



CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Dear Families of St. Mary Parish School,

As we step into the beautiful season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on the hope and anticipation that make this time of year so special. There is something truly profound about preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

I love Advent because it invites us to pause in the midst of the busy holiday season and focus on the promises of God. The joy in our children's eyes as they see the twinkling lights and sparkling decorations reminds us of the wonder and awe that this season brings. Through their excitement, we catch a glimpse of the boundless hope that Advent offers.

Advent is also a time to embrace the love of Jesus that unites us as a Christian community. In every act of kindness, every prayerful moment, and every shared smile, we reflect His light to one another. This season calls us to prepare, not just our homes but our hearts, for the miraculous gift of Emmanuel—God with us.

Isaiah 9:6 beautifully reminds us of this hope: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

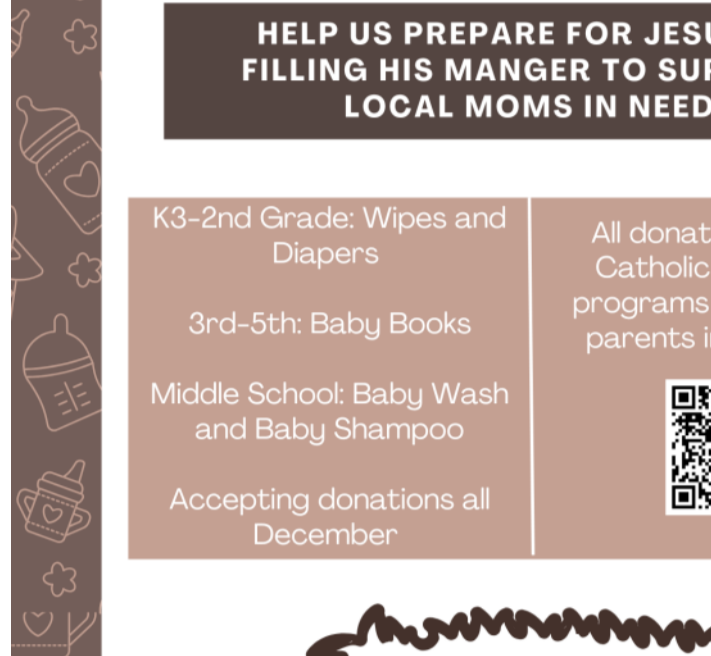
As we journey through Advent, let us hold on to this promise and Tell the Good News with those around us. Let the words of the cherished hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" guide our hearts:

*"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel."*

May your Advent season be filled with anticipation, joy, and the love of Christ. May we as a community come together to reflect His light and prepare our hearts to welcome Him anew.

With hope and blessings,

Annemarie Wood



UPCOMING EVENTS	
Dec. 9	Panera Restaurant Night 4 - 8pm
Dec. 18	Home & School Meeting School Conf. Rooms 5:30pm
Dec. 19	K5 - 2nd Grade Musical: We Knead a Little Christmas (with Nativity to follow) 6:30pm (Doors open at 6pm)
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Jan. 17	Movie Night
Jan. 20	No School (Teacher PD)
Jan. 26	Open House
Jan. 27-31	Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 29	Home and School Meeting, 5:30pm
Feb. 19	Parent-Teacher Conferences (evening)
Feb. 20	Early Release (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

[View 2024-2025 Academic Calendar here](#)

St. Mary Parish School Proudly Presents...

WE KNEAD a Little Christmas

Thursday, Dec 19th
1p Matinee
Doors open @ 12:30
6:30 Evening
Doors open @ 6

CASH Admission \$5 Adults / \$3 College Children FREE

Design by Oliver H.

BABY SUPPLY DRIVE

HELP US PREPARE FOR JESUS BY FILLING HIS MANGER TO SUPPORT LOCAL MOMS IN NEED

- K3-2nd Grade: Wipes and Diapers
 - 3rd-5th: Baby Books
 - Middle School: Baby Wash and Baby Shampoo
- Accepting donations all December
- All donations go to Catholic Charities programs to support parents in our area
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We're expecting! Tell the Good News Advent 2024

ADVENT CALENDARS - Each floor features an Advent calendar and we open two windows each day.

GO OUT! GO OUT! WORLD! TELL THE GOOD NEWS!

TO ALL THE GOOD NEWS!

WREATHS & CLASSROOM MANAGERS - Each classroom has a paper manager to fill with acts of kindness represented by they for a soft bed for Jesus.

SERVICE PROJECT - We're collecting baby supplies for Catholic Charities:

- K3-5 Primary: Diapers/Wipes
- 3-5 Elementary: baby books
- Middle: Baby Wash/Baby Shampoo

PRAYER SERVICE - 7th graders were wonderful leading us all in prayer and sharing the Good News!

"Underground Spirit Week"

Your school staff had some silly fun this week with their own "Underground Spirit Week." This is an unofficial spirit week only for the staff. Our incredible teachers work hard and they deserve to play hard too. Our favorite part was the reactions on the students faces as they figured out the silliness.

What was the staff up to this week? *Underground Spirit Week*

The St. Mary's staff had a little secret fun this week.

- Messy Monday** - Photos of staff making a mess.
- Dress like our PE Teacher Day** - Photos of staff in PE gear.
- Purple Day** - Photos of staff in purple.

Anything but a Cup Day - Photos of staff holding various items instead of cups.

Bring your Comfort Day - Photos of staff wearing cozy clothing and blankets.

Sponsored by the St. Mary's Middle School Service Club

FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 18TH THROUGH DECEMBER 16TH.

Did you know that the pantry serves over 300 children each month?

Did you know the food pantry serves Colgate, Germantown, Richfield, Lannon, Brookfield, and the greater Menomonee Falls area?

Did you know that almost 300 senior citizens use the food pantry every month?

The need is great, so let's start the Christmas season by bringing in needed food for members of our community.

On December 9th the class with the most food donations will win a class prize. At the end of the drive, the winning class will win an out of uniform pass.

PLEASE HAVE STUDENTS BRING THEIR DONATIONS TO THEIR CLASSROOM

Telling our Good News!

The Good News is "Christmas Parade"

St. Mary students and families represented our wonderful school community in the Menomonee Falls Christmas Parade last Sunday. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen as well as all of the students and families who braved the cold and walked with us! We shared the meaning of Christmas with our community and the joy of our children!



Director of Teaching: From the Desk of Mrs. Mogilevsky:

Ask Questions to Understand Thinking

Encourage your child to explain their ideas by asking questions like:

- "What do you notice?"
- "How did you figure that out?"
- "Can you show your thinking?"

Curiosity about their process helps them develop confidence and a deeper understanding.

Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best:

We're proud to have such great teachers here at St. Mary and we want to share how much they're appreciated by our students and community. This week we are highlighting our 4th grade teacher, Ms. Curran.

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Curran, 4th Grade

"Ms. Curran has been a joy to get to know this school year. She is easy to talk to and the kids love her! Her organized classroom and interactions with the students show that teaching is a passion for her. We are lucky to have her skills at St. Mary's!" - Libby Hietpas

"Ms. Curran always encourages me and pushes me to next level." - Eagan

"Miss Curran is very nice and she does fun activities for Christmas. She is the best!" - Maria

[Read more quotes shared about Ms. Curran here.](#)

Home & School Updates:

We're raising dough!

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

December 9, 2024
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

W176 N9340 Rivercrest Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI

Use code **FUND4U** at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

30% OF NET SALES DONATED!

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera FUNDRAISING

*20% fundraiser: Up to 20% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$500 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 20% donation. 25% fundraiser: Up to 25% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$500 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 25% donation. General terms: Details on percentages of net sales to be donated and the minimum sales required are included and will appear on the event registration process. Fundraising events available only at participating US bakery-cafes. Fundraising event details and available dates and times for fundraising events will vary by bakery-cafe. Gift card purchases, catering orders, and orders placed on their early order pickup days are restricted and will not count towards fundraising events. Fundraising events may be cancelled without notice due to strikes, union issues, computer errors, electrical or technical malfunctions, or other unforeseen or unusual circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. For more information on how our fundraising events work, please visit: <https://fundraising.panerabread.com/faq>. © 2024 Panera Bread. All rights reserved.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your help! Our St. Mary Volunteers are the best, and we're looking for more parents/volunteers to help for our daily volunteer needs! Thank you in advance for your consideration in signing up and volunteering! **Please note, all volunteers must have completed the Safeguarding Training. If you have not done so, please contact the School Office at office@smsps.school*

