

The Good News of ST. MARY'S Bellevue

Parish Newsletter Advent 2010



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

On behalf of all of us at St. Mary's, I extend my best wishes to all of you and your loved ones for a joyful and blessed Advent and Christmas.

A popular quote this time of year is "Jesus is the reason for the season." How very true! It's important that we remind each other that it is our faith that we celebrate as we await the Lord's coming and acknowledge God's joining us in Jesus Christ. So easily we can forget the spiritual call in the glitz, commercialism, and busyness of this season!

In the midst of what can easily become a most hectic season, I offer a gentle reminder about the importance of quiet times of solitude and prayer. Spiritual writer Henri Nouwen reminds us "that without silence, words lose their meaning; that without listening, speaking no longer heals; without distance, closeness cannot cure; without moments of quiet reflection, our actions can become empty gestures."

Reflection and prayer help us to remember that Christ is found not in the grand and glorious, but rather in the small and simple moments of daily life. Rather than become distracted by the dramatic, we are constantly being invited to find God's presence in small signs – the smile of a baby, the carefree play of children, the words of encouragement and gestures of love offered by friends.

And so, my brothers and sisters, I ask you to join with me in praying for the gifts of quiet, patience, and solitude in the busy days.

We welcome you, small child of Bethlehem, whose coming we await with quiet attention. Shield us from the shouts, the screams, the empty promises of the season, and encourage us to turn our hopes to your coming. We know that the promise is hidden in the stable in Bethlehem and rooted in the offspring of Jesse; let us look for our salvation there. Amen.

In His love,

Fr. Denny Hanneman



Holiday Hurdles

Handling holidays after the loss of a loved one.

Let us share 10 uplifting ways to get through the holidays
Take home tips, tools and activities for you and your family

Find new ways to remember your loved ones.

November 21, 2010
2:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M.
St Mark's Hall

Enjoy friendship, activities and refreshments in an
informal, relaxed setting.
No charge

Sponsored by St. Mary's Stephen Ministry



NATIVITY DISPLAYS "COME TO THE MANGER" NOVEMBER 27 & 28 PARISH CENTER

Do you have a special Nativity, Christmas ornament or display? Would you like to share it for a weekend with others? Is there a story behind your Nativity set that makes it special? Do your children have a special ornament, advent calendar or Christmas display that they would like to share in the new Children's Corner room?

On November 28th the parishioners at St. Mary's will present a Nativity display open house with hospitality after all morning Masses. Come and see the story of Christmas unfold before you in the many Nativity sets or memorable Christmas treasures being presented in the Parish Center. Contact Geri Erftmier at 291-7254 by November 21st if you can share your Crèche (French for manger or crib) or Christmas treasure for the day.

People sharing their Nativity sets may set up beginning Saturday, November 27th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

- Nov. 28 **First Sunday of Advent**
 Sharing of Nativity Sets after the morning Masses - Parish Center
 Stephen Ministry - Memorial Poinsettia sign up after all Masses - Church
- Dec. 3 St. Mary's School Reconciliation 9:15 a.m. - Church
- Dec. 4 Ladies Guild Cookie Walk 2:00-6:00 p.m. - Parish Center
- Dec. 5 **Second Sunday of Advent**
 Hospitality Coffee after the morning Masses - Parish Center
 Ladies Guild Cookie Walk after the morning Masses - Parish Center
 Stephen Ministry - Memorial Poinsettia sign up after all Masses
 Festival of Lessons and Carols with lighting of the Nativity Scene 7:00 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 7 Eve of the Immaculate Conception - Mass @ 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Masses @ 7:00 & 8:30 a.m., Noon & 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 **Third Sunday of Advent**
 "A Night in Bethlehem" - 1:30-5:00 p.m. - St. Mary's School Gym
- Dec. 15 Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 17 Parish Reconciliation Service 3:30 p.m. - Church**
- Dec. 17 St. Mary's School Christmas Concert - 7:00 p.m. - St. Mary's School Gym
- Dec. 18 Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30-4:45 p.m. and after 5:00 p.m. Mass if needed
- Dec. 19 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Angel Tree gifts due back at church!
- Dec. 20 Distribution of Angel Tree gifts.
- Dec. 21 Parish Reconciliation Service - 7:00 p.m. - Church (No 5:00 p.m. Confessions.)**
- Dec. 22 Sacrament of Reconciliation - 5:00-6:00 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 23 Sacrament of Reconciliation - Noon-1:00 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 24 No morning Masses - Christmas Eve Masses @ 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.**
Christmas Choir Concert begins at 11:15 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day - Masses @ Midnight, 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. No 5:00 p.m. Mass**
- Jan. 1, 2011 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God - Mass @ 8:00 a.m.
- Jan. 2, 2011 The Epiphany of the Lord - Regular Sunday Mass Times

