

SMCS NEWS



I want to be a teacher.

I want to be an astronaut.

Next Week:

Monday, January 22: MAP Testing Window Continued

Tuesday, January 23: 100th day of school

Thursday, January 25: All-School Mass at 8:15 AM, Parent-Teacher Conferences

Kindergarten

Career Day

(Pre-K - 2nd grade), Report cards go home, early release at 11:30 a.m.

Friday, January 26: Parent-Teacher Conferences (Pre-K - 2nd grade), early release at

11:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 27: Frosty 5K walk/run, 9:00 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

Monday, January 29 - Friday, February 2: Catholic Schools Week (see page 3)

Monday, February 5 - Friday, February 16: In-house Registration Window (More information will be provided in the coming days/weeks. All registration fees due no later than Friday, February 16). If there is a financial hardship, please notify Kristin White at kristin.white@saintmaryschool.net



As part of our Catholic Schools Week activities, students will be filling Blessing Bags to distribute to those in our community who often go without even the most basic essentials.

Our goal is to fill 400 bags.

You can help by sending in the items listed below by January 26th for the students to pack.

> PK3/K4 - plastic combs/minibrushes K5 - sugarfree gum packs or mints 1st - packs of adult socks 2nd - travel size antibacterial hand wipes/baby wipes 3rd - lip balm multi-packs 4th - granola bars/beef jerky/fruit snacks 5th - gallon zip bags 6th - hand warmer multi-packs 7th - bandaids/travel first aid kits 8th - travel tissue multi-packs

Click here for the Amazon link to purchase items and have them shipped directly to the school

PTO will be sending out information about how to volunteer for this event. We'd love to have you!

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH JANUARY

GRATITUDE

SEEING EVERYTHING AS A GIFT AND BEING THANKFUL



January 28 - February 3 is Catholic Schools Week, CSW is a week set aside to recognize the excellence and impact of Catholic schools in America. We look forward to celebrating all that makes Catholic Schools SMCS the best place to learn and grow!

See below for the schedule of events.



Jesus offers us a tremendous gift... the gift of Himself in His Eucharist. Up until a couple hundred years ago, every orthodox, traditional, non-heretical, apostolic Christian believed the Eucharist is Christ Himself. What sets the Catholic Church apart today is the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus Christ is really here, for you. Why wouldn't we want to get close and stay close to Him in the **Eucharist?**



Eucharistic Revival

The transformed bread and wine are truly the Body and Blood of Christ and are not merely symbols. When Christ says "This is my body" and "This is my blood," the bread and wine are transubstantiated. Though the bread and wine appear the same to our human faculties, they are actually the real body and blood of Jesus. Why does Jesus give Himself to us as food and drink?

Jesus gives Himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because He loves us. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become united to the person of Christ through his humanity. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn 6:56). In being

united to the humanity of Christ, we are at the same time united to his divinity. Our mortal and corruptible natures are transformed by being joined to the source of life.

~USCCB

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.

Catholic Schools Week 2024 January 28-February 3



Sunday, January 28 - Celebrating Our Parishes Students are encouraged to wear SMCS uniforms to Mass Student Council serve as greetersfor SMCC Sunday Masses

Monday, January 29 - Celebrating Our Community
Door Decorating Display - Eucharistic Theme
Create Blessing Bags-PTO leads; 8:45-11:30
Catholic members of the community share with 4-8th grades how their faith impacts their work @1:00 in cafe

Tuesday, January 30 - Celebrating Our Students
Spirit Day - jeans with any SMCS shirt
Virtue Visits - Gratitude Activities
Quarterly Awards - 1st-4th @9:30; 5th-8th @10:00 in the church

Wednesday, January 31 - Celebrating Our Nation
Wear patriotic or solid red, white, blue shirts with uniform bottoms
Speech and Poetry Recitation - Focus on American Poets and
Speechwriters K3-4th @ 9:30; 5th - 8th @ 12:45 in the cafe
Family Dining Event at Rick's Crab Trap

Thursday, February 1 - Celebrating Vocations
Present thank-you letters to priests
Vocations activities for PK-4th
Single, Engaged, Married Vocations Panel for 5th - 8th grades @10:00 in cafe

Friday, February 2 - Celebrating Our Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers
All classes attend Adoration at some point during the day, praying
especially for our faculty, staff and volunteers
Lunch provided for faculty and staff during normal lunch times
Frosty Fun Run - Fun Run shirt with PE bottoms @1:50 in Marian courtyard

Saturday, February 3 - Celebrating Our Families Family Fun ideas sent via SMCS Message, Class Dojo

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



A Prayer for Families

Grant us, O Lord Jesus,

The strength to imitate faithfully the example of your Holy Family

And to make our home another Nazareth.

