

✠J.M.J.



February Newsletter

Dear SMS Families,

February may be a short month, but it is full of special events, the opening of Registration for the 2023-2024 school year, great Saint feastdays, and the beginning of a new Liturgical season: Lent!

It is also the month especially dedicated to the Holy Family. How can your family grow closer to each other, closer to God, and closer to the Holy Family this month?



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023

Growing up as a student at St. Mike's, one of the highlights of every year for me was Catholic Schools Week. There were always activities that fostered community: between students, grade levels, families, the parish, and the community. It made me proud to be a part of such a caring and fun school that set aside time to CELEBRATE. Celebrating in big and small ways our victories, events, people, communities, and most especially God, is such an important and deeply human experience. Countless times in Scripture, God asks us to set aside time for a special purpose. I am looking forward to setting time aside with you, our students, and staff to CELEBRATE what makes being at a Catholic school so unique. I invite you to enter into this special time where we get to remember Who we are Whose we are SMS!

Sunday, January 29: Celebrating Our Parish

Student Dress: School Uniforms for K and Up; SMS Shirts for PreK

11:00am Opening Mass for Catholic Schools Week **(IF YOU COME TO NOTHING ELSE THIS WEEK, PLEASE COME TO THIS MASS WITH US!)**

An Open House for **Current and Prospective Families** will be at the school from 12:00-1:30pm and include a Bake Sale sponsored by the PTO!

Monday, January 30: Celebrating Our Community

Student Dress: Jeans and SMS Spiritwear – This can include an SMS OR green hoodie OR wear your school uniform. *All students and staff will receive a PBIS Irish Ideals shirt this day to wear on Tuesday.*

Older school children will travel to the Good Shepherd Center to help create Easter baskets. Younger children will stay at school and work on Easter projects for the Good Shepherd Center.

4:00pm Bowling for School Families at Liberty Lanes – Children bowl for free! Parents may also bowl for \$5 per game or \$15 per hour.



Tuesday, January 31: Celebrating Our Students

Student Dress: Jeans/Sweatpants and Irish Ideals Shirt OR wear your school uniform

Students will be introduced to Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) with our new *Irish Ideals*: **Saintly, Mindful, and Safe.**



Wednesday, February 1: Celebrating the Nation

Student Dress: Jeans and Patriotic Colors (Red, White, and Blue) OR wear your school uniform

9:00am Veterans Breakfast with Trivia – **All Veterans are welcome to attend!** *Please call the school office to let us know if any additional veterans are coming. Please also call the office if you can volunteer to help serve the Breakfast.*



Thursday, February 2: Celebrating Vocations

Student Dress: Dress as a Saint or Bible Character OR wear Jeans/Uniform Bottoms and School Uniform Shirt

Fr. Brandon, Deacon Marty, and Deacon Frank will visit classrooms and answer students' questions. Lunch will be shared with Fr. Brandon, Deacon Marty, and Deacon Frank and is being *donated* by Subway – Thank you, Subway!



Friday, February 3: Celebrating Jesus

Student Dress: Dress Up for Jesus (wear your nicest dress clothes and shoes) OR wear your school uniform

9:00am Closing School Mass – **All are welcome!** Since it is First Friday, school students will also be attending Eucharistic Adoration.

12:00pm Noon Dismissal – There will be NO SAFE this day!



Saturday, February 4: Celebrating Families

Student Dress: Wear what you'd like!

Celebration in Lateran Hall following the 4:30pm Mass (5:30-7:30pm) – **All School and Parish Members/Families are welcome!** *Please bring cookies or a dessert to share.* The announcement of the Side-by-Side/\$20,000 Raffle will happen at 7:00pm.



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

First Friday and Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, [February 3](#) is the First Friday of the Month! Please join us for Mass that day and for Eucharistic Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the school day. I also encourage you to make a visit Jesus in Adoration with your family that day too!

No School

There will be no school on Monday, [February 6](#), for students. Teachers will report for an Exception to 180 Days. There will be no school on Monday, [February 20](#), in honor of Presidents' Day.

School Masses

Each Friday, a different class is in charge of providing readers and greeters. For February, the following classes will be in charge of Mass parts: [February 3](#): 4th Grade; [February 10](#): 3rd Grade; [February 17](#): 2nd Grade; [February 24](#): 1st Grade. Students love when their parents or other family members attend Mass! Please know you are welcome and wanted at ALL MASSES!

February Jeans Day

The following Thursdays are Jeans Days for February: [February 2](#) (optional with costumes for Catholic Schools Week, [February 9](#), and [February 23](#). Please follow the dresscode in our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Jeans Days.

