
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2018



St. Mary Catholic School

Challenging the Mind—Living the Faith

www.stmarycatholicsschool.org



Dear Parents:

“Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” is the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2018. SMCS is joining Catholic schools across the nation in celebrating the core products and values that are only found in Catholic education. Students are learning to be future servant leaders, faith-filled disciples, and enriched citizens in our community. As educators and parents, we are all learners, servants, and leaders. It is this partnership that makes SMCS successful and what makes us a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

The official CSW logo brings the theme to life. The open book made up of multi-colored pages symbolizes how all areas of Catholic schools blend together, with faith — symbolized by the cross — at the forefront. Catholic schools are vibrant, dynamic, and excellent. Thank you for being part of our Catholic School! We hope you will join us in this celebration by attending our many planned events.

Plans for the 2018-2019 school year are well underway. Registration for families new to SMCS begins on January 27. Parents and students have always been our best marketers, so please help spread the news that SMCS is accepting new registrations. Just as the reregistration process is online, the application process for new students is also completed through SchoolAdmin.

Hopefully, the weather will cooperate during Catholic Schools Week, enabling us to celebrate St. Mary style throughout the week. Our students have been busy creating Blue Ribbon doors to highlight what makes their classrooms at SMCS a Blue Ribbon learning environment. Please join us and see for yourself!

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

January 27—February 2

Catholic Schools Week

January 29

Career Day

Dignitary Luncheon

January 30

Parent Visitation

9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

January 31

Student Appreciation Day & Talent Show

February 1

Grandparents' Day

February 2

10:30 First Friday Mass

Noon Dismissal

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

February 14

Ash Wednesday

February 19

No School—President's Day

February 20

No School—Professional Day

MARCH FOR LIFE



A group of SMCS parents and students participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 19. Attendees included Ty Ambush, Louis Concordia, Susan Concordia, Lleyton Foster, Lydia Giannaris, Noah Hall, Ashley Kenny, Max Larkin, Finn McGreevy, Anna Rohan, Rachel Rohan, Joseph Shultz, Matthew Stine, Georgie Tedeschi, Phillip Aguila, Michelle Beck, Pascal Echibe, Paige Smith, Otto Rice, Mr. Ambush, Mrs. Hall, Mr. McGreevy, Mr. Stine, and Ms. Ward. Our SMCS group joined thousands who *wanted to show their support to RESPECT LIFE!*

FIRST FRIDAY MASS—CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will conclude with the celebration of Mass at **10:30 A.M.** on Friday, February 2. Please join us.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE



February 3 is the feast day of St. Blaise. A special blessing of throats will take place before our First Friday Mass on February 2. *(May God through the intercession of Saint Blaise preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil.)*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14. All SMCS students will attend Mass on Ash Wednesday and receive ashes at 10:30 A.M.

LENTEN REMINDER

Meat will not be served on Ash Wednesday or on any Friday during Lent.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

Eighth graders who are members of St. Mary Parish will have Confirmation Immediate Preparation classes on Tuesdays, beginning on January 23 through March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Sign-in will start at 6:15 and classes will start promptly at 6:30.

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@stmarycatholicschool.org.

2018 HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Holy Days of Obligation for the year 2018 (those days, in addition to Sundays, we are obliged to worship God at Mass) are as follows:

- August 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary’s patronal feast day)
- November 1– All Saints Day
- December 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Nation’s patronal feast day)
- December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- January 1, 2019– Mary, the Holy Mother of God

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Students in grades three through eight attend Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 2:00 P.M. Thank you, Father Cibelli and Father Larry, for giving our students the opportunity to attend Stations of the Cross during school.

RECONCILIATION

On February 27, students in grades three through eight will attend a Penance Service and be given the opportunity to have their confessions heard during this Lenten season.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Eighth grade students are preparing presentations for the younger grades about Operation Rice Bowl. Students will be given "bowls" in which to put donations during Lent. Donations are due March 29. Checks are appreciated.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Catholic Schools Week for SMCS kicks off with our annual Pancake and Omelet Breakfast on Saturday, January 27, 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! Students are asked to wear his/her school uniform to Church (and/or to a public place such as the mall) on Saturday, January 27, or Sunday, January 28.

SHOW YOUR BLUE RIBBON PRIDE

As part of Student Appreciation Day on Wednesday, January 31, students are to wear their 2017 National Blue Ribbon shirts!

ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL TREATS SMCS STUDENTS

St. Maria Goretti High School students will be treating SMCS students to hot chocolate and cookies on Monday, January 29, between 7:45 and 8:15 A.M. in Pangborn Hall. We appreciate that SMGHS wants to help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

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



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 27

Pancake Breakfast

January 28

Student Speakers at Mass

January 29

Career Day

Dignitary Luncheon

January 30

Volunteer Reception

Parent Visitation

January 31

Student Appreciation Day

Talent Show

February 1

Grandparents' Day

February 2

Teacher Appreciation Day

10:30 Mass

Noon Dismissal

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 30

Parent Visitation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 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

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| First Lunch Shift | 11:30 to 12:00 | Grades 3, 4, 5 |
| Second Lunch Shift | 12:00 to 12:30 | Grades K, 1, 2 |
| Third Lunch Shift | 12:30 to 1:00 | Grades 6, 7, 8 |

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: FEBRUARY 1

Classroom Visitation Times (Students will be in homerooms.)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Grades 3, 4, 5 | 10:30 to 11:30 |
| Grades K, 1, 2 | 11:00 to 12:00 |
| Grades 6, 7, 8 | 11:30 to 12:30 |

Lunch provided to Grandparents & Students by HSA

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| First Lunch Shift | 11:30 to 12:00 | Grades 3, 4, 5 |
| Second Lunch Shift | 12:00 to 12:30 | Grades K, 1, 2 |
| Third Lunch Shift | 12:30 to 1:00 | Grades 6, 7, 8 |

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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

FAMILY BINGO

The Home & School Association is planning our annual Family BINGO Night event for Saturday, February 10. Come enjoy dinner and an evening of fun for the whole family. Meal includes pizza and drinks. Baked goods will be for sale.



KIDSCASTER

Ava Stumpf did a great job as a Kidscaster on WDVM! Do you want to represent SMCS as a future Kidscaster? Students in grades 3 through 5 can submit a weather picture just like Ava did. Check out WDVM Kidscast homepage for submission guidelines.

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 22, 3,481.13** 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:

Bella Barron
Cassandra Kinna
April Nitzell
Crystal Stother
Candice Romsburg
Stacey Stine
Cathy & Brandon Ellis
James & Stacey Renken
Jennifer & DJ Smallwood
Tina Webster

Remember to log into HelpCounter to track your hours. Trimester II started on December 4 and ends on March 9. Hours need to be logged by midnight March 8. Questions can be emailed to volunteer@stmarycatholicschool.org.

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 are due by February 2 and space is limited to the first 50 families. We thank you in advance for your support of this event!

SCRIP



Last year St. Mary families saved over \$12,000 in tuition by participating in the SCRIP Program. SCRIP dates this month are February 5, 16, and 26.

BAKE SALE



The third grade bake sale is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7.

BOX TOPS



Thanks to Sister Corda and our SMCS families, SMCS received a check for \$548.20 as our December payout. Ms. Janice Witmer has graciously offered to coordinate this program going forward. Please send in the Box Tops you have collected by February 9. Thank You!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL



The next Middle School Social will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on February 9. A dollar donation is required to help offset the cost of drinks and snacks.

CHILI COOK OFF DINNER

Congratulations are extended to our Chili Cook Off Chefs. First place was awarded to Jeff Britton; second place went to DJ Smallwood; and third place was won by Matthew Harchick. Jennifer Harman did a fabulous job organizing this event. All who attended enjoyed delicious chili and good fellowship!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

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



JANUARY GOOD SAMS

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

Kindergarten – Abigail Ghattas
First – Addison Goetz
Second – Anna Capobianco
Third – Emma Karn
Fourth – Ella Britton
Fifth – Owen Ignatowski
Sixth – Brynn Lietuvnikas
Seventh – Spencer Pentony
Eighth – Ashley Kenny

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. Echibe
(\$50) Week 2: The Barbitta Family
(\$50) Week 3: Mr. & Mrs. Strama
(\$50) Week 4: Kimberly Bowers
(\$100) Week 5: TBA

FEBRUARY TAG DAY

The Student Council will be sponsoring a TAG DAY on Tuesday, February 13, in memory of Sister Corda in support of REACH. Any student who brings an item to school listed on the Community Care Drive flyer between January 22 and February 7 may come out of uniform in Valentine colors on February 13.

OTHER NEWSWORTHY ITEMS

GRANT & AID AVAILABLE

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment conducts the financial need analysis for St. Mary Catholic School. For the upcoming 2018-2019 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, 2018, for Archdiocesan Assistance**, or by April 1, 2018, 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 (Select Admissions tab; click on Financing Education) or at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.

REREGISTRATION

Parents are to use SchoolAdmin to reregister their children for the 2018-2019 school year.

SMCS MEMORY BOOKS

Ms. Mary Poffenberger has been capturing special moments with her camera in order to document the 2017-2018 school year in the SMCS Memory Book. Online ordering is available through March 2.

1. Visit www.online-pay.memorybook.com/parent;
2. Enter your pay code 86153 and click next; and
3. Buy a yearbook for \$20.00.

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, 2018. A flyer is forthcoming.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SPELLING BEE



The Washington County Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, February 17, at Western Heights Middle School. The competition begins at 1:00 P.M. This year Zachary Kumar and Abigail Harman from sixth grade, Lucy Strama and Sofia Qaum from seventh grade, and Gabrielle McCafferty and Zachary Zanetti from eighth grade will represent St. Mary Catholic School in the county competition. Congratulations and good luck!

VIRTUS

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, *VIRTUS*.

Please register as a St. Mary Catholic School Volunteer, at <http://www.virtusonline.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.

Virtus 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 volunteering.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

All SMCS middle school students participate in the National Geographic Bee. This year the finalists from our classroom competitions, Cardin Dang, Abigail Harman, Phillip Aguila, Spencer Pentony, Jillienne Smith, Louis Concordia, Logan Flanagan, Saif Khan, Max Larkin, Shannon Quinones, and Rayan Shahid competed on stage. The 2017-18 Geographic Bee winner for St. Mary Catholic School is Phillip Aguila. Logan Flanagan is the runner-up.

As the school winner, Phillip will go on to take the online state qualifying test. The top scorers in each state go on to participate in their state bee, from which one winner from each state will advance to the 2018 National Geographic Bee finals in Washington, D.C., in May.



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.

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 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. If Washington County calls a two-hour delay on one of our scheduled 12:00 P.M. dismissal days, school is cancelled. Please listen to your local radio stations



for possible school cancellations, late openings, or early dismissals. An email/text through ALERT Solutions will be sent.

IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please remember Heath Mentzer (son of Mrs. Faith Mentzer) who passed away this past month.

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

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 24, the Key Count for students by grade level is as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten: 64 keys

Kindergarten: 134 keys

First Grade: 351 keys

Second Grade: 108 keys

Third Grade: 150 keys

Fourth Grade: 46 keys

Fifth Grade: 93 keys

Sixth Grade: 165 keys

Seventh Grade: 76 keys

Eighth Grade: 101 keys

A total of **1,288 keys** has been earned by SMCS students!