



Father Joseph Baker, Pastor
Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

Reminders

* Our all school Mass will be held on Thursdays at 8:15am. Please join us!

* Please be sure to write your child's name or initials on their fleeces and sweaters.

Illinois Ag in the Classroom

Congratulations to 3 of our teachers, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Delheimer, and Mrs. Plenert for receiving a grant from IL Ag in the Classroom. They will receive resources and/or books for their classrooms to help increase the agricultural literacy of our students while also addressing important content area learning standards. IL Ag in the Classroom is excited to partner with our school to meet their goals of increasing Ag literacy in students here in Illinois.

Central Catholic Road Show

We're looking forward to bringing Central Catholic High School to Pontiac on Monday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's School. If you have a 7th or 8th grader looking at high schools, stop in to learn more about life as a Central Catholic Saint. We'll answer your questions and talk about everything from academic, athletic, and fine arts opportunities to tuition assistance to the House System and block schedule that made their debut this school year. Please [fill out this RSVP](#) and let us know what you'd like to find out about our school. See you November 27!

Student Council

The Student Council will be doing a couple of fundraisers in December. On December 3 after the Sunday morning masses, the student council will have a Christmas bake sale to benefit "Our Military Kids" which is the IAJHSC State Service Project. Kate Lauritsen is the Mideast District Representative that presented this project and won. The week of December 11-15, the student council will be selling candy canes before school. More details to come for each of these events. Thank you for your support of St. Mary's Student Council.

Atrium Advent Family Event

Please join us Sunday, December 3rd immediately following 9:30 Mass in the Parish Hall for our "Purple is for Preparation" Atrium Family Event. The Knights of Columbus will be having a breakfast that morning as well. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Games

- Girls' Basketball:
 - Nov. 18- Regionals Begin (8th Grade)
 - Nov. 29- Sectionals Begin (7th Grade)
- Boys' Basketball:
 - Nov. 16-18- County Tournament (7th/8th Grade)
 - Nov. 21- Away; Lexington (7th/8th Grade)
 - Nov. 28- Home: 5:30pm (7th/8th)

Save the Date

- Nov. 18- ILMEA Festival at Olivet
- Nov. 21- Progress Reports
- Nov. 22- NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 23- NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 24- NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 4- PreK-4 & Kindergarten Registration Open for Current Families
- Dec. 8- Holy Day of Obligation
- Dec. 12- Christmas Program
- Dec. 14- Praise & Worship 7:15am-7:45am

Nativity Walk

We are preparing for an ADVENTure. The birth of Jesus is coming soon! In anticipation of this glorious day, we are inviting you to share your family Nativities with us. We will have a Nativity walk on Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th.

A sign up genius will be sent out in order for us to prepare room for your nativity. More details to follow.

Christmas Program

Mark your calendars!

Our annual Christmas Concerts will take place Tuesday, December 12th in the church.

Preschool-3rd grade: 6:15pm

4th-8th: 7:00pm

All students participate in the Christmas program. Our choir and bands will perform and junior high students serve as readers and hand out programs. The 8th grade performs the Nativity story. We can't wait to share in this special night with your children!

Mrs. Yedinak and Mrs. Erickson

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Greetings,

Discover Catholic Schools Week has given us an opportunity to celebrate our students, teachers, donors, alumni, and parents.

At the boys' basketball game this past Tuesday night, we welcomed many former students back to St. Mary's. It was fantastic to see them, catch up with them, and listen to their stories. Two of our former students stated they want to be teachers and would like to come back to St. Mary's. One student mentioned she wants to go into the medical field and focus on surgery. Another student mentioned majoring in business and maybe working for his family business. These stories and many others that were shared the other night brought me great joy.

As educators, we plant many seeds, we may not see them take root immediately, however it is up to God to make these seeds sprout and grow. I always tell people St. Mary's is like a family. For me, celebrating our alumni was like having my own kids back home.

Be sure to watch the videos highlighting our students and teachers, they will bring a smile to your face. Thank you to Mrs. Tissiere for taking the time to capture these moments.

To celebrate our donors, the Jr. High students and their teachers walked to many businesses and yards to rake leaves and to say thank you for supporting our school.

Finally as a way to celebrate our parents, I invite you to eat lunch with your child this Friday. We hope you are able to join us as we conclude our Discover Catholic Schools week.

With prayers of gratitude,

Mrs. Jones



Former and current St. Mary's students singing our National Anthem before the 6th Grade Basketball game.