



November 1, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Families,

St. Mary's students had a fun and busy Halloween yesterday! Students in Early Learners through 5th grade enjoyed parties with their classmates, and all but our youngest learners enjoyed a [brisk and sunny hayride to the Communities of Wildwood and Westgate](#) to trick or treat and visit with the residents. This is not only a fun day for our school community, but also a fun day for the residents as they hand out candy, visit with our students, and laugh and smile with all the fun. Our Halloween Hayride is possible with the [generous help of the Stremel family](#) and one of several activities we enjoy with Wildwood each school year. Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, and faculty and staff who helped make this a fun day for our school community, and to all the [Home and School members](#) who did a spooktacular job organizing and hosting the Halloween party for 1st – 5th graders.

Today is All Saints' Day, a day the Church remembers all saints and their lives of faithfulness and service to God. All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1st. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints --that is those recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church (www.catholic.org). All Saints' Day is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church and is also commemorated by members of the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as some protestant churches such as Lutheran and Anglican churches.

Mrs. Black's Spanish students have been busy preparing for [Dia de los Muertos](#), or Day of the Dead, a series of commemorative days dedicated to honoring those who have died. As you are in the school through Grandparents Day, please find time to visit the library and view the beautiful displays our [5th grade students](#) have made to honor those in their own families who have passed away. Our Dia de los Muertos ofrenda, or altar, will be located in the Commons area until Thanksgiving Break. Students are invited to bring a photos of a loved ones who have passed away, and we will place that photo on the altar and keep them close in prayer. All photos will be returned, but please ensure a name is written on the back. Dia de los Muertos is celebrated generally between Halloween and November 2nd, and coincides with the Catholic holy days of All Saints' and All Souls. Day of the Dead is actually divided into two distinct holidays, the first being Dide los Inocentes, which is dedicated to children on November 1st, and Dide los Muertos on November 2nd, which is the actual Day of the Dead. Both days taken together are collectively referred to as the Day of the Dead, and celebrations can begin as early as Halloween. Families often come together over this period and preparations can be made during the entire year leading up to the Day of the Dead. This is a solemn occasion, with few actual festivities. Instead, people visit and repair graves of their dearly departed. It is common to light candles, leave offerings of prepared foods, often a favorite meal, and to pray and play music. Celebrations can sometimes take a humorous tone, particularly if the deceased relative was known to enjoy humor (www.catholic.org).

As you can see, students at St. Mary's have been learning about and experiencing much more on Halloween than only thinking of candy. Our hayride and time spent at Wildwood helps our students understand compassion and thoughtfulness while visiting with residents. Experiencing and participating in Dia de los Muertos helps our students learn about and respect cultural traditions of others and honor the lives of our own family members. Halloween is a wonderful example of the special experience that attending St. Mary's and our JACS schools afford, where the whole child can be educated and nurtured...heart, mind, body, and soul. [Thank you for choosing St. Mary's for your child and providing them the opportunity to experience so much more in school than an academic experience.](#) H

Speaking of compassion and thoughtfulness, St. Mary's next [Charity Dress Day](#) is coming up this week on Wednesday, November 6th. This month we are holding a winter clothing

drive to benefit [Children's Haven](#). Instead of bringing monetary donations for the day, we are asking families to donate gently used or new coats, jackets, hats, and mittens and gloves that we can take to Children's Haven to help keep children in the Four States area warm and cozy this winter. As you are cleaning out closets and trying on last year's coats for your own children, please keep Children's Haven in mind when you have items that are either too small or no longer worn. We will have a table with baskets set up in the Commons during the next week or so for your donations. We will use any monetary donations that are collected to purchase items to donate. Thank you advance for your loving and thoughtful donations to help children in need.

[Veteran's Day is Monday, November 11th](#) and St. Mary's will be holding our annual [Drive-Thru Thank You](#) from 7:30-8:30 a.m. as a way to thank and honor our local veterans. 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.

[Grandparents Day](#) is quickly approaching! Please join us for Grandparents Day on [Friday, November 8th](#) starting with Mass at 8:30 a.m. Grandparents and special family friends are invited to join us for Mass and other activities throughout the school, including yummy refreshments in the cafeteria, photos in the Commons, the Book Fair in the youth room, and activities in your child's classroom. Grandparents Day will be on one day this year instead of

two, allowing for students in each grade to share the special day together and help grandparents and special friends that are able to attend for one day be there for every child in their family.

[Sacred Heart Parish in Webb City](#) is holding their annual [Turkey Dinner on November 2nd and 3rd](#) and your family is invited! Join Sacred Heart as they celebrate their 70th Annual Turkey Dinner, Silent Auction, and Bake Sale. The fun will begin Saturday, November 2nd from Noon to 7:00 p.m. and continue Sunday, November 3rd from Noon to 5:00 p.m. You may Dine-In or Carry Out. Adult dinner tickets are \$8 each and dinner tickets for children 12 and under are \$4 each and include, dinner, dessert and all the fixings. The Silent Auction will feature several items, from themed baskets to gift certificates; and all of the money raised will go to support Sacred Heart Catholic Church. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, enjoy time with your family, and come together as a community. All are invited and welcome to join the fun! For more information call the parish office at (417) 673-2044, extension 101.

JACS Booster Club is sponsoring the [Warriors Youth Basketball League](#) again this year. We will be participating in the Spring Valley League as previous years. Boys and girls in grades 3-6 are eligible to participate. Sign-ups will be November 15th at our JACS Winter Sports Kickoff. Practices typically start late November/early December and games are scheduled on every Saturday in January and February. There was a [survey included in your communicator envelope](#) last week regarding student interest in playing basketball this year. If you have not already returned to survey to the office, please do so sooner than later in order to get an accurate count of the number of teams and coaches needed. This is a volunteer, parent coached league. Remember, all volunteers and coaches must be Virtus trained. We are anxious to kick off the season with a fun event and a few exciting new improvements this year! More details will be available soon. 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 to think about spring yearbooks, but [yearbook orders](#) for the 2019-2020 school year are now being taken! Full-color yearbooks are \$15 each this year, and may be ordered with the order form included in your family's communicator envelope this week. More information and order forms are available in the school office. Order a yearbook soon to ensure your child gets a copy of our fantastic yearbook carefully and lovingly created by Miss Amy each year. If you have class or group photos you would like included in the yearbook, please bring or send them to her (stmaryschool@jacss.org).

Important Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, November 5th

Wednesday, November 6th

Haven

Friday, November 8th

Mass

Monday, November 11th

8:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 14th

Monday, November 18th

Monday, November 25th

Wednesday, November 27th -

Sunday, December 1st

First Tuesday at Club 609

Charity Dress Day benefitting Children's

Grandparents Day starting with 8:30 a.m.

Veterans Day

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

Moe's Monday

Stack Up Event!

NO SCHOOL- Teacher PD Day

Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

Thanksgiving Break