

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2019



St. Mary Catholic School

Challenging the Mind—Living the Faith

www.stmarycatholicsschool.org



Dear Parents:

During this Lenten season, our students and faculty were encouraged to perform spiritual works, such as attending the Stations of the Cross, taking time for prayer and spiritual reading, praying for others, and making a good confession. These works helped us focus on repenting sin and renewing our faith in preparation for celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. We are reminded that God sent His only Son to die on the cross, so we can enjoy the promise of eternal life. In our Catholic school, our children are able to reflect on God's love and to grow in their faith! As parents, your sacrifices are providing an environment for our children to grow closer in their relationship with God. What a beautiful gift!

On behalf of Father Cibelli 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 29, the end of the school year comes into sight.

Although April is a short month, it brings many special events, such as standardized testing, the SMCS Night at the Museum, American Legion Dinner for the Essay Contest Winners, and the optional spring uniform. Please read through the newsletter to keep informed of all upcoming events.

As a school community, we will continue to come together for Stations of the Cross each Friday at 2:00 P.M. Families are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl and to attend the Lenten Soup Suppers on Friday evenings at St. Mary. We, as a school community, will work together to prepare our hearts for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

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

May God Bless you!
Patricia A. McDermott

MISSION STATEMENT

St. 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

April 1-9

Standardized Testing for Grades 2-8

April 2

SMCS Night at the Museum
American Legion Dinner for
Essay Winners

April 5

First Friday Mass at 1:30 P.M.

April 8

Preschool Story Time at 12:10 P.M.

April 12

Stations of the Cross at 2:00 P.M.

April 15

T-3 Interims Distributed

April 17

Prayer Service at 2:00 P.M.

April 18-28

Easter Break

April 29

School Resumes
Optional Spring Uniform Begins

FAITH

SCHOOL MASS

Please join us for First Friday Mass on April 7. Due to standardized testing, Mass will be held at 1:30 P.M.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our last Stations of the Cross will be held on April 12 at 2:00 P.M. Please join us. Thank you, Father Cibelli 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 12. Checks are appreciated. Thank you is extended to Ms. Ward for coordinating this worthy endeavor.

PRAYER SERVICE

Our National Junior Honor Society will lead our Lenten Prayer Service on April 17 before we begin our Easter Break.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Thanks to a very generous donation, Net Ministries is able to offer retreats to Catholic Parishes and Schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Net Ministries will be on our campus on Tuesday, April 16, for a special retreat for our middle school students.

YEAR OF SERVICE



For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. Ephesians 2:10

In keeping with our Year of Service in living out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, the Student Council continues to sponsor TAG days once a month to support various charities.

TRIMESTER NEWS

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Students in grades 2 through 8 will be given the *Iowa Assessments*™ April 1 through April 9. A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days.

ST. MARY PARISH NEWS

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday (April 18):

6:30 A.M. Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Tenebrae); no 6:30 A.M. or 8:30 A.M. Mass; 7:30 P.M. Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, including Compline (Night Prayer) at 11:45 P.M., followed by Non-solemn Adoration until 6:30 A.M.; Sign up for a half-hour time slot online at <https://bit.ly/2MVtA88>

Good Friday (April 19):

12:00 A.M. –6:30 A.M. Non-solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Sign up for a half-hour time slot online at <https://bit.ly/2MVtA88>); 6:30 A.M. Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Tenebrae); no 6:30 A.M. or 8:30 A.M. Mass; 3:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion; and 7:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross

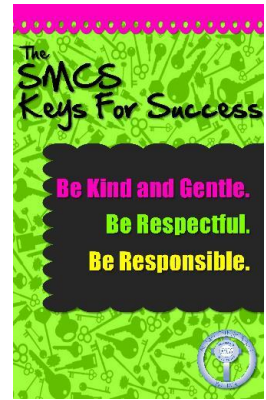
Holy Saturday (April 20):

6:30 A.M. Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Tenebrae); no 8:30 A.M. Mass; 8:45 P.M. Mass of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday (April 21):

Mass schedule 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., and 11:30 A.M (Sung Mass in the Extraordinary Form)

- Reschedule dentist appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.



ACADEMICS

The second trimester of the 2018-2019 school year ended on Friday, March 8. The Archdiocese of Baltimore Department of Catholic Schools has standardized the requirements for Middle School Honor Rolls across the Archdiocese. Students who demonstrate high academic achievement and who positively impact the learning environment are placed on Honor Roll based on the following criteria:

Principal's Honor Roll – All A's and Satisfactory or better in all special classes, standards, effort, and conduct, including unstructured time

Second Honors – all A's and B's (more A's than B's) and Satisfactory or better in all special classes, standards, effort, and conduct, including unstructured time

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

8th Grade: Brianna Ellis, Paul Jenny, Isabella Muto, Sofia Qaum, Jillienne Smith, Lucy Strama, Erica Weaver, Evan Weaver, Daisy Zheng

