September 18, 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,

This week, I was blessed to join Catholic school leaders and priests from across the Archdiocese for a day focused on Catholic education—where we are today and, perhaps more importantly, where we are going. Monsignor Shecterle, Fr. Ferch, and I left with smiles on our faces.

Education is constantly in motion. Best practices change. Curriculum evolves. The needs of students extend far beyond academics. Families are navigating a world of parenting that looks different weekly. Trying to anticipate all of it can sometimes feel like an impossible task.

We also heard some significant demographic projections. The greater Milwaukee area is expected to see more than 50,000 fewer school-aged children in the coming years. Inevitably, that will affect enrollment across all schools. At the same time, we heard that Catholic school enrollment has recently experienced modest growth. Strangely enough, those numbers didn't scare us.

We are blessed to live in an area with wonderful Catholic schools. Aquinas Academy, St. Gabriel, St. Boniface, St. Agnes, and others are our friends and neighbors. Each offers families something a little different. There is great value in having strong Catholic education throughout our region.

And that is where our smiles broadened - **We know who St. Mary Parish School is.**

Our mission is clear: *St. Mary Parish School creates Catholic leaders through academic excellence, supporting diverse learners, and seeing Jesus in every person.*

We know what that looks like in practice, too. It begins with our youngest learners, where strong early literacy and math instruction build the foundation for everything that follows. Our teachers continue to deepen their training while implementing current, research-based curriculum designed to help children become confident thinkers, and problem-solvers. As students grow, those opportunities grow with them—from hands-on learning in our STEAM Lab and middle school electives to music, art, athletics, leadership opportunities, and school musicals that invite students to discover talents they may not yet know they have. Our teachers truly know their students, while continued investment in curriculum, professional development, and student support ensures that our teachers have the tools to help each child grow. And perhaps one of the things we are most proud of is the consistency of the people doing that work—a dedicated faculty that continues to choose St. Mary's year after year.

But above all of that, **we are authentically Catholic.** Our children know that Jesus is not confined to religion class or Mass. They learn to recognize Him in one another. They learn about the saints and understand that through their example and intercession, we are drawn closer to God. They are growing up knowing that their gifts have a purpose and that God is calling them to use those gifts for others.

That is our niche. More importantly, **that is our identity.**

As we look at our own enrollment projections, we have reason to be hopeful. If our current classes continue progressing as anticipated, we could see approximately 9% enrollment growth over the next two years—even within a region serving fewer school-aged children.

So, keep sharing the Good News of St. Mary's. Keep telling our story. Keep believing in what is possible here. And keep planting seeds in our community that Catholic education—and this school—is worth investing in.

We love your children. We believe deeply in who God created them to become. And Monsignor, Fr. Ferch, and I came home from that meeting more confident than ever in where St. Mary's is headed.

God Bless,
Annemarie

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TODAY**
Early Release at *11:30AM*

