

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2017



St. Mary Catholic School

Challenging the Mind—Living the Faith

www.stmarycatholicschool.org



Dear SMCS Parents:

We ended our first month of school with such a special announcement! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to say thank you again for choosing SMCS for your children and for partnering with us to make SMCS such a special place. Hopefully, you noticed the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence logo that now appears on our newsletter. You will be seeing this logo that denotes exemplary teaching and learning in all future communications. This is a very proud time in the history of our school. We thank God for this blessing and continue to ask the Blessed Mother Mary, our patron saint, to guide us. Most of you have probably heard me refer to the color of our hallways on the middle school side of the building as Blessed Mother Blue, so the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence will definitely compliment our décor! We are in the process of planning activities to celebrate this recognition and will keep you informed.

In addition to being recognized as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, SMCS has also received Gold recognition as a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school for creating a respectful and safe learning environment that develops individual academic achievement and supports social and emotional growth. This is the highest award that is given through PBIS. Our PBIS Team is currently planning our gold celebration.

During this upcoming month, we will be strengthening our parent-teacher partnerships through conferencing about your children. Communication is an important support to our children's educational successes. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with you one-on-one to discuss your child's progress.

Also, during October, SMCS faculty, staff, and students will be honoring our school's patron saint, the Blessed Mother, during our First Friday Mass and through the daily praying of the rosary. St. Mary Church will be hosting the Rosary Congress from October 7 through October 13. We always ask for the Blessed Mother to keep our school in Her care. As a school community, we truly have so many blessings for which we are thankful.

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

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

October 4 & 5

Rummage Sale

October 6

10:30 A.M. First Friday Mass

October 17

Interim Reports Distributed

October 18 & 19

Noon Dismissal Days
Parent Conferences

October 31

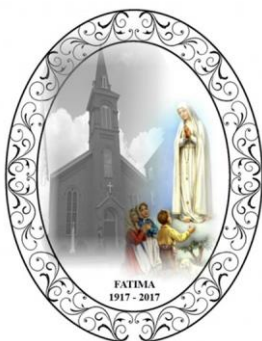
Halloween Treats

FAITH

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

Please join us on Friday, October 6, at 10:30 A.M., for our First Friday Mass. Father Cibelli will be the celebrant.

ROSARY CONGRESS



This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima from May 13 to October 13. The Archdiocese of Baltimore will observe this anniversary in a profoundly spiritual manner. From October 7 to 13, a Rosary Congress will be held on the campuses of several of our parishes. Archbishop Lori requested that St. Mary Parish be one of the sites.

The Rosary Congress consists of round the clock Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary's and recitation of the Rosary on the hour. At the 3:00 AM and 3:00 PM hours, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will follow the Rosary. Join in! It's as easy as taking out your phone, clicking the "Sign-Up" link

[Rosary Congress Sign up Genius](#)

on the St. Mary's homepage for the Rosary Congress, finding a time slot that works for you, then adding your name and email in the space provided.

Our students will be participating in the Rosary Congress by class.

CHILDREN'S AFTER-SCHOOL PRAYER GROUP

The Children's After-School Prayer Group needs parent volunteers. Mrs. Mary McNeil is willing to serve as the group's moderator, but she needs another adult to help. Eighth grade students will be asked to help plan and organize the prayer services in the Church from 3 to 3:45 P.M. on Mondays. If you are able to help, please email Mary McNeil, (emmbee@look-ma.com) about your availability.

FAMILY LIFE

As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Saint Mary Catholic School is required to offer a "Family Life" unit to students in grades K-8. The "Family Life" program will be taught for about two weeks beginning on November 1. The school will be using Benziger's *Family Life*. Parents will receive their copies of the supplemental materials to be used at home during parent conferences. For parents who are unable to attend parent conferences, the supplemental materials will be sent home with the children in a sealed brown envelope on October 20. A Declination Form is included in each packet and should only be completed if you want your child to "opt-out" of Family Life.

ST. MARY PARISH NEWS

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

A Penance Meeting will be held on October 17, at 6:30 P.M., for St. Mary Parish parents who have students receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this school year. Parents and children of the Parish must also attend a First Eucharist meeting on October 17, at 6:30 P.M.

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.

