to know how deeply we appreciate the unwavering support of our food bank volunteers and generosity of our parishioners. Your kindness makes it possible for us to bring hope and nourishment to our neighbors in need. You truly are the heart of our mission.

Third Quarter at a Glance

Service Summary

Month	Days Open	Families Served	Individuals Served
July	12	595	1,333
August	13	645	1,536
September	12	605	1,363

Food Purchasing & Donations

This quarter, we spent **\$17,102** to purchase food for our pantry. These funds enabled us to stock a variety of essential items, including peanut butter, milk, eggs, butter, soup, spaghetti, canned chili, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna, tomatoes, vegetables and fruits, rice, hot dogs, top ramen, and diapers.

Our purchasing needs vary each month depending on community donations and what we can source from large nonprofit pantry suppliers. Unfortunately, donations from these suppliers have declined in recent years – making community support more vital than ever.

It is your generosity that enables us to provide a welcoming and dignified space for families facing food insecurity. From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you**.

Volunteers: The Heart of Our Work

Every day we are open, **16 volunteers** assist with client check-ins, bagging fresh food, preparing non-perishable food boxes, and helping carry groceries to clients' cars.

Another **5 volunteers** pick up donated food from local grocery stores throughout the week.

We are profoundly grateful to these dedicated individuals whose time, energy, and compassion make everything we do possible.

Shout Out

A huge thanks to the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's School, and Bishop Kelly students and families for continued support with organizing food donation campaigns this past quarter. As a result, our shelves are well stocked for the holidays!

Campaign Information

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

BUILDING OUR FUTURE:

TOGETHER IN FAITH – UPDATES

December 2025

St. Mary's Catholic Community is grateful to share wonderful progress in our *Building Our Future: Together in Faith* campaign.

Over the past several weeks, more and more families have joined in supporting the renovation of our 75-year-old school and religious education building, helping us build strong momentum as we move through the public phase of the campaign.

**WE HAVE NOW SURPASSED
\$1,000,000
IN GIFTS AND PLEDGES!**

This incredible milestone reflects the generosity and faith of our parish family. Every gift and pledge brings us closer to creating a safer, more welcoming, and more functional space for our children, parish ministries, and community gatherings.

As we continue working toward our \$3 million goal, we remain focused on the essential updates our campus needs: electrical and safety improvements, new windows, modern lighting and airflow, ADA accessibility, enhanced office and meeting spaces, and a refreshed kitchen. These improvements will ensure St. Mary's remains a vibrant home for worship, learning, and community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued prayers and participation.

Together, we are truly building our future in faith.



Knights of Columbus

By Sam Murano



The Knights of Columbus would like to wish all of our wonderful Parishioners a very Merry Christmas. Mindful of the Lord's many Blessings, we'd also like to thank you, for your continued support of us!

In this past quarter, we have supported our Foodbank, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Camp Pope John Paul II, Salt and Light Radio, St. Mary's School and others.

We've also supported many of our Parishioners on a very personal level by moving furniture, painting fences and porches, fall cleanup, home repairs, etc. If you are in need of some help, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office, or the knights directly at

shoot1sam@reagan.com

We look forward to continuing to support St. Mary's Parish, Church, School, Foodbank and Community in the upcoming year.



Church Financials

Financials		YTD Financials
	November	July-November
Offertory/Contributions	\$ 203,036.09	\$ 535,636.56
Total Income	\$ 198,915.69	\$ 487,481.06
Expenses	\$ 81,167.69	\$ 369,734.33
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 117,748.00	\$ 117,746.73

Thank you

for your support of our parish!
Your contributions help keep us
working towards our mission to
help people encounter and know

Jesus Christ



Parish Mission Council

By Susan Thometz

Parish Mission Statement:

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, we exist to help people encounter and know Jesus Christ, to be healed and restored to a life of joy and peace.

The last parish newsletter presented to you our new Parish Mission Council, and its supporting mission sub-committees of **Hospitality, Discipleship, Stewardship, and Evangelization**. In the coming year, each sub-committee will develop ways to support our current efforts in these mission areas, as well as create new approaches to building these mission goals in our parish.

In this newsletter, we introduce the leaders of the sub-committees. These groups have begun their monthly meetings, and the committee leaders are looking forward to the first Parish Mission Council meeting in January.

- **Hospitality:** How we cultivate a welcoming environment.
 - **Chair:** Janielle Beason; Email: janiellebeason@yahoo.com
 - **Co-Chair:** Debbie Ashworth; Email: dashworth7829@gmail.com
- **Discipleship:** How we form parishioners in their knowledge of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Church.
 - **Chair:** Lou Murdock; Email: nlx3@me.com
 - **Co-Chair:** Mark Tavelli; Email: boisemft@gmail.com
- **Evangelization:** How we form and empower parishioners in living out their responsibility to go out and proclaim the Gospel.
 - **Chair:** Deacon Gene Fadness; Email: genefadness@gmail.com
 - **Co-Chair:** Paula Flacker; Email: paulaflacker@hotmail.com
- **Stewardship:** How we create a culture of caring for one another within our parish and outside our faith community.
 - **Chair:** Marty O'Toole; Email: mmotoole6@protonmail.com
 - **Co-Chair:** Fabia D'Souza; Email: billyfibia@gmail.com

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS

 All of the sub-committees are open to new members, and if you are interested in becoming involved in any of these missions, please contact the chair or co-chair for more information. We ask all parishioners to prayerfully consider becoming part of making St. Mary's a parish on mission!

