

CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Dear Families,

Today we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception: Full of Grace. On this Holy Day, we remember that Mary was conceived without sin, and so was chosen from the very first moment of her life to be the mother of Jesus. There is a 6PM Mass tonight at St. Mary if you were unable to make it to Mass earlier today.

Are you looking for some ways to better prepare your family for Christmas and more fully participate in the Advent Season? You may be aware of the 3-year [National Eucharistic Revival](#) that is currently underway throughout the U.S. If not (or for those who need a refresher) the National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore and deepen understanding of the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist — the real presence of our Lord Jesus, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. This year is about fostering Eucharistic devotion through the faithful celebration of the Mass, Confession, and Eucharistic adoration.

This weekend, all families are invited to attend a special opportunity for Family Eucharistic Adoration and Confession after the 9:30 am Mass. If you have never been to Eucharistic Adoration, or have been unsure about what it is, this will be a great opportunity to experience it in a relaxed atmosphere with other families.

If you'd like to learn more before attending, or read some tips to prepare children, Ellen Schlosser (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator for the parish) put together this ["cheat sheet."](#) This is a great way to prepare your family for Christmas, and participate fully in the Advent season.

Another way to get in the spirit of the season is to serve at Mass as ushers as a family. There will be a meeting about how to serve at Mass in this way after the 7:30 am Mass. If you are unable to attend, you can contact the parish office at (262) 251-0220 or email memories@stam.church.

Speaking of preparing, the kindergarten, first, and second graders continue working hard to prepare for their upcoming performance of **"Away in a Mango" which will be held on Thursday, December 14.** Doors will open at 6:00 PM and the show begins at 6:30 PM. There will also be a matinee performance at 1:30 PM on Thursday for any grandparents or families who are unable to attend in the evening. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for high school and college students, current students and younger siblings are free. Cash Only! So please stop by the bank on your way here.

Report cards for Trimester 1 were emailed to you today. Please reach out to your child's teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

Can you help? **We are in need of directors for our next two musicals.** If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please contact the school office.

Have you purchased your Calendar Raffle tickets yet? The Calendar Raffle is like a year long lottery ticket. When you win, your name goes back into the drawing, giving you multiple chances to take home some CASH. Calendar Raffles make great stocking stuffers for friends and family! To participate, you must turn in your tickets to the school by December 22, or to the parish office by December 29. Act now so you don't miss out!!

Uniform skirt/jumpers - We are seeing quite a few too short jumpers and skirts. The hem of your daughter's jumper or skirt should extend to the knee. Please check your daughter's uniforms as it might be time to let the hem out a bit. Thanks!

Our next **Spirit Day will be on Friday, December 15 and will be a PJ (Pajama) Day!** Please make sure your child wears some warm PJs so they are not shivering through recess. We will also be praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary on Friday at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to come and pray with us...PJs are not required.

Faithfully,

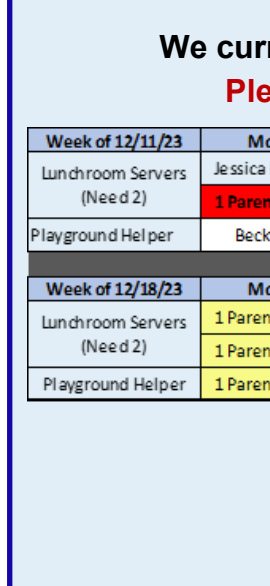
Linda Joyner

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 11**
[Noodles Restaurant Night](#)
4-8pm
- Dec. 12**
School Advisory Meeting
6:30
- Dec. 14**
[Christmas Musical "Away in a Mango"](#)
K5 - 2nd Grade
Matinee Performance
1:30pm
(doors open 1pm)
Evening Performance
6:30pm
(Doors open at 6)
[Flyer Here](#)
- Dec. 15**
Spirit Day: Wear your favorite PJ's
- Dec. 15**
School Rosary - Joyful Mysteries
9am
- Dec. 22**
Spirit Day: Wear your Wackiest Christmas Outfit
- Dec. 22**
Calendar Raffle Tickets due to School Office
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 2**
Christmas Break
- Jan. 9**
5th - 8th Grade Spelling Bee

[View Full Calendar](#)

January Hot Lunch Ordering Portal Now Open



The Hot lunch ordering portal for January is now open. We know it's early, but with Christmas coming up, we want to make sure you have enough time to place your orders! [Please place your orders here.](#) **Order deadline is Thursday, Dec. 21st at 12pm.** We will not be able to accept orders placed after that date and time. Thank you.

[January Hot Lunch Menu](#)

Daily Playground and Lunchroom Volunteers Needed

We still have several slots open for our daily lunchroom and recess volunteer needs for the weeks ahead. If you are available to help with lunch (11:20am - 1pm) or recess (12pm - 12:55pm), please use the links below to sign up.

We currently still need many helpers next week. Please see our upcoming needs below.

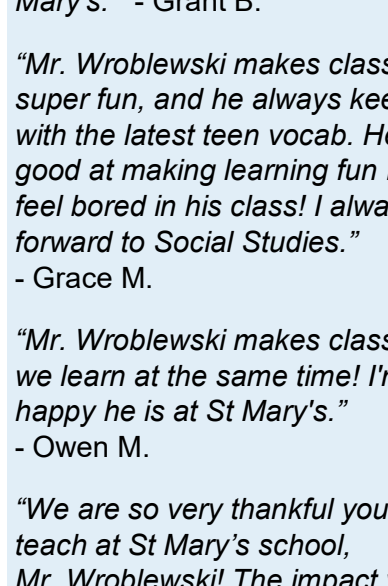
Week of 12/11/23	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchroom Servers (Need 2)	Jessica McDowell	Tori Gannon	Erin Nguyen (Costco)	1 Parent Needed	Christa Kleeba
Playground Helper	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	Ann MacGillis	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed
	Becky Leupl	Carolyn Stelpflug	Lucy Koslo	1 Parent Needed	Amanda Prosser

Week of 12/18/23	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchroom Servers (Need 2)	1 Parent Needed	Maria Schmeizer	1 Parent Needed (Costco)	Chris Stueland	Christa Kleeba
Playground Helper	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed
	1 Parent Needed	2 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	Karen McAlleef

Here are the links to sign up:
[Lunchroom Sign Up](#)
[Playground Sign Up](#)

*Please note, all volunteers must have completed the Safeguarding Training. If you have not done so, please contact Steve at scosentino@stam.church.

Exploring Genetics with Rice Krispie Treats



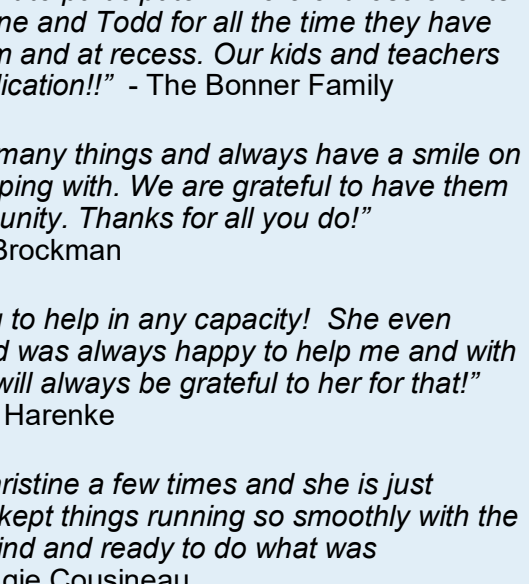
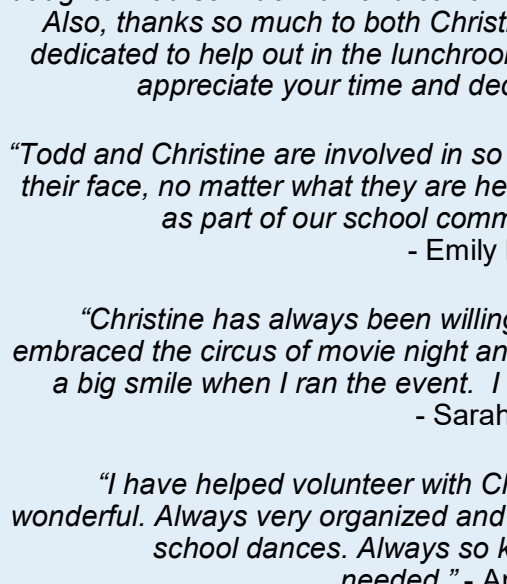
Let's dish up some science! 8th grade students are diving into the world of genetics and uncovering how DNA mutations can make us who we are. But how to drive it all home? With something sweet, of course! Armed with their Rice Krispie recipe and a DNA decoder, they whipped up batches of the classic treat, each group with their own twist. After comparing the yummy results, they discovered that even the slightest change in DNA can lead to a whole new flavor adventure. Science has never tasted so good!

A big thank you to Mrs. Stanek and Mrs. Karczewski for joining us and helping run the microwave to melt the butter.

[Check out more pictures here!](#)

First Lego League Played Board Games with After Care!

The St Mary's First Lego League team played board games with some of the After-School students on Thursday. One piece of the FLL team's season is to complete an innovation project. The team's project is to get people interested in playing board games. They also created a video and a survey that will help drive interest in board games. Based on the pictures, it looks like the kids all had a great time!
Thank you FLL!



Check out a few [more pictures here.](#)

Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best!

We're proud of our St. Mary teachers and want to show off how wonderful they are and how much they're appreciated! This week we are highlighting the amazing work of our 6th grade/Social Studies teacher, Mr. Wroblewski. Take a look at what some students and families had to say about him:



Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Wroblewski - Middle School Social Studies

"Mr. Wroblewski (aka. Mr. Dubz) engages the students in his class and makes learning fun. I love doing the Globle every day. His Egypt versus Mesopotamia project was really enjoyable. I'm glad he came to St. Mary's." - Grant B.

"Mr. Wroblewski makes class super fun, and he always keeps up with the latest teen vocab. He is so good at making learning fun I never feel bored in his class! I always look forward to Social Studies." - Grace M.

"Mr. Wroblewski makes class fun and we learn at the same time! I'm so happy he is at St Mary's." - Owen M.

"We are so very thankful you chose to teach at St Mary's school, Mr. Wroblewski! The impact you make every day shows!! Thank you for all that you do." - Cousineau Family

"Mr. Wroblewski is one of the easiest people to have a conversation with! He is an awesome teacher to work alongside and I can tell he puts a lot of thought and effort into his work." - Mr. Wallace (Gym teacher)

"Mr. Wroblewski is a great fit for STM! He cares deeply for his students and is enthusiastic in his work. We're glad to have him!" - Mr. Burleigh (Religion teacher)

"Dominick has been a great addition to the St. Mary staff. He cares for his students and the work that he does in his classroom. He also has a great sense of humor." - Mrs. Grodzinski (Science teacher)

Here are a few additional quotes from Mr. Wroblewski's students that shared anonymously.

"We never fail to play globle. He lets us play globle and gives us jolly rangers. He tells good jokes, and he is funny."

"Mr. Wroblewski makes social studies so much more fun than anyone else."

He gives no homework and teaches us new things. He does current events and we learn a lot from him. He rules."

"His classes are all fun and we rarely get homework."

THANK YOU, Mr. Wroblewski for all you do for our students! You are appreciated!