Hot Lunch

Thursday, [February 9](#), is a salad bar and brownie! Thank you to our moms on PTO for organizing this for us!

St. Valentine's Day

The feast of St. Valentine is on Tuesday, [February 14](#). Students will have parties in the afternoon this day to celebrate. Look for more information about the parties from your child's teacher.

3rd Quarter Interim

The 3rd Quarter Interim is on Wednesday, [February 15](#). Progress reports for Grades 1 and up will be going home that week.

Casual for a Cause

Thursday, [February 16](#), will be our Casual for a Cause. Our Cause for this month will be the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County. Please see page 21 of our [Handbook](#) for what is permissible on Casual for a Cause days. In order to participate, students and staff need to bring in *at least* \$1 toward our adopted Cause for the month.

Ash Wednesday/Lent

Wednesday, [February 22](#), is Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent. Even though Ash Wednesday is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation, our school has a tradition of attending the 9:00am Mass on this day.

Because it is the first day of Lent, it is a day of fasting (no eating in between meals) and abstinence (not eating meat). Therefore, instead of the Pepperoni Lunch being on Wednesday, it will be on Thursday, [February 23](#).

Fun Facts: The only other day in Lent that is a day of both fasting and abstinence is Good Friday. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The Church actually encourages us to abstain from meat every Friday of the year.

Read Across America Week

SMS will be celebrating literacy during Read Across America Week from [February 27 – March 3](#). A full calendar of events, including more information about our Literacy Night Open House on Tuesday, [February 28](#), will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

Stations of the Cross

Each Tuesday in Lent, a different class will have the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross at the church.

In the News and Shamrock ShoutOuts:

- ♣ Introducing...
 - The SMS staff is proud to welcome our new Art teacher, Mrs. Susan Cawley! Mrs. Cawley had been an Art teacher at a Christian school for 29 years before moving into the area. After interviewing her, looking through her portfolio, watching her set up her classroom, and seeing the smiling faces of our students coming out of her classes, I would love to be a student in her classroom! Mrs. Cawley will be teaching two days a week. On her schedule are not only Art classes for PreK-7th Grade, but a History class each for Grades K-3 and a Science class for Grade 4 and 6/7.
 - For Art classes, please send an old oversized long sleeve shirt (preferably) that your child can wear as a smock over their clothes.
 - We are also so blessed to have former SMS student and current Thiel College student, Miss Melina Liszka, on our Team to teach Music. Miss Liszka was a student in my class when I was a 5th Grade teacher! You may recognize her name from the productions she's been in as a student at Greenville High School, including playing Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Liszka has a beautiful voice and is working toward her BA in Elementary Education. She will be focusing especially on voice with our PreK-7th Graders.
- ♣ We raised \$200.00 for our parish in our Casual for a Cause on January 19 – the largest amount raised! Thank you for your generosity!
- ♣ Thanks to a grant from the T.J. Kavanagh Foundation, our lunchroom is now sporting 8 new lunchtables in our school colors: green and white! In the words of one of our 1st Graders, "These are like REAL lunchtables, Miss Zgonc!" Yes, they are! I can't wait for you to see them!
- ♣ SMS has been in the news and seen around the town on many fronts in the last month!
 - Tune in to WGRP Radio to hear a commercial about St. Mike's, as well as a sting recorded by Kindergartener, Matthew Novosel and myself. Airing on Sunday, January 22, Deacon Marty Aubel, Mrs. Trichelle Eddy, and myself were interviewed by radio host, Rich Fink for his WGRP COMMUNITY SPOLTLIGHT SHOW!
 - Look in the Record Argus and the Herald for ads promoting our Open House as well as the opening of Registration for the 2023-2024 school year! An ad will also appear in the Herald's special Outlook edition on Education and Youth on February 4.
 - Thank you to those who took yard signs advertising SMS! If you need any more, please let me know! Thank you for helping us spread the word about SMS!
 - Watch for upcoming events regarding SMS on the scrolling sign in front of the Greenville Police Station.
- ♣ A Shamrock Shoutout to all of our parents! And especially to all parents who have helped set up and plan for events like (but not limited to!) the Pancakes with Santa and Grub with the Grinch Breakfast, the Christmas Family Night, our New Year's Eve Party, Hot Lunches, and more. Thank you even more especially to our PTO Officers: Leighanne Bert, Trichelle Eddy, Sara Barr, and

Aimee Forsythe for consistently going above and beyond to create special events and memories for our students, staff, and families!

