

December 14, 2017



St. Mary
Catholic Schools
— Grades P3-12 —

The season of Advent continues to be a very busy one in our St. Mary Catholic Schools! The community at each campus is engaging in prayers and activities focusing on preparing their hearts for the coming of our Lord, and all are participating in special collections to help those in need. There are glorious concerts taking place in the FAEC, and various student groups are visiting local nursing homes and friends of SMCS to spread holiday cheer! Next Thursday, our high school musicians will travel to the elementary schools and a few places of business to share their talents.

System highlights for the upcoming week include the St. Margaret Mary Elementary School Christmas concert tonight, Basketball Grade/Middle School Night Friday evening, the Santa Sing-Along on Sunday and the middle & high and elementary band concerts on Monday and Tuesday of next week.



Please note that as of December 1, 2017, the online PDF calendar will no longer be updated. We will leave the current version online for families to refer to for elementary school letter days and to make updates to on their own paper copies. Calendar changes for the rest of the year will also be listed on the [calendar page](#). Please refer to the calendar on the [main page of the SMCS website](#) for up-to-date information.

The following addition has been made this week to the SMCS calendar on the main page of the SMCS website.

January 16 Elementary School Showcase Night
February 12 SMCS Aquinas Program Information Sessions

Now [Booster Club Winter Apparel Sale](#)

HUGE, HUGE, HUGE SALE! Just in time for Christmas, the SMCS Booster Club is making it more affordable than ever to show off your Zephyrs Spirit!

Sport-specific clothing for softball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, cross country and track
\$20 Sweatshirts: \$15 pullovers, \$7 long-sleeved shirts and \$5 short-sleeved shirts.

All other apparel items including NEW items will be 10% off. As always, Booster Backers will receive an additional 10% off.

Check out the savings at our basketball grade and middle school night or contact [Tara Gagne](#).

New [Clash of the Choirs](#)

Mark your calendar for the Clash of the Choirs on **Saturday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m.**! It's a competition between local high school choirs in three categories—sacred, secular and something else— with a chance to win \$500! Come on out and cheer on combined SMCS Soul Tones, Mens Choir, Womens Choir and St. Mary Singers!

New [Important Tax Information](#)

Tuition payments on your qualifying dependents' SMCS K-12 tuition that is received in the business office by December 27, 2017 can be included on the WI Schedule PS and claimed when filing your 2017 taxes. For more information, contact [Shelley Wautlet](#) in the business office.

New [SMCS Elementary School Showcase](#)

Visit our elementary schools on **Tuesday, January 16** and participate in our hands-on activities! Each campus will highlight a program offered at all three schools. Teachers and staff will be available for questions and school tours.

St. Margaret Mary Campus - 4:30-6:00 p.m. *Science, Technology, Engineering, Math*

St. Gabriel Campus - 5:00-6:30 p.m. *Literacy*

St. Mary Campus - 5:30-7:00 p.m. *Enrichment & Engaged Learning*

Current school families are our best ambassadors! Please invite your friends and neighbors, and share with them why you have chosen SMCS for your family!

New SMCS Aquinas Program Information Sessions

Preliminary information about the SMCS Aquinas Program—a multi-age, project-based initiative for students in grades 3-5 – will be available at the showcase on January 16. Full information sessions will take place on **Monday, February 12**. Stay tuned for times and locations!



New Alumni Basketball Game

Are you an SMC alumna who played basketball? You are invited to alumni basketball games on **Saturday, December 30** at St. Mary Catholic High School's McClone Gymnasium. Registration will be at 9:00, and if we have enough players there will be a girls game at 9:30 and a guys game at 10:30. If only a few are able to make it, a co-ed game will take place at 9:30. *All alumni* are invited for a light lunch following the games. Please make sure you RSVP to speters@smcatholicschools.org so we can plan for lunch!

New SMCS VEX Tournament

Our SMCS VEX Teams will host a regional tournament for more than 30 teams from around the area on **Saturday, January 6**. The excitement begins at 7:30 a.m. in the STEM Center, fine arts education center and gymnasium. Admission is free and concessions will be available. Come and watch the SMCS school and middle school teams in action!

Limited time A Cooler Full of Goodies for You

Now through the end of 2017, you can be entered into a drawing to win a Zephyrs cooler filled with Zephyrs goodies! How? Simply by making a donation of at least \$100 to the SMCS Annual Fund by December 31, 2017.

This new Zephyrs cooler package opportunity is only available to current SMCS families. Don't worry, if you already made a gift of at least \$100 to the 2017-18 SMCS Annual Fund, your name will be entered into the drawing! Your donation will help to offset the true cost of educating SMCS students (including your son or daughter), which is far greater than the tuition paid.



Click here [for more information](#) or [to make a donation online](#), or send your gift to:
SMCS Annual Fund
1050 Zephyr Drive
Neenah, WI 54956

St. Mary Winter Escape: Dueling Pianos

This exciting and entertaining event will take place on **Friday, January 26** at The Outer Edge in Appleton! Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30. Visit smcatholicschools.org/support-us/winter-escape to find out more and for a link to sign on as a sponsor or purchase tickets.



Sunday 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Santa Sing-Along

This adorable reindeer would like to invite kids to a [story hour and sing-along](#) on **Sunday, December 17 from 3:00-4:30 p.m.** at the FAEC. The festivities will include storytelling, songs, singing, dancing, cookie decorating and letter-writing to Santa!



Parents may drop off their children to the care of our SMCS elves, but must pick their kids up no later than 4:30 p.m. A parent or chaperone must accompany guests under the age of 6 years old.

Tomorrow Basketball Grade School & Middle School Night!

SMCHS will host an [SMCS Grade/Middle School Night](#) at the boys basketball game on **Friday, December 15!**

All students in eighth grade or younger will receive free admission, popcorn and a beverage, a chance to win some cool prizes and, of course, a photo-opportunity with The Zephyrator! The excitement begins with the JV game at 5:50 p.m.



And don't miss the Booster Club apparel sale (see above)—items will be available that evening!

Tomorrow Basketball Team Photos

Yearbook photos for all players of Zephyrs basketball in grades 3-8 (school teams and ZBC) will have their team and individual photos taken on **Friday, December 15** prior to the grade school and middle school night activities. [Click here for details](#), including times for each team.

Communications Coordinator Position

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) is looking for a passionate and energetic individual to coordinate communications for St. Mary Catholic Schools. The qualified individual will have exceptional writing, editing and organizational skills and knowledge of a variety of media platforms.

SMCS offers an outstanding compensation package including health, dental, life,

disability, retirement, PTO and tuition discount.

To learn more or to apply, visit our [human resources page](#) or contact our [human resources director](#), Jennifer Miller, at 722-7796 ext 206.

Christmas Jubilation in the FAEC

It's time for a whole lot of holiday cheer! Our SMCS students will be filling the FAEC with songs and musical pieces to celebrate the season of Christmas and the birth of Jesus!

Please mark your calendar for the following performances:

- 14 St. Margaret Mary Elementary Christmas Concert
- 18 MS/HS Band Christmas Concert
- 19 SMCS Elementary Band Concert



Last chance before Christmas Holiday Scrip

Don't forget to use Scrip to make your holidays festive! Check out the [SMCS Christmas Scrip schedule](#) (scroll down for December).



Enrichment Program Registration

This [registration link for second semester enrichment classes](#) is now open. The [second semester schedule](#) (revised 11/29/17) is also [available online](#).

Be in the Know When There is Snow!

SMCS uses an emergency alert system called Remind to let families know about school closings and critically important events.

- To receive **text alerts** only, text the message @9fg97 to the number 81010. If that does not work, text it to 920-933-1015. Normal text message rates charged by your carrier will apply.
 - To receive **email or other types of notifications**, you may create an account at <http://remind.com>. If you have a smartphone, get push notifications by opening your web browser to download the mobile app (*Remind: Fast, Efficient School Messaging*). The account is listed under St. Mary Catholic High School.
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U.S. Baseball Academy

St. Mary Catholic High School will again host the **U.S. Baseball Academy Spring Training program**. This series of six sessions for athletes in grades 1-12 will be held on the following Sundays: January 21 and 28, February 4, 18 and 25 and March 4. [Read the flyer](#) for more information or visit usbballacademy.com.

National Softball Academy

St. Mary Catholic High School will host the **National Softball Academy clinic**. This series of sessions for girls in grades 1-12 will be held on the following Sundays: January 28, February 4, 18 and 25. [Read the flyer](#) for more information or [visit their website](#).

Christmas Shopping

As you are doing your online Christmas shopping, don't forget that St. Mary Catholic Schools participates in the Amazon Smiles program! When you choose St. Mary Catholic Schools, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the total of your purchase price to our schools! [Click on this link](#) to make a donation to SMCS.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Challenge

The high school's chapter of the National Honor Society is supporting the Salvation Army's holiday collection by ringing bells at local retail outlets! [Please sign up online](#) to help and indicate that SMCHS is the school you are supporting in the [battle of the bells among area schools](#).



In the Community

YMCA Classes

[Fun with Friends](#) (Growth and Development ages 18 mos.- 6 years), [Make a Stop at a Fun Shop](#) (Growth and Development ages 3-6), [Art, Music and Humanities Classes](#) and [Studio Y Dance](#)

St. Mary/St. John Youth Mission Trip

Attend an information session on **Thursday, December 21** at 6:00 p.m. or **Monday, January 8** at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Mary Parish cafeteria to learn more about the trip to Beaumont, Texas, where students will help with Hurricane Harvey clean up. The trip is planned for June 23-July 1, 2018, and anyone in grade 8 through college is encouraged to attend. Chaperones are also needed. Parents must attend with interested students, and this trip is open to students from other parishes. SM/SJ parish members will be given priority.

Schuppe Family Benefit

[The benefit](#) will be held on **Saturday, February 10**, 2018.