Home & School Updates

Volunteer Spotlight: Christine and Todd Courtney

Our St. Mary community has been blessed with amazing families who step up to volunteer, and two families we continue to help on a regular basis are Christine and Todd Courtney! Not only do they both help out in the lunchroom and on the playground, they each serve our community in other ways, too. Christine (and Todd) have helped organize and run the middle school socials as well as helping with movie night, and more! And Todd jumps in to help cover recess or lunch, sometimes even on short notice when we are struggling to find helpers. Check out what other families had to say!

"Christine is always willing to jump in and help wherever she can. She always puts a smile on everyone's face and selflessly gives to the school and students at St Mary." - Nicole Cuttraro

"I am so thankful for Todd and Christine taking it upon themselves to collect money donated by hard parents to researching and pricing out options so the coaches didn't have to. The whole track team is grateful for our new tent!" - Erin Holloway

"Thanks very much to Christine for organizing the middle school socials! Our daughter had so much fun and can't wait to participate in more of these events. Also, thanks so much to both Christine and Todd for all the time they have dedicated to help out in the lunchroom and at recess. Our kids and teachers appreciate your time and dedication!!" - The Bonner Family

"Todd and Christine are involved in so many things and always have a smile on their face, no matter what they are helping with. We are grateful to have them as part of our school community. Thanks for all you do!" - Emily Brockman

"Christine has always been willing to help in any capacity! She even embraced the circus of movie night and was always happy to help me and with a big smile when I ran the event. I will always be grateful to her for that!" - Sarah Harenke

"I have helped volunteered with Christine a few times and she is just wonderful. Always very organized and kept things running so smoothly with the school dances. Always so kind and ready to do what was needed." - Angie Cousineau

"Thank you to the Courtneys, who are always willing to lend a helping hand. Their kind, friendly, and generous nature carries over in to the work that they do and the example they lead. It is always a pleasure to work with them! Thank you for your hard work!" - Nicole Birschbach

Thank you both for all you do for our St. Mary Community! You are appreciated!

Musical Director Needed!

Our Spring Musical is tentatively planned for March 21st, but we are still in need of a director or possible co-directors to help us continue our long standing tradition of musical productions.

You won't get rich, but this is a paid position.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please have them contact the school office. This is a rewarding role and encourages our students to showcase their talents and gain confidence, while entertaining parents and families. Please spread the word!

Calendar Raffle Reminder: Deadline to school office is Dec. 22

Please turn in your calendar raffle tickets as soon as possible! They are due to the school office by **Dec. 22nd** or to the Parish office by **Dec. 29th** at the latest. (Calendars make great stocking stuffers!)

Thank you!

Athletics Updates

St. Mary Parish Basketball Families!

Now that our season schedule is set, we need your help with the Concessions and Admissions. Please [click here for a link to our sign up.](#)

There are a few dates for tournaments missing as of right now, but those will be updated soon as soon as those timeslots are finalized.

The volunteer positions are open to all PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES, etc. who are available and willing to help out. Please be sure to sign up for a minimum of 4 spots per family.

Please remember that we depend on volunteers to make this happen. There is no buyout available, and all families involved in St. Mary's Athletics are obligated to help.

Thank you for your help!

-St. Mary Parish Athletic Board

Parish Updates

Family Advent Opportunity, Dec. 10

Next weekend on Sunday, Dec. 10, following the 9:30 am Mass, all families are invited to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will gather in the conference rooms at 10:45 for refreshments and a little socializing, then head to the church at 11:15 for Eucharistic Adoration led by Dcn. Lance Tappa. **All are welcome.**

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these \$30 winners drawn on Dec. 6th:
Kirchoff (Brandon) Family, Tappa Family, Kathy Dionne, & Dan and Shelly Lemming

And special congrats to this \$250 winner drawn Dec. 8th:
Elena Nevins

Thank you for your support and participation!

In the Community

Child Development Day: Germantown School District invites those interested to Child Development Day, offered Jan. 8th and April 8th. Appointments required and will offer developmental screening to confirm the progress of children and to possibly identify children who may show a need for a follow-up assessment. (for children age 2 years, 9 months through age 5. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)