

CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another spectacular celebration of Catholic Schools Week, I am reminded of how blessed I am to be part of such a vibrant and wonderful school community. If I had to pick three words to describe this year's CSW they would be faith, fun and family. Faith is embedded in all we do, especially during CSW. You only need to look at the smiling faces in the halls and in the photos from this week to note all the fun that was had. And we could never have put together such a great Open House, Fun Fair or any of the other multitude of activities this week without everyone working together as one big family. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who helped make this week extra special for the kids and the school staff!

Spring conferences will be held on Thursday, February 9, from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Spring conferences are held upon teacher or parent request. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher to schedule your conference. Also, please reach out to your child's teacher if you need an alternate conference time.

Wisconsin School Choice Program - The application portal opened on February 1. If you are considering applying for this program for the 2023-24 school year, please [click on this link](#) which will take you to the online application. [Click here](#) for an application checklist. Please contact me if you have any questions.

REMINDER: Please return your 2023-24 registration forms to the school office ASAP.

Faithfully,
Linda Joyner

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 7
Home & School Meeting (School Conf. Rooms) 7pm

Feb. 9
No School (Conferences)

Feb. 10
No School (Teacher In-Service) School Office Closed

Feb. 17
Movie Night (More info to come)

Feb. 22
Panera Bread Night 4-8pm

Feb. 28
STEM Challenge

March 2 - 22
Iowa Testing

March 7
End of Trimester 2

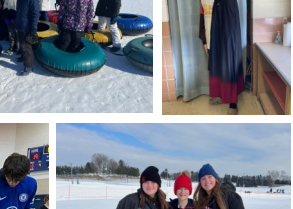
March 10
Middle School Social

March 17
M.S. Retreat/Service Day

March 18
Trivia Night

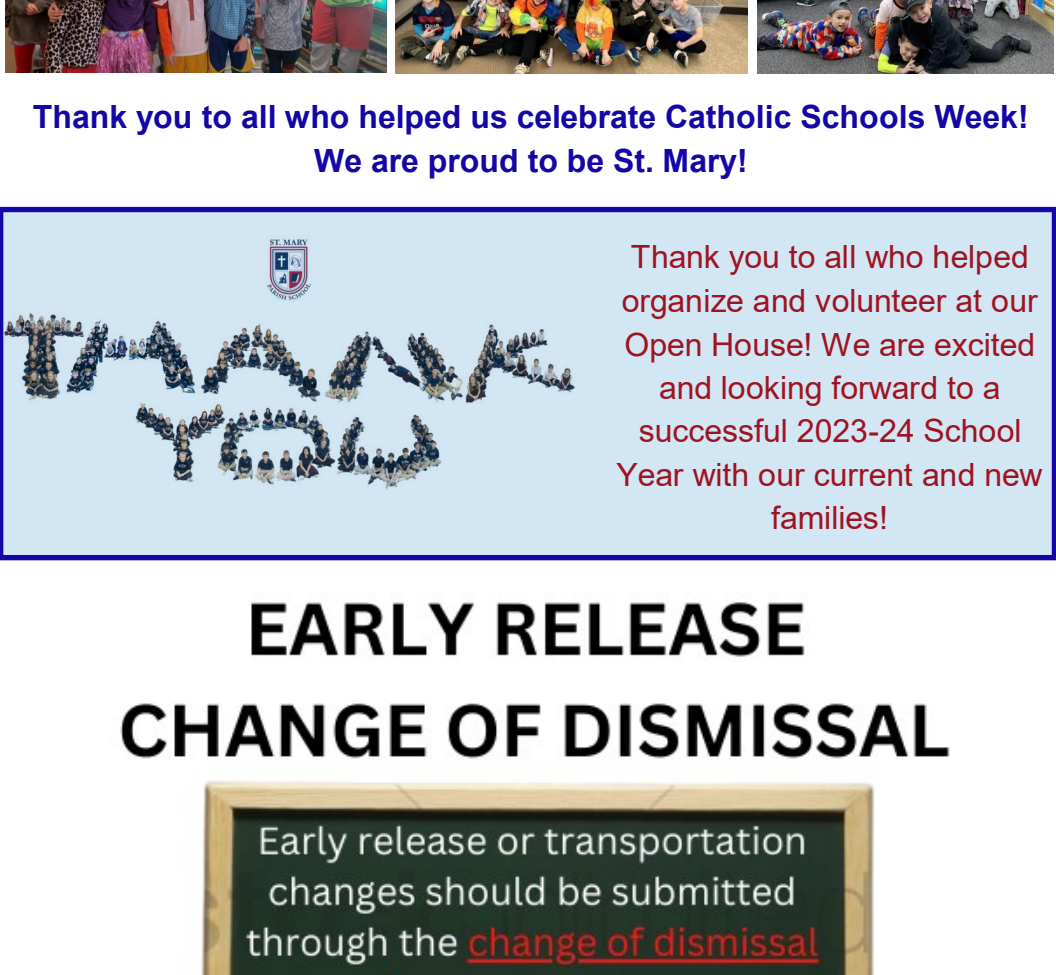
[View Full Calendar](#)

