



CHALLENGING MINDS

DEVELOPING CHARACTER

LIVING JESUS

Dear Families,

We would like to have all current family [registration forms for the 2023-24 school year returned by Friday, February 17th](#). Enrollment numbers are a necessary piece of data used in the budgeting process. Your assistance in helping us project accurate enrollment numbers is greatly appreciated. Please [click here](#) to access the registration form.

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED!** Our daily hot lunch counts have been quite low this year which makes it difficult for our vendor to stay profitable. Fresh and Safe would like to know what they can do to increase the number of students taking hot lunch. Please help us by completing this [short survey](#). We need to receive your feedback on or before February 20th.

**DID YOU KNOW?** According to statistics provided by children's hospital 11% of middle school students and 32% of high school students in Wisconsin have tried vaping. Vaping can have serious side effects for children ranging from breathing issues to death. We make every effort to educate students about the risks of vaping and other dangerous and risky behaviors. These important topics will be covered in grade 5 through the DARE program and in grades 6-8 in Health classes. *What should you know about vaping?* [Click here](#)

**RED/PINK DAY** - In celebration of Valentine's Day, students may be out of uniform on Tuesday, February 14th.

Faithfully,  
Linda Joyner

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb. 17

Movie Night

Doors Open 6:30pm

Feb. 22

Panera Bread Night

4-8pm

Feb. 28

STEM Challenge

March 2 - 22

Iowa Testing

March 7

End of Trimester 2

March 7

Home & School Meeting

7pm

March 10

Middle School Social

March 17

M.S. Retreat/Service Day

March 23

Lion King Musical (Grades 3-5)

Doors Open 5:30pm

March 27-31

Spring Break

April 28

Trivia Night (new date)

[View Full Calendar](#)

St. Mary Track and Field Team: 5th - 8th grade

Registration is Open; Sign up deadline is March 1st.

[Click the image for more info!](#)

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week...Continued..

We have more fun pictures to share from last week's events, including the School Day Fun Fair. Check out the [updated album here!](#)

Students Celebrate 100th Day of School!

The 5 year old Kindergarten students had a great day celebrating their 100th day of school on Tuesday. Some of the students dressed up like 100 year olds (and got very into character)! They made a special 100 day snack mix and built things with 100 items. They counted to 100 by ones, fives, and tens. First grade also celebrated the 100th day of school. "We are 100 days smarter!"

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

Movie Night is Feb. 17th!

The next Movie Night is Friday, February 17th! We will be watching **'Minions: The Rise of Gru'**

Doors open for drop-off at 6:30pm, with the movie starting by 6:45pm. Come in your jammies or comfy clothes, bring a blanket/sleeping bag/pillow, and get ready to enjoy the movie with your friends! Pick-up will start at 8:15pm.

There is a \$6 entrance fee and concessions will be sold.

Adult chaperones will be needed. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact Michele (Justin) Spaeth at [mjspaeth1@gmail.com](mailto:mjspaeth1@gmail.com).  
*(Three Middle School students will also be needed—please let your homeroom teacher know if you are interested in helping.)*

American Heart Association - Kids Heart Challenge:

Kids Heart Challenge is officially underway! Our students are learning about heart and brain health, meeting kids with special hearts and raising funds for the health of all hearts.

**Our students will feel good by doing good – knowing they made a difference for kids just like them!**

**Join us today [here](#). Donations are due Friday, March 3.**

**Bonuses/FUN this year:**  
-Complete Finn's Mission online = Glow Party (Extra Time in the Gym) and Finn's Lifesaver keychain  
-Earn the Frankie keychain (our heart hero dragon leader) when you raise \$150+

Thank you for being part of the Kids Heart Challenge and supporting our students, school and the American Heart Association. Together, we are lighting the torch of hope and making a difference.

Click to learn more about what the American Heart Association is doing to make an impact in our community.

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 1st grade teacher, Ms. Barenz. Take a look at what some students and families had to say about her:

**Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Barenz - 1st Grade**

"I like doing Math with Ms. Barenz and I like it when she reads to us."  
- Hazel Leonard

"Ms. Barenz has such a zest for learning and makes it fun! Our daughter loves first grade and she is learning and growing so much! Katy says that Ms. Barenz makes reading easy and we are really impressed with Katy's ability and attitude towards reading. Ms. Barenz fills the students with confidence by the way she believes in them. We are really grateful for all she has done to make first grade so wonderful!" - Matt and Kathleen Kuhn

"Grant says what he loves about Ms. Barenz is that 'She teaches us and she helps me learn, and... she gives us free choice.'"  
- Grant J.

