



Catholic Schools Week 2021

Discover the Magic of Catholic Schools!

Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 31st and is a weeklong celebration recognizing the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and to the world. Here is the schedule of themes, events, and activities for the week at St. Mary's:

Sunday, January 31st: Celebrating our Parishes

- JACS faculty members speak at weekend Masses- St. Mary's Faculty to speak at St. Mary's weekend Masses
- **St. Mary's Youth Group will be serving "Breakfast Burritos To Go" after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses.** A sign-up sheet is at the back of St. Mary's Church, pick up or drive-thru options are available. See Friday, January 22 Communicator Newsletter for more information.

Monday, February 1st: Celebrating our Students

- **Dress Theme: Comfy Clothing Day** (pjs, sweats, etc.)
- **St. Mary's Penny War!!** More Information included in this newsletter
- **Students asked to bring a new set of pajamas or monetary donation to support Project Jammies, a Joplin-based non-profit founded by a former St. Mary's student which donates pajamas to children staying in Missouri hospitals**
- **Afternoon movies in each classroom with snacks**

Tuesday, February 2nd: Celebrating Vocations

- **Dress Theme: Uniform Dress**
- **St. Mary's Penny War!**

- Students will write thank you notes to clergy with their classroom teachers
- Magic of Catholic Schools presentation by Deacon Rob, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, K-2nd grades at 9:30 a.m., 3rd-5th grades at 10:00 a.m.
- Mass with Bishop Rice, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3rd: Celebrating our Faculty and Staff

- Dress theme: Wacky Wednesday! Crazy socks, mismatched/backwards clothing, silly hair, decorated facemask, etc.
- St. Mary's Penny War!
- Father Chaz to visit with students and have lunch
- Home and School Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch with one-hour lunchtime so teachers may all eat together (parent volunteers cover lunch, recess, or class time). Thank you!

Thursday, February 4th: Celebrating our Nation and Volunteers

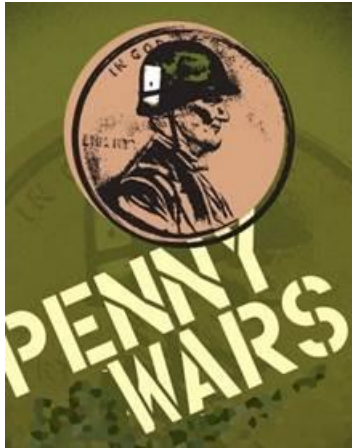
- Dress theme: Patriotic dress in red, white and blue (students and faculty may wear jeans)
- St. Mary's Penny War!
- Adoration, Grades K-5 (specific schedule for the day will be given to teachers)
- Post photos of active service members and veterans in our Hall of Heroes- photos due by Friday, January 29th
- Students will make valentines in their classrooms to send to veterans in the NW Arkansas VA Hospital
- End the day with All-School and Parent Prayers and Songs at the Flagpole starting at 2:30 p.m.

Friday, February 5th: Celebrating our Community

- Dress Theme: Missouri Day! Wear your favorite Missouri sports team clothing - professional, college, or JACS! (students and faculty may wear jeans)
- Final Day of St. Mary's Penny War!
- Students write thank you notes to parents thanking them for choosing St. Mary's for their education
- Class Buddies- each class will spend time playing games or reading with an assigned buddy class

Saturday, February 6th: Celebrating our Families

- Plan something special to do with your family centered around faithful service (make a card for a family member, write sidewalk chalk messages for neighbors, help a sibling learn something new, etc.)
- Post of photo of your family doing something special together on our school's Facebook page (St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School) and be entered in a drawing for prizes



If you have any change laying around your home, please start saving it now for [St. Mary's Penny War](#) the week of Catholic Schools Week, January 31st – February 6th. A penny war is a fun class competition to see which class can raise the most money for charity with pocket change. Pennies are positive points and silver coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.) can be placed in other classroom change containers to cancel out pennies. **Last year St. Mary's students raised \$2,438.38 during our Penny War week, what an exciting accomplishment!** There are 2 divisions in the contest, a winner from Early Learners - Kindergarten classes and a winner from 1st – 5th Grades. The winning class in the EL-K division will enjoy a popcorn and movie party as their treat, and the winning class in the 1st-5th grade division will enjoy a week of free dress days (except on Friday for Mass).

In addition to saving your change, [St. Mary's collects new children's pajamas each year during Catholic Schools Week for Project Jammies](#), a Joplin-based charity started by a former St. Mary's student. New pajamas are taken to Missouri hospitals and given to children who are patients so they have something more cozy and comforting to wear during their hospital stay than a drafty and scratchy hospital gown.

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown
jlown@jacss.org

Important Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, January 26 th	4 th and 5 th Grade Classroom Spelling Bees
Friday, January 29 th	St. Mary's Final Spelling Bee, 10:00 a.m.
January 31 st – February 6 th	Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday, February 2 nd	First Tuesday at Club 609
Monday, February 8 th	Moe's Monday
Wednesday, February 10 th	Charity Dress Day
Friday, February 12 th	Noon Dismissal- Teacher PD Meetings
Monday, February 15 th	NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
Wednesday, February 17 th	Ash Wednesday
Thursday, February 18 th	Free Dress Day
February 28 th – March 2 nd	St. Mary's Self-Study
Monday, March 1 st – Friday, March 5 th	Read Across America Week!