



**CELEBRATE
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
WEEK 2021**
January 31 - February 6
#CSW21

January 31, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

Catholic Schools Week is here! The schools within JACS, and all the Catholic schools in our country, will be celebrating the many benefits and blessings that a Catholic education provides for a student's academic and faith experience, and for life. We have a busy, purposeful, and fun week planned! Teachers have a variety of special activities planned for their students in the classroom, and here is a summary of all-school events taking place this week:

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.

Monday, February 1st: Celebrating our Students

- **Dress Theme: Comfy Clothing Day (pjs, sweats, etc.)**
- St. Mary's Penny War!! More Information found below 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). Let's give the teachers a chance to have lunch all together for Catholic Schools Week! **To do this, Home and School needs your help! We need parents to supervise classrooms, lunch and recess during this time. You must be VIRTUS trained. For more information or to sign up go to:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60bof4ba4aa2fa3fb6-teacher>

Thursday, February 4th: Celebrating our Nation and Volunteers

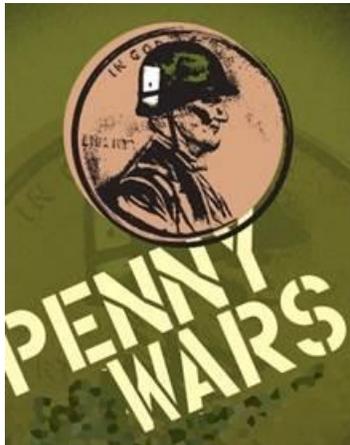
- Dress theme: Patriotic dress in red, white and blue (students and faculty may wear jeans)
- St. Mary's Penny War!
- Adoration, Grades K-5 (specific schedule for the day will be given to teachers)
- Post photos of active service members and veterans in our Hall of Heroes- photos due by Friday, January 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 send it to school with your child for [St. Mary's Penny War](#) this week! This year St. Mary's will be donating all funds raised through the Penny War to Children's Haven, located here in Joplin. [Not only is it a Charity that St. Mary's annually helps, Children's Haven is Bishop Rice's 2021 Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy choice for the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese.](#) All proceeds raised through Bishop Rice's campaign will support Children Haven's Playground Project for children who are staying there. More information about Children's Haven may be found at www.Childrenshaven.org and more information about Bishop Rice's Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy will be sent home in the coming weeks. 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). [Let's do our best to support the children in our area who are served by Children's Haven by cleaning out change containers this week, thank you!](#)

In addition to donating pocket 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.

The small amount of snow we received this week provides the perfect opportunity to [review how families will be notified when school is cancelled for inclement weather and/or road conditions](#), especially for families new to St. Mary's. Sr. Julie, as Director of JACS, makes this decision. If school is cancelled, the information will be listed with other area school closings in an "old school" announcement on local television stations. In addition, Sr. Julie will send out a call and text to families via School Messenger with a recording of the announcement. Our official school sponsored Facebook pages (St. Mary's, St. Peter's, McAuley, and Joplin Area Catholic Schools) will also have this information posted. Tomahawk Talk, a private Facebook group with announcements and other information, will also have the information but it is important to remember this is a parent sponsored Facebook page and any information about school closings BEFORE an official announcement may be inaccurate. It is important that the phone and email contacts the St. Mary's office has are current for this and other reasons, so please let us know if anything has changed/updated for your family.

This year, [Valentine's Day Parties will be on Friday, February 12th](#). This is also a noon dismissal day with After School Care and bus services between campuses available. We will be following the same format as Christmas parties, limiting parent involvement to providing games, activities, filled treat sacks, etc. for the festivities. Home and School will be providing doughnut holes, Chick-fil-A minis, drinks, and napkins for the parties. If you are a Room Parent for your child's class, please reach out to the teacher to see if she would like any help planning the party or additional treats for the snack. Thanks to everyone for being so understanding this year as we have adjusted the holiday parties, it is not an easy decision to make but one that is important for our school community's health and safety.

Save the date for Saturday, April 24th for a great JACS event, the Annual Auction! It's time to a tailgate at St. Mary's! Here is a brief summary of the event so far, if you would like to volunteer to help please let us know!

2021 Joplin Area Catholic School Tailgate Annual Auction

When: April 24, 2021

Where: Join Virtually or Tailgate in the St. Mary's Parking Lot

Raffle Tickets available: Raffle Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets-Prizes are **\$1885**(the year Catholic education started in Joplin), **\$135** (how many years since the school was founded) and a **\$50 dinner gift certificate.**

The Auction committee is currently looking for donations:

Would you be able to donate or know someone who has?

- Timeshare or Vacation Homes
- Hunting or Fishing Excursion/Trip
 - Airline Miles
 - Gift Certificates
 - Coolers
- Lawn Care Services/Landscaping services

Have a business that would be willing to donate to the Auction?

Contact Stephanie Bradshaw, Auction Chair (316) 259-6593

Lindsey Bourne-Green Auction Co-Chair (417)483-9155

More details on <https://www.jacss.org/development/auction/>

God bless and take care,
Joanne Lown
jlown@jacss.org

Important Dates to Remember:

January 31st – February 6th

Catholic Schools Week

Tuesday, February 2nd

First Tuesday at Club 609

Monday, February 8th

Moe's Monday

Wednesday, February 10th
to CSW)

Charity Dress Day (moved back a week due

Friday, February 12th

Noon Dismissal- Teacher PD Meetings
Valentine's Day Parties

Saturday, February 13th

Preschool (formerly Early Childhood) and
Kindergarten Open House, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Monday, February 15th

NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day

Wednesday, February 17th

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 18th

Free Dress Day

February 28th – March 2nd

St. Mary's Self-Study

Monday, March 1st –

Friday, March 5th

Read Across America Week!