



Father Joseph Baker, Pastor  
Mrs. Karen Jones, Principal

**Fine Arts Night**

Next Thursday is fine arts night! Art display will be in the MPR from 5-7 pm. Pk-3rd concert is at 6:15, Students arrive to the gym by 6:05. 4th-8th concert at 7:00, Students arrive by 6:45. No jeans or high heels. Skirts, shorts and sleeves should comply with school dress code.

**Field Day May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Field Day is Friday, May 10th. All students (PreK-8) will ride buses to St. Paul's. We will leave St. Mary's once we have all students who ride a bus. We will have Mass at 8:30am and events will begin at 9:30am. We are looking for 4 chaperones per class to walk with them to each station and to lead them through each activity. All parents are welcome to attend Mass and enjoy the day with us.

PreK will have 1 chaperone per student and be able to leave after lunch. (PreK will send a more detailed letter to their parents.)

Students will be able to purchase Avanti's for lunch; order forms will be sent home soon. St. Paul's will also have a concession stand available throughout the day.

Our day will end at 2:15pm. Students will be able to go home with their parents or ride the bus back to St. Mary's.

If you are able to help, please contact Mr. Adam Lawrence or Mrs. Karen Jones.

**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.

**Upcoming Sporting Events**

- Track:
  - Apr. 18- Home; 4:15pm
  - Apr. 22- Away; Northlawn
  - Apr. 25- Away; Gibson City
  - Apr. 27- Away; Eureka

**Save the Date**

- 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. 27- Student Council Spring Gathering
- Apr. 28- First Communion
- Apr. 29- Scholastic Bowl Sectionals
- Apr. 30- Extracurricular Group Pictures
- May 2- Mary, Moms, Muffins & Mass 7:15am-7:45am
- May 2- Mary Procession 8:15am- 9:15am
- May 10- Field Day



The St. Mary's DrawDown is a long-standing tradition and the school's biggest fundraiser. On behalf of the DrawDown Committee and the Teacher-Parent Organization, thank you to everyone who sponsored, purchased a ticket, donated an item, or prayed for the success of our event this year. All St. Mary's Students benefit from the proceeds of the DrawDown. Congratulations to our \$5,000 Grand Prize Winners, Rod and Patti Zehr! We are excited to announce that this was our most successful year ever!

**DRUMROLL PLEASE...**  
**Our profit is \$41,000!**

We instill the value of service to others in our students. In that same spirit, we donated all leftover food from the evening to the employees at the firestation and the prison. We are so grateful for all the kindness we receive from our community and we are honored to give back.

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### Student Council

St. Mary's Student Council is hosting a "Glow in the Dark" dance for 5-8 grade students on Saturday, April 27 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. We would like to invite everyone to attend church together at 4:00 pm before the dance. The cost will be \$5.00 which includes 2 tickets for food and/or drink items. The concession stand will include hot dogs, chips, candy, pop, and water. There will be games and music. Please come and enjoy a relaxing evening with your friends.

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation is the week of May 6th-9<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up if you are able to help with lunch and recess duty.

Let's show our teachers how much we appreciate them by taking a lunch and recess duty.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E49AAA72CA20-49169743-smsstaff>

Thank you for your kindness!

### 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](mailto:amyeppe@gmail.com).



### Golf

We are in the process of registering for golf for next year. Golf is open to grades 6th-8th. If your son or daughter wants to participate in golf next year, send an email to Mr. Lawrence by Monday, May 13th. There will be opportunities for them to golf together this summer. For IESA, there will be one date to golf in. That will be the Sectional. The boy's sectional is Wednesday, September 4th. The girl's sectional is Thursday, September 5th. For more information, please reach out to Mr. Lawrence.

### 2023-2024 Yearbook Order

The 2023-2024 Yearbook is on sale now! The cost is \$20 per book and must be ordered online by Monday, May 20, 2024. The 40-page book features all students, Preschool through 8th grade, along with school events, field trips, extracurricular activities and more!

Order yours today: <https://inter-state.com/YearbookEntry/82064W>

### 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](mailto:ale_814@hotmail.com)).

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**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.

**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](mailto:gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org).

**FACTS Accounts**

Please check your account in FACTS. Graduation fees and lunch accounts need to be paid in a timely manner. If facing a hardship, please contact Mrs. Jones. Thank you for keeping your account current.

**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.

**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.

**Altar Servers**

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

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Greetings,

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or purchased something from our recent Drawdown. It was a great night and we are so blessed by your generosity!

Congratulations to Harper Francis and Tiffany Legner for being recognized at the IL Principals' Association Student Recognition Breakfast. Students are selected for service to their community, self-improvement, contribution to their school, and dedication to their school, fellow students, and staff. Both Harper and Tiffany make sure there is ice in the teacher's lounge every day. Both of them display positive attitudes and are always willing to help whenever they are asked!

I have made many comments this year about how special this 8th Grade class is, these two students are a key reason as to what makes this class very special to all of us at St. Mary's.



With prayers,

Mrs. Jones