ROSARY CONGRESS

St. Mary Catholic Church

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 7

5:15 P.M. Opening Mass, candlelight Eucharistic Procession

October 8

5:00 P.M. Extraordinary Form of Mass

October 9

6:30 P.M. Mass

October 10

6:30 P.M. Mass

October 11

6:30 P.M. Mass

October 12

6:30 P.M. Mass

October 13

6:00 P.M. Closing Mass with candlelight Procession, Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Social in Fatima Hall

During the Rosary Congress, there will be 24/7 Adoration, the Rosary will be prayed every hour; and 6:30 A.M. Daily Mass (no 8:30 A.M. will be celebrated).



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS—H.S.A.

HSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Mrs. Bella Barron

Vice-President: Mr. Jack Dill

Corresponding Secretary: Mr. Jay Zuspan

Recording Secretary: Ms. Aggie Cantave

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Crystal Strother

Treasurer: Mrs. April Nitzell

SMCS CASINO NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION



Tickets are now on sale for the SMCS Casino Night and Silent Auction on October 21 at SMCS in Pangborn Hall. A fabulous evening is planned for adults, including food stations, cash bar, live music, fun games, fabulous prizes, raffles, and silent auction items. Enjoy a night out and help support SMCS!

Tickets are \$35.00 apiece or \$65.00 a couple!

MARTINS A+ REWARDS



Please sign up for this great program that generates money and costs nothing to participate! Once you register, all you need to do is shop and swipe your BONUS card every time you shop.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The SMCS Volunteer Program is off to a strong start. 261.86 volunteer hours have been logged as of September 25! It is great having so many parents and grandparents participating in the endless volunteer opportunities that exist at SMCS and that are vital to the mission of our school. Thank you!

- Our Top Ten Volunteers per Hours Logged are:**
- Crystal Strother
 - April Nitzell
 - Jennifer Smallwood
 - James & Stacey Renken
 - Keri Dill
 - Candice Romsburg
 - Stacey Stine
 - Tina Webster
 - Sarma & Tom McCafferty
 - Danielle Hubbard

Remember to log into HelpCounter (<http://helpcounter.org/main/index.php>) to track your hours. You will receive a monthly summary from HelpCounter at the end of each month. Trimester I ends on December 1, so a minimum of 10 hours must be logged by midnight on November 30, or notify the principal of your plan to complete the required hours. Questions can be emailed to volunteer@stmarycatholicsschool.org.

RUMMAGE SALE

If you have never experienced our Fall Rummage Sale, please consider volunteering on the set-up day (October 4) or the actual sale day (October 5). Last year the school profited over \$12,000, thanks to the fall and spring sales. A warm thank you is extended to Mrs. Mary Grove and all the volunteers who return year after year! Students may order lunch as usual that will be delivered to their classrooms at lunch time on October 4. Students must pack their own lunch and drink on Thursday, October 5.

**FALL USED UNIFORM SALE**

The Used Uniform Closet will be open on Parent Conference days, October 18 and 19, between 1:00 and 3:00.

SCRIP

Last year St. Mary families saved over \$12,000 in tuition by participating in the SCRIP Program. SCRIP dates this month are October 9 and 23.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL

Middle School Social will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on October 6. A dollar donation is required to help offset the cost of drinks and snacks.

**RESTAURANT NIGHT**

Western Sizzlin' is hosting a St. Mary Restaurant event on October 18. Eat out before or after your child's conference or in the evening until closing. A percentage of your bill will benefit SMCS HSA. We appreciate the generosity of the Romsburg family who owns Western Sizzlin'.

BAKE SALES

October 11: Fourth Grade

October 25: Seventh Grade

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 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, 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.

BOX TOPS

Thanks to Sister Corda, SMCS is able to profit from your BoxTops. Just send in the actual BoxTops to Sister Corda and she will take care of the rest. Remember to write your name on the envelope. Thank You!



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS & HOMEROOM REPRESENTATIVES

President: Matthew Stine
Vice-President: Spencer Pentony
Secretary: Finn McGreevy
Treasurer: Logan Flanagan
Parliamentarian: Ashley Kenny

HOMEROOM REPRESENTATIVES

4th grade – Samantha Ellis, Olivia Koccevar, Willa Pentony
5th grade – Sofia Alexander, Chloe Dellaposta, Madelyn Renken, Louis Maciulla, Leah McCafferty, Sonia Qaum, Neekie Rahimian, Lauren Stine
6th grade – Collin Ambush, Annabella Kenny, Zachary Kumar, Brynn Lietuvnikas
7th grade – Phillip Aguila, Emily Dellaposta, Brianna Ellis, Paige Smith, Noah Karn, Lucy Strama, Erica Weaver, Evan Weaver
8th grade - Ty Ambush, Louis Concordia, Gabrielle McCafferty

SEPTEMBER TAG DAY

Thank you is extended to all those students who supported the out-of-uniform day to Hurricane Relief efforts through Catholic Charities. \$295.75 was raised for this worthy cause. Students and staff enjoyed the Beach Colors.

