



April 9, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family had a good week; April showers seem to be upon us! We had a special and busy week at St. Mary's. We celebrated Mass this morning not only [welcoming our Pre-K students to their first school Mass, but also welcoming back our 5<sup>th</sup> grade altar servers](#). Everyone did a great job during Mass and Father Paco gave a beautiful homily reminding us that we should never give up hope or feel discouraged. Just as the disciples were losing hope and becoming discouraged after not catching any fish in the Sea of Tiberias, Christ reminded them, and reminds us, to "keep throwing out the net and you will find something" (John 21:6). Father Paco and a joyful 1<sup>st</sup> grader reminded all of us at Mass of His important message. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us this morning. As our Joplin-area Catholic churches are relaxing social distancing protocols, we invite parents and grandparents to join us for weekly School Mass and share in the beautiful experience of celebrating together.

Speaking of celebrating beautiful experiences together, this [Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday](#). In 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter from that year forward would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope John Paul II's message was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, a Polish Sister of Our Lady of Mercy. St. Faustina heard God's call to make His mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father, with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion. When celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday, we are called to reflect on the graces won through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and of

God's mercy for us personally and for the sake of the world. [In honor of Divine Mercy Sunday, St. Mary's Parish is hosting a Divine Mercy event following 10:00 a.m. Mass this weekend.](#) Special guest speaker and songwriter Steve Angrisano will be at St. Mary's to visit with us about Divine Mercy and St. Faustina, tell stories of faith, pray and sing with us, and make us laugh! In addition, Mr. Angrisano will be assisting with the music during 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please join us for this wonderful event!

Attached to this newsletter is registration information for [Summer Fun](#), St. Mary's enriching summer school program. [A Summer Fun booklet and actual registration forms will be sent home with your child on Monday.](#) This year three sessions of summer school will be held from June 7<sup>th</sup> until June 24<sup>th</sup> with a special Summer Fun Day Trip on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Summer School classes are held Monday - Thursday and class sizes are limited, so we encourage you to enroll your child as soon as possible so he or she does not miss out on the fun! St. Mary's Summer School classes are open to [ALL](#) area students, so your child may invite a friend who may not attend St. Mary's to join him or her in the fun. There is a one-time registration fee for each child (whether they are attending one class or several), and classes are priced at \$80 per four-day class. Several teachers sent home informational flyers home in Communicator Envelopes today about a class they are teaching, and several flyers will be sent home next week. Keep your eyes out for a manilla envelope with Summer Fun information to come home with your child on Monday!



Congratulations to Zachary Cronenwett, Max Finley, and Aailyne Perez-Villa for their recent medal distinction in the annual George Washington Carver Art and Essay Contest. The event was held virtually this year. Max received third place recognition and Zachary and Aailyne received Honorable Mention recognition. Congratulations!



Congratulations to St. Mary's teachers Judy Bashor, Lorrie Estrada, Debi Staton, and Mary Ann Turk who joined other Joplin teachers on Tuesday evening to be recognized as Golden Apple Award nominees. Thank you to the parents and students who nominated these outstanding St. Mary's educators this year!

As we are busy with events and activities during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, [please do not forget to take care of your child's school lunch balance if he or she eats a tray lunch on a regular basis](#). We have several students with growing lunch debt, and these balances must be paid in full by the end of the school year in order to receive grade Cards and other important documents. If you have any questions about your child's lunch balance, please contact Miss Amy in office, she will be happy to help you. St. Mary's has a lunch program ranked in the top 5% of school lunch programs in Missouri and we try hard to provide an affordable, nutritious, and delicious lunch for our school each day. Making sure your child's lunch balance is up to date helps our lunch program pay invoices on time and continue providing a yummy lunch for our students and staff.

For those [parents who have St. Mary's students that ride the bus](#) to and from the St. Mary's and St. Peter's/McAuley campuses, please ensure that you are arriving at the St.

Peter's/McAuley campus on time in the morning so the bus can return to St. Mary's in a timely manner. We have a few parents arriving late each morning, which causes our students to arrive very close to the tardy bell at 8:05 a.m. In addition, if your child rides the afternoon bus from St. Mary's to St. Peter's/McAuley, please ensure you are at St. Peter's/McAuley to pick up your child between 3:30 and 3:40 p.m. each day. Thank you for your attention to our bus service guidelines. If your family lives in Webb City or other surrounding town near Webb City and would like your child to ride the school bus next year, please let us know in the office. In previous years JACS has picked up and dropped off students at Sacred Heart Parish in Webb City, and this could be a possibility for the 2021-2022 school year.

[Enrollment contracts or the 2021-2022 school year are out!](#) Sister Julie provided information about enrollment, contracts, and fees in a School Messenger message around 5:00 p.m. this evening. Please check your family's primary email for this information (and be sure to check your "junk" email too, just in case). If you have any questions or need any help with enrollment, please let us know.

God bless and take care,  
Joanne Lown  
[jlown@jacss.org](mailto:jlown@jacss.org)

#### [Important Dates to Remember:](#)

Thursday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Free Dress Day Inter-State Spring Photos!
Friday, April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Full Day of School, dismissal at 3:10 p.m.
Sunday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	First Communion at St. Mary's, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pre-K Graduation Photos, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 24 <sup>th</sup>	JACS Tailgate Annual Auction
Wednesday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Spring Program with Project Fair</a> following, program starts at 6:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church

Thursday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat at St. Agnes Cathedral School in Springfield
Monday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	May Crowning and Rosary, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Program with Project Fair following, program starts at 6:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church Charity Dress Day
Wednesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Early Childhood (Early Learners, Preschool, Pre-K) Spring Program, 9:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Church
Thursday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Full Day Step-Up Day at St. Peter's St. Mary's Step-Up Day for Early Learners – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Friday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Noon Dismissal – Teacher PD
Thursday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's Field Day Free Dress Day
Wednesday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-K Graduation Ceremony, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School!