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: Check Out the Fun We've Had

From our Faculty vs. 8th grade basketball game, to our Minute-to-Win-It Competitions, our daily dress up days, the field trips to Sunburst and Village Bowl, and the annual Fun Fair, we think it's safe to say everyone had a blast during Catholic Schools Week! Take a look at more pictures from the basketball game [HERE](#), and more pictures from other fun activities throughout the week [HERE](#).



Thank you to all who helped us celebrate Catholic Schools Week! We are proud to be St. Mary!



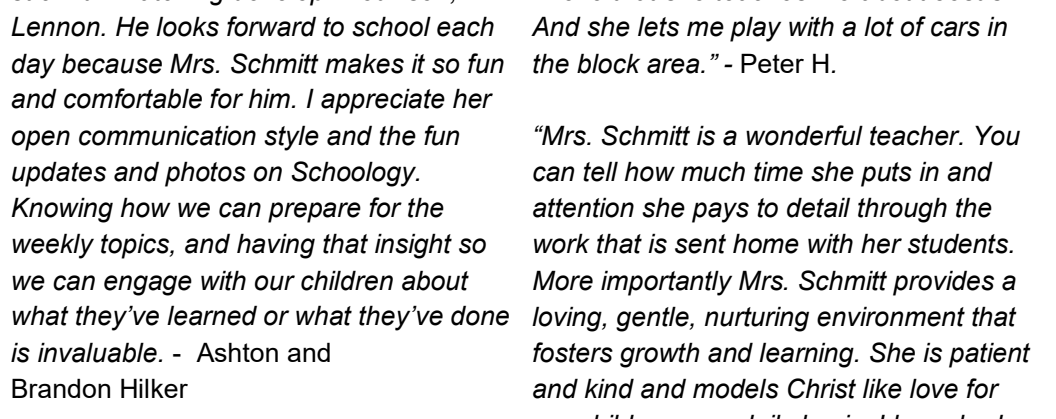
Thank you to all who helped organize and volunteer at our Open House! We are excited and looking forward to a successful 2023-24 School Year with our current and new families!

EARLY RELEASE CHANGE OF DISMISSAL

Early release or transportation changes should be submitted through the [change of dismissal form](#) or by phone

Any changes made after 1:30 pm require a phone call
262-251-1050

Congratulations to St. Mary's 5th Grade Boys Basketball Team!



These boys won their home tournament on Sunday, Jan. 29th! Great job, team!

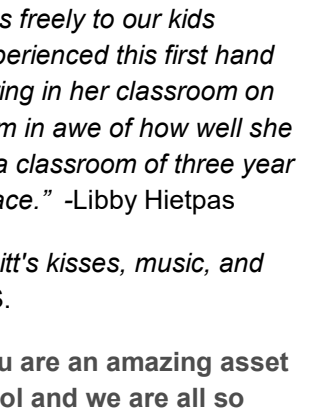
American Heart Association - Kids Heart Challenge:

Our students are getting ready to Be the Torch and build longer, healthier lives through this year's Kids Heart Challenge program.

Mark your Calendars for our Kick-off and Packets Home: Starting Monday, February 6th!

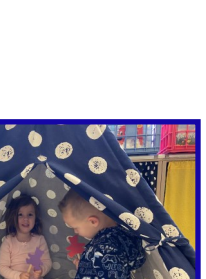
Our fun celebration will run February 27 - March 3 when all donations are due!

[Join us today](#) to help our students, school community and the American Heart Association.



