



September 20, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Families,

[It's Fall Festival Weekend!](#) Please join us tomorrow evening from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for a fun evening for kiddos and adults. There will be lots of Carnival games to play, face painting, pony rides, bounce houses, and great food and refreshments. Bingo will be held inside the Youth Room off of the school commons, but everything else will take place on the school's back playground. Home and School has been planning the evening for months, and I know it will be a great evening of fun and fellowship that will benefit playground improvements for the school. Thank you in advance to everyone who has donated supplies, food, and time in the planning the event. I hope to see you there!

The JACS school bus route will return on [Monday, September 23](#). If you would like your child to ride the bus, you **MUST** fill out and return a signed permission form **BEFORE** they may ride the bus. A permission form was emailed to St. Mary's families on Wednesday and a paper copy of the form was sent home in all family Communicator Envelopes today. The bus route schedule is the same as last year, and pick up and drop off locations at each school are the same as well. Please notice that St. Mary's students may not board or ride the bus traveling to St. Peter's and McAuley in the morning. Our bus service is a transportation service for our students traveling between campuses and does not provide child care before St. Mary's Early

Morning Care begins at 7:30 a.m. each morning. Please contact the St. Mary's school office with any questions you might have. [We are excited to have the bus route back for our families!](#)

Morning Schedule:

St. Mary's 7:10-7:20 a.m. This is only for St. Peter's and McAuley students, St. Mary's students **MAY NOT** board/ride the bus at this time.

	St. Peter's Peter's campus	7:35-7:40 a.m.	St. Mary's students leave St.
St. Mary's	7:55-8:00 a.m.		St. Mary's students arrive at St. Mary's campus

Afternoon Schedule:

St. Peter's	2:55-3:05 p.m.		St. Peter's and McAuley students travel to St. Mary's
St. Mary's	3:20-3:30 p.m.		St. Mary's students leave for St. Peter's campus
St. Peter's	3:45-3:55 p.m.		St. Mary's students arrive at St. Peter's campus

Details and Student Expectations:

- The bus runs on a tight schedule and cannot wait for late arrivals, please be on time.
- Students are expected to follow school rules for behavior while on the bus. Consequences for misbehavior and/or loss of bus privileges will be addressed by Mrs. Lown.
- Students must show respect to the bus driver and follow her instructions at all times.
- Students must remain seated with feet on the floor and must use an appropriate voice level.
- No food or drink are allowed on the bus at any time.

If you have not turned in a copy of your [child's birth certificate, shot records, or turned in your Family Information Sheet](#), please do so as soon as possible. The medical information must be on file as required by law, and returning your family's information provides us with important contact and medical information in case we need to contact you. Extra forms are in the office if you might need an extra copy.

On Tuesday, September 24th you are invited to join the entire JACS school system to celebrate [Mercy Mass with Bishop Rjce](#) at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. Mercy Day is the anniversary of the opening of the first House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. The first House of Mercy was opened in 1827 by Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, who devoted her life to serving the poor, sick, and uneducated. Mercy Day is a celebration of her legacy and her compassion and love in the name of Mercy. The All-School Mass begins at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, and the afternoon will be even more special if you are able to join us. All students within the JACS system will be dismissed from St. Mary's on Tuesday when Mass concludes. St. Mary's students will return to their classrooms after Mass and be dismissed from their classroom as usual, and [there will be no afternoon bus route on this day](#). After School Care will be offered until the normal time of 5:30 p.m. on this day.

Friday, October 4th is the [Feast of St. Francis of Assisi](#), patron saint of animals and the environment. To celebrate his St. Francis' life and calling, Father Joe will be offering a pet blessing on Friday, October 4th at 2:30 p.m. If your child would like to have a family pet blessed, please bring the leashed pet to the grassy area in front of St. Mary's school parking lot.



Students will gather at 2:30 p.m. for the blessing and will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m. from their classroom doors as usual. The Catholic Online website tells us that "Francis' brotherhood included all of God's creation. Much has been written about Francis' love of [nature](#) but his [relationship](#) was deeper than that. We call someone a lover of [nature](#) if they spend their free [time](#) in the woods or admire its beauty. But [Francis really felt that nature and all of God's creations, were part of his brotherhood](#). The sparrow was as much his brother as the pope."

I hope your family has a wonderful weekend and can spend time together at the Fall Festival with other families who are part of our school community. The Fall Festival is a new school event for St. Mary's, and it promises to be another great tradition that benefits our school community. Thank you for supporting our school and for everything that you do for your child!

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown

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Important Upcoming Events:

Saturday, September

21st Home and
School's Fall Festival, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September

24th Mercy Day
Mass with Bishop Rice at St. Mary's

JACS Annual Appeal Kickoff

Friday, September

27th NO
SCHOOL- Ozark 7 PD Day for teachers

Wednesday, October

2nd Charity
Dress Day

Friday, October

4th

Pet

Blessing, 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's