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# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2017

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## St. Mary Catholic School

### Challenging the Mind—Living the Faith

[www.stmarycatholicsschool.org](http://www.stmarycatholicsschool.org)



Dear Parents:

Happy Catholic Schools Week! What a wonderful celebration about to be enjoyed across the nation! Faith-filled education, academic excellence, and service to others are all components of our students' Catholic education at SMCS. We are very committed to our mission to empower children in their faith journey and promote academic excellence and life-long service inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nurturing community. We hope you will join us in this celebration by attending our many planned events.

Plans for the 2017-2018 school year are well underway. Registration for families new to SMCS begins on January 28. Parents and students have always been our best marketers, so please help spread the news that SMCS is accepting new registrations. We are excited about offering a full day option for pre-kindergarten as well as providing welcome grants to new students in grades two through five. We strive to offer a high quality faith-based education while keeping tuition affordable. Families are encouraged to apply for Archdiocesan tuition assistance as well as requesting assistance from our local Catholic Parishes.

SMCS students truly shine. Whether it's scoring in the top 15% of the nation on standardized tests as our students did last spring; showing good sportsmanship and playing as a team on the basketball court; creating multimedia projects to present in class; being kind and gentle, respectful, and responsible; or breaking into a chorus of "May the Dear Lord Bless You" after singing the traditional *Happy Birthday* song to a classmate, our students make us proud. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

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

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

**Saint Mary Catholic School empowers children in their faith journey and promotes academic excellence and life-long service inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nurturing community.**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 28—February 3**

Catholic Schools Week

**January 30**

Career Day

Dignitary Luncheon

**January 31**

Parent Visitation

9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

**February 1**

Student Appreciation Day & Talent Show

**February 2**

Grandparents' Day

**February 3**

10:30 First Friday Mass

Noon Dismissal

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

**February 10**

Ash Wednesday

**February 20**

No School—President's Day

**February 21**

No School—Professional Day

## FAITH

### FEAST OF ST. BLAISE



Friday, February 3, is the feast day of St. Blaise. A special blessing of throats will take place before our First Friday Mass. (*May God through the intercession of Saint Blaise preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil.*)

### FIRST FRIDAY MASS—CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will conclude with the celebration of Mass at **10:30 A.M.** on Friday, February 3. Please join us.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK COMMUNITY DRIVE

In the spirit of communities of faith, knowledge, and service, SMCS has partnered with St. Maria Goretti High School to gather items for Micah's Backpack program to help children at Marshall Street and Salem Avenue elementary schools. We are collecting items through February 10 for Micah's Backpack. In addition to the drop off location at our school, several local restaurants are providing space as drop-off locations throughout our community. Any student who brings an item to school listed on the Community Care Drive flyer by February 10 may come out of uniform in Valentine colors on February 14.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Catholic Schools Week for SMCS kicks off with our annual Pancake and Omelet Breakfast on Saturday, January 28, from 8:00 A.M. until noon. Please join us for this cherished event.



### SHOW YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE

Students are encouraged to spread the news about Catholic Schools Week by wearing their uniforms over the weekend! Any student who wears his/her school uniform to Church (and/or to a public place such as the mall) on Saturday, January 28, or Sunday, January 29, may come out of uniform for Student Appreciation Day on Wednesday, February 1.

## PARISH NEWS

### SACRAMENTAL NEWS

Eighth graders who are members of St. Mary Parish will have Confirmation Immediate Preparation classes on Wednesdays beginning on January 18 through March 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Sign-in will start at 6:15 and classes will start promptly at 6:30. Confirmation is on May 21, 2017.

### ST. MARY PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY

The St. Mary Parish Music Ministry is looking for more voices to enrich the sound of the various Parish choirs at weekend masses. If interested, please contact Trevor Rowland, [trowland@stmarycatholicsschool.org](mailto:trowland@stmarycatholicsschool.org).

### CATHOLICISM FOR ADULTS

For more information, contact Fr. Larry Adamczyk, [Ladamczyk@archbalt.org](mailto:Ladamczyk@archbalt.org)  
**Second Sunday of the Month Bible Study**  
-meets Second Sunday of the month in Parish Conference Room  
-Topic: St. Paul's Letters to the Romans  
-No registration required  
**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**  
If you would like to become Catholic and be able to share in the Sacramental Life of the Church, RCIA is the place for you. (7:00 PM on Thursdays in Fatima Hall)

### KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY TABERNACLE

-Young Catholic Men, grades 8-12  
-First Sunday of the Month  
-6:30-8:30 PM  
-St. Mary Parish Center  
- For more information, contact Fr. Larry Adamczyk, [Ladamczyk@archbalt.org](mailto:Ladamczyk@archbalt.org)

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Be sure to visit our Book Fair during the Pancake Breakfast. The Book Fair is open Tuesday and Thursday for purchases during Catholic Schools Week. Everyone loves a new book and it is a great fundraiser that supports our HSA. Orders may also be placed online, <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/smcsbookfair>.