OCTOBER TAG DAY

TAG Day is scheduled for Friday, October 27, to support *Doey's Hospice House of Washington County*. More information is forthcoming.

READ-A-THON



On Wednesday, November 8, St. Mary Catholic School faculty and students will read for 100 minutes in order to earn money to purchase Christmas gifts for needy families. Through total school participation in this READ-A-THON, this worthy endeavor will enable our students to earn money that will be used to make this Christmas

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The NJHS Executive Committee met on September 22nd where we discussed how our executive committee leaders can grow our club, and talked about the direction our NJHS chapter will take. We would like to be more visible in the community, so during our first whole-group meeting the last week of September, we discussed ideas for service and outreach projects. We are excited about the year ahead, and look forward to working on our showcase posters, where our 8th grade members are highlighted for their gift of service.

Executive Board members are:

Daniel Duncan – President
Noah Hall – Vice-President
Maxwell Larkin – Secretary
Rayan Shahid – Treasurer
Zachary Zanetti – Parliamentarian

Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in five areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

a happier time for families adopted by each grade through the Salvation Army Angel program. Students will be receiving more information directly from their homeroom teachers. For now, just help your child gather enough good books to read for 100 minutes!

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

Middle school students enjoyed the music and the time with friends at the Back-to-School Dance. The next dance hosted by the student council is a "Winter Dance," to be held on Friday, January 5, from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. **The dress code for the evening is "nice dress."** That means no jeans. Boys must wear nice slacks and a shirt with a collar. Girls may wear either nice slacks or an appropriate dress/skirt. No dresses with spaghetti straps or dresses that are strapless may be worn without a shrug, jacket, or cover-up. No severely tight tops or see-through blouses may be worn. Dresses that are too low-cut or too short may not be worn. **The key is modesty.** Students who arrive at the dance without the appropriate attire will not be admitted. Tickets will go on sale January 3. **The cost is \$5 if purchased in advance or \$6 if bought at the door.**



POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS

SMCS students have been earning keys throughout the month of September. 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 September 27, the Key Count for students by grade level is as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten: 132 keys

Kindergarten: 169 keys

First Grade: 278 keys

Second Grade: 101 keys

Third Grade: 222 keys

Fourth Grade: 109 keys

Fifth Grade: 200 keys

Sixth Grade: 162 keys

Seventh Grade: 100 keys

Eighth Grade: 200 keys

A total of **1,673 keys** have been earned by SMCS students!

OTHER NEWSWORTHY ITEMS

END OF WARM WEATHER UNIFORM DAYS

Friday, October 20, is the last day students may wear the optional warm weather uniform. Please refer to pages 27 through 31 of the Parent/Student Handbook for the Regular Uniform dress code. Special attention should be given to the guidelines regarding shoes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS

The t-shirts and sweatpants must have the school logo.

SWEATSHIRTS

As part of the school uniform, each student must own a SMCS sweatshirt. There are times, either for physical education class, field trips, or for attending Mass, when students want a sweatshirt to wear to be warm. Only the SMCS sweatshirts are to be worn with the school uniform. In addition to the crew necks, SMCS hoodies may be worn during the school day on physical education days only. For field trips, either the sweatshirt or the hoodie may be worn.

HALLOWEEN



Halloween is an exciting time for children to dress up and go trick-or-treating. Traditionally, our pre-kindergarten through grade two students are given the opportunity to dress up in school and have a party. Father Cibelli is in favor of traditions, but students must choose appropriate costumes. Movie stars, princesses, athletes, book characters, or maybe even saints would be good choices. Witches, goblins, devils, and other ghoulish outfits are not appropriate for a Catholic School. Parents are asked

to help their children select costumes that are acceptable and respectful of Father Cibelli's wishes. Students who have inappropriate costumes will not be allowed to dress up.

ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL

Our eighth grade students are invited to shadow a day at St. Maria Goretti High School (SMGHS) on October 18, 19, or November 15. Eighth grade parents should contact Mrs. Holly Katrina in the Admissions Office at (301)739-4266, ext. 132, to schedule a day. A flyer went home last week. The high school is also hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 29. Seventh graders will be visiting St. Maria Goretti High School on October 21 in the afternoon to learn more about high school.