AT HOME WITH THE WORD – 2011



This publication prepares us to listen to God's word each Sunday, at home alone, or with a group. It contains the Sunday readings for Year A, the responsorial psalms, and scripture reflections with questions for study and discussion. It is a great resource for preparing for full, active and conscious participation at Mass!

Available at the rectory or from Sr. Ellen.

Cost this year is \$6.00; a few large print copies are available for \$10.00

THE ANGEL TREE

Bringing justice and hope to our World!



The "Angel Tree" will stand in the sanctuary testifying to our acts of justice during Advent. Each "angel" designates a gift or piece of clothing needed by someone. You may take angels ... purchase the item, wrap it, put the "angel" on the front and bring it back by **Sunday, December 19th**.

These gifts provide joy, promise, and light to others! In our actions to do justice – Good News is proclaimed to our world. Please return all gifts ASAP! **They will be delivered on Monday morning, December 20th**.

ADVENT – 2010

Prayer to sit with during these days of hope and promise.

THE GIFT OF HOPE

God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey home to you, come! Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes, and peacefulness.

God of hope, come! Enter into my memory and remind me often of the yearning of the people of history. Stir up stories of how the ancestors hung on to your promises, how they stole hope from tiny glimmers about you, passed on from age to age. Help me to hear the loud, crying voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn.

God of hope, come! Enter into this heart of mine which often loses itself in self, missing the message of your encouragement because I am so entangled in the web of my own whirl of life. Enable me to not lose sight of the power of your presence or the truth of your consolation.

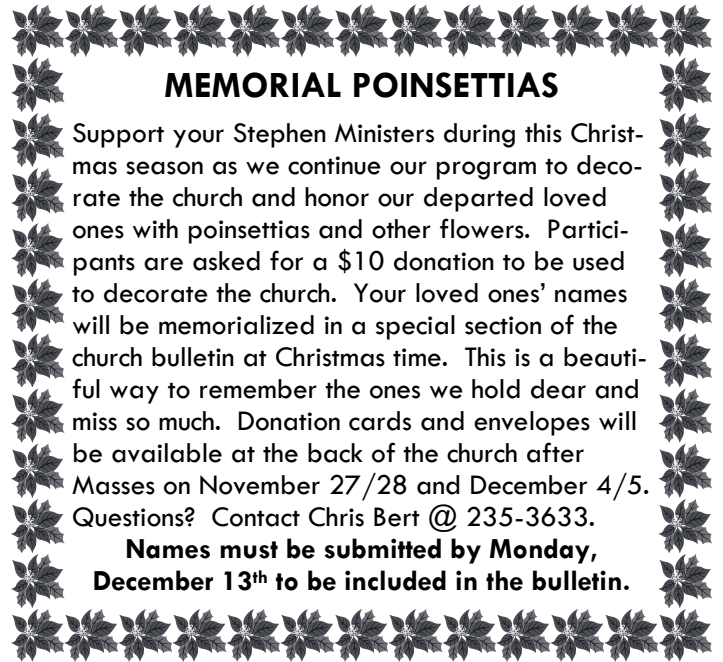
God of hope, come! Enter into the lives of all those I hold dear, the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle, and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartaches, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. Come and gift them with a deep belief about you and your never-ending faithfulness and companionship.

God of hope, come! Enter into every human heart that cries out for a glimpse of your love, for a sign of your welcoming presence, for a taste of your happiness. Be the one who calms the restless and gentles the ache of the human journey.

God of hope, come! Enter into this Advent season with the grace of joy and laughter. Fill faces with smiles of delight and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within. Replenish all with the joyful blessings that only your peace can bring.

God of hope, come! Be the Morning Star in our midst, the Light that can never go out, the Beacon of Hope guiding our way to you. Come into our midst and make of our lives a home where your everlasting goodness resonates with assuring love and vigorous hope.