## PARENT VISITATION DAY: JANUARY 31

Parent Visitation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Parents are encouraged not to bring preschoolers with them when visiting the classrooms. However, we understand for some parents the only option is to bring younger children. If this is the case, then please be respectful to the other parents, the students, and the teachers by not allowing your children to be a disruption. Preschoolers must remain with a parent at all times and not be allowed to wander around in the classroom. Children who are making noise or crying should be removed from the classroom immediately. Parent Visitation is an opportunity for parents to observe their school-age children in the classroom setting. We want to do our best to preserve a pleasant learning environment in each of the classrooms. All visitors should enter through the front door. Parents interested in ordering a school lunch must return the form to the cafeteria.

### Lunch Times

<b>First Lunch Shift</b>	11:30 to 12:00	<b>Grades 3, 4, 5</b>
<b>Second Lunch Shift</b>	12:00 to 12:30	<b>Grades K, 1, 2</b>
<b>Third Lunch Shift</b>	12:30 to 1:00	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>

## GRANDPARENT'S DAY: FEBRUARY 2

**Classroom Visitation Times** (Students will be in homerooms.)

<b>Grades 3, 4, 5</b>	10:30 to 11:30
<b>Grades K, 1, 2</b>	11:00 to 12:00
<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>	11:30 to 12:30

**Lunch provided to Grandparents & Students by HSA**

<b>First Lunch Shift</b>	11:30 to 12:00	<b>Grades 3, 4, 5</b>
<b>Second Lunch Shift</b>	12:00 to 12:30	<b>Grades K, 1, 2</b>
<b>Third Lunch Shift</b>	12:30 to 1:00	<b>Grades 6, 7, 8</b>

## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS—H.S.A

**Co-President:** Mrs. MJ Sommerville  
**Co-President:** Mrs. Jennifer Harman  
**Vice-President:** Mr. Thomas Witt  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Mr. Jay Zuspan  
**Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Lisa Muto  
**Treasurer:** Mrs. Nicole Rappaport  
**Associate Treasurer:** Mrs. Crystal Strother



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 28

**Pancake Breakfast**

January 29

**Student Speakers at Mass**

January 30

**Career Day**

**Dignitary Luncheon**

January 31

**Volunteer Reception**

**Parent Visitation**

February 1

**Student Appreciation Day**

**Talent Show**

February 2

**Grandparents' Day**

February 3

**Teacher Appreciation Day**

**10:30 Mass**

### FAMILY BINGO



Mrs. Jeanie Stark and Mrs. Carrie McMahon are planning our annual Family BINGO Night event for Saturday, February 25. Come enjoy dinner and an evening of fun for the whole family. Meal includes pizza and drinks. Baked goods will be for sale. Following dinner we will play 12 bingo games for great kid-friendly prizes. Doors open at 6:15 P.M. Bingo games will start promptly at 6:45 P.M. Registration forms will be sent home soon and is limited to the first 50 families. We thank you in advance for your support of this event!

### HERSHEYPARK FUNDRAISER



Are you planning an outing to HersheyPark this year? This fundraiser is an opportunity for you to purchase tickets at a reduced rate and support the SMCS HSA. Tickets purchased are valid April 29-September 25, 2017. A flyer went home last week.

### SCRIP



Last year St. Mary families saved over \$12,000 in tuition by participating in the SCRIP Program. SCRIP dates this month are February 13 and 27.

### BAKE SALE



The third grade bake sale is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8.

### BOX TOPS



Thanks to Sister Corda and our SMCS families, SMCS received a check for \$721.20 as our December payout. Please continue to send in your Box Tops. Thank You!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL



The next Middle School Social will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on February 10. A dollar donation is required to help offset the cost of drinks and snacks.

### STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

#### STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

**President:** Anne Balog  
**Vice-President:** Gabrielle McCafferty  
**Secretary:** Mason Reed



### MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We are halfway through our second trimester of the school year. There are so many activities and events that are only made possible through our wonderful volunteers. As of **January 26, 3,546.38** hours have been logged.

