

CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Dear St. Mary's Families,

What a fantastic week we've had celebrating *Read Across America!* Our students brought so much energy and creativity to our Dr. Seuss-themed days—it was a joy to see their enthusiasm for reading shine through. Thank you for making this week so much fun!

A huge congratulations to our basketball players for their great seasons! Your hard work and dedication have made us all proud. Best of luck to those competing at the Padre—I'll see everyone at Whitefish Bay Dominican on Sunday at 6:45 – Let's go Warriors!

This week, we also came together as a faith community to begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season of reflection and renewal, but explaining it to young children can be challenging. When they hear, *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,"* it can be confusing or even concerning. And as we reflect on Jesus' suffering and sacrifice, children may wonder why we focus on such difficult moments.

To help make Lent meaningful for them, consider using simple, relatable examples:  
- *"Imagine building a sandcastle on the beach. It's fun to create, but eventually, the waves wash it away, and the sand returns to the shore. We are like that sandcastle—everything in life changes—but God is like the ocean, always present, always caring for us."*  
- *"When you share your favorite toy, it might feel hard, but it brings someone else joy. That's a little like what Jesus did for us."*  
- *"Every act of kindness—helping a friend, saying a prayer, forgiving someone—brings more light into the world, just like Jesus did."*

Lent doesn't have to be heavy for our children. Through storytelling, acts of kindness, and simple conversations, we can help them grow in faith in ways they can understand.

Wishing you a blessed and meaningful Lenten season!

God bless,

Mrs. Wood

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 12  
[Topper's Restaurant Night](#)  
4 - 9pm

Mar. 12  
Home & School Meeting  
5:30pm

Mar. 14  
Movie Night: Leo  
6pm

Mar. 20  
[Moana Jr. Musical](#)  
3rd—5th grades  
1pm & 6:30pm  
[Facebook Event link here](#)

Mar. 24 - 28  
Spring Break

April 4  
M.S. Social (tentative)

Apr. 11  
[Trivia Night](#)  
7pm  
[Sign up here](#)

Apr. 18 - 21  
Easter Break

Apr. 23  
Home & School meeting  
5:30pm

Apr. 25  
Grandparent's Day  
(more info to come)

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

## April Hot Lunch Ordering Open: Orders Due March 20th by 10am



The ordering for March is now open. Please place your orders [here](#). Orders are due by Thursday, March 20th by 10am. We will not be able to accept orders after our counts have been submitted to our vendors. Thank you for understanding.

View April lunch Menu [here](#).

## Program Ads and Sponsorships: Deadline Extended to Tuesday!



If you'd still like to place an ad for your child or become a sponsor and be listed in our program, please fill out the sponsorship/ad form [here](#).  
We will accept forms/submissions through end of day, **Tuesday, March 11th**.  
Please contact Heather at [mccabeh@smps.school](mailto:mccabeh@smps.school) if you have any questions. Thank you!

## ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS...



**THURSDAY, MARCH 20**  
**ST. MARY ACTIVITY CENTER**

**1PM Matinee Show (Doors open 12:30pm)**      **6:30 pm Evening Show (Doors open 6pm)**



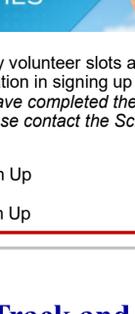
**CASH Admission**  
**\$5 Adults**  
**\$3 H.S./College Students**  
**Children Free**

## Final Chance to Complete Parent Survey!

If you haven't already done so, please complete the annual parent survey below. Thank you to those of you who have already shared your feedback. We're still looking for additional responses. Thank you!



PLEASE SCAN QR CODE TO COMPLETE OUR PARENT SURVEY



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

We will be transitioning from the Iowa Test to the Wisconsin Forward Exam, which aligns with Wisconsin Academic Standards to assess student achievement. Testing will begin after spring break. The Wisconsin Forward Exam is an online summative assessment administered in spring to students in grades 3-8 for English language arts and mathematics, grades 4 and 8 for science, and grades 4 and 8 social studies. The test measures student progress against state standards, with scores categorized into four levels: Advanced, Meeting, Approaching, and Developing. [Learn more about the Wisconsin Forward Exam here!](#)

## Telling our Good News:

The Good News is "Read Across America Week!"  
Our students cheered with Seussian glee. For Read Across America Week, wild and free! With spirit days bold, in hats so tall, they read and giggled throughout the hall. Spontaneous tales popped up all day, books in hand, they'd sway and play. The week wrapped up with a grand celebration, an all-school read-fest, a joyous sensation!



## Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best:

We are so proud to have such amazing teachers here at St. Mary, and we want to show off how much they are appreciated by our students, families and fellow faculty! This week we are highlighting our K3 Aide, Mrs. Bley! Check out what some students and others had to share about her.



### Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Bley, K3 Teacher Aide

"My favorite thing about Mrs. Bley is her badge because it's a nice picture of her. I like that her hair gets tied up kinda like in a bun. I like the way she helps me in class!" - Lucy N.

"Aven loves having Mrs. Bley in the classroom! She compliments Mrs. Schmitt so well and really adds to the fun, nurturing atmosphere of St Mary's 3K program!" - Ashton H.

[Read more quotes shared about Mrs. Bley here.](#)

## Home & School Updates:



# DOUGH-NATION NIGHT

**MARCH 12TH, 4PM - 9PM**  
**20% of sales will be donated to ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL**

[SCAN TO ORDER](#)      **CAN'T NOT HAVE TOPPERS**

N88 W1515 Main St., Menomonie Falls - Order ahead online!

## Join us for our next Home & School Meeting March 12

All our welcome to join us at our next H&S meeting on March 12 at 5:30pm in the St. Mary conference rooms. (Please enter through blue alleyway doors off of Hayes Ave). All school parents are welcome.



## Movie Night (Last one of the year!): Leo

**March 14**  
**6:00pm - 8:45pm (updated time!)**  
[Parent helpers are still needed!](#)



This event is for enrolled St. Mary students only.

**Cost:** \$6 donation per student billed through BlackBaud.

The students bring sleeping bags and pillows, and many of the younger students like to wear pajamas!

**Parent and middle school helpers are needed.** Please [sign up to help here!](#)

Questions? Contact Mary Strankowski at [m.strankowski@yahoo.com](mailto:m.strankowski@yahoo.com)

## Trivia Night

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH**  
**7PM**  
**SIGN UP HERE TODAY!**

**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!**      **(DOORS OPEN 6:30) ACTIVITY CENTER**

Trivia night is open to all school families and parishioners but also family, friends, neighbors. Compete for a cash prize and the traveling trophy! Spread the word! Make a team and come join the fun!!!

Trivia night is a fun adult night out—bring your own snacks and beverages (adult beverages are welcome)! Costumes are welcome but not required! Cost is \$10 per person, teams up to ten people! Contact the school office for a babysitter list! Hope to see you there!

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [KUHNMD1528@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KUHNMD1528@YAHOO.COM)**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your help! Weekly volunteer slots are available! 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@smps.school](mailto:office@smps.school)*

[Playground](#) Volunteer Sign Up

[Lunchroom](#) Volunteer Sign Up

## Athletics Updates:

### St. Mary's Track and Field Team



**Boys & Girls Grades 5th through 8th**  
**[Sign up Deadline is TODAY!](#)**

Please click [here](#) for the flyer with more information and the registration link!

## WARRIORS AT THE PADRE!



Come cheer on our 8th grade boys basketball team as they compete in the Padre Tournament!

Join us **Sunday at 6:45pm** at Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay!

**Let's Go, Warriors!**

## Parish Updates:

# Family Adoration & Potluck

Join St. Mary and St. Anthony parish families at 4:30 PM on Sunday, March 16 for a time of Adoration followed by a potluck dinner at St. Mary.

From 4:30-5 pm we will adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, with Fr. Linn leading us in prayer — spoken and silent. We will close with Vespers and Benediction. Following Adoration, we will enjoy a shared meal and have an opportunity for fellowship. All parishioners and guests are welcome. Adoration will take place at St. Mary Church and the potluck dinner in the Activity Center.

Tell us what you are bringing to the potluck using the QR Code.



## Calendar Raffle Winners:

Congratulations to these \$30 winners drawn March 5th:  
*Pam Henke, Christine Herbst, Rick Wood, and Schmitt family*

And special congrats to this \$150 winner drawn March 7th:  
*Sarah Harenke*

Thank you for your participation!

## In the Community:

**Falls Summer Academy:** Open to students who reside in the boundaries of the Menomonie Falls school district. Please click [here](#) for more information and to register!

**Camp Chesterton Day Camp 2025:** Tuesday, June 10th. Open to students ages 8 - 12 years old. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

**Rocket Aquatics Learn to Swim Clinics:** For children between the ages of 4-14 and interested in improving and developing basic swimming strokes geared towards competitive swimming, building endurance, swimming and having fun. Click [here](#) for more info.

**University School of Milwaukee Summer Camps:** Options exist for full summer, extended session, mini session, and weekly registrations, open to age 3- 9th grade! Click [here](#) for more info on all of the opportunities offered!

**WI Conservatory of Music Summer Camps:** Options for grades 2 - 12! From Music Exploration Camps for our youngest campers, to specialized camps for teens, we've got you covered! Click [here](#) for more info.

**Menomonie Falls Little League Umpires Needed:** Open to age 13 (by August 2025) and up. Click [here](#) for more information.

**CSTS Join the CSTS Community:** A community of empowered athletes. Explore the training options for all middle and high school athletes [here](#).