



November 9, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Parents,

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our **Grandparents Days** at St. Mary's so wonderful! Thank you to Home and School and to our faculty and staff for providing all the wonderful decorations, refreshments, and other touches that made the day special. It was lovely to watch our students spend the morning with people they love so dearly. Father Joe's thoughts during Mass about the special role grandparents and parents play as a faithful role models was a perfect message for the day, and the fun interview questions with our students brought smiles to everyone. Special thanks to Mrs. Margie Black and Mrs. Crabtree for preparing such a special Mass and beautiful song for our grandparents, parents, and special friends. It truly was a "wonderful" day!

Monday, November 11th is Veterans Day and a special day for St. Mary's. Fifth grade students will be passing out free Buddy Poppies to the school community at the Early Childhood and main entrances to wear in honor of our country's veterans. Fifth grade will also be serving coffee and donuts curbside to veterans as they begin their busy days. Coffee and donuts will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Circle drive. Veterans will also receive a Buddy Poppy to proudly wear, a special card made by a St. Mary's student, and a sincere thank you from our school community. Please spread the word about this special morning at St. Mary's to honor the service and sacrifice of our country's veterans. A flyer is attached to this newsletter for more information. Parents dropping off their child in the morning will follow the same parking lot routine as usual. Parents who are veterans, or any of

our special guests for the morning, will enter the parking lot and then be guided to the right and through the church parking lot, to briefly stop in the parking circle in front of St. Mary's Church for coffee and donuts to be given to them as they stay warm and cozy in their car. **I ask that everyone remember and practice parking lot patience and kindness to set a good example and keep everyone safe, thank you.** It may take a few extra minutes to get through the parking lot on Monday morning, but this pales in comparison to the service and sacrifice our veterans made on a daily basis for us.

Thank you to everyone who has brought cold weather items and/or monetary donations to benefit Children's Haven for our monthly **Charity Dress Day**. Mrs. Sullens's Class won the Class Competition, but all of our students and families are the true winners in practicing generosity, compassion, and thoughtfulness. Thank you! We are collecting gently used coats and jackets, gloves and mittens, and hats through Tuesday, so there are few more days to bring in any items to help keep those in need warm and cozy in the Joplin area this winter.

St. Mary's Youth basketball signups, along with a parent meeting, will be on Friday, November 15th during the JACS Booster Bash. Boys and girls in grades 3 -6 are eligible to participate in the Spring Valley League. There will be a \$25 registration fee that will cover new uniforms, league fees and equipment this year. There is a \$5 discount when registering more than 1 player from a family, and scholarships are available. There will be a short parent meeting with Coach Howard right after the basketball scrimmage on Friday around 7pm. Please plan to attend! Practices typically start late November/early December and games are scheduled on every Saturday in January and February. This is a volunteer, parent coached league. Remember, all volunteers and coaches must be Virtus trained. If you have any question don't hesitate to contact Ryan Taffner 417-439-9650, Sarah Nangle 417-437-5175 or Brett Reichardt 417-437-6806.

It may seem a little early, but dates have been set for **St. Mary's Christmas programs**. 1st – 5th grade students will have their Christmas program on Thursday, December 12th starting at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, with a hot cocoa and cookie reception following in the Parish Hall afterwards. Early Learners – Kindergarten students will have their Christmas program on Monday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall, with refreshments being served afterwards as well. Please make plans now to attend the programs, see our adorable students singing, and enjoy visiting with family and friends.

As the weather is cooling down, please remember to send your child to school dressed for outdoor recess each day. **Students will continue to go outside for recess each day this winter unless the temperature or wind chill is 25° F or below, or if there is precipitation other than snow.** Students need a warm winter coat, gloves/mittens/hat, and covered skin to enjoy and benefit from the fresh air and exercise recess provides. Please make sure if girls are wearing something other than uniform pants that their legs are covered. Although knee highs are part of winter dress code, they do not provide the warmth that tights and leggings provide. Even if you do not need these items to be comfortable in winter weather, please be sure your child is dressed to stay cozy and warm. Thank you.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family enjoying the sunny weekend weather! The frost in the air reminds us that it is November, and the holidays are just around the corner. Please remember our students, their families, and our school in your prayers this week. We are all blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring school community.

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown

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Important Upcoming Events:

Monday, November 11th

8:30 a.m.

Veterans Day

Drive-Thru Thank You for Veterans, 7:30-

Moe's Monday

Thursday, November 14th

Stack Up Event!

Monday, November 18th

NO SCHOOL- Teacher PD Day

Monday, November 25th

Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

Wednesday, November 27th -

Thanksgiving Break

Sunday, December 1st