



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMCS to Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

The five St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS), St. Gabriel, St. Margaret Mary and St. Mary Elementary Schools, St. Mary Catholic Middle School and St. Mary Catholic High School, will participate in the annual national **Catholic Schools Week** (CSW) which takes place between January 29 and February 3, 2017.

Catholic schools will be recognized at all Neenah/Menasha parishes over the weekend with school families and staff helping with Mass parts and sharing a “thank you” message. The following special events are planned to celebrate the gift of Catholic education in our schools.

Saturday, January 28 (CSW Eve)

Children’s Entertainer **Randy Peterson Concert** in the fine arts education center at 10:30 a.m.
Confucius Classroom **Chinese New Year** Celebration at St. Mary Catholic Middle School from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

SMCHS “**Clash of the Choirs**” Competition in the fine arts education center at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 29

Pancake breakfasts will be hosted by SMCS families for all Neenah/Menasha parish members at St. Gabriel (9:00-11:30 a.m.), St. Margaret Mary (8:00 a.m.-noon) and St. Mary (8:00 a.m.-noon) parishes.

Monday, January 30

Fine arts performance by students in grades 6-12 for all younger SMCS students in the in the fine arts education center at 1:00 p.m.

St. Gabriel students will make signs of thanks for their neighbors.

SMCHS students will have Witness Wear dress day.

Tuesday, January 31

St. Gabriel Elementary will enjoy “slip around and read”—a pajama day with time carved out for reading together.

St. Margaret Mary Elementary will have crazy sock day and Move to the Groove.

St. Mary Elementary will celebrate with a family lunch and bingo and crazy sock day.

At **SMCMS**, students may dress in pajamas and will be served breakfast in the commons by their teachers.

SMCHS students may wear pajamas, slippers and robes, and will be served donut holes and milk for breakfast.

Wednesday, February 4

St. Gabriel will be out of dress code for their family lunch and activities day, Move to the Groove and their PTO-sponsored roller skating and Dairy Queen party.

Everyone at **St. Margaret Mary** will bring in favorite games for game day and family lunch.

St. Mary Elementary will feature mismatched clothing day and dog races.

SMCHS students and teachers will have a swap day with students dressing like teachers and teachers like students on a regular dress day.

Thursday, February 1

All SMCS students and staff will gather at St. Gabriel Church in Neenah at 1:15 p.m. for an all-schools Catholic Schools Week Mass.

SMCMS students will participate in the Knights of Columbus knowledge contests.

Friday, February 2

Friday will be pajama day at **St. Mary** and students will enjoy a visit from children’s author Amy Caroline Andersen and from National Theater for Children, which will present Space Station Conservation.

St. Margaret Mary students will team up across grade levels to test their knowledge of the Catholic faith in the game CREDO.

St. Gabriel students will be in Zephyrwear for their spirit cheer rally to cap off the week.

SMCMS students will compete in a trivia game to see who knows the most about their teachers.

The high school will begin the day with a Mass in the chapel at 7:15 am. with Eucharistic Adoration all day. It will also be Zephyrwear day.

In addition to the fun and games, each school will do a collection for a special charity. **St. Gabriel and St. Mary Elementary Schools** will support literacy efforts in the Dominican Republic by collecting school supplies, and **St. Margaret Mary** will collect cans of soup for the Souper Bowl, which will be donated to St. Joseph Food Pantry. **St. Mary Catholic Middle School** will continue their eight-year tradition of collecting food for local food pantries—this year, St. Mary/St. John Food Pantry in Menasha. Since 2009, the middle school has donated 3,806 food items and \$3007. **St. Mary Catholic High School** will hold a penny war to raise money for the Teens 4 Life’s sponsored child in Kenya.

SMCS is humbly grateful to all who share in the vision of Catholic education—our pastors, parish members, school families, teachers, principals and staff, alumni and community friends. We are blessed and proud to have strong schools offering outstanding academics, faith integration and co-curricular opportunities for students in early education through high school. Thank you to our generous parish friends and community supporters who help to sustain our schools through prayer, volunteering and financial support!

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) includes St. Mary Catholic High School and St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Town of Fox Crossing and St. Mary Catholic Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha). SMCS is dedicated to the individual development of each student in grades Pre3-12, by providing the highest quality education focused on faith, academics and service in a rapidly changing world.



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