



# SMCS NEWS



**Top left:** Students receive their “Student-of-the-Month” awards from Fr. McShane.

**Top right:** Students receive their “Servant-of-the-Lord” awards.

## Next Week:

**Monday, October 16:** Cross-Country Championship - Twin Oaks

**Wednesday, October 18:** 1st and 2nd Grade Field Trip/PTO Family Night at Sonny’s BBQ/Military Kids Club at 7:15 am in the Library

**Thursday, October 19:** All-School Mass/ Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades 3-8)/ Report Cards for students in Grades 3-8 will be distributed during conferences on Thursday and Friday/ 1st and 2nd Grade Report Cards will be sent home on Thursday/Early Dismissal

**Friday, October 20:** Early Dismissal/Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades 3-8)

## Looking Ahead:

**Wednesday, October 25:** First Quarter Awards Ceremony (Honor Roll) in the PLC Church after Mass - 1st - 4th Grade (9:30 am - 9:50 am); 5th-8th Grade (10 am - 10:30 am)

## Message from Father Doug Halsema, Pastor of Saint Mary Catholic Church

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

*Proverbs 29:18a*

You may be wondering what our vision for Saint Mary is. Do we have a vision, mission, strategies, and clearly stated values? We do.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and rooted in an environment of prayerful discernment and open discourse over the years, we have asked ourselves four very important questions to discern our parish vision, mission, values, and strategies. We call these clarity questions because they clarify who we are, how we behave, and what we do.



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*Saint Mary*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Clarity Questions

#### Our Parish Playbook

**1. Why do we exist?**

To be “a place where it becomes impossible not to share Jesus with the world.” Acts 4:20 --*It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.*

**2. How do we behave? (What are the behavioral values we embrace?)**

- 1) We are Committed to the Journey and the Process
- 2) We are Joyfully Relational
- 3) We have a Solution Finding Spirit.

**3. What do we do? (What must your parish actually do?)**

We experience Jesus personally through Mass, sacraments, prayer, evangelizing, discipling, community, and service.

**4. How will we succeed? (Three anchors through which all decisions must be viewed.)**

- 1) **Faith in the home** - Are we providing the support necessary for families young and old to live out their faith in the home?
- 2) **Equip to evangelize** - Are we giving our parishioners the tools, training, and encouragement they need to share their faith beyond the parish?
- 3) **Strive for excellence** - Are we providing the most compelling, attractive, and high quality experience possible?

**5. What is most important--right now?**

This is our current Thematic Goal:  
Unite Church and School as One Holy Family

**6. Who must do what? See the Amazing Parish Scorecard's defining objectives which describes who does what to achieve the Thematic Goal.**

The answers to these four clarity questions determine our parish culture, how we communicate and behave, what we communicate, all decision-making, and all planning going forward. Why? It is because we want to be a place where it becomes impossible not to share Jesus with the rest of the world!

*Dedicated to Catholic values, Saint Mary Catholic School is a Christ-centered educational community committed to academic excellence, spiritual growth, individual responsibility, and service to others.*



# JESUS' PASSION IN OUR SPIRITUAL HOME, SOUND, AND YOUR HOLY EXCHANGE



*You have a unique opportunity to help our spiritual home become more beautiful and accessible.*

*What do we hope to do with your help?*

## BEAUTY TO BE SEEN

We hope to create a much more beautiful and impactful wall behind the altar (see conceptual image above) so that everyone is drawn toward the altar, the tabernacle, and the passion of Jesus on the cross.

## GOODNESS & TRUTH TO BE HEARD

Many people have remarked how much easier it is to hear the clergy and readers in the gym. **We want to fix that in the church by changing the sound system, so it is much easier to hear in our spiritual home.**

SCAN  
ME!



*Scan the QR code or go to [www.saintmary.life](http://www.saintmary.life) to contribute to this once in a lifetime opportunity*

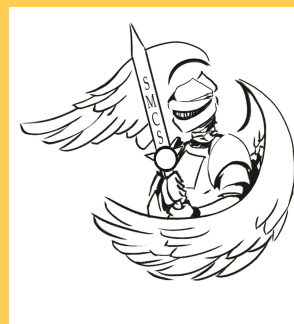


## FROM THE OFFICE

### FLOCKNOTE

Are you receiving our text messages? We highly recommended signing up for our Flocknote for important information. <http://www.saintmaryschool.net/>

Tuition/Facts questions? Contact Kristin White,  
850-243-8913. [kristin.white@saintmaryschool.net](mailto:kristin.white@saintmaryschool.net)



### A Prayer for Parents

Dear Lord,  
thank you for the gift of sport in our family's life. May we always be grateful for the opportunity our children have to be physically active and have a team experience to learn and grow from. Help me have the Fortitude to guide my child in setting Goals that develop physical skills as well as help my child to be a better person through sport. I pray that I have a deep sense of Justice in supporting the entire team that they may be safe and successful in their play while forming close Relationships with each other. Help me to have the Prudence to support my child as s/he has challenges and failures, allowing my child the Ownership to work through these circumstances independently with my love and your guidance Lord. Finally, help me to have Temperance in keeping sports in the proper perspective by honoring the game and my child's play as praise for our Creator.  
Amen.