— Joyce Rupp



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Support your Stephen Ministers during this Christmas season as we continue our program to decorate the church and honor our departed loved ones with poinsettias and other flowers. Participants are asked for a \$10 donation to be used to decorate the church. Your loved ones' names will be memorialized in a special section of the church bulletin at Christmas time. This is a beautiful way to remember the ones we hold dear and miss so much. Donation cards and envelopes will be available at the back of the church after Masses on November 27/28 and December 4/5. Questions? Contact Chris Bert @ 235-3633.

Names must be submitted by Monday, December 13th to be included in the bulletin.

LADIES GUILD COOKIE WALK ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th

2:00 - 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th

AFTER THE MORNING MASSES



SELECT YOUR HOLIDAY COOKIES AND TREATS!



Donated delicacies like cookies, bars, and candy are needed and can be dropped off in the parish center on Saturday from Noon-6:00 p.m. or Sunday before 11:00 a.m. Questions? Call Cindy Bishop @ 932-8341.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM Friday, December 17, 2010 7:00 p.m. - School Gym



St. Mary's School will present their annual Christmas music program on Friday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. This year's program will be a retrospective of favorite Christmas Carols, both popular and traditional. The 1st - 5th grade students will be featured. Please come and join us for this musical celebration!

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR...

November 20	Health Ministry Presentation - Parish Center
November 21	Parish Pancake Breakfast - 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.
November 21	Stephen Ministry Presentation - 2:00 p.m.
November 25	Thanksgiving - Rectory closed 11/25 & 11/26
November 28	"Come to the Manger" Nativity sets - Parish Center
December 4 & 5	Ladies Guild "Cookie Walk" - Parish Center
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Holyday Masses @ 7:00 & 8:30 a.m, Noon, & 6:30 p.m.
December 12	"A Night in Bethlehem" - School gym - 1:30-5:00
January 22, 2011	First Reconciliation - 10:30 AM
January 30	Catholic Schools Week begins - Pancake Breakfast
February 9	Parent Meeting for 2 nd grade First Communion
March 9	Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins Masses @ 7:00 & 8:30 a.m., Noon, 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.
March 18	St. Mary's School Reconciliation - 9:15 a.m.
March 19/20	St. Mary's Guild Bake Sale - Parish Center
March 24	Mission speaker Frank Runyon - Church
March 26	St. Mary's Benefit Auction - Livestock Exchange Bldg.
April 10	First Communion - Masses @ 12:30 & 2:30 p.m.
April 24	Easter Sunday - No 5:00 p.m. Mass
May 5	Confirmation Reflection & Rehearsal - 5:30 p.m.
May 6	Confirmation - 7:00 p.m. - Church
May 8	Mother's Day
May 18	Last day of Religious Education classes
May 22	St. Mary's 8 th Grade Graduation Mass - 5:00 p.m.
May 24	Last day of St. Mary's School
May 30	Memorial Day - Parish Offices Closed
June 2	Ascension - Masses @ 7 & 8:30 a.m., Noon & 6:30 p.m.
June 27-July 1	Vacation Bible School "PandaMania"

St. Mary's School

Bellevue, NE

LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH SERVICE

The students and staff of St. Mary's School have dedicated this year to serving others. As we live our Catholic faith, we are learning that service to others is one way we witness our faith in the community.

As we progress throughout the year, students will learn about the works of mercy and with the guidance of teachers and staff, discover that our faith asks us to be servant leaders who are involved in caring about God's people and the world He has created for us.

The students will participate in many different projects this year to help them learn more about the opportunities we have to be servant leaders in our community at the local level and as a member of the global community. The staff will also participate in these projects and other projects to model service leadership and learning for the students.

In October the students and staff of St. Mary's used St. Francis of Assisi as their role model and learned about his great love for the world God created. Students and staff then learned about the Nebraska Humane Society and the care they give to many animals. Students, staff, and families then collected towels, blankets, peanut butter, cages, toys, and donations for the Humane Society.

In November the students and staff will be honoring deceased family members through daily prayer. Each family was asked to create a stained glass window with the names of deceased family members. The windows will be displayed in the stairwell by the office and serve as a visual reminder of our deceased loved ones.

The students and staff will also honor all service members who have served and are currently serving in the military. We will celebrate with our annual Veteran's Day assembly on November 12th. We will also make Christmas cards to be sent to service persons who are currently serving in the Air Force.

