November 13, 2026

THE CONNECTION

Weekly Newsletter

ST. MARY SCHOOL

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

Dear families,

What a meaningful week it has been at St. Mary! From honoring the men and women who have served our country to welcoming our accreditation visiting team, we have had so many opportunities to reflect on who we are, what we value, and the incredible community we are blessed to be part of.

Honoring Those Who Serve

Our Veterans Day parade was lovely! Our students honored the men and women who have served our country. Beyond the celebration, this tradition gives us an opportunity to talk about the values we see in our veterans: sacrifice, respect, commitment, courage, and service to others.

These are not simply qualities we admire in our soldiers; we teach our children to recognize sacrifice, show respect, remain committed to something greater than themselves, and serve others.This is how we give them tangible ways to live their faith. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's parade another memorable celebration!

A Week to Be Proud of St. Mary

This week, we also welcomed our accreditation visiting team after more than a year of preparation. While the team was unable to share final results with us, and we will not receive those until June, they left us with an incredible number of affirmations about the school we have worked so hard to build.

The team absolutely loved meeting the students! Our children spoke so beautifully about what it means to Live Jesus and demonstrated a genuine understanding of our mission and Catholic identity. They were proud to share what makes St. Mary special and how they put our mission into practice. Honestly, I cannot think of a better affirmation of our work than hearing our students explain, in their own words, who we are and what we stand for.

The visiting team also had wonderful things to say about our physical spaces and, more importantly, how thoughtfully we use them. They noticed the intentionality behind the way we have created, adapted, and utilized spaces throughout the building to support the needs of our students and the work happening here. We have put a lot of thought and effort into making every corner of this school purposeful, welcoming, and useful, and it was wonderful to have that recognized.

Our teachers deserve a HUGE thank you. The team had so many wonderful things to say about the learning happening in our classrooms. As they observed throughout the building, one thing was abundantly clear: learning happens here! They recognized the thought and intentionality behind our curriculum, the work our teachers have done to strengthen instruction and differentiation, and the way faith is woven into everything we do. These things don't happen by accident. They are the result of teachers who care deeply about their craft, continually reflect on their practice, collaborate with one another, and are always looking for ways to do better for our students. I am incredibly proud of this staff and so grateful for the work they do each day. It was especially rewarding to have an outside team recognize what we get to see happening in our classrooms every day.

One of the things I appreciate most about this process is that it reminds us to celebrate how far we have come while also recognizing that we are never finished growing. We know there is always room to improve. Education continues to evolve, our students' needs change, and there are always new ways for us to become better at what we do. That is something we embrace.

As Vince Lombardi famously said, *"Perfection is not*

UPCOMING EVENTS

TONIGHT
Trivia Night
Doors Open 6:30PM

Nov. 18
Home & School Meeting
5:30pm

Nov. 18
Topper’s Restaurant Night
4 - 9 PM

Nov. 20
Middle School Social
6:30 - 8:30 PM
(7th Grade parent Planning Committee Survey here -More volunteers are needed to hold the event - please complete the survey today)

Nov. 24
K3 - K5
Thanksgiving Feast
(Last day of Trimester 1)

Nov. 25 - 27
Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29
Advent Begins

Nov. 30
No School
(In-service)

Dec. 2
Early-Release Day at 11:30AM

Dec. 3 - 4
Holiday Treasures Gift Shop

Dec. 23 - Jan 1
Christmas Break

Jan. 18
No School
In-Service

Feb. 3
Lava Island Fundraiser

2026-2027 Academic Calendar

attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence." I think that captures our approach beautifully. We are not perfect, but we are committed to being better, and we have an awful lot to be proud of along the way.

I want to close by saying thank you. Thank you to our teachers for the incredible work you do. Thank you to our parents for your partnership and for showing up for our school. Thank you to our students for being such wonderful representatives of St. Mary. And thank you to this entire community for trusting us with the privilege of educating your children. This visit was a reminder that the best things about St. Mary aren't found in a building, a curriculum, or a report. They are found in the people who make this place what it is.

I am one very proud principal!

Have a wonderful weekend!
Mrs Wood

Winter Gear Donations?

We're looking for extra winter gear (hats, coats, snow pants, mittens, etc.) to keep in the office for times when a student needs/forgets their own. If you have gently used items in good condition, please keep us in mind. Thank you!