7th Grade: Evie Brauner, Zachary Kumar, Brynn Lietuvnikas, Sullivan McGreevy

6th Grade: Diego Cabezas, Brooks Carpenter, Owen Liu, Louis Macuilla, Leah McCafferty, Madeline Mercurio-Vitulli, Sonia Qaum, Neekie Rahimian, Madelyn Renken, Lauren Stine

SECOND HONORS

8th Grade: Quinn Nguyen

7th Grade: Isabelle Becker, Anthony Corsi, Cardin Dang, Katelyn Hubbard, Ethan Knipple, Grace McMahan

6th Grade: Grace Hollingsworth, Owen Ignatowski, Raniya Shahid

INTERIM REPORTS

Interim Reports for the third trimester will be distributed on April 15.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS

SMCS students have been earning keys throughout the month of March. 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 March 22, the Key Count for students by grade level is as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten: 82 keys

Kindergarten: 323 keys

First Grade: 340 keys

Second Grade: 118 keys

Third Grade: 101 keys

Fourth Grade: 133 keys

Fifth Grade: 82 keys

Sixth Grade: 136 keys

Seventh Grade: 85 keys

Eighth Grade: 98 keys

A total of **1,498** has been earned by SMCS students!

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

HSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-President: Ms. Aggie Cantave
Co-President: Mrs. Cassie Kinna
Vice-President: Mr. Jack Dill
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Kelly Byrne
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Jackie Strama
Bookkeeper: Mrs. Crystal Strother
Treasurer: April Nitzell

HSA ELECTIONS

Looking to next year, the offices of Co-President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer will need to be filled by parents who are willing to take an active role as a leader on the HSA executive board. The returning officers are Mrs. Cassie Kinna (Co-President), Mrs. Kelly Byrne (Corresponding Secretary), and Crystal Strother (Bookkeeper). Please prayerfully consider becoming an HSA officer for the 2019-2020 school year. The term commitment is two years. Nominations are still being accepted.

SCRIP



St. Mary families who participate in the SCRIP Program help keep their tuition affordable. SCRIP dates this month are April 8 and 29.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL



The next Middle School Social is from 3:00 to 4:30 on May 10.

HERSHEY PARK FUNDRAISER

Are you planning an outing to Hershey Park this year? This fundraiser is an opportunity for you to purchase tickets at a reduced rate and support the SMCS HSA. Tickets may still be purchased.



GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY

Thank you is extended to all the SMCS families who participated in this optional fundraiser.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We are well into the third trimester of the school year. As of **March 26**, **3,429.78** 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:

Brandon & Cathy Ellis
Cassandra Kinna
Jack & Keri Dill
Leslie Kocovar
Stacey & James Renken
Marshall & Vickie Hammer
Candice Romsburg
Kelly & Kelly Byrne
Sarma & Tom McCafferty

Remember to log into HelpCounter to track your hours. Trimester III started on March 9th and ends on June 13. Hours need to be logged by midnight June 13. Questions can be emailed to volunteer@stmarycatholicsschool.org.

PHASE II RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the March winners:

(\$50) Week 1: The Lietuvnikas Family
(\$50) Week 2: Gary Bockrath
(\$50) Week 3: Shazia Mahmood
(\$100) Week 4: Shylo Martinez

FAMILY BINGO

Many thanks are extended to the following families who sponsored our Family Bingo Night: Corsi, Pinacho, Smallwood, Nitzell, McDermott, Rice, Brauner, Renken, Kumar, Horn, Reibsome, Bhutto, Stark, and McMahon. The event profited \$1,019.92 in benefit of our Pre-K program.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Noah Karn

Vice-President: Collin Ambush

Secretary: Henry Ortiz

Treasurer: Sullivan McGreevy

Parliamentarian: Otto Rice

MARCH TAG DAY

St. Patrick's Day at SMCS is always a fun day, even when it falls on the weekend! It is amazing how many students get into sharing their Irish Spirit! This Tag Day raised \$181.25 to benefit Children's Village.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The last dance of the year will be held on Friday, May 17. Theme and attire guidelines are forthcoming.

OTHER NEWSWORTHY ITEMS

REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Registration for students new to SMCS is now underway. If you know a family interested in learning more about St. Mary Catholic School, please encourage the family to contact us for a tour.

EIGHTH GRADE RECOGNITION

Eighth grade is such a special year for our students at SMCS. Please keep our eighth graders in your prayers as they complete their final trimester at SMCS. *The Class of 2019* includes Michelle Beck, Brooklyn Cathor, Pascal Echibe, Brianna Ellis, Paul Jenny, Noah Karn, Austin Latimer, Connor McCardell, Isabella Muto, Quynh Nguyen, Sofia Qaum, Otto Rice, Jillienne Smith, Paige Smith, Jillian Sommerville, Lucy Strama, Erica Weaver, Evan Weaver, and Daisy Zheng.



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.

AMERICAN LEGION ESSAY CONTEST

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary, Morris Frock Unit 42, sponsors the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's topic was "How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?" First place winners receive \$50 cash, second place winners receive \$35 cash, and third place winners receive \$25 cash. **SMCS students received seven out of the nine awards given!** Students will be recognized at a special dinner on April 2.

And the winners are:

Class I: Grades 3 & 4

1st Place: **Bella Maciulla**; 2nd Place: **Brayden Barbitta**; 3rd Place: **George Freeman**

Class II: Grades 5 & 6

1st Place: **Spencer Byers**; 2nd Place: **Lauren Stine**; 3rd Place: **Neekie Rahimian**

Class III: Grades 7 & 8

3rd Place: **Caroline Carpenter**

INTERMEDIATE SPELLING BEE

On March 22, students from the third, fourth, and fifth grades participated 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.

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

Third Grade: Jersi Blundell, Dominic Corsi, Conor Buckley, George Freeman, Charlotte Harman, Nina Rahimian, and Eli Rodriguez

Fourth Grade: Addison Becker, Corrina Byrne, Eric Cabezas, Riley Horn, Emma Karn, Kaitlyn O'Berry, Molly Pentony, Louisa Poffenberger, Hailie Pryor, and Lucy Zuspan

Fifth Grade: Ella Britton, Miles Campbell, Francesco Capobianco, Jocelyn Dunahugh, Sabrina Harman, Johan Michael, Ayush Patel, and Willa Pentony
And the winners are...

Third Grade: Nina Rahimian

Fourth Grade: Louisa Poffenberger

Fifth Grade: Johan Michael

The overall Intermediate Spelling Bee Champion is Johan Michael



HEALTH NEWS



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



GOOD SAMS

But a certain Samaritan being on his journey, came near him; and seeing him, was moved with compassion. Luke 10:33

Each month teachers select a student who exemplifies our SMCS Keys for Success by being kind and gentle, respectful, and responsible, just as the Good Samaritan demonstrated on his journey. Teachers tie the SMCS Keys for Success back to the Bible verses that reflect these attributes.

I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s from February:

Kindergarten – Layton Nicodemus

First Grade – Sean Buckley

Second Grade – Cecilya Pryor

Third Grade – Jersi Blundell

Fourth Grade – Lucy Zuspan

Fifth Grade – Willa Pentony

Sixth Grade – Leah McCafferty

Seventh Grade – Collin Ambush

Eighth Grade – Quinn Nguyen

Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!

The Good SAMs for March will be announced on April 5 before First Friday Mass which is at 1:30 P.M.

SMCS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



For the fifth year in a row, the art work of SMCS students will be showcased at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. Mrs. Renken and her students are creating beautiful pieces of art that will be on display during a special reception on April 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Be prepared to be amazed at the artistic talent of our students!

ANNUAL FUND

SMCS will be kicking off the start of its fifteenth Annual Fund Campaign. The SMCS Annual Fund helps the school to invest in new programs, to maintain and upgrade technology, to offset tuition increases, and to enhance other aspects of our students' educational experience. Please prayerfully consider making a donation this year. Many thanks are extended to Mrs. Carrie Stumpf for chairing this endeavor.

GUEST READERS AT WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

On Friday, March 22, Mrs. Stumpf and four SMCS students had the opportunity to read as special guests at the Washington County Free Library during their Preschool Story Time program. The students did a great job engaging the young preschoolers! Thank you, Leona Alexander, Conor Buckley, Mia Johnson, and Alex Stonebraker, for your hard work.

RACE 4 TECHNOLOGY

This year's Race 4 Technology will take place on May 15, 2019. The students are writing letters to family members, friends, and/or local businesses about the importance of this event. This is a great way to reach out to others who support our children and SMCS, but do not know how they can make a difference. Submissions are already rolling in for the Race 4 Technology t-shirt design contest. Please be sure your submission is handed in before dismissal on April 12, 2019, so it can be considered for the contest. The 1st place winner will receive a \$50 iTunes gift card.

IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please remember Mrs. Carolyn Bryant (former SMCS Teacher and Second Grade Teacher Assistant), who passed away this past month. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Invitations to apply to the SMCS George A. Limmer Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society were extended last week to current sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or above for their middle school semesters. After T2 report cards were distributed, student G.P.A. records were reviewed to determine eligibility status. All eligible students were notified personally and given an application packet. Completed application packets must be returned to Mrs. Karn by 12:00 P.M. on April 10. The faculty council will extend membership to the NJHS based on each applicant's scholarship, leadership, citizenship, character, and service. The induction ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 P.M. Current officers will assist in the induction ceremony.

Executive Board members are:

- Brianna Ellis – President
- Erica Weaver – Vice-President
- Brynn Lietuvnikas – Secretary
- Jillienne Smith – Treasurer
- Isabella Muto – Parliamentarian