"Katy likes that she waits for people to catch up with their work and she helps us learn to read big words. She likes it that she does Fun Friday!! She says Ms. Barenz is fun and cheery. She really loved it when she helped them do the musical!" - Katy K.

"I love walking with Ms. Barenz at recess. She is so kind. She challenges me to do my best."  
- Emilia R.

"My favorite thing about Ms. Barenz's classroom are the wobble cushions. My favorite thing about Ms. Barenz is that she says peace and gives me the peace sign every day when I go home. Ms. Barenz taught me how to be respectful and patient. She is special because she can do a lot of things at the same time to help me learn!" - Michael Nolan

"I miss 1st grade Barenz boot camp, but like that Ms. Barenz teaches science."  
- Nolan Rusch

"Ms. Barenz has an unwavering dedication to a child's growth not only educationally but spiritually. Her incredible commitment to making the classroom fun, energetic and educational is inspiring. We are so blessed that all three of our children were able to have Ms. Barenz as their teacher. Thank you Ms. Barenz for all that you do for our school and kiddos!"  
-Michele and Jerod Spaeth

Here's a great example of Ms. Barenz teaching her students through fun, hands-on learning and activities! "Will the groundhog see his shadow or not? The 1st graders got to make groundhog houses with their 8th grade buddies last week!"

Home & School Updates

**Volunteer Spotlight: Amy Weyker**

Amy Weyker has been a long-standing parent volunteer at St. Mary, and as one parent below says, "the school is really going to miss her next year," as her two youngest will be graduating in June. Amy has been a huge help to the office, covering many recess volunteer slots over the years, among many other ways of going above and beyond in other organizations and committees. Take a look at what some fellow parents had to say about her:

"Amy is always willing to help whenever she can. She is a room mom; helps with plays; recess and lunch duty; and so much more. She signs up for admission and concessions spots when no one else has volunteered. The school is really going to miss her next year."  
- Nicole Fischer

"It's been a privilege and honor to know Amy. She always has a warm smile and happy spirit, she simply exudes community within the walls of St. Mary Parish School. Amy has gone above and beyond volunteering for numerous organizations and committees. Whatever is needed, whatever it takes, Amy will lend a helping hand. If there is an open position for concessions, Amy will take it! She's even been known to take back-to-back shifts just so no slot goes unfilled. Her commitment to the success of the school and making it a positive experience for all, including visiting schools, is always her mission. She has donated so much of her time over the last few years at St. Mary's. She sure will be missed after her twins, Laney and Jonah graduate this year. Thanks for all you do, Amy!" - Sheri Kirchoff

"Amy is not only a great Mom but a great friend! Amy is always seen volunteering at all the school events. Whether she is helping out being a room parent, volunteering at games, or carpooling kids around she is always smiling and happy to help. Thank you for all your help over the years!"  
- Karalee Ptak

"Amy is a person you can always count on to take charge of a volunteer opportunity and lend her time. She's usually one of the first parents to volunteer for an opportunity and she usually takes on the tasks no one else wants to! Amy will never let you down and you always know whatever she is helping out with will get done and get done in a timely manner. I wish we had many more Amy's to go around because she is so valuable and a great person as well!" - Deanna Jaeger

"Amy is so generous with volunteering her time to our school! She has been such a warm and friendly presence at St. Mary's for so many years. From being a room parent to a recess supervisor to a Fun Fair volunteer, she is always willing to help out!" - Kim Schmitt

"Amy is always eager to help and she is very organized, so she is wonderful to team up with on volunteer opportunities. She is also very personable and always willing to go above and beyond to help in any way she can. She takes initiative to get volunteer commitments kicked off and has great communication skills. Thanks Amy for always being a dedicated volunteer at St. Mary's!" - Angela Bonner

"Amy Weyker has been a true blessing here at St. Mary Parish School. Thank you Amy for shining your light in all the big and little things you do daily to help our kids and school shine brightly." - Lucy Koslo

**Save the date!**

**Trivia Night will be Friday, April 28th at 7pm.**

Start gathering your teams and planning your themes! Please note this is a change of date from the one on the Home and School calendar.

More information to come soon!

**Home and School Meeting Update:**

The next Home and School Meeting will be on March 7th at 7 PM in the School Conference Rooms.

All are welcome.

**Fundraising Night at Panera: Feb 22nd**

Dine in or get food to go at Panera on Feb. 22nd between 4 - 8pm and support St. Mary School! 20% of sales will be donated back to St. Mary!

Click [here](#) for more info.

TUITION TAX CREDIT CLARIFICATIONS

Click [HERE](#) for some tips to assist you when calculating your tuition credit for your State Tax return.

Parish Updates

**Faith Formation Parent Input/Listening Sessions**

All current and prospective Faith Formation parents are invited to share their thoughts at an upcoming Input/Listening session. This will be an opportunity to offer feedback about the 2022-23 program and receive insight into the tentative direction of next year's program. The information gathered will help determine how we assist in family and student faith engagement.

Please join us. You can sign up for one of the two dates below via the QR Code. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

**Sunday, Feb. 19 | 9:15 am | St. Anthony Parish in Chesterton Academy Commons**

**Sunday, Feb. 26 | 9:15 am | St. Mary Parish School Conference Room**

**Save the Date: Summer Camp!**

•Totus Tuus Summer Camp (1st - 12th grade) | St. Mary Parish  
•Sunday, June 25 - Friday, June 30  
Registration and more info [here](#)

•Steubenville Conference | St. Paul, MN  
•Friday, July 28-Sunday, July 30, 2023

**Prayer Card Art Contest**

Love painting, drawing, photography, or graphic design? Submit your artwork for a chance to win the 2023 Pro-Life Wisconsin Art Contest for your grade. Winning entries will be printed as a prayer card and distributed in your church and through PLW. Learn more at [ProLifeWI.org/prayer-card-contest](http://ProLifeWI.org/prayer-card-contest).

Catholic Social Teaching Series: Join us on Feb. 15 for 'The Call to Serve'

As part of our Faith Formation program we are running an adult speaker series on the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church. All adults, regardless of whether you participate in our Faith Formation program, are invited to join us at 6:40 pm in the lower level conference rooms of the St. Mary Parish School. The next talk will be Wednesday, Feb 15: "The Call to Serve (Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving) " by Dr. James Stroud.

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these \$30 winners that were drawn on February 8th: David and Georgia Lewis, Charlie Nevins, Allen Nagan, Sean Kennedy, and the Herbst Family.

Thank you for your support.

In the Community

**Boys and Girls Soccer Skills Clinic at Dominican High School: Grades 6 - 8:** Held Sunday, March 12.  
Click image for more information and to register.

**Summer Camp at Dominican High School (Entering grades 2-4) July 10 - 14, 2023:** Three sessions include STEM and Critical Thinking, Arts and Creativity, and Soccer Skills. Click the image for more information, and [here](#) to register.

**Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (MACCW) 8th Grade Girls Scholarship Opportunity:** MACCW will be offering three \$1,500 Scholarships to three deserving young girls who are planning to enter a Catholic High School in the Fall of 2023. Application forms and details are available [here](#). All applications must be postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2023 and winners will be notified by May 1st.

**Support St. Mary at J.K. Lee Taekwondo** Help Support St. Mary and sign up for one month of classes, OR sign up to celebrate your child's birthday at J.K. Lee. All proceeds go back to St. Mary! Click [here for more info](#), and [complete the survey](#) to sign up/get more information!

**Menomonee Falls Little League Registration:** ONLINE Registration for 2023 is open and ends February 15, 2023.  
[Click the image for more info.](#)

**Pompeii Men's Club Catholic High School \$2,500 Scholarship Award:** Must be a Catholic Grade School student to participate. Click on the image to the right to learn more and to access the full award application. (Applications due July 1st with full, final report card).

**2023 Milwaukee Festival** being held on Saturday, February 18 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Click the image for more info.

**Cultura Vitae Night: "Teenagers, Technology, and Mental Health,"** hosted by Chesterton Academy, Thurs., Feb. 16th. Click image for more information.

[February Hot Lunch Menu](#)

[Change of Dismissal](#)

[2022-23 Academic Calendar](#)

[Inclement Weather Policy](#)

[2022-23 Home & School Calendar](#)

[Lunchroom Volunteer Sign Up](#)

[Updated Guidelines for COVID-19](#)

[Playground Volunteer Sign Up](#)

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