



Father Adam Cesarek, Pastor  
Karen Jones, Principal

**REMINDERS**

- The school office will be closed on Thursday's during Mass.
- We are still in search of volunteers to help with lunch duty. Lunch is 11:20-12:40, please contact the school office (815-844-6585) if you can help one day or multiple days.
- We are very low on disposable child size masks. If you are able to donate a box of disposable masks it would be greatly appreciated.

**CASUAL DAYS**

Fridays in December are casual days! Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wear your favorite Christmas socks, jeans/sweats and a hoodie. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Show your school spirit! Wear St. Mary's apparel, jeans/sweats and hoodies are allowed. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – Wear your favorite Christmas shirt or sweater with jeans/sweats (hoodies are allowed). If a student chooses not to participate they must wear their school uniform.

**SCRIP**

Are you looking to order gift cards for this Christmas season through our SCRIP fundraiser? If so, please send in your order form and payment (labeled SCRIP) to the office by the following dates: Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. The cards will be delivered to you the following Thursday after your order. The order form is attached. For any questions, please contact Taryn Tissiere at [tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org) or 815-979-7663.

**ANGEL TREE**

There is a Christmas tree displayed in the front foyer by the office. On this tree, you will find tags. Feel free to grab a tag off the tree, purchase the gift card on the tag, and return it to the school office by December 10<sup>th</sup> with the tag. These items will be delivered to families that need a little help through the holidays. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

**2022-2023 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Parents wanting to enroll a new 4-year-old student can now register. Login to Facts Family Portal > Apply/Enroll > Application (new student). The complete 2022-2023 tuition and fee schedule can be found on our website.

**2022-2023 TUITION & FEES**

Parish Finance Council has approved our tuition and fee schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. The schedule can be found on our [website](#). Online Kindergarten registration for Little Disciples Preschool students and current SMS families will begin Monday, December 6. To register, login to [Facts](#) (use District Code SMS-IL):  
Current preschool students enrolling in Kindergarten: Apply/Enroll > Enrollment/Reenrollment  
New Kindergarten students not enrolled in Preschool: Apply/Enroll > Application (New Student)  
Re-enrollment for current K - 7 SMS students will begin in March.

**STUDENT COUNCIL CANDY CANE SALE**

St. Mary's Student Council will be selling candy canes from December 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. The candy canes will be sold before school each morning for \$.25/each with a limit of 4 per day. Also, candy canes may be purchased to be delivered. If a parent would like to send any candy canes, please send the money and the note you would like attached in an envelope marked Student Council. Half the funds will be donated to a local charity during the holiday season. Thank you in advance for your support.

**NEXT WEEK'S PREVIEW**

<b>December 6-11</b>	
6	Kindergarten Registration begins for current families. 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball @ Gridley 5:30
7	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball @ Cornerstone 6:00
9	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball vs Metcalf 5:30
11	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball vs Morris Saratoga 9:00

**SAVE THE DATE**

- Dec. 14 – Christmas Program - PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grades 6:00, 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades 7:00
- Dec. 17 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR
- Dec. 20-31 – Christmas Break
- Jan. 3 – School Resumes (NO BUS SERVICE OR HOT LUNCH)
- Jan. 3 – Kindergarten Registration begins for new families
- Jan. 17 – NO SCHOOL MLK DAY

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, December 5**  
**7:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
in the parish hall

**Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage,  
Egg Casserole, French Toast Casserole & Drink**  
**\$10 per person, \$40 family maximum**

*Santa is unable to attend this year, but all children will receive a gift.*

Greetings!

December has arrived and if you are like me, still have much Christmas shopping to do. I had hoped to be finished by now but find myself with a long list of gifts yet to buy! The holidays can be overwhelming when you add in everyday life events such as school, work, and anything else you are involved with. I am reminding myself not to get caught up in the crazy and to make time for God. Our faith will get us through these next several weeks. What better time to begin praying than with the start of Advent and the birth of Jesus. I encourage you to set aside time with your family to pray together. Perhaps this is the year your family will do an Advent Calendar, maybe you will read the Christmas Story, whatever you decide to do, put God first, everything else will fall into place as they are meant to.

Have a great weekend!

With prayers,

Mrs. Jones