Throughout the year, we will be asking parishioners and members of the Bellevue community for their input on how servant leadership and service learning will impact our students, staff, and community.

Catholic Schools Week begins January 30, 2011

- ⇒ Pancake Breakfast in the school gym after 7:30 & 9:30 a.m. Masses - All are welcome!
- ⇒ School Open House from 8:30 a.m. - Noon

RECYCLING AT ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's School will begin a recycling project in November. The recycling project will teach our children and families the importance of being good stewards of our environment. Mr. Joe Norris, from First Star Fiber and a St. Mary's parishioner, will show a PowerPoint presentation to the students explaining how his company recycles many everyday items such as paper, plastic, and metals. His PowerPoint presentation will help the children visualize the impact recycling can make on the local community.

We also want the children to learn that our efforts at the local level impact the global community. In science and other classes, the students will learn how recycling provides the global community with more choices on how to use resources for economic and social development.

Finally, the recycling project provides an excellent opportunity for St. Mary's School and Parish to collaborate in a project which has great potential to raise funds for scholarships for the students of St. Mary's School.

Please watch for flyers and other information in the bulletin and school newsletter as we finalize plans for the recycling project. If you are interested in more information, please feel free to call Mrs. Castle @ 291-1694.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE... ADOPT-A-STUDENT

This is the second year St. Mary's Parish is asking for your help to Adopt-A-Student. We believe we should provide every child an opportunity for a Catholic Education, but not every family can afford it. We are committed to preparing Christian Leaders for the community through academic excellence in a Christ centered environment.

The Adopt-A-Student Scholarship Program helps families that are in critical need of financial assistance above and beyond what is received through St. Mary's Tuition Assistance Program. One hundred percent of your gift goes toward the adopted student's tuition bill, with no funds being used for administrative costs.

You can donate funds for use this year by a direct donation or forever by donating to the school endowment fund.

Please prayerfully consider helping us by financially Adopting-A-Student. In so doing you will forever impact a child's life. Please call Mrs. Cheryl Castle at 402-291-1694, or email cheryl.castle@stmarysbellevue.com and donate now.

MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING (MOMS)

If you haven't heard, the Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) creates in women an awareness of the inner sacred self, while at the same time teaching them new ways to inspire, encourage, and affirm each other. Through the process of personal and spiritual growth, women have the opportunity to clarify their values, claim their own giftedness, and bring these new strengths to their family relationships and to the Christian community.

MOMS is an 8-week parish-based peer ministry program for small groups designed to enhance the Christian perspective on various topics including spirituality, friendship, motherhood, and "self-awareness". We would like to invite all women who are mothers, moms-to-be, grandmothers, godmothers, and step-moms to prayerfully consider participating in this program.

We are already planning for and reserving space for those interested in the Spring of 2011. Space is limited, so please let us know of your interest. The spring session will begin March 13th. If you are interested in attending a session or want to learn more about MOMS, please contact Cindy Donahue @ 731-6005 or Suzanne Hasiak @ 680-5744.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

BRING THE CHRISTMAS STORY TO LIFE!

Ready to take your family back in time? Want to make some family memories you'll treasure forever? And would you like to have a blast as you do it?



Then reserve **December 12th from 1:30-5:00 p.m.** for a Night in Bethlehem! As soon as you set foot in the door of the gym, your family will travel back to ancient Bethlehem. You'll taste, see and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. You'll find marketplace shops and activities for kids of all ages, visit a Jewish Family Home, and join shepherds as they visit the newborn Christ child! So bring your whole family or let your children from ages 4 years through 6th grade come and join one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

We invite adults and youth (youth grades 7-12) to volunteer with this VBS style event. For more information, contact the Religious Education office @ 291-7222 or the Youth Ministry office @ 292-7688. This is a great opportunity for Confirmation Stewardship Hours or for High School hours.

Adult Education

UPCOMING ADULT STUDIES AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Mondays 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Dominican Center - Starting in January

Women's Bible Study:

Courageous Love (A bible study on holiness for women.)

Courageous Women (A bible study on the heroines of biblical history.)

Courageous Virtue (A bible study on moral excellence for women.)

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - Dominican Center- Starting January
James Pearls of Wise Living (The Great Adventure series)

Thursdays 6:30pm-Dominican Center-Starting January
Matthew-The King and His Kingdom

Sundays 7:00 p.m. - St. Mark's Hall) - begins March 13th
MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing)

Wednesday afternoon studies are also being offered. For information regarding any of these Adult Faith Formation Studies, contact the Religious Education Office at 291-7222 or email etomaso@stmarysbelleveue.com.



(The Great Adventure Series)

We are now registering for Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. - "Matthew-the King and His Kingdom. This study shows how Jesus builds on the foundation laid in the Old Testament to inaugurate the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This is a nationally known study presented by Jeff Cavins. Interested? Contact the RE office at 291-7222.

Starting date January 6, 2011

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - WHAT? ALREADY!!

Mark your calendars for June 27- July 1 for St. Mary's Vacation Bible School - "PandaMania - Where God is Wild about You".



We are planning ahead and ask for your help during this holiday season. As you are wrapping your presents, **we ask that you save us the inside tube which the wrapping paper is on.** Please drop these off at the RE office or any of the parish offices. We are also looking for carpet tubes as well. Contact the RE office at 291-7222.



St. Mary's Youth Ministry is excited to offer three amazing experiences for our parish high school youth. Find the activity that best suits you and join us as a youth participant or adult chaperone for an unforgettable time! Please visit the parish website to learn how to register for any of these great opportunities and for information on upcoming fundraising opportunities.

Called to Service. Young Neighbors in Action is a week long, Catholic service learning experience for high school youth that takes place throughout the country every summer. St. Mary's has recently sent service teams to Chicago and St. Louis. This year our parish team will be serving in Winnebago, July 10th – 16, 2011. Not just a work camp, YNIA blends prayer, service and education into a life changing experience for young people.

Called to Leadership. The Archdiocesan summer leadership camp CLI is open to all current high school freshmen – juniors and will take place at Wayne State College, June 12 – 17, 2011. The CLI program is a fantastic way for youth to come together from across the state to build community and also find their individual strengths as Catholic leaders.

Called to Glory. Current 8th – 11th grade youth are invited to sign up for the 2011 National Catholic Youth Conference which will take place November 17 – 19 in Indianapolis. NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers. The schedule includes keynote speakers, prayer, workshops, liturgy, recreational activities, concerts, exhibits, and an interactive thematic park.



Thank you to all the ministries that sponsored a 'Trunk' for St. Mary's "Trunk or Treat" on October 29th. You voted for the best decorated trunk; the Boy Scout trailer fun house had the most votes.

The Knights of Columbus also had a 'guess how many Halloween objects in a container' contest; Jennifer Lillion won with a guess of 532 objects. We are looking forward to next year with the addition of more 'trunks' sponsored by parishioners and a pumpkin decorating contest.



CONFIRMATION RETREATS

September 25th was the date for the 7th grade retreat held at Pro Sanctity Center near Elkhorn, NE. Even though it rained - and rained - it finally cleared up in the afternoon. The students had a wonderful time being formed in the Holy Spirit. They discovered the power of prayer, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, experienced a Trust Walk, discovered different saints - their gifts and what they did on earth to be a special friend of God while making Prayer beads, Mass, and finally enjoyed Fr. Dan Lenz presentation on the potter house and being formed as he and the students worked in clay. They returned safely home to share their journey with their families and friends.

October 16th was the date for the 8th grade retreat held at Camp Cedars near Fremont NE. Youth Ministry prepared an excellent retreat which taught the Candidates more about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with outdoor activities, experiencing the fall day at it finest. After participating in each of the seven outdoor stations and lunch, Sr. Ellen Dolan presented the Sacraments of Initiation and Mass, which afterwards the Confirmation students prepared for an outdoor Mass overlooking the Platte River with Fr. Mark presiding. It was a perfect ending to a perfect day.

We wish to thank all of the adult volunteers, Youth Ministry team, and staff for the support of our two Confirmation retreats. We ask that you please keep all of these students in prayer as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

ST. MARY'S NEW MINISTRY - MARRIAGE



St. Mary's is looking for couples who would like to help others grow and experience the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage. If you are newly married, married with

children, married without children or if you are in the mature stage of marriage (empty nesters) you may help St. Mary's form a Marriage Ministry Team. For more information contact the Religious Education office at 291-7222 or email etomaso@stmarysbellevue.com

The Catholic concept of Christian marriage involves much more than holding the wedding in church. What makes a marriage Christian isn't a church blessing added on to a legal contract. Christian marriage is a personal relationship of life-giving love in which a man and a woman make the love of Christ present to each other and become a sign of the love of Christ to those around them.

Jesus gave the sacraments to his Church so that he could continue to touch us in our daily lives. In marriage, the relationship of the couple is the sacrament that reveals the love of God for people.

ST. MARY'S BENEFIT AUCTION
"SPRING FOR THE CHILDREN"
MARCH 26, 2011
LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING

Save the date! Mark your calendars! St. Mary's 17th annual "Spring for the Children Benefit Auction" will be held on Saturday March 26, 2011. The Benefit Auction is the LARGEST fundraiser for St. Mary's. If you have not attended an auction before, please consider coming to this spectacular evening. There is truly something for everyone. You can bid on beautifully wrapped baskets with fun treasures inside, the oral auction hosts some truly unique gifts, and the children's artwork is priceless and second to none. The funds we raise go toward a variety of needs around St. Mary's School. Also, did you know that 5% of the profit goes into the Parish Goodwill Fund and \$10,000 goes to the Parish Endowment Fund?

The auction this year will again be held at the Livestock Exchange Building. The top floor ballrooms are elegant and are a beautiful venue. The auction committees are already hard at work sorting out details for the event. Look for more information to come through the church bulletin in the months and weeks leading up to the auction.

We are always accepting donations. If you would like to make a donation of an item, timeshare week, or monetary donation, please contact Jennifer Kreps @ 293-0544 or email megjen992000@yahoo.com. We are also accepting donations of large sized baskets. Any of these items can be dropped off at the school or you may contact Jennifer to arrange for pick up.

Watch for the announcement in the Sunday bulletin for the kickoff of ticket sales in the coming months. If you have questions about ticket sales, please contact Craig or Dane' Ames @ 932-7330 or email comes@nebgolf.org. If you would like to help volunteer at the event or during the preparation process, please contact Jodi Belcastro @ 731-1443 or email biggame68@msn.com. Thank you in advance for supporting this wonderful event!

SACRAMENT DATES

First Reconciliation: January 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
First Communion: Parents meeting- February 9th at 4:45 or 6:45 p.m. at the Church.
First Communion-Practice April 9th (times to be announced)
First Communion-April 10 at 12:30 or 2:30 p.m.
Confirmation (8th grade): Rite of Enrollment, April 2nd at 5:00 p.m. Mass **OR** April 3rd at 12:30 p.m. Mass.
Night of Reflection and Rehearsal May 5th at 5:30 p.m. at the Parish Center.
Confirmation Friday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's Church
811 West 23rd Avenue
Bellevue, NE 68005

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ST. MARY'S YEAR END GIFT GIVING

Our Catholic tradition has the three Kings (Magi) making the first gift to Christ at his birth. This tradition continues to this very day. Christmas is a special time for us to reflect and remember God's ultimate gift – his only son – Jesus Christ.

Fr. Hanneman visited with us in October on stewardship and renewing our personal commitment and stewardship goals for the coming year. The end of the year is near; it is time to review the goals for our current year. Making a gift at this time of year may result in a substantial tax benefit. This gift can take many forms:

- the simplest is a direct cash donation.
- securities, stocks and bonds that have appreciated, or in some cases, depreciated. Your personal broker/ financial advisor can advise you in these matters.
- A gift of property may provide St. Mary's with income for years to come.
- Naming St. Mary's as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or annuity is a major gift as the "gift of life".

Christmas time gifts typically provide the additional funds needed to meet the seasonal expenses of the church and school and such other under budgeted items as excess snow removal. Many parishioners use the Christmas and year end season to make up and catch up on their giving to the parish.

If you are thinking about something more tangible, the Friends of St. Mary's Committee, as a part of our Development Council, has created a "Wish List" of items that are needed but cannot be funded for many reasons. Examples include equipment and facility upgrades. To learn more about this, contact Ray Guggenberger, Business Manager @ 291-1350 or ray.guggenberger@stmarysbelleveue.com or Lynn Trimpey, member of the Development Council, @ 689-4142 or ltrimpey@cox.net for additional information/opportunities for a year end gift.