CHRISTMAS SHOW DATES

- 7:00 P.M. on December 14—Grades 2 through 5 Christmas Show
- 9:15 A.M. on December 15—Pre-Kindergarten Christmas Show
- 1:45 P.M. on December 15—First Grade Christmas Alphabet Play
- 1:45 P.M. on December 18—Kindergarten Christmas Show

CRUSADER NEWS

Basketball season is just around the corner. There will be a parents' meeting for the girls' teams on October 11, at 6:30 P.M. in the cafeteria. As for the boys, their parents' meeting was held earlier in the week.



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



The SMCS Cross Country Team is in its second season for students in grades 3 through 8. Practices are held on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 at Black Rock Park. Congratulations to our Cross Country Team for placing FIRST in the FSCR Market Street Mile. For more information, contact Jonathan McGreevy (finmcg1976@aol.com) or Kevin Stine (kevin.m.stine@gmail.com). Students only need a love of running to join!

HEALTH NEWS



If you have any health-related questions, please contact Ms. Paula Radley at (301)733-1184, ext. 104, or by email, pradley@stmarycatholicsschool.org. Please continue to send in updated immunization forms.

SEPTEMBER GOOD SAMs

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

- Kindergarten – Chichebem Echibe
- First Grade – Trenten Ciucci
- Second Grade – Jersi Blundell
- Third Grade – Bella Maciulla
- Fourth Grade – Owen Ghattas
- Fifth Grade – Claire O'Connor
- Sixth Grade – Dominic McCormick
- Seventh Grade – Ethan Austin
- Eighth Grade – Laurel Rothstein

Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!

FIRE DRILLS & LOCKDOWNS

In accordance with state law, fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis. Students are instructed by the classroom teacher regarding the procedure and exits to be used for the fire drill. Signs are posted in all classrooms advising route of exit in the event of an emergency. Lockdown drills will be conducted twice a year. Parents will be notified through ALERT SOLUTIONS after a lockdown practice.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



301-739-4167.

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

RUMMAGE SALE SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Saint Mary Catholic School Annual Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled for Thursday, October 5. The set-up day is Wednesday, October 4. We are in need of volunteers. Please consider giving your time to this community-building event that does generate income for SMCS. Since school will be in session, the following safety procedures will be in place:

Wednesday, October 4 (Set-up)

- The sale is not open to the public.
- Students will come directly to the classrooms upon arrival in the morning.
- Students in grades K-8 who have a signed permission slip and money will be escorted to the sale in the afternoon by their classroom teachers and parent volunteers. (Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you can help chaperone.)
- Weather permitting, students will be outside for gym class in a roped-off portion of the playground near the middle-school doors.
- Break and recess will be indoors.
- Students will have lunch in their classrooms.

Thursday, October 5 (Sale Day)

- Students will come directly to the classrooms upon arrival in the morning.
- Pre-Kindergarten students will be on a field trip off campus for the day.
- The Rummage Sale will be held in Fatima Hall of the Parish Center, the cafeteria, and the Msgr. Passarelli room. Large items may be found on the Primary lot in the area outside the cafeteria.
- The stairwells leading from the cafeteria to the classrooms will be monitored. No one will be admitted upstairs.
- Students will have lunch in their classrooms.
- Break and recess will be indoors.
- Parent volunteers will visit the classrooms in the afternoon to sell baked goods to interested students.
- A paid HPD Officer will be on the grounds from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please remember Walter Kufera (father of Mrs. Jennifer Karn) and grandfather of Noah and Emma Karn) who passed away this past month.

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



ARRIVAL NEEDS

DROPPING OFF IN THE ALLEY

Children who are dropped off at the playground gates in the alley should be ready to get out of their cars immediately each morning. Drivers should not leave their vehicles nor stop traffic in the alley by remaining parked in the traffic lane. It is important that traffic keeps moving to avoid congestion on Walnut Street. Patience is appreciated!

WALNUT LOT

SMCS families are not to use the parking spaces that belong to the Walnut Clinic. Please park on the Church lot only. Also, drivers should yield the right of way to pedestrian traffic. It is all about the safety of our children! Thank you!

INTERNET SAFETY NIGHT

SMCS and SMGHS are partnering with the Washington County Sheriff's Office to host an Internet Safety Night, *A Parent's Guide to Social Media*, at St. Ann Church on October 26, at 6:00 P.M. More information is forthcoming.