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 K3 teacher, Mrs. Schmitt. Take a look at what some students and families had to say about her:



Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Schmitt - K3

"Mrs. Schmitt has incredible patience with our little ones and fosters confidence and a growing sense of self that we have had such fun watching develop in our son, Lennon. He looks forward to school every day because Mrs. Schmitt makes it so fun and comfortable for him. I appreciate her open communication style and the fun updates and photos on Schoology. Knowing how we can prepare for the weekly topics, and having that insight so we can engage with our children about what they've learned or what they've done is invaluable." - Ashton and Brandon Hilker

"I love Mrs. Schmitt because she takes care of us." - Lennon H.

"My wife and I love the joy Mrs. Schmitt brings to education and imparts on her students. We see it when Lillian tells us about her school day, as well as when she excitedly reminds us that she gets to go to school the next day." - Kimberly and Jorge Segura

"My family and I are so thankful for Mrs. Schmitt and her generous answer to God in being St. Mary's 3K teacher. Mrs. Schmitt is so kind, compassionate, fun, joyful and holy - what else could a parent possibly ask for in an educator? She is such an example and mentor to our kids in all areas - faith, academics, and personal 3yr-old-girl (so much to be learned!) Thank you so much to you for loving and teaching our children, Mrs. Schmitt, we are SO GRATEFUL for you!" - Marie Gilmartin

"I like to sing with her and I love her hugs." - Jack P.

"I love that she teaches me about Jesus. And she lets me play with a lot of cars in the block area." - Peter H.

"Mrs. Schmitt is a wonderful teacher. You can tell how much time she puts in and attention she pays to detail through the work that is sent home with her students. More importantly Mrs. Schmitt provides a loving, gentle, nurturing environment that fosters growth and learning. She is patient and kind and models Christ like love for our children on a daily basis. I have had the pleasure of having two children go through her class and volunteering within the classroom. I can't speak highly enough about Mrs. Schmitt as a teacher!" - Heidi Henke

"Kim has endless patience, kindness and love that she gives freely to our kids everyday. I've experienced this first hand through volunteering in her classroom on a regular basis. I'm in awe of how well she is able to handle a classroom of three year olds with such grace." - Libby Hietpas

"I love Mrs. Schmitt's kisses, music, and stories!" - Lillian S.

Mrs. Schmitt, you are an amazing asset to St. Mary School and we are all so blessed to have you a part of our school community, making such a positive impact on our students for years to come!

Thank you for all you do!



What a great time to show a few examples of how Mrs. Schmitt keeps children learning through fun and engaging, hands-on activities!

Last week, K3 had fun learning about Hibernation through play-based, hands-on activities! We put bears to bed in their caves in dramatic play. At the science center, we built caves with rocks, sticks, and wood. We played a Hibernating Bear Grid game with partners to practice counting and a "Wake Up Sleepy Bear" group game with our friends. At the art center, we made bear puppets and sponge painted bears. We ended our week with a Pajama Day and got cozy in our classroom just like the hibernating animals do in winter!

Home & School Updates

Volunteer Spotlight

We need your help sharing nominations and quotes about our fellow parents and volunteers!

If you know of someone who deserves a special "Thank you" or shout-out for their contributions to St. Mary school and/or Parish community, please email their name and a quote to share to Heather at mccabeh@smcps.school.

We know our volunteers are the best, and we love sharing what others have to say about you all. A simple thank you goes a long way, and we appreciate everyone who has contributed to these spotlights so far this year!

Thanks in advance for your helping in keeping this spotlight going so we can continue thanking our amazing volunteers!

Home and School Meeting Update:

Check out the [meeting minutes](#) from the meeting on Monday, Jan 9th. The next Home and School Meeting will be on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th** at 7 PM in the School Conference Rooms.

All are welcome.

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 | St. Mary Parish
- Sunday, June 25 - Friday, June 30
- Stuebenville Conference | St. Paul, MN
- Friday, July 28-Sunday, July 30, 2023

Registration and more information to come soon!

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.

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 1st: *Harenke Family, Joshua Bridgeman, Karalee Ptak, Judy Berhen, and Emily Rinzel.*

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.](#)

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!](#)

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.

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).

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

2023 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Sunday, Feb. 12th at St. John Vianney. Open to boys and girls age 9 -14. No cost to participate. [Click the image for more info.](#)

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.](#)

