

ST. MARY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE

DATE November 28, 2018



St. Mary Catholic Middle School
Grades 6-8

IMPORTANT DATES



SMCS EMAIL NEWSLETTER



SMCS CALENDAR PAGE

November

- 29 Liturgy at 10:45 AM in FAEC
- 29 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 PM
- 30 Out of dress code-Student Council approved

December

- 4 Zephyr wear
- 5 Choir Concert 6:30 PM
- 6 Liturgy at 10:45 AM in FAEC
- 6 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 PM
- 7 SMCS No school- Professional Development
- 12 Builders Club 3:30-5PM
- 13 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 PM
- 14 MS Reconciliation
- 14 SPIRITUS 3:12-5 PM
- 17 Band Concert 6:30 PM
- 19 Holiday Game Social- More info to come
- 20 Liturgy at 10:45 AM in FAEC
- 21-Jan. 1 Christmas & New Year Break

Read the full [system newsletter](#) and click on the following links for upcoming events and news:

| [Spotlight Night](#) | [Spirit Stop](#) | [Christmas Season](#) | [SMCHS Blood Drive](#) |

Trimester 1 completed

We have just completed Trimester one of the school year. For students in 7th and 8th grade please check PowerSchool for your child's grade in computer, health, or art. For students in 6th grade please check PowerSchool for your child's foreign language grade.

Lunch Recess

We continue to take advantage of these nice days to get outside for recess. Please send your child to school with their winter coat, hats, and mittens. We love to get them outside for some fresh air. We will continue to go out until there is too much snow on the ground.

Help needed

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Mary's in Menasha is in need of student volunteers. We like to have a student along with their parent come and help (the food pantry is the 2nd Saturday of every month). We are open from January into the summer. We would love to open this volunteer opportunity to the middle school students and parents. As always, this could be counted as volunteer hours for the students as well as parents. Please use this link to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a44aaa72aa02-stvincent>

Emergency Alert System

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>. Be assured that this system will be used only for very important notifications. In the event SMCS closes due to an emergency, all after school activities will either be cancelled or postponed. If you signed up for this previously and received notifications last year, you are all set!

Advice from with In

Come each day with a happy heart.

Every day will be new.

Keep an open mind.

Be kind to others.... everyone has things that concern them.

Ask questions.

Work hard.

Don't forget to pray!





Advent

The season of Advent begins this Sunday, December 2. As a faith community, we will bless our Advent wreath and participate in weekly chapel visits to pray together and offer petitions for this holy season. St. Mary Catholic Schools also has a strong practice of connecting families with their home parish activities and Advent Giving opportunities. Please see what is going on in your parish this season and how your student can be a part of their larger faith community. For example, many of our parishes have Giving Trees and are also collecting items for the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. How wonderful for your student to pick out a tag from the Giving Tree and do the shopping for the requested item, or purchase something from the wish list for residents at the Health Institute. Please look at your own parish bulletins for the many opportunities that are available to pray and prepare for the Holy Season of Christmas, including Reconciliation and the many outreach opportunities to show your child the importance of giving.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Service Awards

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American born saint, started the first American Parochial School and orphanage where she cared for the poor. She also began the first American community of women religious, following the example of St. Vincent de Paul. Like Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, we are called to a life of service and love of God. Advent is the church's New Year Celebration. As we begin our new church year, we are asking all students to reflect on their commitment to living a life like that of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Often people will make a new-year's resolution at the start of a new calendar year. We are asking students to make an Advent resolution to grow in faith, love and service of others. In so doing, we all become more like the saints. By completing the requirements, which can be found on our web page under *faith formation* (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton), students can earn the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award - our service award - given at the end of each school year.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Few doctrines of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Many people, including many Catholics, think that it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That event, though, is celebrated at the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25, nine months before Christmas). So what is the Immaculate Conception? The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. We celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8; nine months before that is **December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. From the catechism of the Catholic Church we read: **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** The dogma proclaimed in Christian Tradition and defined in 1854, that from the first moment of her conception, Mary--by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ--was preserved immune from original sin (491). This year, December 8 is on Saturday. Because it is a Holy Day of Obligation, we are called to attend Mass twice this weekend – Friday night or Saturday Morning AND Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Reconciliation

On Friday, December 14, all of our students will have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation here at school. Students will be prepared for the sacrament in religion classes and with a Penance Service earlier that week. Several priests will be available to hear confessions and offer absolution. All students are invited to participate in the preparation for this special sacrament of healing, and all Catholic students who have received their First Reconciliation are invited to receive the sacrament. If you have any questions about this wonderful celebration of healing, please call [Mrs. Kalas](#).



SMCS FITNESS CENTER HOURS

December

Saturday, December 1
noon-2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 3-Thursday, December 6
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Friday, December 7
noon-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 8
noon-2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 10-Thursday, December 13
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Friday, December 14
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 15
noon-2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 17-Thursday, December 20
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Friday, December 21
noon-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 22
noon-2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26-Saturday, December 29
noon-2:00 p.m.