May peace, love, and happiness prevail in all things and all games.

Grant us the grace to be the parents

We should be for our children.

Grant that our child may find solid support

For their human dignity

And for their growth in truth and love

Within the embrace of their team.

May Saint Sebastian watch and guide them in their efforts today,

As he guides us in support of our children.

Amen.



Archangel Sports

Soccer

1/23 vs Shoal River @ Shoal River MS girls 5:00, boys 6:30

> 1/24 vs Destin @ Destin MS boys 5:00, girls 6:30

Spring Sports

Thank you to Ms. Heide for volunteering to coach the swim team!

Tennis, Golf, Swimming and Track will be our spring sports. Stay tuned for information. POC- John Reaves john.reaves@saintmaryschool.net

PTO Corner

Donate to Brite Stars Baskets



Help us build baskets for this year's
Brite Stars Gala supporting Saint
Mary Catholic School! Each basket
will be filled to the brim with goodies
and raffled off to support this
annual event.

We appreciate your support on this project! Stay tuned for the big basket reveal!

http://tinyurl.com/britestarsbaskets



Connect with PTO

Join Our Facebook Group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintmarypto/

Upcoming Events

1/27 Frosty 5K

1/29 Build Blessing Bags

1/31 Spirit Night - Rick's

Crab Trap

2/2 Fun Run

2/8 Spirit Night - Fort Sk8

2/22 Emerald Coast

Science Center Family

Night @ SMCS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This year all students will work together to assemble Blessing Bags for the less fortunate. Each grade has been assigned an item for donations to fill the bags.

Please see the newsletter for more info! The goal is to fill 400 bags!

We're looking for volunteers to assist students with assembling bags on Monday 1/29.

Sign Up Here:

http://tinyurl.com/cswblessing bags

Saint Mary Color Fun Run We need your support!

'For our Color Fun Run this year, we are going to focus on a major school purchase-BUY THE BUS! Our web based fundraising system makes it much easier for you to request pledges from your family and friends, and for them to make secure credit card donations online. It's fun, it's easy, and people who use it typically raise twice as much as those who don't!



Using your computer's browser:

Go to http://pledgestar.com/saintmary

Click "Not Registered For This Year's Event"

Enter your name and email address, then click "Submit"

Follow the instructions on-screen to register Runner(s) and add family and friends

Using your Android or Apple phone or tablet:

Go to the Apple App Store on IOS or the Amazon App Store on Android and search for "PledgeStar" to download the Family App, or go to

https://pledgestar.com/saintmary/downloadapp.html

On the home screen enter your event code: "saintmary" to locate your event

Click "Not Registered For This Year's Event"

Enter your name and email address, then click "Submit"

Follow the instructions on-screen to register Runner(s) and add family and friends

When you finish, the system emails pledge requests to your family and friends, and allows them to make secure credit card donations online. You get notified each time a pledge is made, and you can track your pledge progress online.

Call 1-888-598-7510 if you need help.

Prizes awarded to highest earner in each grade!
Winning Class receives a Pizza & Ice Cream Party!

Saint Mary Catholic School's



15th Annual Erosty 5k

January 27th

9 am

All Ages

\$40

NWFL Track Club

\$35

Pre-registration includes:

Free t-shirt (deadline 1/13)

Door prizes, hot food & beer



Registraon online at Acve.com

Contact Frosty5k@saintmaryschool.net or call Jenna Beaty at 243-8913

Music and antartainmant by Kill Turnari





24TH ANNUAL BRITE STARS

March 9: 2024 | 7PM

The Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson

> 788 BEAL PKWY NW FORT WALTON BEACH RSVP SMC5 AT 850-243-8913

SIOO.OO PER PERSON ALL INCLUSIVE (HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRÉS. MUSIC. DRINKS)

PLEASE HELP US BY USING THE QR CODE BELOW TO DONATE TO THIS YEAR'S CLASSROOM BASKETS. THESE BASKETS WILL BE RAFFLED OFF AT BRITE STARS.

