Dear Parents:

I truly appreciate all the prayers, love, and support offered me from students, parents, and faculty over the loss of my mom. Being part of such a caring community reaffirms how blessed I feel to serve as your principal. When I returned to school yesterday, so many students stopped in my office to hug me and tell me that they were glad I was back. On the playground and in the hallway, I was met with smiles and kind words. We truly have the kindest and most thoughtful students. SMCS is certainly a special place. Please know how much I appreciate each of you.

During this solemn and sorrowful final week of Lent, we recognize God’s goodness in sending His only Son to die on the cross for our salvation. The resurrection of Jesus brings us the joy and promise of eternal life for all who believe in Him. Thank God each day for our faith.

On behalf of Father Collin and the SMCS faculty and staff, I want to wish you a blessed Easter and a relaxing break. I hope your days are filled with lots of family time. When we return on April 13, we are definitely in the homestretch.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Thank you, Father Collin and Father Larry, for giving our students the opportunity to attend Stations of the Cross during Lent.

OPERATION RICE BOWL
Donations for Operation Rice Bowl may still be made through April 17. Checks are appreciated. Thank you is extended to Ms. Ward for coordinating this worthy endeavor.

RECONCILIATION
Thank you is extended to our priests, Father Collin, Father Larry, Msgr. Jarboe, Father Limmer, Msgr. Smith, and Father Jicha for providing our students with the opportunity to have their confessions heard during Lent.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS
Our next First Friday Mass will be held on May 1 at 10:30 A.M.

CONFIRMATION
Olivia Brooks, Benjamin Byers, Emily Concovia, Harrison Ewing, Frederick Farah, Elizabeth Fisher, Joseph Jacques, Charlotte Larkin, Anna Mele, Emma Ortiz, Meghan Scott, Cole Trippett, Sarah Sardina, Emily Saylor, Aria Smith, Amanda Thomas, Zachary Towns, and Collette Waldron will be confirmed on April 28 at St. Mary.

Please keep these students in your thoughts and prayers as they continue on their faith journeys.

CALENDAR UPDATE

June 1—Last academic day for Eighth Grade
June 2—Eighth Grade Graduation Practice 9:30 to 11:30 A.M
June 4—Antietam Recreation Kindergarten through Eighth Grade students attend.
June 5—Last day for Pre-K 9:30 A.M. Program 10:30 A.M. First Friday Mass (Final School Mass for 2014-2015)
June 7—Eighth Grade Graduation 4:00 P.M. St. Mary Church
June 8—Last day for Kindergarten 10:15 A.M. Graduation Program
June 9—12:00 P.M. Dismissal
June 10—Last day for Grades 1-7 10:00 Awards Assembly 12:00 P.M. Dismissal
August 18, 19, and 20 - Packet Pick-up
Tuesday, August 24 - First Day of the 2015-2016 school year
Dear Parents,

After many months of prayer and reflection, I have decided to retire from teaching at St. Mary’s at the end of this school year. I feel it is the right time after 25 wonderful years. I have enjoyed working with you and especially all of the many students I have had the privilege of teaching over the years. It has been a joy to teach music and share our Faith with each student and thank God for this vocation. I have enjoyed every minute listening to the children sing, they truly have the voices of angels. I have loved and cherished each student as they have been a blessing in my life.

I will keep you and your families in my prayers,

Pam Miller

Hello Parent,

Our SMCS After-School Care Program is in need of additional attendants to provide supervision for our students. It is a paid position. If interested, contact Ms. Radley to schedule an interview.

pradley@stmarycatholicschool.org

**Help Wanted**

Thursday, April 2 (Holy Thursday), is a 12:00 P.M. dismissal.

Easter Break begins on Good Friday, April 3, and ends on Sunday, April 12. School resumes on Monday, April 13.

Teacher Professional Days

School is closed on Friday, April 24, for a Teacher Professional Day.

Warm Weather Uniforms

Students may begin wearing the optional warm weather uniform beginning on Monday, April 20.

NJHS Spring Landscaping Service Project

April 28 and 29 from 3:00 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.

Third Trimester Interim Reports

Interim Reports for the third trimester will be sent home with students on Tuesday, April 28.

Children’s Village for Second Grade

Second grade students are to report to Children’s Village on Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14. Drop-off is at 9:00 A.M. and pick-up is at 1:30 P.M.

Pre-K Calendar Reminder

Pre-K does not have school on Friday, April 17.

2015-2016 Registration

Registration for new students opened on Saturday, January 24. If you know of any families who might be interested in learning more about St. Mary Catholic School, please encourage them to call and set up an appointment “to check us out.” Prospective students are encouraged to spend a day shadowing.

Open House

Monday, April 27
5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Science is Everywhere!

After long days of standardized testing, our students were treated to an enjoyable assembly, called Science is Everywhere! We appreciate the Home & School Association sponsoring this event. Music and experiments filled the afternoon.
Eighth grade is such a special year for our students at SMCS. Eighth graders may be seen wearing their special Class T-Shirts on Fridays as recognition of their years of hard work as St. Mary Catholic School students. The Class of 2015 includes Zara Ahmed, Elias Blumenberg, Olivia Brooks, Gabriel Burgess, Benjamin Byers, Emily Concovia, Norah Cvijanovich, Harrison Ewing, Frederick Farah, Elizabeth Fisher, Jahi Fleet, Morgan Giannoumis, Steven Hamilla, Nathan Haupt, Joseph Jacques, Jacob Kornilow, Charlotte Larkin, Noah Litzinger, Kira Lutz, James McKane, Anna Mele, Emma Ortiz, Quinton Reed, Sarah Sardina, Emily Saylor, Meghan Scott, Grant Shanholtz, Aria Smith, Amanda Thomas, Zachary Towns, Cole Trippett, Colette Waldron, and Ryan Wiley.

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their final trimester of eighth grade and decide where to attend high school.

Did you know that St. Mary Catholic School currently has 22 members of the Rev. George A Limmer Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society? These students have shown that they excel in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Service, and Character, and we are very proud of these young people!

Our chapter will soon be participating in two spring service projects. On April 29 and 30, we will be working on a School and Church landscaping project to clean up the area that adjoins the alley and Prospect Street. This area, which is home to our school and church sign, is in need of some TLC.

Also, the NJHS will have a bake sale table set up for SMCS Fun Night on May 15.

An induction ceremony will be held on April 22, at 6:30 P.M., to welcome new members into the National Junior Honor Society.
HSA EVENTS

HSA ELECTION

The HSA offices of Co-President and Recording Secretary are open for election this spring. The election ballot will be sent home after Easter Break and the results will be announced at the Spaghetti Dinner & Science Fair on April 18, 2015.

The SMCS HSA has a long tradition of sharing in the mission of St. Mary Catholic School. The HSA provides a formal avenue for parents to participate with the faculty and administration in their child’s education. Good leadership has been the key to the success of the HSA.

USED UNIFORM SALE

HSA will have used uniforms available for sale on Thursday, April 16, 8:15 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. (The sale will be closed between 1:45 and 2:45 for the SMCS FUN WALK.) The optional warm weather uniform may be worn beginning April 20.

Used Uniform Pricing for 2015

**Boys Uniform**
- Polo Shirt: $4.00
- Oxford: $4.00
- Sweater: $4.00
- Pants: $4.00
- Shorts: $4.00
- Belt: $2.00

**Girls Uniform**
- Polo Shirt: $4.00
- Oxford: $4.00
- Blouse: $4.00
- Sweater: $4.00
- Pants: $4.00
- Shorts: $4.00
- Skort: $4.00
- Jumper: $5.00
- Skirt: $5.00

**Gym Uniform**
- T-shirt: $4.00
- Sweatshirt (crew): $5.00
- Sweatshirt (hood): $7.00
- Shorts: $4.00
- Sweatpants: $4.00

Only clean uniforms that do not have holes/rips/stains should be donated. Thank you!

Many Hands

Make Light Work Policy

In order to have the policy finalized in time for the 2015-2016 school year, we are asking each family to log in to Help Counter ([www.helpcounterweb.com](http://www.helpcounterweb.com); Login: stmary149; Password: ase8eq) for tracking volunteer hours during this year. This way we are able to monitor and tweak the policy if necessary.

Wolfgang Candy

Thank you to all the families who participated in this optional fundraiser. We hope you enjoy the tasty sweets! $1,363.23 was earned in profit by the HSA.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL

The final Middle School Social Hour of the year will be held in May. Fifth graders will be invited.

Coordinators and Co-Coordinators Needed

Looking for a way to get involved and fulfill your volunteer commitment obligation? Please consider coordinating or co-coordinating one of these events for a good chunk of your hours: Annual Auction, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Volunteer Coordinator, Scholastic Book Fair, Pancake Breakfast, Grandparent’s Day, Family BINGO, Fun Night, Spaghetti Dinner, Wolfgang Candy, Pixie Shop, Playground, Martins A+, Monthly Scrip sales outside of Masses, Middle School Social, Used Uniform, Yankee Candle, and Homeroom Parent. More information is forthcoming.

Please continue to send in your Box Tops. As always, we do appreciate all of Sister Corda’s efforts!
SPAGHETTI DINNER
Our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Social Studies Fair will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. in Pangborn Hall. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Send in your ticket order by April 15. We appreciate the generosity of the Giannaris family and Nick’s Airport Inn for catering this event.

SMCS Tervis Tumblers
There are still a limited number of Tervis tumblers with our St. Mary Catholic School logo available for purchase from the HSA. 24-ounce water bottles are $21 and 16-ounce tumblers with a blue lid are $16. Show your school spirit by sporting this on-the-go drinkware.

SCRP Dates
April 13 and 27

STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS
Upcoming Events

FUN NIGHT
Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, May 15. You will not want to miss this special night!

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE
The last dance of the year will be held on Friday, May 1. Theme and attire guidelines are forthcoming.

MARCH TAG DAY
An out-of-uniform day was held on March 27 with all proceeds to benefiting Children’s Village. $228.45 was raised.

APRIL TAG DAY
On April 23 an out-of-uniform day will be held to benefit Wounded Warriors. More information is forthcoming.

ANTIETAM RECREATION DAY
Mark your calendars. Field Day at Antietam Recreation is scheduled for Thursday, June 4. Information packets will be sent electronically during Easter Break.
Out-of-Uniform Days

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary, Morris Frock Unit 42, sponsors the Americanism Essay Contest. This year’s topic was *What Does Freedom Mean to My Family?* First place winners receive $50 cash and an American flag kit, second place winners receive $35 cash and an American flag kit, and third place winners receive $25 cash and an American flag kit. SMCS students received nine out of the nine awards given!

And the Winners are...

**Class I - Grades 3 and 4**
1st = Shanna Hall
2nd = Evan Weaver
3rd = Cardin Dang

**Class II - Grades 5 and 6**
1st = Olivia Craver
2nd = Lucas Hammer
3rd = Joseph Mele

**Class III - Grades 7 and 8**
1st = Rory O’Hanlon
2nd = Emily Concovia
3rd = Cole Trippett

The students, their parents, and their teachers are invited to a special dinner during which prizes will be awarded and the students will share their winning essays.

Congratulations

**GOOD S.A.M.s**

I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s for February: Hannah Strother, James Ortiz, Jonathan Shultz, Cardin Dang, Erica Weaver, Madison Smith, Camryn Quelet, Sofia Corsi, and Aria Smith. Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**
The following students have excelled academically during the Second Trimester of the 2015-2016 school year at St. Mary Catholic School. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

**HIGH ACADEMIC HONORS**
Zara Ahmed, Harrison Ewing, Frederick Farah, Morgan Giannoumis, Jacob Kornilow, Charlotte Larkin, Kira Lutz, James McKane, Emma Ortiz, Quinton Reed, Sarah Sardina, Meghan Scott, Aria Smith, Zachary Towns, Cole Trippett, Sofia Corsi, Therese Martin, Bridget Nooney, Andrew Stine, Lauren Aguila, Anne Balog, Emma Beal, Olivia Craver, Caroline Dillard, Emma Flint, Nicholas Kornilow, Morgan McMahon, Joseph Mele, Owen O’Connor, Jackson Pentony, and Stephen Reiter

**ACADEMIC HONORS**
Norah Cvijanovich, Nathan Haupt, Anna Mele, Colette Waldron, Ryan Wiley, Charles Kane, Aba Mitchual, Rory O’Hanlon, Alice Poffenberger, Samuel Strama, Lauren Beck, Frankie Corsi, Lucas Hammer, Havilah Mangalapati, Madelyn Ortiz, Adam Rappaport, and Tyler Tran

**AMERICAN LEGION ESSAY CONTEST**

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary, Morris Frock Unit 42, sponsors the Americanism Essay Contest. This year’s topic was *What Does Freedom Mean to My Family?* First place winners receive $50 cash and an American flag kit, second place winners receive $35 cash and an American flag kit, and third place winners receive $25 cash and an American flag kit. SMCS students received nine out of the nine awards given!

**The SMCS Keys for Success**

- Be Kind and Gentle
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
St. Mary Catholic School and the Archdiocese of Baltimore have a commitment to maintaining the trust of the faithful by providing our children and youth with safe environments characterized by healthy relationships. With our longstanding commitment in mind, all parishes and archdiocesan Catholic schools use Shield the Vulnerable, a compliance management system that allows all parishes and schools to facilitate compliance with archdiocesan child protection requirements for all volunteers who work with minors, employees, and clergy.

Please register as a St. Mary Catholic School volunteer at www.shieldthevulnerable.org. All new volunteers should complete the process as soon as possible.

Volunteers who are currently compliant with STAND requirements may continue to volunteer. However, you should have received a letter from Mrs. Jan McCarter outlining the steps you need to complete in order to transition into the Shield the Vulnerable system. Please contact Mrs. McCarter, our screening coordinator, at jmccarter@saintmarysonline.org or (301)739-0390, ext. 129, with any questions or concerns.

**Phase II Raffle Ticket Fundraiser**

Thank you is extended to Mrs. Jackie Swarner for coordinating this fundraiser and to Sister Aloysius for faithfully picking the winning ticket each week.

Congratulations to the following March winners:

- ($50) Week 1: Stephen Stonebraker
- ($50) Week 2: Linda Miller
- ($50) Week 3: Marlene Reiter
- ($50) Week 4: Tina Forsythe
- ($100) Week 5: The Dillard Family

**Jump Rope for Heart**

SMCS students participated in Jump Rope for Heart during their physical education classes. Thanks to the generosity of our families, $6,909 was raised for this worthy cause. Ava Romsburg was the top fundraiser. We appreciate Mr. Hendershot’s efforts in coordinating this event. SMCS will receive a gift certificate for $300 from US Games.

**STORY & CRAFT TIME**

Mrs. Jeanie Stark and Sister Aloysius are offering a story and craft time for 3- to 5-year olds on **April 23 at 12:00 P.M.** Please contact Mrs. O’Connor if interested.

**Other Newsworthy Items**

**HEALTH QUESTIONS?**

If you have any health-related questions, please contact Ms. Paula Radley at (301)733-1184, ext 104, or by email, pradley@stmarycatholicschool.org.

**SUN’S GAME**

SMCS will be heading to the ball park on Wednesday, May 20. More information is forthcoming.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

Our annual spring rummage sale will be held on May 7. Set-up day is May 6. Please consider volunteering your time to help with this event. All proceeds benefit Saint Mary Catholic School. Thank you, Mary Grove, for your continued support of SMCS!
In Your Prayers

Please remember Bill Hudson (grandfather of Luke Scott) and Joan E. St. Ledger (my mother) who passed away this past month. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

As always, I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance and wisdom needed to serve as principal of Saint Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless You!
Patricia A. McDermott

Intermediate Spelling Bee

On May 13, students from the third, fourth, and fifth grades will participate in the St. Mary Catholic School Intermediate Spelling Bee. Students in these grades took a written test to compete for a spot in the Bee. Thank you is extended to Mrs. Karn for coordinating this event.

Congratulations to the following students who are our spelling bee contestants:

Third Grade
Raijah Azurin, Abigail Harman, Cardin Dang, Ethan Knipple, Shanna Hall, Mackenzie O’Berry, Zachary Kumar, Anthony Corsi, and Henry Ortiz

Fourth Grade
Phillip Aguila, Samantha Espiridion, Connor McCardell, Noah Karn, Jesse Mangalapati, Armani Kenney, Lucy Strama, Spencer Pentony, and Evan Weaver

Fifth Grade
Ty Ambush, Daniel Duncan, Gabrielle McCafferty, Logan Flanagan, Rayan Shahid, Madison Smith, Amina Pasha, Da’Monique Brown, Mackenzie Ridenour, Matthew Stine, and Zachary Zanetti

Save the Date…
T2 Super PBIS Celebration!!

Super Student Day!
Movies, Snacks, Costumes, Games
Wear your favorite Superhero outfit to school!!

When?
Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Where?
SMCS classrooms

Why?
Because you are Super Students!