We appreciate all the time and effort all of you are giving to support the mission of our school. Thank you!

#### Our Top Ten Volunteers per Hours Logged are:

- Sarma & Tom McCafferty—162.70
- Jeff & Alison Ortiz—111.75
- Kelly Kenny—99.0
- MJ & Buddy Sommerville—88.00
- April & John Nitzell—84.25
- Stephanie & Louis Concordia—83.00
- Tim & Jennifer Harman—79.80
- Jennifer & DJ Smallwood—79.50
- Stacey & Kevin Stine—75.00
- Marshall & Vickie Hammer—72.00

Remember to log into HelpCounter to track your hours. Trimester II started on November 28 and ends on March 3. Hours need to be logged by midnight March 2. Questions can be emailed to [volunteer@stmarycatholicsschool.org](mailto:volunteer@stmarycatholicsschool.org).



**Treasurer:** Logan Flanagan  
**Parliamentarian:** Jackson Pentony

### JANUARY TAG DAY

Thank you is extended to all those students who supported the out-of-uniform day for REACH. \$266.50 was raised for this worthy cause. Students and staff enjoyed the casual attire theme.

### FEBRUARY TAG DAYS

Any student who wore his/her school uniform to Church (and/or to a public place such as the mall) on Saturday, January 28, or Sunday, January 29, may come out of uniform for Student Appreciation Day on Wednesday, February 1.

The Student Council will be sponsoring a TAG DAY on Tuesday, February 14, in support of *Micah's Backpack*. Any student who brings an item to school listed on the Community Care Drive flyer by February 10 may come out of uniform in Valentine colors on February 14.

### OTHER NEWSWORTHY ITEMS

#### GRANT & AID AVAILABLE

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment conducts the financial need analysis for Saint Mary Catholic School. For the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, families applying for financial aid will need to complete an application and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment **by February 28, 2017, for Archdiocesan Assistance**, or by April 1, 2017, for tuition assistance from your parish. **All families** (Catholic and non-Catholic) are encouraged to apply; in fact, it is required if you will be requesting assistance. Applicants should apply online at [www.stmarycatholicsschool.org](http://www.stmarycatholicsschool.org) (Select Admissions tab; click on Financing Education) or at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.

### PRESCHOOL STORY & CRAFT TIME



Mrs. Jeanie Stark and Sister Aloysius are offering the next story and craft time for 3 to 5 year olds on March 15 at 12:00 P.M. (There will not be a story time in February.) Please contact Mrs. O'Connor if interested. [roconnor@stmarycatholicsschool.org](mailto:roconnor@stmarycatholicsschool.org).

### SMCS MEMORY BOOKS

Ms. Mary Poffenberger has been capturing special moments with her camera in order to document the 2016-2017 school year in the SMCS Memory Book. Online ordering is available through February 20.

1. Visit [www.memorybook.com/parentpay](http://www.memorybook.com/parentpay);

### SHIELD THE VULNERABLE

The Archdiocese of Baltimore and Saint Mary Catholic School are committed to providing a safe environment for children. Our procedures for volunteering in schools require that a volunteer who will have substantial contact with children must complete screening and training procedures that are outlined on the [www.archbalt.org](http://www.archbalt.org) website.

The current and effective version of the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Child and Youth Protection Policies and Procedures, including the *Statement of Policy for the Protection of Children & Youth* and the *Code of Conduct for Church Personnel of the Archdiocese of Baltimore*, which incorporates any revisions to the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Child and Youth Protection Policies and Procedures that may be made from time to time, is available on the Child and Youth Protection page of the Archdiocese of Baltimore's website and on the Archdiocese of Baltimore's online compliance management system, *Shield the Vulnerable*.

Please register as a St. Mary Catholic School Volunteer, at <http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/>. All new volunteers should complete the process as soon as possible. Please contact Jan McCarter, our screening coordinator, at [jmccarter@saintmarysonline.org](mailto:jmccarter@saintmarysonline.org), or (301)739-0390, ext. 129, with any questions or concerns.

Shield the Vulnerable training IS NOT complete until all parts of the process are fulfilled including the background check. Just completing the online training itself DOES NOT fulfill the requirements for Shield the Vulnerable.

