

# THE AUGUSTINE ARROW NEWSLETTER

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ✳ 3-5 School Mass

September 3, 2025  
12 pm CT

Attend mass with our 3- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Come and watch them as they praise and worship Christ. Let our kiddos share their love of Him with you, while you show them that same love reflected back.

### ✳ K- 5 School Mass

September 5, 2025 at 8:15 CT if  
2 hr delay, mass at 10:15

Attend mass with our K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Come and watch them as they praise and worship Christ. Let our kiddos share their love of Him with you, while you show them that same love reflected back.

### ✳ Little Cousin Jasper

September 5 - September 7

Come see us at the Saint Augustine Booth at Potawatomi Park. Sign up to work an hour or three or five at our booth to share information about our school, while enjoying company and busting out some parent hours!

### ✳ Mary's B-Day Ice Cream Party

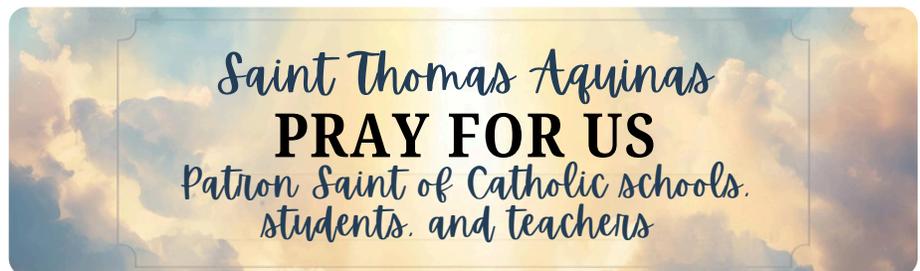
September 8, 2025

Reach out to Mrs. Allison if you're interested in coming to the school to help with celebrating our Holy Mother's birthday.

### ✳ PFA Meeting

September 8, 2025  
6 pm

Come to the SAS gym to discuss how we can have a positive impact on our students' and families' Saint Augustine experience.



## Safety Information

This last week brought up several challenges and emotions that I am struggling to make sense of in my mind, let alone put into words here. Some of you have reached out to me since the tragedy in Minnesota on Wednesday, and I hope that my responses have brought you some form of reassurance and comfort.

Student safety has always been my top concern as an educator. I know I speak for all of my staff when I say that there have been countless nights in all of our careers where we have, and will continue to, stay awake at night imagining the unimaginable and coming up with a whole alphabet of plans to try and ensure the safety of the children you entrust to us.

I want to take a moment to address a couple of common questions and concerns that have arisen, to ensure that you all have the most up to date and accurate information that is available. Please remember that the majority of changes and updates cannot happen overnight, we have to do our due diligence and work through the proper channels and chains of command to ensure things

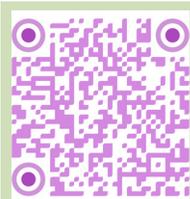
are done correctly.

1. Can we lock the doors during mass?
  - a. Not at this time, it is not possible for us to due to fire code. Our doors are turn key locks, so when we lock them not only does it keep everyone out, it also keeps everyone in. Marie Oliver and Fr Bennett had already begun the process of updating the doors and are continuously working on this.
2. Can we have a police presence for mass?
  - a. We have reached out to both local and county police, and are working to make this happen. During our first all school mass we adjusted our seating to ensure that all of our adults are seated in a way that creates an enhanced barrier around our students. The city has also already increased their presence during our both of our recess times. If you or your family is connected to anyone in law enforcement who may be interested in helping, please reach out to me. Continued -->

## Safety Information Cont.

Please understand that the safety of the students is our top priority. I am not only working with law enforcement, but also with our pastorate, and diocesan leaders to bring you more updates as they become available.

I do want to include that I fully believe that our church is much safer than many other buildings in our community. Our windows to the sanctuary are elevated from the ground, and much of the architecture adds additional safe guards for our Saint Augustine family. At the Minnesota church, the shooter never entered the church, he shot through the windows. We have all, unfortunately, seen several real world examples of this evil in our society. Please hug your children tight and pray for protection and peace. Know that I am available whenever you need me, and I am also holding my children a little tighter, and sending a few extra prayers for not only them, but for you and your family as well.



**We will be ordering physical gift cards on the first Tuesday we are in school each month!** If you need something sooner, please reach out to the office, and we will try to help! Remember 100% of what you earn

on Raise Right goes to lower your tuition bill! Be sure to continue to work towards the goal so you do not incur a bill for not meeting your pledge at the end of the year!

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll/RR-7JQVW8E4ZM>

## The Call to Serve

We are **IN NEED** of parent helpers. We need a substitute on September 18 and 19 for our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, and a substitute on September 19 for our 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade class. These teachers will be out of the building at a training designed to training them to be able to better meet the needs of our students.

We also need lunch helpers to come in and assist our students and staff during lunch time (about 10:50- 12).

Each of our teachers has a whole list of things that they also need help with, ranging from being a guest reader, to providing snacks, to making copies/ laminating items for student use. Please reach out to teachers directly to ask how you can better serve our students.

We must remind ourselves as parents that if we don't step up, then who will? If we want our kiddos to continue having the amazing small school experiences, we have to help, we cannot rely on the same few individuals to always do it.

## Little Cousin Jasper

We have unfortunately **not** received enough interest in the parade to be able to participate. Instead of stretching ourselves thin in two spots, I am making the call to put all of our efforts towards the booth. Please sign up to give an hour or two of your time at our booth in Potawatomi Park. I am preparing hand outs with information about our school and programs, frequently asked questions about our school, as well as financial aid we offer. I need help from all of you to tell your stories as to why you are part of the Saint Augustine family, and why others should be too. I will make sure to bring some coloring pages, snacks, and other small things to keep the kiddos entertained, so bring them along. The survival and longevity of our school and church community requires all of us to step up and volunteer. We must be willing to give, and have some "skin in the game" if we want to see real change, and real success. If you would like to discuss how/when/where we need your help and support, please reach out to Principal Allison directly. You can also sign up for a time slot for five using the QR code here!



## Upcoming Important Dates

Here are a few dates to keep in mind and on your refrigerator/ in your calendar. More information about each will come out closer to the event dates!

September 8: Mary's Birthday (ice cream treat)  
September 26: Grandparents Day Picnic and Presentation 11-12:15

October 1: St Therese of Lisieux Prayer Service  
October 1: Early Release Day  
October 3: Blessing of Animals at 3 pm  
October 6: Picture Day!  
October 8: Living Rosary at 2:15 pm  
October 9: End of First Quarter  
October 10: Family Literacy Night  
October 21 & 22: Parent Teacher Conferences  
October 24-27: FALL BREAK, so school!  
October 31: All Saint's Day Votive Mass and All Saint's Presentation



# Faith In Action Challenge

Since becoming a teacher, and especially since becoming a mom, everyone has always told me to make sure that I am taking care of me, and resting. I myself have told people this same thing, as well as reminded them they cannot pour from an empty cup. Even with giving this advice regularly I find that more often than not, I am a hypocrite in following that same notion. All too often I myself have viewed "relaxing" as an indulgence, one that I may "earn" after I have done "enough". "Maybe after all of the dishes are done, laundry folded, toys put away, and floors mopped I can reward myself with ten minutes of xyz..." is a constant thought, but in reality I am never able to achieve all of the self-created conditions to be able to rest.

Since moving into an administrative role, this has only become worse for me as a mom. I am never satisfied with my progression on my never-ending to-do list, and try to continue going long past the point of when my body and mind are at its limit. I am sure this is something several of you can relate to. This weekend, Fr Bennett said something in his homily that really caused me to pause and reflect. We are not meant to do all of this alone, and we cannot do anything well if we ourselves are not well. We must allow time to rest not only our bodies and minds, but also our souls. How many of you have missed going to mass or another event because the kids were having a bad day? I have! Countless times! But there

truly is something to hearing kids, that I didn't birth, at 10 am mass on Sundays that causes me such joy. Please come and bring your kids, you can sit with us and we can give each other side-long looks together when our kids aren't sitting perfectly still and silent. But go in knowing that you aren't alone, and give your heart and soul that time with Him that it needs. I'll be there to hold your hand, as long as you hold mine too.

So many times I have said "Lord, I'm trusting you here, but I think you're trusting me a little too much..." in response to something that's occurring in my life. But what if we trusted Him enough to take that rest that we so desperately need? What if we trusted in Him to guide us through not only our work, but through our rest too? Trust in Him to still guide us in accomplishing the items on our to-do lists, but doing so fully rested and able to listen for His words and guidance. Know that you do **not** have to earn rest, just like you do **not** have to earn His love.

This week I challenge you to find small moments where you can soak up some rest, whether that be physically with taking a nap, mentally with having cereal for dinner instead of a fancy recipe, or spiritually with turning off the nagging voice in your head and turning on readiness to go to church and listen. I'm new to this as well, let's do it together and help one another to grow in Him. Give yourself some extra grace this week, and be amazed at what you can do.

## Saint Augustine. pray for us FEAST Celebrations

