September 11, 2026 **THE CONNECTION** Weekly Newsletter



St. Mary Parish School creates Catholic leaders through academic excellence, supporting diverse learners, and seeing Jesus in every person.

Dear Families,

For those of us old enough to remember September 11, 2001, there is a space in our hearts that feels a little different today. We remember every detail.

I am a student of history, and I believe we have a responsibility to share history with future generations. Whenever possible, I believe in allowing the original voices of history to tell their stories. But days like today remind me how difficult that responsibility can be when the children entrusted to us are still so young. How do we teach them the truth without asking them to carry something they aren't yet ready to carry?

I often come back to the wisdom of Fred Rogers. When the world felt frightening, his mother taught him to **"look for the helpers."** There were so many helpers on September 11. People who ran toward danger. People who carried strangers. People who opened doors, offered comfort, prayed, served, sacrificed, and simply refused to leave another person alone.

Maybe that is one of the most important pieces of September 11 that we can pass on to our children.

At St. Mary's, we are creating **Catholic leaders**. Catholic leadership is servant leadership. It isn't about being the person in charge. It is recognizing when someone needs help and choosing to be the person who steps forward.

We are only a few weeks into this school year, but already we are "catching" our students doing exactly that. A child stopping to help another, or noticing a classmate who needs a friend. Older students helping younger ones. Simply, children offering kindness without being asked.

Most acts of service will never be heroic in the way we remember the heroes of September 11. Most will be small enough that no one beyond the people involved will ever know they happened. But those small moments matter.

We cannot know what our children will someday be called to do. We can teach them now to notice the person beside them. We can teach them to serve when there is a need, to choose kindness when it would be easier to walk past, and to see Jesus in every person they encounter.

Twenty-five years later, perhaps one of the best ways we can honor those we remember today is to keep raising children who know how to look for the helpers—and how to become one themselves.

We are incredibly proud of the children growing at St. Mary's. May we continue planting those seeds together.

Mrs. Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 14
Piano Lessons w/Mr. Hefter begin
Info/Registration here

Sept. 16
Young Rembrandts Art/ Drawing Classes begin
Register Here

Sept. 18
Early Release at *11:30AM*

Sept. 22
Chipotle Restaurant Night
4 - 8PM

Sept. 25
Movie Night
Hoppers, 6PM
(Permission slips were sent home to grades K4-5th this week)

October 2
No School
(In-Service)

October 7
Early Release at *11:30AM*

October 10
Spaghetti Dinner
4PM - 8PM
Student Performance *(open to 2nd-8th graders)* Sign Up here

October 17
Catholic Schools Walk

October 20
VIP re-take day
(Students having a re-take done may be out of uniform)

October 28
Early Release at 11:30am
(Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences)

October 29
No School
Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 30
No School
Teacher PD

2026-2027 Academic Calendar

PARENT VOLUNTEER CORNER:

Check out our current parent volunteer opportunities!

Movie Night
Sept. 25 (5:30PM –9PM) Help set up, supervise, clean up, etc.

Catholic Schools Walk
Various Subcommittee members needed

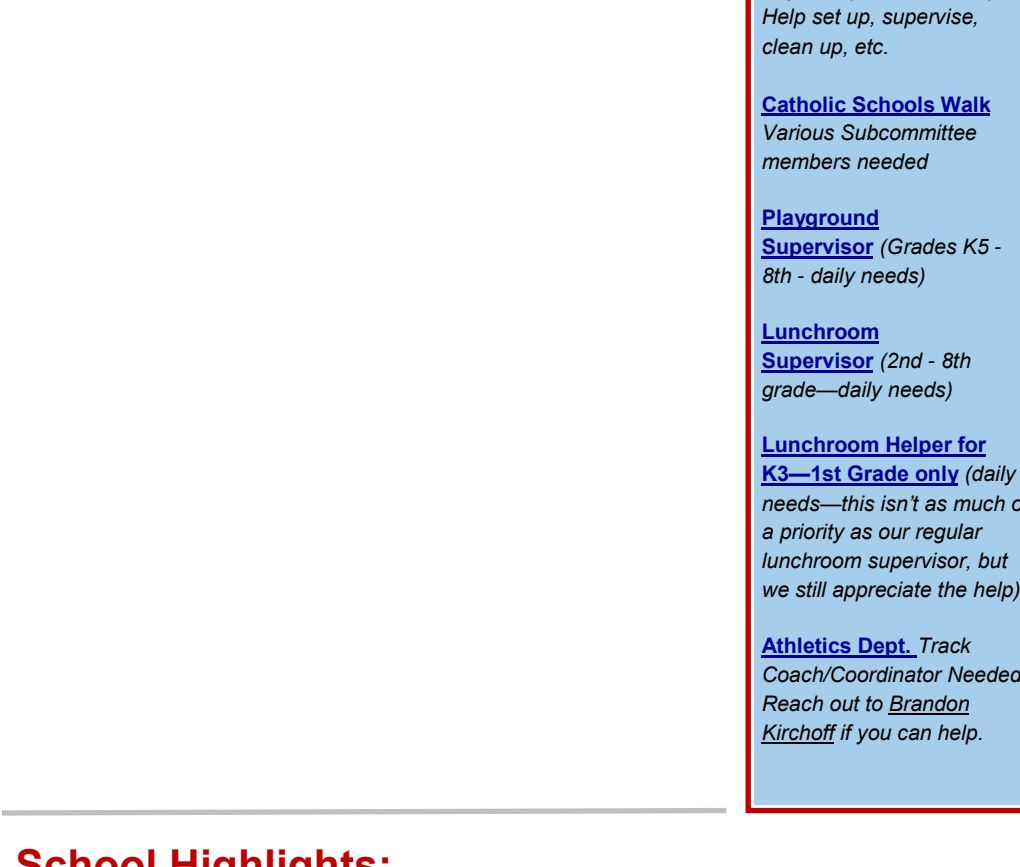
Playground Supervisor *(Grades K5 - 8th - daily needs)*

Lunchroom Supervisor *(2nd - 8th grade—daily needs)*

Lunchroom Helper for K3—1st Grade only *(daily needs—this isn't as much of a priority as our regular lunchroom supervisor, but we still appreciate the help)*

Athletics Dept. *Track Coach/Coordinator Needed. Reach out to Brandon Kirchoff if you can help.*

School Highlights:



2026 Catholic Schools Walk:

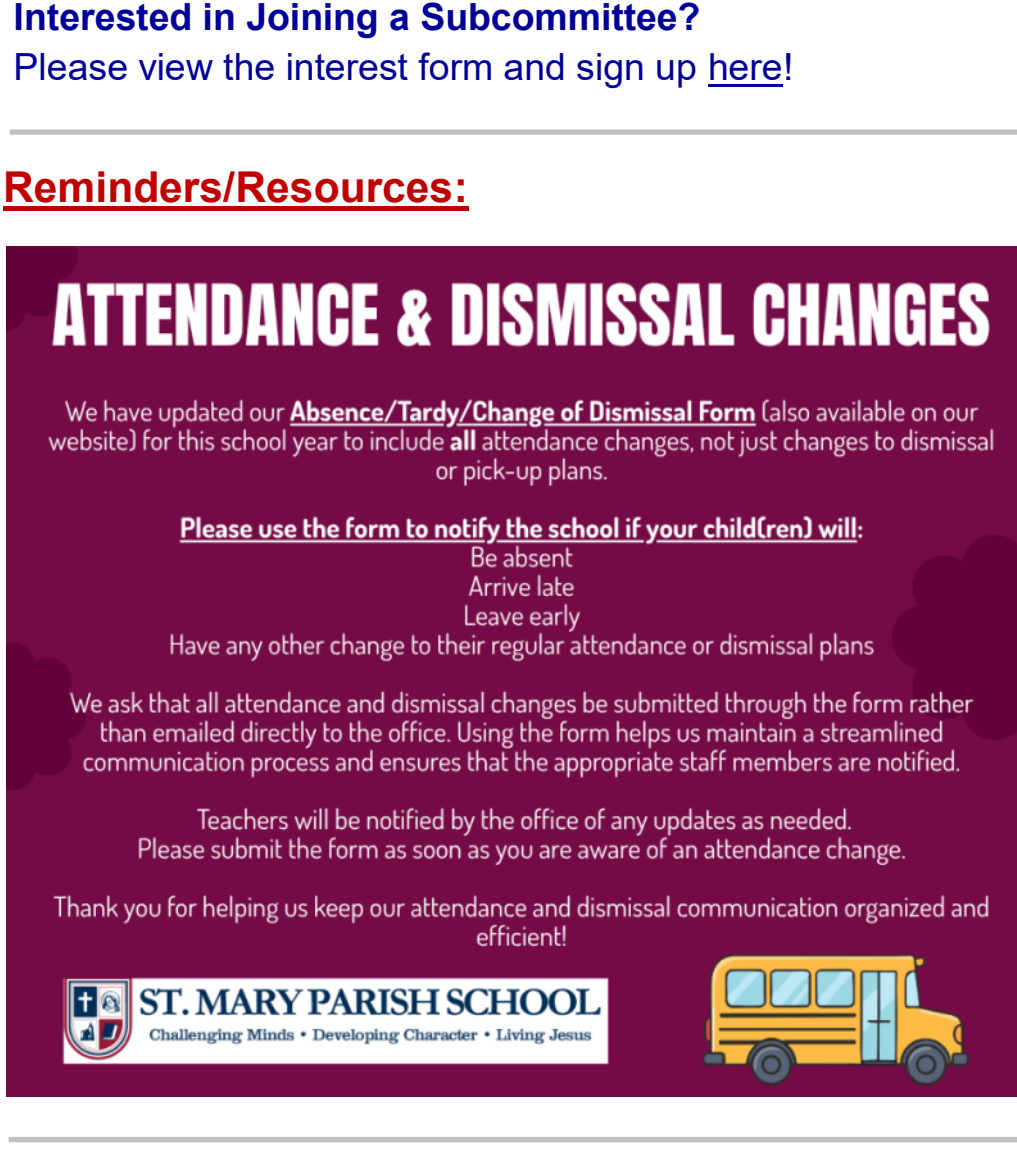


Registration and t-shirt order link is here.
*T-shirt orders are due Sept. 25th.

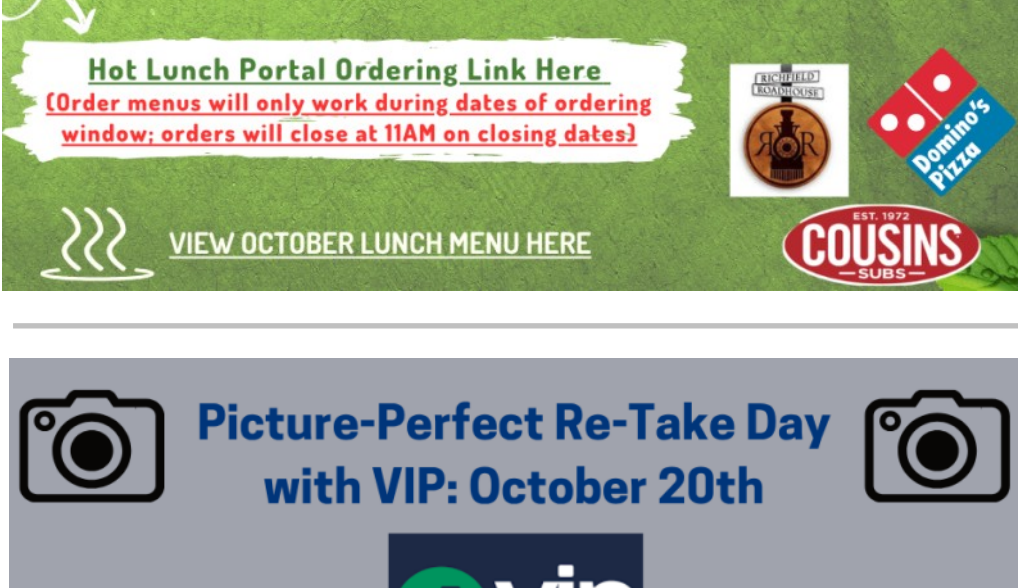
Interested in Joining a Subcommittee?
Please view the interest form and sign up here!

Reminders/Resources:



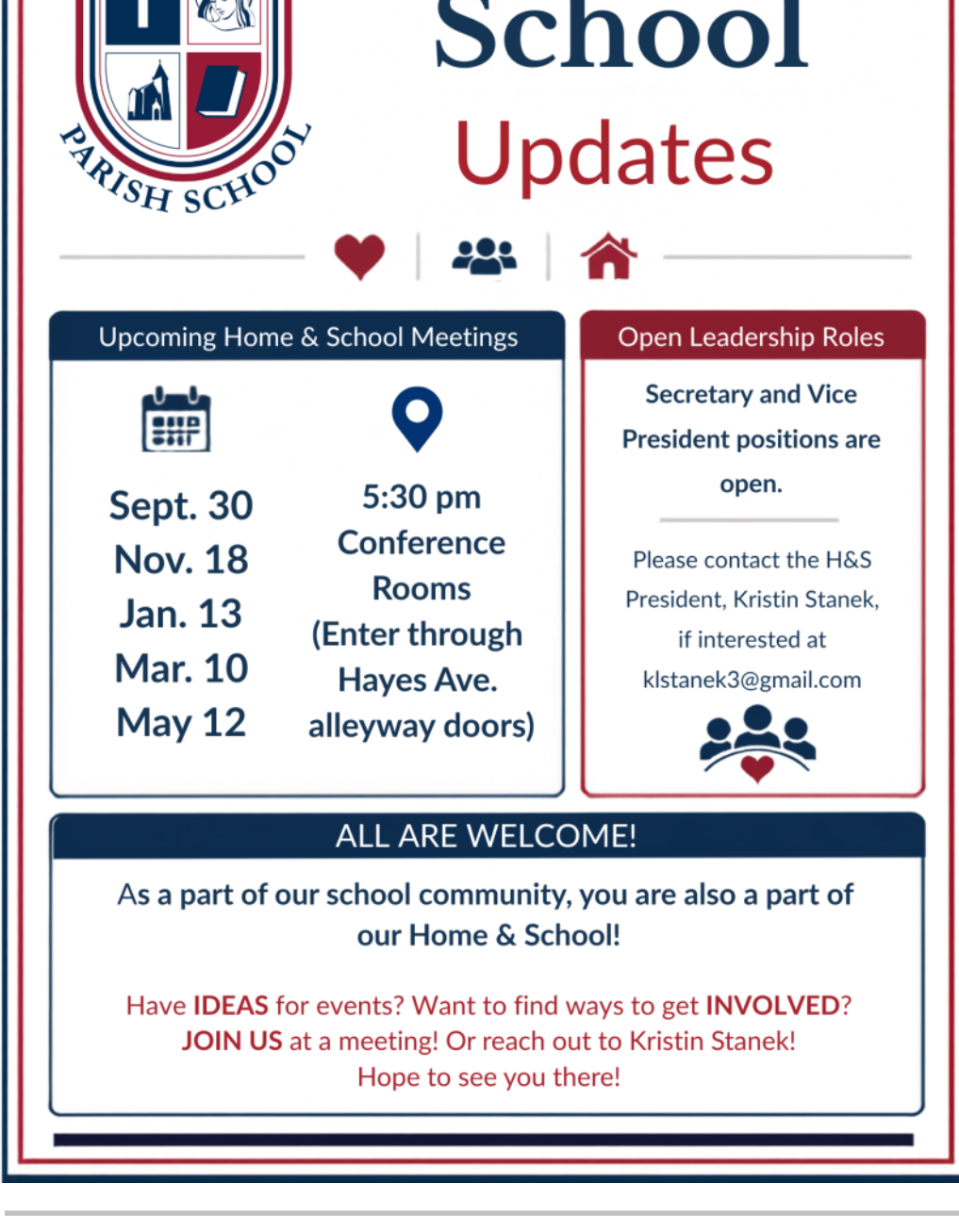






Home & School Updates and Upcoming Events:









If you would like to **help sponsor** the St. Mary Parish and School Spaghetti Dinner, please **click here.**



Warriors Athletics Updates:



Please see our "In the Community" section below for a local basketball opportunity with Grace Jr. for students in grades 3K - 2nd. Grace Lutheran is close by and is a Christian-based program; our St. Mary Warriors are welcome to join! *(Reach out to the contact below, or to Brandon Kirchoff for more info on the program.)*

Calendar Raffle Winners:

Congratulations to these $30 Winners drawn on September 9:
Koenings Family, Kelly Dechant, Stanek Family, Paul Henke, and James Lenahan

Thank you for your participation!

Parish Updates:

Marian and Eucharistic Procession:



St. Mary Parish School families are invited to take part in a beautiful tradition that brings our Catholic faith beyond the church walls!

Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary on **Sunday, Sept. 13,** parishioners of all ages will walk together to St. Anthony in a Marian and Eucharistic Procession. We will accompany Jesus in the Eucharist and a statue of the Blessed Mother along Main Street and Appleton Avenue, publicly sharing the faith that unites our parishes and school.

Families may walk the entire route or gather along the way to pray as the procession passes. A bus will return walkers to St. Mary afterward.

The celebration will continue at St. Anthony with a Pig Roast and Potluck featuring barbecue, fellowship and fun. Families from both parishes are invited to bring a dish to share.

Volunteers are needed to carry the canopy, carry the statue of Mary and assist in other roles. Sign up at bit.ly/marianpro2026.

Student Altar Server Training:

Male youth in third grade and older are invited to serve our parish community in a special way by becoming altar servers. Our next training will be held Sunday, Sept. 27, following the 10:30 am Mass at St. Anthony. Those who complete the training may serve at Mass at either St. Anthony or St. Mary. A parent or guardian of each student will need to complete and sign a registration form. For more information, please contact D'Ann Fisher at the parish office.

Get Involved… Student Volunteer Opportunities:

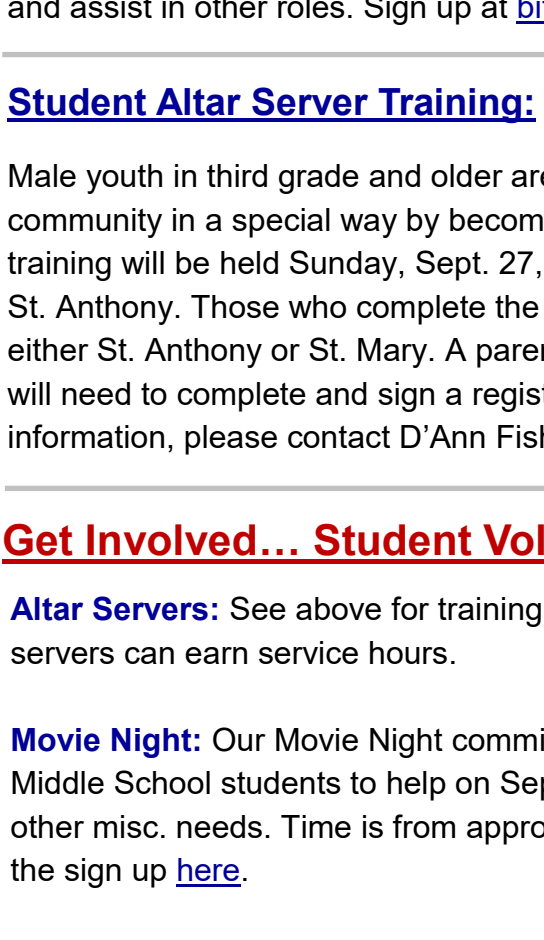
Altar Servers: See above for training info. Middle School-aged altar servers can earn service hours.

Movie Night: Our Movie Night committee is looking for a handful of Middle School students to help on Sept. 25th with serving snacks and other misc. needs. Time is from approximately 5:30PM - 9PM. View the sign up here.

Reach out to Mrs. Mansfield if you are in need of additional ideas and opportunities. This *"Student Volunteer Opportunities Corner"* will be updated as more opportunities are shared with the school office. If you hear of any community needs or other student volunteer opportunities, please let the school office and Mrs. Mansfield know. Thank you.

In the Community:

SMPS 50-Year Class Reunion: Help Us Spread the Word:



Even with all of today's technology, **word of mouth is still one of the best ways to reconnect!** The SMPS 50-Year Class Reunion committee is reaching out to fellow St. Mary alumni and would love your help making sure no one is left out.

Know a St. Mary alum from the Class of 1976? Please pass along the reunion information and help us spread the word!

We're excited to help this special group of former St. Mary students **reconnect, reminisce, share memories, and celebrate 50 years of friendship and St. Mary memories!**

Please share the flyer with any St. Mary alumni you may know!



Grace Lutheran Jr. Raiders Basketball: Click here for the full flyer and registration link. Feel free to reach out to Brandon Kirchoff with any questions.

Falls Patio Players Presents… School of Rock: Youth Edition:
Based on the Paramount Movie: Come join us at one of three musical performances: Friday, Sept 18, 7PM; Saturday, Sept. 19, 4PM; Sunday, Sept. 20, 1PM. **You may spot a few St. Mary Students!** View flyer here.

Germantown School District - Child Development Day:
GDS offers this developmental screening to confirm the progress of children and to possibly identify those who may show a need for follow-up assessment. Choose from three dates this school year: Oct. 12, Jan., 11th and March 8th. View the flyer here and a pamphlet here with additional information and to register. Spaces are limited.



High School Open Houses:

Catholic Memorial High School Open House: Sunday, October 11, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Click here for more info including special presentations offered during the Open House.

D.S.H.A. Open House: Sunday, October 11. Mass starts at 9am with tours and information sessions to follow. Click here for more info and to register.

Dominican High School Open House: Sunday, October 4. Click here to register and learn more!

Marquette University High School Open House: Sunday, October 11, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Click here to learn more and to register.

SMPS Quick Links

2026-27 Change of Dismissal Form	Lunchroom Volunteer Sign Up
2026-2027 Academic Calendar	Playground Volunteer Sign Up
2026-27 Family Calendar	August/September Hot Lunch Menu
Scrip Raise Right App	October Hot Lunch Menu
Scrip Raise Right Schedule	2026-2027 Tuition Schedule
Safeguarding Training/CMG Connect	SMPS Family Guide
Catholic Charities: Therapy Referral Form	Directory Spot

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