2. Enter your pay code 82285 and click next; and
3. Buy a yearbook for \$20.00.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY SPELLING BEE



The Washington County Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, February 11, at Western Heights Middle School. The competition begins at 1:00 P.M. This year Spencer Pentony and Sofia Qaum from sixth grade, Gabriella McCafferty and Logan Flanagan from seventh grade, and Jackson Pentony and Yousuf Qaum from eighth grade will represent St. Mary Catholic School in the county competition. Congratulations and good luck!

## GEOGRAPHY BEE

All SMCS middle school students participate in the National Geographic Bee. This year the finalists from our classroom competitions, Phillip Aguila, Gabe Bachtell, Annie Balog, Max Larkin, Havilah Mangalapati, Owen O'Connor, Stephen Reiter, Matthew Stine, Gabriella Tedeschi, and Tyler Tran competed on stage. The 2016-17 Geography Bee winner for St. Mary Catholic School is Stephen Reiter. Phillip Aguila was the runner-up.

The school winner is given a seventy-five question test that must be completed in one hour. The test is sent to the National Geographic Society Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to be graded. Then each state sends one hundred students to its state capital to compete in order to select one winner to represent the state. The final fifty winners compete in Washington, D.C., in the final contest.

## HEALTH NEWS

The Washington County Health Department will be at SMCS for hearing & vision screening on March 15.



If you have any health-related questions, please contact Ms. Paula Radley at (301)733-1184, ext. 104, or by email, [pradley@stmarycatholicsschool.org](mailto:pradley@stmarycatholicsschool.org). Please keep the school informed of any updates to your child's immunization record.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER



St. Mary Catholic School follows the announcement for Washington County Public Schools. Please listen to your local radio stations or WHAG for possible school cancellations, late openings, or early dismissals. In the case of a two-hour delay, Pre-K will not have school. An email/text through ALERTSolutions will be sent.



If there is a two-hour delay due to inclement weather on February 3, the 12:00 dismissal is cancelled. Students will report to school two hours late and will be dismissed at 2:55. Pre-K will not have school.



## POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS

SMCS students have been earning keys throughout the month of January. We are truly blessed to have students who care about each other, who strive to excel in their academics, and who greet each school day with a smile.

As of January 29, the Key Count for students by grade level is as follows:

**Pre-Kindergarten: 74 keys**

**Kindergarten: 117 keys**

**First Grade: 200 keys**

**Second Grade: 99 keys**

**Third Grade: 130 keys**

**Fourth Grade: 90 keys**

**Fifth Grade: 122 keys**

**Sixth Grade: 153 keys**

**Seventh Grade: 79 keys**

**Eighth Grade: 201 keys**

A total of **1,254 keys** has been earned by SMCS students!

## SECOND TRIMESTER

The second trimester of the 2016-2017 school year will end on March 3.

### JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



SMCS students are invited to participate in Jump Rope for Heart during physical education classes during the week of February 13 in support of the American Heart Association. Mr. Hendershot is coordinating this endeavor and more information is forthcoming.

### SMGHS SPIRIT OF THE ROTARY

St. Maria Goretti High School (SMGHS) students who are members of the Spirit of the Rotary are volunteering to spend time with our students twice a month in our After-School Care Program. SMGHS students are planning activities and offering to help with homework.

### PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



NEW ADORERS are needed for the Perpetual Adoration Chapel located at St. Maria Goretti High School. "The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament...will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth." (Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

Call Mr. or Mrs. Ott for more information at 301-739-4167.

### THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Families are invited to St. Mary Church on February 4 and all First Saturdays to pray the Rosary at 8:00 A.M., attend First Saturday Mass at 8:30, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary. There will also be a procession around the Church immediately following 8:30 A.M. Mass.

### PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



Please remember Khawaja Ashraf (grandfather of Ranya and Rayan Shahid) who passed away this past month.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



### FEBRUARY GOOD SAMs

**I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s for January:**

Kindergarten – Philomena Ortiz  
First Grade – Conor Buckley  
Second Grade – Oliver Witt  
Third Grade – Josephine Muto  
Fourth Grade – Adam Kershner  
Fifth Grade – Collin Ambush  
Sixth Grade – Evan Weaver  
Seventh Grade – Ashley Kenny  
Eighth Grade – Niko Piette

**Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!**

### PHASE II RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

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 January winners:

**(\$50) Week 1: Mr. & Mrs. Blundell**

**(\$50) Week 2: Crystal Strother**

**(\$50) Week 3: Mr. & Mrs. Zanetti**

**(\$50) Week 4: Jackie Strama**