



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.

FACTS Accounts

Please check your account in FACTS. Lunch bills need to be paid in a timely manner. If facing a hardship, please contact Mrs. Jones. Thank you for keeping your account current.

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.

Artwork: 5:00pm-7:00pm in the MPR
PreK-3rd Grade Concert: 6:15pm in the New Gym
4th-8th Grade Concert: 7:00 in the New Gym

Re-enroll for 2024-2025

Current families can now re-enroll for next year. Simply login to [Facts Family Portal](#) using District Code (SMS-IL) > Apply/Enroll > Enrollment/Reenrollment. A \$10 Facts registration fee is due at the time you submit your enrollment information. **A \$25 late registration fee will assessed May 2nd.** All families must complete and return the Tuition Statement form prior to re-enrolling. Please find the form attached for your convenience.

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.

Upcoming Sporting Events

- Track:
 - Apr. 13- Away; Stanford
 - Apr. 16- Livingston County Track Meet at Prairie Central
 - Apr. 18- Home; 4:15pm
 - Apr. 22- Away; Northlawn
 - Apr. 25- Away; Gibson City
 - Apr. 27- Away; Eureka

Save the Date

- Apr. 11- Scholastic Bowl- Home
- Apr. 13- DrawDown- Doors open at 5:15pm
- Apr. 15- Scholastic Bowl- Home
- Apr. 18- Scholastic Bowl- Home
- Apr. 19- Progress Reports
- Apr. 24- Scholastic Bowl Regionals
- Apr. 25- Fine Arts Night
- Apr. 26- **NO SCHOOL**- Teachers Institute
- Apr. 28- First Communion
- Apr. 29- Scholastic Bowl Sectionals

Scholarship Announcement

Tuition assistance is available to income eligible families for the 2024-2025 school year. To be eligible, all tuition for the current school year must be up to date. Go to [Facts Grant & Aid](#) to complete an application. This is a separate site from Facts Family Portal and requires separate login credentials. There is a \$40 application fee payable online at the time you submit your application. The Diocesan deadline to apply for tuition assistance is April 26, 2024. No exceptions will be made to this deadline. If you have any questions, contact Danielle Gill at gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org.

Meal Train

Dave Herkert was in the hospital due to illness. He has finally been able to come home to rest and recover. A meal train has been set up if anyone is interested in helping the family. Please sign up using the link, [Meal Train for David Herkert](#). If you have any questions you may contact Amy Eppel, amyeppe@gmail.com.

Father Joseph Baker, Pastor
Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

Student Council

St. Mary's Student Council has achieved honor council status with the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Council for 2023-2024. This award recognizes schools that participate in the following areas: school spirit, citizenship/scholarship recognition, and community service. We will receive our award at the IAJHSC State Convention next weekend. We have achieved this honor for more than thirty years. The following St. Mary's students will be attending the IAJHSC State Convention: Tiffany Legner, Kate Lauritsen, Lanie McGuckin, Ryann Krenz, Jacob Lauritsen, Sammi Salinas, Maddie Mikeworth, Adrian Gill, and Bianca Gill. This is similar to a state sporting event. There will be schools across the entire state coming together to learn more leadership skills, make new friends, and choose our next Mideast District Representative. They will be in meetings and workshops on Friday night and all day Saturday. This year Kate Lauritsen was the IAJHSC Mideast District Representative. I want to thank her for all of her work this past year. St. Mary's Student Council has another student who will be running for the 2024-2025 Mideast District Representative. We want to wish Maddie Mikeworth good luck next week at the convention.

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.

TAPs Vice President

TAPs is looking for a **Vice President for the 2024-2025 school year**. Any SMS parent, staff or coach is eligible to hold the position, which has a 2 year term (1 as Vice President and 1 as President). Duties mostly include shadowing the President in preparation for leading the organization the following year. The person would also be involved in some decision making and facilitating any meetings if the President is unable to attend. The organization currently has a robust committee structure with many different individuals performing various roles. The responsibilities do not fall on the officers alone. If you have questions or are interested, please contact the school office or Allyson Saxton (815-822-4536, ale_814@hotmail.com).

Altar Servers

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

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.

Father Joseph Baker, Pastor
Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

Greetings,

Our largest fundraiser is almost here! The Drawdown is this Saturday. The projects look amazing! The Noah's Ark puzzle in which students and staff worked on looks absolutely wonderful! The picture below shows everyone who helped to put this puzzle together. It was definitely a team effort! Thank you Father Joe for purchasing it for us. There will be 2 ARK Encounter passes to go along with this puzzle. What a great item to bid on!

From the Drawdown, we move right into Fine Arts Night. This is our night where Music and Art shine through the students' voices and their projects that they have worked on all year. I hope you are able to join us for the Art Show as well as our Spring Concert.

At the end of April, the 2nd Graders will receive their First Communion. Please say prayers for them on Sunday, April 28th. The First Communion Mass will be at 11:30am. A new addition this year is a luncheon in their honor following Mass in the Parish Hall.

Also, May 2nd will be our Mary, Moms, and Muffins event, more information will be coming soon.

See you at the Drawdown!

With prayers,

Mrs. Jones