**Sept. 22**
Chipotle Restaurant Night
*4 - 8PM*

**Sept. 25**
Movie Night
Hoppers, 6PM
*(Contact the office if you still need a permission slip)*

**Sept. 30**
Home & School Meeting
*5:30PM*

**October 2**
No School
*(In-Service)*

**October 7**
Early Release at
*11:30AM*

**October 7**
Catholic Schools Walk
Pep Rally

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

**October 15**
K3 - K5 Field Trip

**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*

**Nov. 4**
Early-Release at
11:30AM

**Nov. 11 - 12**
Accreditation Visit

**Nov. 25 - 27**
No School
Thanksgiving Break

**Nov. 30**
No School
In-Service

**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)*

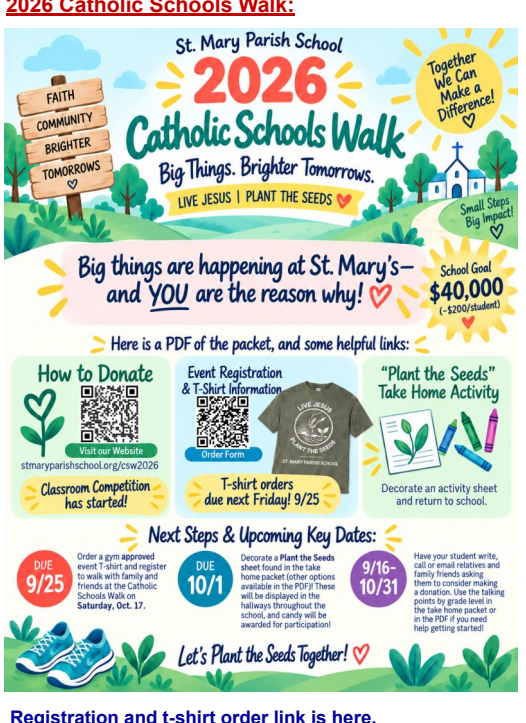
**Lunchroom Helper for K3—1st Grade only** *(daily needs—this isn't as much of a priority as our regular lunchroom supervisor, but we still appreciate the help)*

**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!

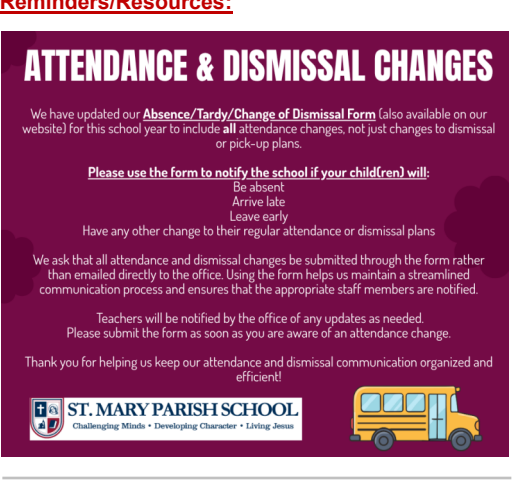









## Reminders/Resources:










## 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 Lutheran Jr. Raiders 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 16:**
*Ryan Garvey, Pat & Julie Baudhvin, Sydney Beilfuss, MacArthur Kennedy, and Leo Schnitler*

**Thank you for your participation!**

## Parish Updates:

### 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.

**Catholic Schools Walk:** Stay tuned and watch for opportunities in upcoming Connections as volunteer opportunities are finalized.

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:

**Falls Patio Players Presents… School of Rock: Youth Edition… This Weekend!**
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.




**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.

**Science Fair organized by Hamilton High School Students: St. Mary Students Invited to Attend!**
***Please reach out to Mrs. Mrozinski if any assistance is needed***

The science fair is open to students ages 7–14 and will include two project categories:

**Experiment:** Students design, conduct, and explain their own scientific experiment.

**Science Presentation:** Students create a traditional science fair poster explaining a scientific topic they are interested in.

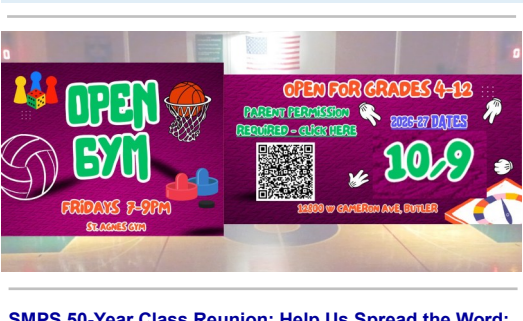
Our goal is to make science engaging and accessible while giving younger students an opportunity to explore their interests, develop scientific thinking skills, and hopefully spark a lasting interest in STEM.

View the flyer below for more info and to sign up!




**A Community Affair: Arts & Crafts Fair:** Sunday, Oct. 17th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at Menomonee Falls High School. View the flyer here for more info.

**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.




**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!**

## 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

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| 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 |

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram!