### Prayer for Catholic Schools

O Christ, our Teacher,

You invite Your faithful people to make disciples in Your name and to announce good news to the poor. We thank You for the gift of Catholic schools, where

- The message of Your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed,
- Christian community is experienced,
- Service to our brothers and sisters is modeled,
- And worship of You is cultivated.

Increase our zeal for ensuring that all children and families can benefit from a high quality Catholic education, and that Catholic schools grow in their ability to nurture the soul of our nation.

We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady, Mother of Catholic Schools. Amen.

https://ace.nd.edu/advocates/take-action/pray-for-catholic-schools
Catholic Schools Week
We celebrate the gift of Catholic education every day but this week we celebrate this gift in a special way.

Today we are celebrating with families at our annual family lunch and game day. After school we have roller skating and Dairy Queen night!

Tomorrow all students from SMCS will gather together for mass in the afternoon.

Because of the snow day yesterday we missed a few planned activities. Those have been rescheduled to Thursday, February 11. Students will be able to wear slippers at school so we can “slip around and read”. In the afternoon we will go to St. Mary Elementary School for our Bubble Wonders assembly. (A new permission slip will come home today)

Soup-er Bowl
We are in our final few days to collect soup, the collection ends tomorrow.

Together with St. Margaret Mary and St. Mary elementary schools we are holding our 10th annual Soup-er Bowl Collection. Our goal is 1000 cans!

Snowshoeing
Last week fifth grade students spent the day snowshoeing at Ledgeview. They enjoyed a perfect winter day with a coating of fresh snow.

Palms for Ash Wednesday
As we leave the Christmas season behind and enter Ordinary Time, we are beginning to collect old palms to be burned in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Baskets will be at all the entrances of the church starting January 23rd. Please place old palms in the baskets. We will burn the palms during a prayer service with the students at 8:15 on Tuesday, February 9th. All are welcome to join us in Church for the prayer service.

No School on Friday
The students do not have school on Friday, it is a professional development day for the teachers.

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SMCS News
If you plan to apply for financial assistance for the 2016-17 school year, please be sure to submit your paperwork to the business office no later than February 5, 2016 for priority consideration. Click here to access the

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St. Mary Catholic Schools, in partnership with family, church and community, provides and quality Catholic education that is focused on faith, academics, service and personal development from preschool through high school to influence a rapidly changing world.
application or visit the admissions page of the St. Mary Catholic Schools website to read about ways to help pay for your tuition.

St. Mary Catholic Schools has developed an addendum to our school handbooks to address the possession and use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) during the school day. You may read the addendum here and find it on our website.

Read the SMCS Email News Updates for information about the following:

Calendar Updates
Substitute Teacher Training (February 6)
On Track: Estate Planning & Medicaid (February 9)
Dueling Pianos (March 5)
Family Ski Weekend (March 4-6)
Enrichment Update
Rent Cross Country Skis
Cross Country Ski Event?
Arts Scholarships
Wisconsin Parental Choice Program
SMCS Summer Day Camp
Tax Deductions for You
SMM's Wines Around the World (February 13)
Packer Camp at SMCS
Fruit Sale

Snow Day Policy and Weather Alerts
** SMCS uses a text alert system called Cel.ly to let families know about school closings and critically important events. To sign up for this service, text ... @SMCSAlerts .... to 23559. Normal text message rates charged by your carrier will apply. Follow the prompts to create a username and password. You may also download the app on your phone. From the Cel.ly site, you can choose to send notifications to your email, Twitter and Facebook accounts as well. (website = cel.ly )

** If either the Neenah OR the Menasha public schools close due to inclement weather, all SMCS schools will close. Watch for this notice on television and listen to local radio stations. The information will appear there first, and will also be posted on the SMCS website and Facebook pages. SMCS should also appear as its own line but even if it doesn’t appear for some reason, watch for the Neenah / Menasha listing. If school is canceled there are no co-curricular activities or practices that afternoon and evening (including athletic games and practices). Whenever there is a delayed beginning of school, all afternoon programs are held at the regular times. If school is cancelled at any point during the day, all events that are in any way connected to school are automatically cancelled.

Please know that even though decisions that are made regarding weather are typically somewhat controversial, they are ALWAYS made with the best intentions regarding children’s safety.

SMCS Family Directory
Click here to download the 2015-16 SMCS Family Directory (updated 1/18/16) and class lists. We are providing the family information in the form of an Excel spreadsheet for your convenience. For the privacy of our families, the directory will not be available on the system website, but an updated version will always be available via the link above or by emailing the director of communications.

Thank you!
Catholic Schools Week began this past week and we had several families helping at each of the weekend masses in a special way. Thank you for your presence and participation.

Pancake Breakfast
A lot of planning and prep work goes into hosting a delicious pancake breakfast. A huge thank you to Jenny & Jeremy Searl and Amy & Dan Brighum and their team of parent and student helpers. We had lots of smiles and happy guests on Sunday!
Puppet Show
On Saturday morning our younger students enjoyed a puppet show by Hairy and Company in our beautiful theater. The students were entertained with a Christian message.

Fine Arts Concert
On Monday SMCS elementary students were treated to a Fine Arts concert that included; Middle School Choir, Bye Bye Birdie presentation (middle school play this weekend!) and High School Pep Band.
The ON TRACK series of evening seminars is hosted at the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center at St. Mary Catholic High School during the school year and is offered in partnership with community resources and field experts. All workshops in the series give participants practical insight and tools to help them live a more secure, healthy and happy life.

SESSION 2
FEBRUARY 9, 2016: ESTATE PLANNING – RECENT CHANGES IN MEDICAID

WHAT:
Learn about the changes to Wisconsin's Title XIX/Medicaid program, expansion of Estate Recovery Programs, and planning opportunities for the future.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
Community members who are interested in current Medicaid information and are planning their financial future.

PRESENTER:
Clifton D. Kreuscher, Attorney at Law - Stiles & Kreuscher, LLC
Associated with: Anthony C. Richter - Income and Estate Planner
Scott Van De Hey - Van De Hey, Van De Hey & Associates

TIME:
All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

COST:
Compliments of St. Mary Catholic Schools (at-will donations accepted)

WHERE:
The Miron Forensic Theater
Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center
1050 Zephyr Drive, Neenah, WI

NEXT SESSION:
April 5, 2016: 21st-Century Parenting – Social Media
Presenter: Community Liaison Officer Jason Weber, Town of Menasha Police Department

Presented in partnership with Robert W. Baird & Co.; Van De Hey, Van De Hey & Associates; Town of Menasha Police Department

To attend any of these seminars, interested participants should email Michelle Dejno at mdejno@smcatholicschools.org to reserve a spot. Walk-ins welcome.