

## St. Mary School Commission: St. Mary Catholic School

Revised on June 24, 2009

**2012 Mission:** St. Mary School is a ministry of St. Mary Parish. As a Catholic elementary school, we carry out the mission that Jesus began, by living our Catholic faith fully, through serving God and one another. We provide a nurturing environment where Catholic education and Christian moral values are promoted and reinforced. Through cooperation and partnership with each family, we prepare our children for the future with spiritual and academic excellence that cultivates their belief in Jesus Christ and promote their fullest participation in the life of the parish community as a whole.



**Vision for 2014.** Welcome to St. Mary Catholic School, where eager learners and motivated teachers come together in a loving, safe, and caring atmosphere that is a reflection of God's love. Christian behavior shines through in our daily activities through words, actions, and prayers that exemplify the teachings of Jesus.

St. Mary offers a well-rounded education that exceeds expectations. Our faculty, staff, and parent volunteers nurture each and every child in a loving and caring environment, providing the tools to motivate and challenge students' natural instincts to learn and grow. Students flourish, prompted by dedicated teachers who help each individual child achieve their personal best. Students feel supported, special, and comfortable, like a home away from home.

St. Mary curriculum, one of spiritual, academic, and social excellence, has received many honors, including the coveted national Blue Ribbon Award. We are blessed with a state of the art facility that makes learning a well-rounded experience by providing daily participation in technology, language, music, art, and physical education classes. Our tuition is also one of the lowest in the Joliet Diocese.

School families partner with our faculty to build the foundation of faith by religious instruction, weekly Mass attendance, and preparation to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. Students showcase their kind and giving spirit by serving their community through ongoing local and global service projects.

We not only have a waiting list for enrollment into St. Mary School, but we also are pleased to have a parent volunteer waiting list as well. Our many parent volunteers make extracurricular programs possible for students to nurture their talents in athletics, band, fine arts, and various club organizations.

As our school continues to grow and evolve, we are proud to maintain the integrity and Christian principles brought forth by our founding fathers and mothers. We are one faith, one family, one future.

**Former Vision for 2008:** St. Mary School will provide the academic excellence and spiritual development required to produce future Catholic leaders that benefit Church and society for generations to come. The school will increase the parish awareness of St. Mary School, will broaden the participation of school families, and will adapt to serve the increased number of students as our community grows. We will live our Catholic faith through monthly Christian service projects while continuing to increase Sunday Mass attendance of our school families each year; promote academic achievements through quarterly school publications, and regular parish publications, such as the weekly parish bulletin and the seasonal parish newsletter; continue adding a new classroom each year, until we have two full classrooms for each grade, kindergarten through eighth, so that we may provide a Catholic education to more parishioners; enthusiastically support and participate in the renovation of the elementary wing of our school building into eight full classrooms for our children and the children of our religious education program; and in the transformation of our old gymnasium, which was once our second parish church, into the Koop Library and resource center for our school and the whole parish community to utilize.

## **Annual St. Mary School Themes**

- 2003-2004: Two by Two, Out from the Old, Into the New (Noah's Ark)
- 2004-2005: Guided by God's Light (Lighthouse)
- 2005-2006: We have Many Gifts, but One Spirit (Gift Boxes)
- 2006-2007: Hand in Hand with God (Joined Hands)
- 2007-2008: Growing in God's Word (Open Bible)
- 2008-2009: Living as Champions of Faith (Trophy)
- 2009-2010: Shining like Stars in God's Eyes (Stars)