



February 5, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

What a wonderful week we had celebrating [Catholic Schools Week](#) at St. Mary's! It was a busy, fun, and faith-filled week celebrating the strength, beauty, and gifts of Catholic education. Mass with Bishop Rice, a magic show with Deacon Huff, classroom visits from Father Joe, Father Chaz, and Deacon Alexander are some of the highlights from this week, in addition to daily dress themes, service projects, and lots of classroom and all-school events.

The fun will continue next weekend when [St. Mary's Preschool and Kindergarten Open House](#) takes place on Saturday, February 13th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you or someone you know may be interested in attending, please join us to learn more about our Preschool programs which include Early Learners for 2 year olds, Advanced Learners (formerly preschool) for 3 year olds, and Pre-K for 4 year olds, in addition to our Kindergarten program. This morning is not only designed for parents to learn more about our school, but also for our youngest learners to have fun, meet new friends, and get acquainted with our school. Parents will have a chance to tour the school, visit with classroom teachers, and complete a Valentine themed craftivity with their child to take home. Please call the office (623-1465) if you have any questions or need more information. It will be a LOVELY morning you won't want to miss!



2021 Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy

Children's Haven Playground Project

Our Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy is to contribute to the Children's Haven Playground Project, to build a new playground. Give a DAY OF PLAY!

"Children's Haven in Joplin, MO, provides a safe, temporary home to children while families are assisted to access the resources needed to resolve their crisis. They are unique - being the only shelter in their area where kids can stay without a parent while parents retain custody. A family crisis may include homelessness, lack of food or utilities, or parents seeking mental health, substance abuse treatment, and much more. I urge you to join me in helping families in crisis!" - Bishop Edward Rice

Children's Haven Provides:

- A staff of professional, trauma-informed, trained and screened Child Advocates care for children ages 0 through 17 years, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days
- Transportation to "home schools", doctor's appointments and other activities while at Children's Haven.
- Nutritional support including meals and two healthy snacks each day
- Activities, field trips and all-around fun to make sure children get to enjoy being children.

Children's Haven is available at no charge to families.

A gift to the Playground Project will create a joyful, interactive outdoor space for kids 365 days a year for years to come!


 Through the services we provide, we work to protect children, prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce family stress, and ultimately keep families together.
 More information can be found at childrenshaven.org
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One last event of Catholic Schools Week will be wrapping up on Monday, [St. Mary's Penny War!](#) St. Mary's will be donating all the proceeds from our penny war to Bishop Rice's Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy. This year, Bishop Rice has chosen [Children's Haven in Joplin](#) to be the recipient of ALL 26 diocesan schools in the Springfield-Cape Girardeau diocese. Proceeds will be sent to the Catholic Center in Springfield and one check will be presented to Children's Haven to help with fundraising efforts for a new playground for the children staying there. Children's Haven is a gift to the surrounding Joplin community for the services, care, and safety it provides to children and families during times of need. Unlike other types of accommodations, Children's Haven provides a safe haven for children when parents are unable to care for them due to illness, family emergencies, or other situations while being able to

retain custody of their children. St. Mary's has chosen Children's Haven as a recipient in Charity Dress Days before, but our diocese has never come together to support this deserving charity as a group. The winning class in the Early Learners-Kindergarten division will enjoy a popcorn and movie party, the winning class in the 1st-5th grade division will enjoy a Free Dress Week (except for Friday due to Mass). [Thank you for donating so thoughtfully and generously to help Children's Haven with their playground Campaign!](#)

Thank you to the families who generously donated pajamas and/or funds to Project Jammies during the week. With your help, St. Mary's will donate 75 new pairs of cozy pajamas to [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.

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.

Your child brought home [2021 Spring Auction raffle tickets](#) in her or his Communicator Envelope this afternoon. JACS will be hosting a raffle coinciding with the Tailgate 2021 Auction, with several exciting prizes. First prize will be \$1,885 (the year Catholic education was established in Joplin), second prize will be \$135 (the number of years since the founding), and third prize will be a \$50 restaurant gift certificate. 10 raffle tickets were included in your family's Communicator Envelope and each raffle ticket is \$5.00. We are asking for your help in selling the raffle tickets, which is always a great fundraiser for our school system. To make things even more fun, students will receive incentives when raffle tickets are sold. More

information can be found on the letter that was included in the raffle ticket envelope. If you have any questions, please contact Tami Veer 417-540-0161.

As mentioned above, 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, 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:

Monday, February 8th

Moe's Monday

Wednesday, February 10th
to Catholic Schools Week)

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

Tuesday, February 16th
to students

Home and School serves Mardi Gras cake

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!