



## WEEKLY BULLETIN March 14, 2024

Father Joseph Baker, Pastor  
Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

### Illness Policy

**Students may not return to school until they have been fever, and symptom free for 24 hours, without pain medication.**

### 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.

### Fathers, Faith, and Flapjacks

Fathers, Grandpas, and children are invited to come and enjoy flapjacks, applesauce, juice, milk, coffee, and fellowship on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:15am-7:45am. Please RSVP by tomorrow, March 15<sup>th</sup> by returning the attached form to the school, calling the school office at 815-844-6585, or emailing Mrs. Jones at [jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org](mailto:jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org). You're invited to stay for Mass which begins at 8:15am.

### Part-time Custodian Needed

St. Mary's Parish is looking to hire an able-bodied individual to serve as a part-time custodian for St. Mary's School. Qualifications for this position include: striving to live a Christian life - be practicing the faith if Catholic, if not Catholic, have a respect for the Catholic Church and be comfortable working in a Catholic environment, possessing knowledge, skills, and experience in handling janitorial equipment and basic maintenance tools; assisting the head custodian in duties/projects as needed; maintaining security of buildings, equipment, and tools. Duties would be cleaning of classrooms, hallways, gym following games, offices, pre-K area, and the parish hall, setting up and taking down of tables and chairs as needed, making sure all lights are out and doors are locked, and collecting trash or anything else determined by the maintenance director. Hours would be late afternoon/early evening. If interested, please send a letter of interest, stating qualifications and references, to Fr. Joseph Baker, P.O. Box 374, Pontiac, IL 61764 or drop it off at the church office.

### Upcoming Games

- Girls' Volleyball:
  - Mar. 15- State (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - Mar. 16- State (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

### Save the Date

- Mar. 15- End of Third Quarter
- Mar. 15- Eighth Girls' State Volleyball Game, 7:00pm at Bishop-Mac in Kankakee
- Mar. 16- Scholastic Bowl Conference Tournament
- Mar. 18- Solo & Ensemble Contest 4:00pm
- Mar. 21- Fathers, Faith, and Flapjacks 7:15am-7:45am
- Mar. 20- Cultural Fair 12:00pm-2:00pm
- Mar. 22- Saints vs. Irish Game 12:30pm
- Mar. 22- Early Dismissal 1:30pm- **NO AFTERNOON BUS SERVICE**
- Mar. 23-29- Spring Break/Holy Week Begins
- Apr. 2- School Resumes
- Apr. 2- Scholastic Bowl @ Tri-Point
- Apr. 4- Scholastic Bowl @ Ridgeview

### Re-enroll for 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 tuition schedule was sent out in December and you may find the document attached. Parents are asked to select their deductions, sign the Statement of Faith at the bottom of the page, and return the form to school prior to re-enrollment. If you have any questions about tuition, please call the school office at (815) 844-6585.

If your family needs financial assistance for the upcoming school year, we encourage you to apply for the St. Blaise and Spalding Scholarships through Facts Grant & Aid at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. This is a separate site from Facts Family Portal. All current scholarship recipients are reminded that scholarships are for one year only; families must reapply each year.

### DrawDown Update

The St. Mary's DrawDown is only a month away. We have 43 tickets left to sell. If you have not yet bought or sold a ticket, please consider doing so. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Without fundraising, tuition costs would be significantly higher. We need 100% participation from our SMS families. Thank you.

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**Altar Servers**

If your child, or children, are interested in being an Altar Server please call or text Julie Wenger at (815) 252-5947.

**Fine Arts Night**

Our annual Fine Arts Night will be the evening of Thursday, April 25th. This event is a wonderful tradition at SMS. Student art work will be on display in the MPR and there will be 2 concerts: Pk-3rd followed by 4th-8th. Be sure to mark your calendar as this event involves all students, and stay tuned for more details!

**SMS Parent Facebook Group**

In case you haven't heard, the SMS Uniform Swap Facebook group has been renamed to SMS Parent Group. We will still be doing uniform swaps on this page but this will also be a way to get information to parents. If you're not already a member, please join the SMS Parent Group on Facebook.

**SMS Golf Outing**

Mark your Calendars! This year's SMS Golf Outing is scheduled for Sunday August 4th with a 2pm shotgun start. This 9-hole family-friendly event is the only fundraiser we hold which is dedicated to our sports boosters. Bring out the family and join us FORE fun on the course.

**Measles Update**

This update was provided by Tondra Harris, Director of Nursing, Livingston County Health Department.

After Illinois remained measles-free for three years, there have been 6 confirmed cases in the past 6 months. In February 2024, the Indiana Department of Health has confirmed a case of measles in a young child from northwest Indiana who received medical care at three Chicago hospitals while contagious which resulted in numerous exposures to individuals who came in contact with them. This underscores the need to improve vaccination in our school age populations. A second case of measles in an older adult was identified in March 2024 who had multiple community exposures during their infectious period and no identified source of the infection, suggesting a concern for local transmission of measles. An additional Illinois case was just confirmed this week in young child from a new arrival shelter who has recovered and is no longer infectious. Further, we are seeing a decline in measles vaccine coverage in school-age children, nationally and in Illinois to a level below the 95% herd immunity level needed for protection against measles

Be alert for possible measles cases.

Symptoms: Early symptoms of the measles infection like fever, cough, pink eye, runny nose usually last for two to four days before a rash appears but it may take as long as eight days for the rash to appear once symptoms start. The measles rash is typically red, spotty, and bumpy and starts on the head or hairline and spreads down the body. Parents should be alert to this especially if there has been contact with a measles case or travel to countries where there are measles outbreaks.

Transmission: The measles virus is extremely contagious and spreads easily through contact with the air breathed out by an infected person. The virus can linger in the air for up to two hours after a person with measles leaves an area. Nine out of 10 unimmunized people who have contact with someone with measles will develop the infection. Patients are contagious starting four days before through four days after the rash appears. Anyone with measles should isolate at home and avoid all contact with others who may not be immune to measles during that time except to seek necessary medical care. If medical care is required, patients should call before they travel to notify the facility of their diagnosis in advance.

Prevention: Vaccination is the best protection against measles. MMR is a measles containing vaccine that is highly effective in providing measles immunity. It is recommended that facilities keep records of their employees' vaccinations to facilitate a prompt response to a measles exposure, should one occur. Children in daycares and schools in Illinois are required to be up to date on their immunizations. Children should receive MMR vaccine at 12-15 months of age, and 4-6 years of age. However, a child can get that second dose sooner than that, as long as it has been 28 days from the last vaccine. Please note, if there are measles cases in your community, do not wait to have your child get the second dose.

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Greetings,

Congratulations to our Sectional Champions! We will have a Pep Assembly at 2:40 pm in the new gym. All are welcome to attend! They now advance to State which will be at Bishop-Mac in Kankakee. The girls play Friday night at 7pm.

It was fantastic to see so many people attend their game this past Monday night! The gym was packed and if you noticed, it was standing room only!! This is what makes St. Mary's great. We are so blessed to have the support from families, alumni, current students, and community members. Our student section was phenomenal; they cheered loudly for the girls! Great job by all!!

Good Luck to our girls this weekend! Our prayers are with each of you!!!!



With prayers,

Mrs. Jones