- ♣ A Shamrock Shoutout to our awesome teachers and staff! Our teachers work extremely hard behind the scenes to create dynamite lessons, raise scores on NWEA assessments, attend professional development sessions and days, take lunch, recess, morning arrival, and SAFE duty, plan extra fun things like the 100th Day of School, Catholic Schools Week, Clubs for all students in Kindergarten and Up (special thanks to Mr. Dorio for this initiative!), PBIS, and so much more! Most of all, our teachers genuinely love *your* child! THANK YOU!
- ♣ A Shamrock Shoutout to all of the parishioners who have been putting in hours of work to make sure that we have a successful Side-by-Side/\$20,000 Raffle, Side-by-Side/ATV Rally on Saturday, January 21, that raised \$5,700 for our school, and many more events! Thank you for supporting us and letting us know through your words and actions that we are worthy to be fought for!
- ♣ A Shamrock Shoutout to Mr. Neral's daughter for designing our new PBIS Irish Ideals logo! The logo will be appearing around our school on the shirts that students and staff will receive during Catholic Schools Week!
- ♣ Announcing...
 - Registration, including Kindergarten Registration, for the 2023-2024 school year will officially open on Monday, January 30. Reserve your child's spot for the year and help us spread the word!
 - Don't forget, tuition next year will be just \$10 a day! This amount can be further reduced with your sale of SCRIP.
 - A tiny tuition tip: with Tax Season upon us, many families have found it advantageous to save and apply their tax refund for the next year's tuition.

Reminders:

- Please double-check each day to make sure your child has a refillable water bottle. The drinking fountains at school are turned off, but we do have water bottle filling stations with filtered water.
- When packing lunches for your child, please be sure to pack appropriate utensils. We are still going through our backup store of plastic spoons like water!
- As per our dress code, all students in Grades K-8 need to have their shirts tucked in. Belts are required for students in Grades 4-8 when wearing pants or shorts with belt loops.
- Toys should not be sent/brought into school. The exception will be by special permission/request from the teacher (i.e. a show-n-tell project).
- You are an awesome, amazing person and your child is too! We are so blessed to have you at our school this year!

Thank you for partnering with us to make our students' year a great one!

St. Michael, pray for us!

Grace and Peace,

Emily Zgone 😊

Principal

"Open wide the doors of your heart to Christ! Do not be afraid!" - St. John Paul II

February 2023 - Families (put me on your fridge!)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Catholic Schools Week! 9:00am Veterans Breakfast with Trivia Pepperoni Roll Lunch	2 Catholic Schools Week! Visits from Fr. Brandon and Deacons Possible Play in the Snow Day!	3 Catholic Schools Week! 9:00am 4th School Mass <i>First Friday Eucharistic Adoration</i> Pizza Day Lunch Noon Dismissal Day!! NO SAFE!	4 Catholic Schools Week! 4:30pm Mass (St. Michael) 5:30-7:30pm CSW Celebration and Side by Side/\$20,000 Drawing
5 7:00am Mass (St. Michael) 9:00am Mass (St. Margaret) 11:00am Mass (St. Michael)	6 Exception to 180 Days No School for Students!	7	8 Pepperoni Roll Lunch	9 Jeans Day HOT LUNCH DAY	10 9:00am 3rd School Mass Pizza Day Lunch	11 4:30pm Mass (St. Michael)
12 7:00am Mass (St. Michael) 9:00am Mass (St. Margaret) 11:00am Mass (St. Michael)	13 Turkey Subs Lunch	14 St. Valentine's Day Parties in the PM	15 3rd Quarter Interim Pepperoni Roll Lunch	16 Casual for a Cause - Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County	17 9:00am 2nd School Mass Pizza Day Lunch	18 4:30pm Mass (St. Michael)
19 7:00am Mass (St. Michael) 9:00am Mass (St. Margaret) 11:00am Mass (St. Michael)	20 Presidents' Day! 😊 No School!	21 <i>Exec PTO Meeting 6pm</i>	22 Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent) 9:00am Mass NO PEPPERONI ROLL LUNCH!	23 Jeans Day Pepperoni Roll Lunch (MOVED FROM WEDNESDAY)	24 9:00am 1st School Mass Pizza Day Lunch	25 4:30pm Mass (St. Michael)
26 7:00am Mass (St. Michael) 9:00am Mass (St. Margaret) 11:00am Mass (St. Michael)	27 Read Across America Week Turkey Subs Lunch	28 Read Across America Week 1:30pm 6/7th Stations of the Cross 6:00pm LITERACY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE				