



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.

Wendy Hasse Memorial

All PreK-4th Grade students will be receiving 2 books from the Wendy Hasse Memorial Fund. The books are The Berenstain Bears Easter Story and The Berenstain Bears Bedtime Devotional. We thank the family of Wendy Hasse for their kindness and generosity.

Student Council

St. Mary's Student Council will be hosting a soup supper Friday, April 5th from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Proceeds will benefit the IAHS State Service Project "Our Military Kids".

Student council will also be hosting a DQ shake break Tuesday, April 9th. Forms and more information will be sent home with your child after spring break.

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 Sporting Events

- Track:
 - Apr. 4- Away; El-Paso Gridley
 - Apr. 8- Away; Stanford

Save the Date

- Mar. 22- Saints vs. Irish Game 12:30pm
- Mar. 22- Early Dismissal 1:30pm- **NO MORNING/AFTERNOON BUS SERVICE- NO LUNCH SERVICE**
- Mar. 23-29- Spring Break/Holy Week Begins
- Apr. 2- School Resumes
- Apr. 2- Scholastic Bowl @ Tri-Point
- Apr. 4- Scholastic Bowl @ Ridgeview

Uniform Shorts

Upon returning from Spring Break, students may wear uniform shorts. No cargo shorts are to be worn. Shorts may be navy blue or khaki. Shorts must be no higher than three inches above the top of the knee for girls and boys. Capri pants in navy blue or khaki may also be worn. If shorts have belt loops, a belt must be worn.

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

SOLD OUT! All 300 DrawDown tickets have been sold. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this goal. Be sure to look for upcoming Facebook posts featuring items our students have made for the auctions.

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SMS Parent Facebook Group

Altar Servers

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

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.

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 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 1st place State Volleyball Champs! They played as a team, they never gave up, and they were determined! They stated in a time out, they were not settling for anything less than 1st! I have said it many times and continue to do so; this is an extraordinary group of girls, God blessed them with talent, ambition, and trust. They trust one another to get the job done. No one on this team thinks it is all about themselves, they trust each other and work together.

These girls won the Volleyball State Championship last year, they then received 3rd place on the 8th Grade team. This year, they won 1st Place for the Softball State title and now 1st place for 8th Grade Volleyball. They are truly an amazing group of young women. I am so excited to see where God leads them

I also have to complement our students for being such positive cheerleaders as they cheered on the girls to victory! They sat behind the girl's bench and cheered the entire time! Their support during the entire season was exceptional! It is also very special that Father David made arrangements with another priest to be able to spend the day with all of us at the games!

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th Grade Math team for placing 2nd and 3rd at the County Math Contest at Caterpillar. Congratulations, also to our Scholastic Bowl team for getting 2nd place at the Conference Tournament. God has given our students so many talents and gifts. God is so good.

God has helped us to create a family at St. Mary's. I am so blessed to be a part of this! Thank you to each of you that pray and support our students, faculty, staff, and our school.



With prayers,

Mrs. Jones