### Volleyball

Congratualtions to our VB team on a great season!

### Cross Country

Good luck at the county race on Monday at Twin Oaks Park!

Girls 10:00

Boys 10:30

### Soccer and Basketball

Practices will begin on or after October 23rd.



# PTO CORNER

**SONNY'S**  
**BBQ** LOCAL  
PITMASTERS  
SINCE 68

## Family Night

HOSTED BY SAINT MARY PTO

Date: Wednesday, October 18

Time: 11:00am - 9:00pm

Place: 925 N. Beal Parkway, Fort Walton Beach

20% of food purchases will be donated to Saint Mary Catholic School.

### 4 Ways to Support SMCS

1. Dining In: Let the staff know you're dining in support of Saint Mary Catholic School.
2. Call-In Orders: Mention Saint Mary Catholic School when placing your order.
3. Online: Use promo code "Q4CASH" to support this fundraiser.
4. Take Out: Mention you are with Saint Mary Catholic School when placing your order.

## DONATE CANDY!

Please bring **pre-packaged** Halloween candy to the school office for us to hand out during this year's Track Or Treat event!

**Accepting candy donations**  
**October 10-20.**

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



We're in need of parent volunteers to set-up, decorate stations, and clean-up during our Track or Treat event. See open positions by visiting the link below!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

<https://signup.com/go/KTQMnHy>



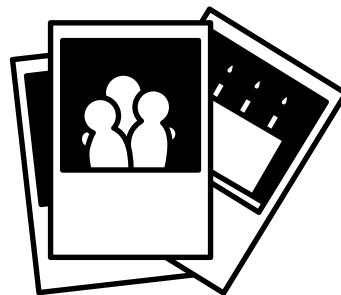
**Oct 2nd-16th Baby Bottle Drive for  
Ft. Walton Beach Center for Women**

Bring in coins, cash or checks to fill your homerooms Jumbo Baby Bottle! 100% goes to the Women's Center to help women and their babies. Our Church is currently raising funds also!



**Oct 17th-31st Box of Joy**

We will continue with the tradition! Each class will collect and fill 2 boxes together as a class. Teachers will send more info home.



Parents, do you have group pictures from school activities or SMCS sporting events that you would like to share with others in our yearbook?

Please send them to  
[yearbook@saintmaryschool.net](mailto:yearbook@saintmaryschool.net)

Thank you!

# FALL 2023

**Family Adventures** begin after the 10am Mass in the PLC until 12:30pm. Only one parent needs to be present, but whole family is invited!

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

Register at  
[www.saintmary.life/explorers](http://www.saintmary.life/explorers)







# Fort Walton 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **COMMUNITY DAY**

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>am</sup> to 1<sup>pm</sup>**

135 Perry Ave SE • Fort Walton Beach, FL • 850-244-5151

- FREE for everyone to attend
- Local non-profit organizations
- Live Remote Broadcast with 98.1 WHWY
- FREE Popcorn & Sno Cones
- FREE Drinks, Hot Dogs & Snacks
- FREE Face Painting & Bounce House for the kids
- Register to win give-a-ways
- Forever Warrior will be giving out Diapers & Pullups while supplies last



## Storybook Village

Presented by  Early Learning  
Coalition  
OF THE EMERALD COAST

**Please be sure to visit each table in the village to receive your free books!**

- If You Give a Pig a Pancake
- Noisy Breakfast
- If You Give a Dog a Donut
- Pancakes, Pancakes!
- Pancakes, Crackers, and Pizza
- How do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?
- The Best Mouse Cookie
- I'll Wait, Mr. Panda
- Dona Esmeralda, Who Ate Everything
- What you Eat

**We will giving away a total of 3,000 books  
&**

**giveaway 5 tablets every hour  
(5 at 11 am, 5 at 12 pm and 5 at 1 pm)**

**We will also be giving away a grand prize at 1 pm!**



[unitedfidelity.com](http://unitedfidelity.com)