[Playground](#) Volunteer Sign Up

[Lunchroom](#) Volunteer Sign Up

Join us for our Next Home & School Meeting: Dec. 18th at 5:30pm

All our welcome to join us at our next H&S meeting on Dec. 18th at 5:30 in the school conference rooms (lower level). Please enter using the blue double doors in the alleyway off of Hayes avenue.

Take a look at our Home and School Activities Calendar [here](#) for a peek at all H&S sponsored events scheduled this school year! Add these fun dates to your personal calendar so you are able to take part in these community-building school-based events!

Athletics Updates:

WARRIOR ATHLETICS

BOYS BASKETBALL - Saturday, Dec. 7th

- 8:15AM - 8th Notre Dame at Home
- 9:15AM - 8th Notre Dame at Home
- 9:15AM - 8th Don Bosco Blue at St. Agnes
- 10:15AM - 7th Notre Dame at Home
- 10:15AM - 5th Don Bosco Blue at St. Agnes
- 11:15AM - 5th Don Bosco Gold at Home
- 1PM - 5th Don Bosco Gold at Home
- 6PM - 6th Don Bosco Blue at St. Mary Visitation

GIRLS BASKETBALL - Saturday, Dec. 7th

- 8:15AM - 7th Notre Dame at Christ King
- 2PM - 5th Don Bosco Gold at Home
- 3PM - 5th Don Bosco Gold at Home

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Basketball games are starting this weekend and we will need volunteers to help with admissions and concessions. [Please sign up here.](#) Thank you!

Parish Updates:

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

ST. MARY
Masses: 6:30 am & 8:10 am
Confession: Noon

ST. ANTHONY
Masses: 8 am & 6 pm
Confession: 5 pm

PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED

Support St Mary school when you do your holiday shopping

Did you know you can support the school just by doing your holiday shopping? Join our RaiseRight program and earn money for the parish simply by buying gift cards. You can learn more information online at <https://stmaryparishschool.org/raiserright/>. Forms are also available in the school and parish office. The next deadline is Dec. 16!

End of Life Talk on Dec. 11

Have questions about end-of-life issues? Fr. Andrew Linn and Director of Formation Aaron Ebert will be offering a brief talk about Catholic moral teaching on end-of-life decisions on Wednesday, Dec. 11. The talk will serve as an overview of the recently released 4th edition of "Now and at the Hour of Our Death," a pastoral letter offering moral guidance on end-of-life issues from the Catholic bishops of Wisconsin. Join us at 11:20 am in the lower-level conference room of St. Mary Parish School, just before the December Senior Social. If you're staying for lunch, please RSVP to Karen Z. (414) 355-1074

Calendar Raffle Winners:

Congratulations to these \$30 winners drawn Dec. 4th:
Chris Stueland, Becky Rusch, Ron Manthey, and Sue Brandt

And Special Congrats to this \$150 winner drawn on Dec. 6th:
Laura Welch

Thank you for your participation!

In the Community:

Milwaukee Children's Choir

JOIN MCC TODAY!

Milwaukee's Premier Children's Choir is Enrolling New Members TODAY!

bragle@wcmcc.org
414-276-5760
www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org

The Milwaukee Children's Choir is celebrating it's 30th season in style! Enrollment is now open for students in grades 1-5 to join in January - and we have rehearsal locations in both Elm Grove and Downtown Milwaukee.

"Lilah and Stella (4th grade) joined MCC this past fall and just performed in their first concert last weekend. The entire choir did amazing. Lilah and Stella really love their teacher, Ms. Marks, and I can tell they're both learning and growing in their skills. They continue to genuinely look forward to their weekly rehearsals and are already excited for their next concerts!" - Heather McCabe

If you have questions or are ready to enroll, contact: Dr. John Bragle, Senior Director of Education, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, 414-276-5760