

Dear SMS Families,

May, the month of Mother's Day, Spring showing up in full bloom, is also the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother, Mama Mary. During this month, we crown a statue of Mary, create little May altars in our school and homes, plant Mary gardens, and pray the Rosary more fervently. It is a time to consecrate ourselves anew to Jesus through His Mother Mary.



The painting shown above has always been a favorite of mine. Most, once including me, assume that it is a painting of Mary holding Baby Jesus, and looking at it through those eyes is very powerful. What blew me away however was the story I was told behind the painting. As I was told, this *Madonna of the Streets* by Italian artist Roberto Ferruzzi, is actually meant to represent a young and desparate mother with her baby wandering the streets in search of shelter. When she is about to give up hope, she rounds a corner and comes face to face with the Blessed Mother, holding Jesus. The Blessed Mother quietly holds out her hands to receive the young mother's baby and places her own Son, Jesus in the mother's arms, signifying that she, Mary, will take care of young mother's baby. What we see in the painting is the young mother holding *Jesus* and looking at Mary holding her own child, knowing that they are both safe and will be taken care of!

I invite you to pray with me and this image during the month of May. Place your child in the arms of Our Mother and hold Jesus close to your heart!



SMS ACTIVITY CLUBS, A TRIBUTE TO OUR TEACHERS!



Thank you to Mr. Doug Dorio and Mrs. Erica Dorio for bringing SMS Activity Clubs to our school! Last year, these 2 teachers talked about wanting to form a Pet Club in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. The idea was brought to fruition this year with the formation of just such a club: the St. Francis “Animal Advocacy” Club.

All of our teachers jumped on board and created several other Clubs that our students could choose from to join, among them: the Kindness Club, School Newspaper Club, Drama Club, Boardgame Club, and Pep Club. Each Club contributed something unique to our school community:



- Most recently on May 8, the St. Francis “Animal Advocacy” Club invited Marcy Webb-Jaynes from Therapy Dogs United to lead an assembly! Marcy brought her 2 dogs, Jessie and Genevieve, both Aussiedoodles, to our school to teach our students all about Therapy Dogs! The St. Francis “Animal Advocacy” Club also led a Lenten drive to collect items that animals at Strayhaven Animal Shelter in Greenville needed. The items filled the Dorio’s car to overflowing! In addition to this collection, the Club hosted an extra Casual for a Cause Day with proceeds going to Strayhaven. It was our biggest collection for a Cause this year at over \$200!
- The Drama Club, under the direction of Ms. G. and Miss Zuschlag, performed a Fairytale Courtroom with the Big Bad Wolf on trial (the Wolf was found GUILTY) much to the delight of the entire school! Ms. G. and Miss Zuschlag are also preparing our students in their Pep Club to perform at the Shamrock Showdon Featuring the Shamrock Shakers on Saturday, May 20.
- Mrs. Endicott and Mrs. Maloney teamed up with the Kindness Club to spread kindness and beauty throughout the school and community with Candygrams for the whole school, cards that were sent to St. Paul’s residents, and signs for Veterans displayed at our Veterans’ Day program! In addition to these acts of love, the Kindness Club also created a Kindness book that has been sent away to be published! A copy will forever be available in our school library! Order forms also went out for our students to purchase for themselves!
- The School Newspaper Club worked under the guidance of Mr. Neral to create the *Irish Bugle*, a newspaper featuring an introduction of a new SMS student, stories covering Catholic Schools Week and the Side-by-Side Raffle, and cartoons, as well as a full length feature interview with Fr. Brandon!



Thank you to Mr. Dorio for kickstarting and organizing the schedule for our Clubs!

Each of our teachers goes ABOVE and BEYOND what their public school counterparts are asked or volunteer to do! Behind the scenes, you’ll find our teachers voluntarily cleaning the lunchroom, bathrooms, and other parts of the school, taking the trash out, sitting in on team meetings, organizing SAFE, offering to help and assist with morning arrival and afternoon dismissal, asking if they can organize field trips, assemblies, after school programs, and events, planning week-long special activities (i.e. Catholic Schools Week, Read Across America Week), staying after school to set up for events, creating memorable hands-on activities for Family Nights (Math Fluency, Literacy, Science Fair, Fine and Performing Arts, etc), and SO much more!

I’d like to add a special thank you too to our Lead Teacher, Mrs. Maloney, for steering the ship when I can’t be, for taking initiative to lead planning meetings for important upcoming events like the Science Fair Open House and the Mother’s Day Tea, for being our Curriculum Lead for our Mathematics Professional Learning Team (PLT) and the extra training that goes with it, and for brainstorming after school with me to dream of, plan, and execute ideas to make SMS the best school around!

Thank you to all of our teachers for their ingenuity and hard work to make the SMS experience such a rich one!



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Kindergarten Registration/Re-Enrollment

Kindergarten Registration is still open, as is re-enrollment for all current families for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know of any other family who is looking for a solid Catholic education in our area, please send them our way!

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank you to the PTO and to all of the families who showed such love and support to our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week: May 1-5!! The teachers were showered with flowers, gifts, food, and Shamrock Shoutouts! We wouldn't be here without our teachers, and let me tell you, they are a TALENTED, GENEROUS, CREATIVE, SELF-SACRIFICING, PATIENT, PROFESSIONAL, and all-other-good-adjectives group of people!! Thank you for showering them (and me) with love!!

Pancakes with the Priest

Students and staff enjoyed another Pancakes with the Priest lunch on Tuesday, May 2 as Fr. Brandon, local hero, came to eat with our students, and the staff got a chance to eat all together – a very rare treat! Thank you to the PTO families and Ashleigh Jamison for cooking the meal and supervising the students so that the teachers could eat and enjoy time with each other!

Doughnuts with Deacons

Doughnuts with Deacons has been rescheduled to Friday, May 19. Students will have the opportunity to eat lunch with Deacon Marty and Deacon Frank and enjoy doughnuts with them afterwards for dessert! Thank you to the 6/7th Graders for the idea and to Trichelle Eddy, in advance, for delivering the doughnuts!



Visit our website!

School Masses

Each Friday, a different class is in charge of providing readers and greeters. For the remainder of May and June, the following classes will be in charge of Mass parts:

- May 5: 4th Grade Mass
- May 18: Holy Day of Obligation: Ascension
- May 19: Kindergarten Mass
- May 26: 1st Grade Mass
- June 1: All School Mass

Students love when their parents and other family members and friends attend Mass!

May Jeans Day

The following Thursdays are Jeans Days for the remainder of May:

- May 4
- May 11
- May 25

Please follow the dresscode in our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Jeans Days.

First Holy Communion and May Crowning

Congratulations to 3rd Grader, Siena Petroski, for receiving her First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6, and for acting as our May Queen to crown the statue of Mary at May Crowning on Monday, May 8. Siena, may your First Holy Communion be the first of many! May you receive Jesus as often as you can and fall ever more in love with Him in the Blessed Sacrament: the Eucharist! May we all take Siena's example to receive Jesus often and well and hold a special place of love in our hearts for His beautiful Mother, Mary!

Open PTO Meeting

PTO will host an Open Meeting on Wednesday, May 10, at 6pm in Lateran Hall. If you haven't had a chance to come to a PTO meeting this year, please come to this one! The PTO, led by Trichelle Eddy, Sara Barr, and Aimee Forsythe, will be laying out their vision for PTO for the 2023-2024 school year (I'm very excited with the new vision!!), holding elections, and reviewing what the end of the 2022-2023 school year will look like. You don't want to miss it!

Mother's Day Tea

The teachers are hosting a Mothers' Day Tea for students and their moms or other special ladies in their lives on Thursday, [May 11](#), in Lateran Hall. Activities will include prayers, songs, poems, games, cookie decorating, and, of course, tea (iced tea ☺ and lemonade)!

NO SCHOOL!

There will be NO SCHOOL:

- Friday, [May 12](#): Exception to 180 Days
- Monday, [May 29](#): Happy Memorial Day!!

Fine and Performing Arts Show

You are invited to our Fine and Performing Arts Show on Tuesday, [May 16](#), at 6:00pm in Lateran Hall. Miss Melina Liszka will be leading our students in songs they have learned this year and Mrs. Susan Cawley will be showcasing the students' artwork. All are welcome!

Hot Lunch

Thank you to the parents who made our Meatball Sandwiches Hot Lunch on [April 13](#) such a great one! Thursday, [May 11](#), is our Chicken Nuggets, Mac and Cheese, and Apples Hot Lunch!

Field Trips

Thanks to the generosity of our PTO and the initiative of our teachers and parent Ashleigh Jamison, our students have the opportunity to go on several field trips this month:

- [May 15](#) – *The Gruffalo* at Westminster College (PreK-3rd Grade)
- [May 22](#) – Singalong at St. Paul's (PreK)
- [May 25](#) – OH WOW! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology (PreK-2nd Grade)
- [May 26](#) – Penn State Behrend Planetarium and Engineering (3rd-7th Grade)

Students need to wear their *Irish Ideals* t-shirts on all field trips.

PreK Spring Conferences

PreK Spring Conferences will be held with PreK parents on Tuesday, [May 16](#) and Wednesday, [May 17](#). If you haven't already scheduled your conference, please do so by contacting Mrs. Dorio and/or Mr. Neral through Class Dojo.

Dress UP for a Cause

Thursday, [April 20](#), our Cause was our own Knights of Columbus, for which we raised \$180! On Thursday, [May 18](#), since it is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, and we will be going to Mass, we will have a Dress UP for a Cause to benefit the Greenville VFW. Since this is a Dress **UP** and **not** a Casual Day, please note that no shorts, jeans, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts, or tennis shoes may be worn. Students should be dressing in their Sunday best in order to take part. **To participate**, students and staff need to bring in *at least* \$1 toward our adopted Cause for the month.

Shamrock Showdown Featuring the Shamrock Shakers

Thanks to coaches/teachers, Doug Dorio, Erica Dorio, and Natalie Endicott, our Little Dribblers will be showcasing their basketball skills on Saturday, [May 20](#), at noon. The Shamrock Shakers (Pep Club) will also perform cheers that they have been learning under the direction of teachers Haley Germano and Kyla Zushlag. A 50/50 and concession stand will also be available. Join us to cheer on our SMS athletes!

Drum Circle Assembly

There will be a Drum Circle Assembly led by my Gannon professor/advisor, Mr. Stephen Corsi, on Wednesday, [May 24](#). This will be Mr. Corsi's second Drum Circle Assembly at SMS this year!

Field Day, School Picnic, and Special Surprise!

On Tuesday, [May 30](#), our students will participate in a morning filled with field day activities (please pray for no rain!), followed by a school picnic, and a SURPRISE they won't want to miss in the afternoon!

PreK and Kindergarten Graduation

Our PreK and Kindergarten students will be graduating on Wednesday, [May 31](#), at 12:30pm at Lateran Hall. Led by Mr. Neral, Mrs. Dorio, and Ms. G., the ceremony will include prayers and songs by the students, a tribute to longtime PreK teacher, Pam Cianci, and cookie and punch refreshments. Please join us to congratulate our youngest SMS Irish!

Last Day of School!

It will be here before we know it! Our last day of school for the 2022-2023 school year will be Thursday, June 1! PreK will have their own festivities in the PreK rooms. Students in K-7th Grade will attend and participate in one final 9am school Mass, to which you are all invited. At 10:30am in Lateran Hall, you are also invited to our Awards Ceremony. Following the Awards Ceremony, we will ring in the 2023 SUMMER BREAK with a NOON Dismissal. There will be NO SAFE on the last day of school.

Summer Kickball Tournament

The PTO is organizing a community Kickball Tournament to be held at the Greenville Little League Fields on Sunday, June 25. The tournament will begin at 1pm. Look for more information to come home!

Yard Signs

If you or someone you know can put up an SMS yard sign on their property or at their business, please contact the office and let us know! Help us spread the word about SMS!

In the News and Shamrock ShoutOuts:

- ♣ Thank you PTO Board Members Trichelle Eddy, Sara Barr, and Aimee Forsythe, for the countless hours, effort, and talent you've poured into SMS this year!!! Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who have, with these ladies, volunteered your time to SMS this past year!

- ♣ **SMS Alumni Reunion**

For any adult who attended SMS (and significant other) at any time, you are invited to the Saint Michael All Alumni Reunion on Saturday, July 1, 2023 at the Knights of Columbus at noon. From 12:00-5:00pm, there will be Food Trucks (Minuteman Woodfired Pizza, Independent Taco, and The Whole Sh'Bang). The "Grant Street Acoustic Trio" with Terry Dach (St. Joseph 75' Alum), Charlie Fischer, and Mark Hubicz will be performing from 2:00-6:00pm. There will be a cash bar – no outside food or drinks permitted.



Scan to the left to join the St. Michael Alumni Facebook page.

Cost is \$15.00 per person to cover entertainment, grounds, and tent rentals. Please register by May 15. Scan here for the VENMO code for reservations and payment.



venmo

*"The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26*

Our foundation is JESUS! Our goal is to help each other get to heaven! To be Saints!

St. Michael, pray for us!

Grace and Peace,

Emily Zgonc 😊

Principal

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