PARENT VOLUNTEER CORNER:

Check out our current parent volunteer opportunities!

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.*

SMPS Theatre Guild *(various needs throughout the year). See interest form survey here.)*

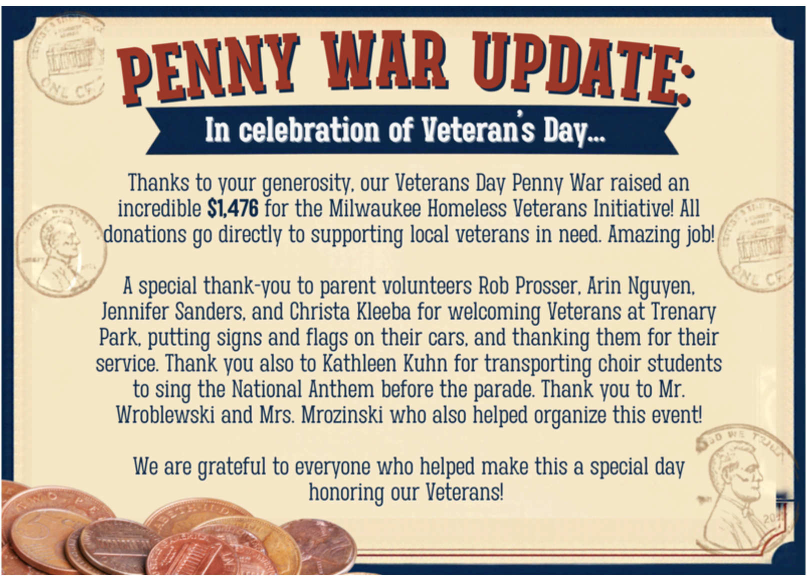
School Highlights:

LIVE JESUS
PLANT THE SEEDS

Plant the Seeds: Teaching our students the importance of honoring and remembering our veterans/heroes.

Veterans Day Parade 2026 - A Meaningful Tradition

Join us for a look back at this special day as our principal, Mrs. Wood, reflects on what this meaningful tradition means to our St. Mary Parish School community. A special thank-you to St. Mary parent Jeff Poad for capturing the spirit of this special day and creating such a wonderful video to share with our community!



PENNY WAR UPDATE:

In celebration of Veteran's Day...

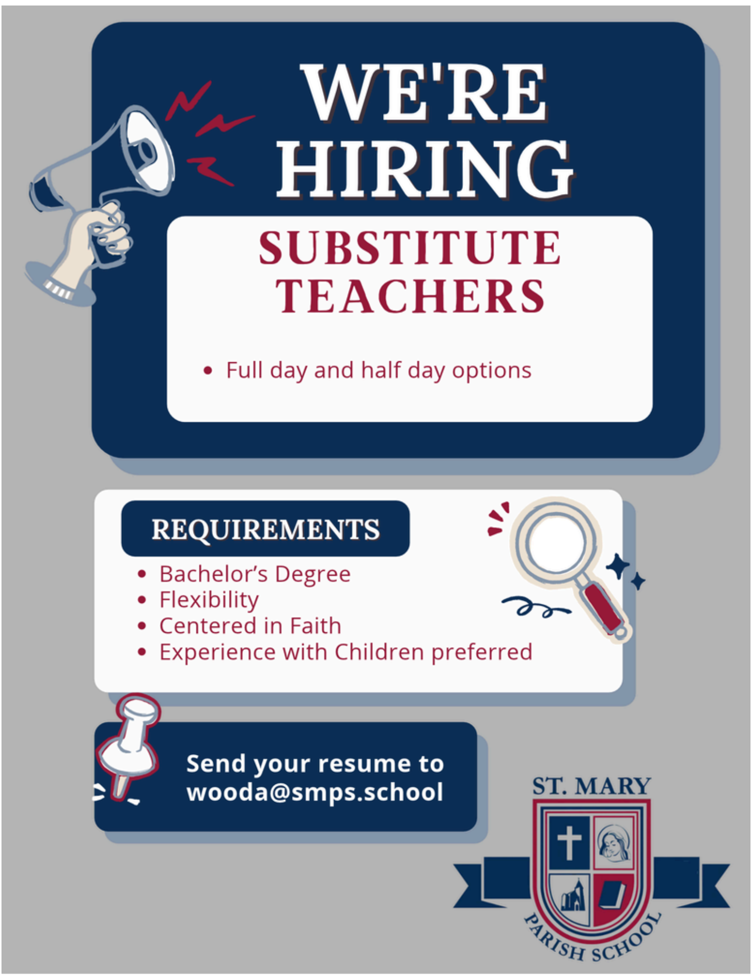
Thanks to your generosity, our Veterans Day Penny War raised an incredible **$1,476** for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative! All donations go directly to supporting local veterans in need. Amazing job!

A special thank-you to parent volunteers Rob Prosser, Arin Nguyen, Jennifer Sanders, and Christa Kleeba for welcoming Veterans at Trenary Park, putting signs and flags on their cars, and thanking them for their service. Thank you also to Kathleen Kuhn for transporting choir students to sing the National Anthem before the parade. Thank you to Mr. Wroblewski and Mrs. Mrozinski who also helped organize this event!

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this a special day honoring our Veterans!

THANK YOU, MR. BRAUN!

A special thank-you to St. Mary parent, Mr. Braun, for taking the time to create a beautiful display of our athletics awards and accomplishments near the Activity Center! We love having a place to showcase our Warriors' hard work and achievements!



WE'RE HIRING

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- Full day and half day options

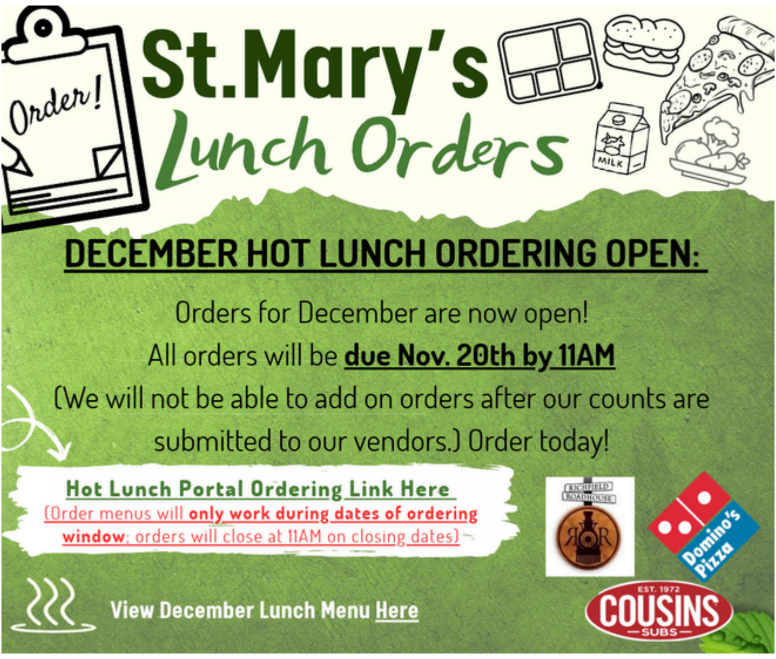
REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's Degree
- Flexibility
- Centered in Faith
- Experience with Children preferred

Send your resume to wooda@smps.school

ST. MARY
PARISH SCHOOL

Reminders/Resources:



St.Mary's Lunch Orders

DECEMBER HOT LUNCH ORDERING OPEN:

Orders for December are now open!
All orders will be **due Nov. 20th by 11AM**
(We will not be able to add on orders after our counts are submitted to our vendors.) Order today!

Hot Lunch Portal Ordering Link Here
(Order menus will **only work during dates of ordering window**; orders will close at 11AM on closing dates)

View December Lunch Menu Here

RaiseRight/Scrip Orders Due Monday!

Friendly reminder the next Scrip orders are due this coming Monday morning. If you have questions about the Scrip program, please reach out to Marie Butler at marie.coraggio@gmail.com or Sarah Geerts at sarahageerts@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Home & School Updates and Events:

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

Home & School

You're Invited!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Nov. 18!

Upcoming Home & School Meetings

Nov. 18
Jan. 13
Mar. 10
May 12

5:30 pm
Conference Rooms
(Enter through Hayes Ave. alleyway doors)

Open Leadership Roles

Secretary and Vice President positions are open.

Please contact the H&S President, Kristin Stanek, if interested at klstanek3@gmail.com

ALL ARE WELCOME!

As a part of our school community, you are also a part of our Home & School!

Have **IDEAS** for events? Want to find ways to get **INVOLVED**? **JOIN US** at a meeting! Or reach out to Kristin Stanek! Hope to see you there!

Middle School SOCIAL

Friends • Pizza • Fun!

Friday, November 20
6:30 – 8:30 PM

School Activity Center | $10/person

Pizza & Drinks will be served!

Games, Activities and Music in the Gym!

7th Grade Families – We Need Your Help to Make This Event Happen!

The Home & School Committee would love to continue the Middle School Social fall event, giving our middle school students a fun, safe place to enjoy a Friday night together!

However, we currently have no chair or committee to organize this event, and **without volunteers, we will have to cancel or postpone it.**

We are asking 7th Grade families to step up as a team to help organize and volunteer for this event. (6th Grade families will be asked to take the lead on the Spring event.)

Date: Friday, November 20
Time: 6:30–8:30 PM

Please complete the survey below to let us know how you can help. We need your support to make this happen!

7th Grade Planning Committee Survey

Don't Forget!

Submit Nutcracker family program ads and sponsorships by December 1.

DOWNLOAD THE FORM HERE

HOLIDAY TREASURES GIFT SHOP

It's almost time for the Holiday Treasures Gift Shop!

St. Mary's is hosting a Christmas shop for the students, where they can buy presents for their family or friends!

They will be attending with their class on

Thursday, December 3rd, or Friday, December 4th.

More details to come closer to the event

The gifts range between $1 and $16, and wrapping is complimentary.

There will be festive activities available for all attending.

It's a wonderful event for the children to enjoy the spirit of giving!

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up here!

DOUGH-NATION NIGHT

SCAN TO ORDER

CAN'T NOT HAVE Toppers PIZZA

NOVEMBER 18TH, 4PM - 9PM

20% of sales will be donated to

ST MARY PARISH SCHOOL

N88 W15515 Main St., Menomonee Falls | Phone: 262-257-0707

SAVE THE DATE!

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

BACK TO THE 90s

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2027

DELTA HOTEL

N88W14750 MAIN ST., MENOMONEE FALLS

"AS IF" YOU'D MISS OUR TOTALLY NINETIES GALA!

ROOM BLOCKS COMING SOON

Warriors Athletics Updates:

Congrats on 2nd Place Finish!
SETON
Volleyball Tournament
8th/7th GRADE BOYS

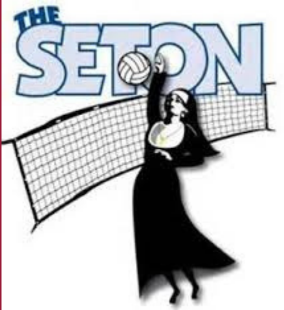
CONGRATS ON 2nd PLACE at SETON!

Congratulations to our 8th/7th grade boys volleyball team on an incredible tournament run, finishing as runners-up after a hard-fought championship match against St. Charles!

We're so proud of the boys' hard work, determination and teamwork!

A special THANK YOU to all the students, families, friends and faculty who came out to support the team! Your energy and enthusiasm made the season even more special!

Way to go, Warriors! You've made us St. Mary proud!



Calendar Raffle Winners:

Congratulations to these $30 Winners drawn on Nov. 11:
Stanek family, Don Rasmussen, Karen Micallef, Joe Glocka, Carol Kazmierczak

Thank you for your participation!

Get Involved...Student Volunteer Opportunities

Menomonee Falls Christmas Parade Volunteer Opportunity for Optimist Club:

The Optimist Club of Menomonee Falls has reached out to St. Mary looking for four middle school students to help carry banners in the **Menomonee Falls Christmas Parade** on **Sunday, November 29th, at 4:30 PM**!

Students will walk the parade route carrying one of two banners alongside another volunteer. Poles will be provided to help carry the banners. Students will need to arrive shortly after 4:00 PM and will earn service hours for their participation!

The first four students to respond will get the opportunity to participate! If your student is interested, please email Mrs. Wood at wooda@smps.school.

Thank you for helping represent St. Mary in our community!

Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Event Volunteers Needed this SATURDAY:

Volunteers are needed for the following events:

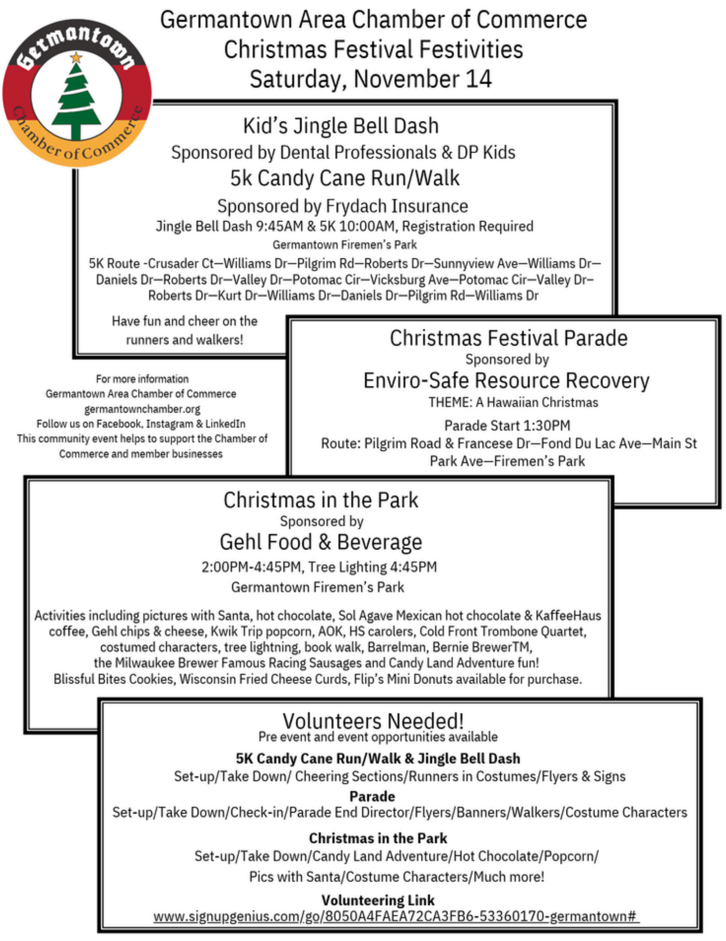
K5 Candy Cane Run/Walk & Jingle Bell Dash Christmas Parade
Christmas in the Park!

Volunteer link here

See the flyer below for additional details.

If your student is in need of service hours, please reach out to Mrs. Mansfield at mansfieldh@smps.school. Additionally, if you have volunteer opportunities to share with our school community, please share those with both Mrs. Mansfield and Mrs. McCabe so we can share those opportunities with others! Thank you.

In the Community:



Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce
Christmas Festival Festivities
Saturday, November 14

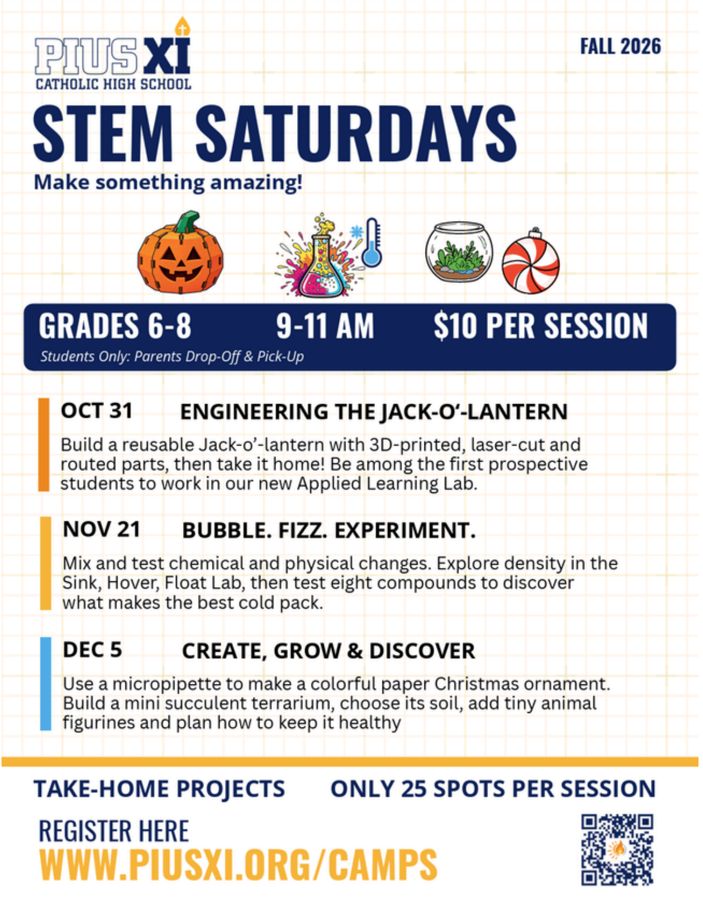
Kid's Jingle Bell Dash
Sponsored by Dental Professionals & DP Kids
5k Candy Cane Run/Walk
Sponsored by Frydach Insurance
Jingle Bell Dash 9:45AM & 5K 10:00AM, Registration Required
Germantown Firemen's Park
5K Route -Crusader Ct—Williams Dr—Pilgrim Rd—Roberts Dr—Sunnyview Ave—Williams Dr—Daniels Dr—Roberts Dr—Valley Dr—Potomac Cir—Vicksburg Ave—Potomac Cir—Valley Dr—Roberts Dr—Kurt Dr—Williams Dr—Daniels Dr—Pilgrim Rd—Williams Dr
Have fun and cheer on the runners and walkers!

For more information
Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce
germantownchamber.org
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn
This community event helps to support the Chamber of Commerce and member businesses

Christmas Festival Parade
Sponsored by
Enviro-Safe Resource Recovery
THEME: A Hawaiian Christmas
Parade Start 1:30PM
Route: Pilgrim Road & Francese Dr—Fond Du Lac Ave—Main St Park Ave—Firemen's Park

Christmas in the Park
Sponsored by
Gehl Food & Beverage
2:00PM-4:45PM, Tree Lighting 4:45PM
Germantown Firemen's Park
Activities including pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, Sol Agave Mexican hot chocolate & KaffeeHaus coffee, Gehl chips & cheese, Kwik Trip popcorn, AOK, HS carolers, Cold Front Trombone Quartet, costumed characters, tree lightning, book walk, Barrelman, Bernie BrewerTM, the Milwaukee Brewer Famous Racing Sausages and Candy Land Adventure fun!
Blissful Bites Cookies, Wisconsin Fried Cheese Curds, Flip's Mini Donuts available for purchase.

Volunteers Needed!
Pre event and event opportunities available
5K Candy Cane Run/Walk & Jingle Bell Dash
Set-up/Take Down/ Cheering Sections/Runners in Costumes/Flyers & Signs
Parade
Set-up/Take Down/Check-in/Parade End Director/Flyers/Banners/Walkers/Costume Characters
Christmas in the Park
Set-up/Take Down/Candy Land Adventure/Hot Chocolate/Popcorn/
Pics with Santa/Costume Characters/Much more!
Volunteering Link
www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4FAEA72CA3FB6-53360170-germantown#



PIUS XI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2026

STEM SATURDAYS
Make something amazing!

GRADES 6-8 9-11 AM $10 PER SESSION
Students Only: Parents Drop-Off & Pick-Up

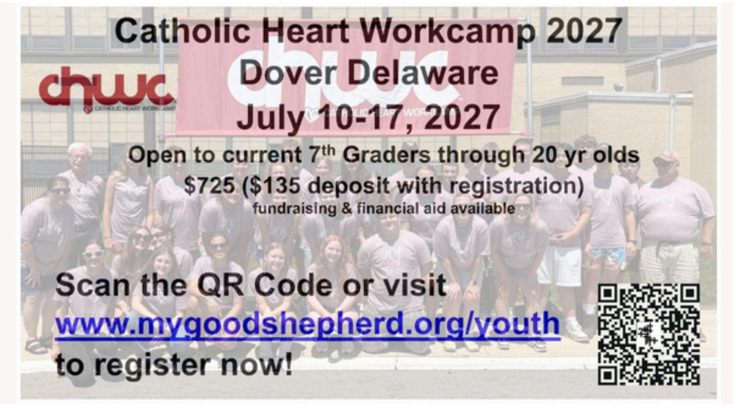
OCT 31 **ENGINEERING THE JACK-O'-LANTERN**
Build a reusable Jack-o'-lantern with 3D-printed, laser-cut and routed parts, then take it home! Be among the first prospective students to work in our new Applied Learning Lab.

NOV 21 **BUBBLE. FIZZ. EXPERIMENT.**
Mix and test chemical and physical changes. Explore density in the Sink, Hover, Float Lab, then test eight compounds to discover what makes the best cold pack.

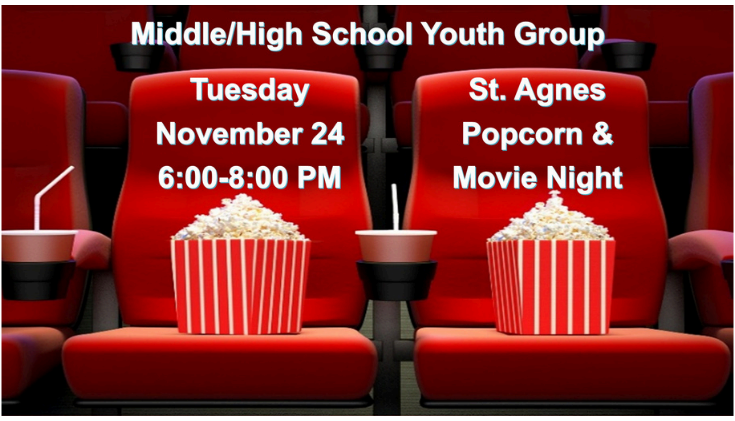
DEC 5 **CREATE, GROW & DISCOVER**
Use a micropipette to make a colorful paper Christmas ornament. Build a mini succulent terrarium, choose its soil, add tiny animal figurines and plan how to keep it healthy

TAKE-HOME PROJECTS ONLY 25 SPOTS PER SESSION
REGISTER HERE
WWW.PIUSXI.ORG/CAMPS

From our Friends at Good Shepherd:



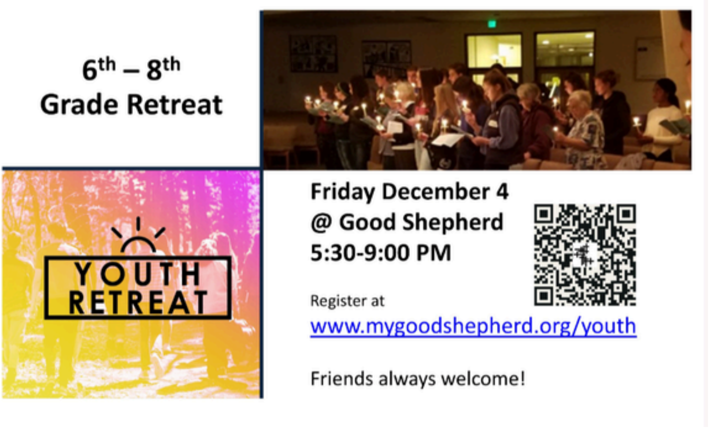
Catholic Heart Workcamp 2027
Dover Delaware
July 10-17, 2027
Open to current 7th Graders through 20 yr olds
$725 ($135 deposit with registration)
fundraising & financial aid available
Scan the QR Code or visit
www.mygoodshepherd.org/youth
to register now!



Middle/High School Youth Group

Tuesday
November 24
6:00-8:00 PM

St. Agnes
Popcorn &
Movie Night



6th – 8th
Grade Retreat

YOUTH RETREAT

Friday December 4
@ Good Shepherd
5:30-9:00 PM

Register at
www.mygoodshepherd.org/youth

Friends always welcome!

High School Opportunities:

ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE
Catholic Schools

Scholarship Opportunity for 8th Grade Girls!

Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (MACCW), a proud supporter of Catholic Education, is pleased to offer **FOUR - $2000 scholarships to 8th grade young women planning to attend a Milwaukee Archdiocesan High School in the Fall 2027**.

Catholic education is expensive, but the lifelong benefits are invaluable and MACCW wants to help!

MACCW is trying to reach 8th grade girls, their parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends. MACCW will present the scholarship to each of the winners at their school/parish in the spring! An article announcing the winners will also be printed in both the Catholic Herald and the MACCW newsletter!

Read more HERE
Scholarship Application HERE
Applications and details are also available at MACCW.com (Under Awards).

SMPS Quick Links:

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

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram!