



SMCS NEWS



Thank you everyone for your support and participation in our annual book fair!

Aftercare will not be available this Thursday, March 13th.

Monday, March 10 - Student Council Lucky Gram Sales Begin; Health Screening Forms Due (grades K, 1, 3, 6)

Wednesday, March 12 - 12:30 Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 13 - All-School Mass/Awards/Field Day; Early Dismissal; NO Aftercare/Last Day of 3rd Quarter

Friday, March 14 - No School: Teacher Professional Development Day

Looking Ahead:

Monday, March 17-Friday, March 21 - Spring Break

Monday, March 24 - Health Screenings (grades K, 1, 3, 6)

Wednesday, March 26 - Last Day for Lucky Grams

Dedicated to Catholic values, Saint Mary Catholic School is a Christ-centered, educational community committed to academic excellence, spiritual growth, individual responsibility, and service to others.

NOTES FROM OUR CATHOLIC IMMERSION DIRECTOR

The Heroic Witness of St. Perpetua and St. Felicity

The first recorded Christian martyrs in North Africa were put to death in 180 for their faith. Despite attempts to stop Christianity, the faith grew, and in 203, five catechumens preparing for baptism in Carthage (modern-day Tunisia) were arrested, including St. Perpetua and St. Felicity.

Perpetua was a 22-year-old noblewoman and mother when arrested. Her father, a pagan, begged her to renounce Christianity to save her life and raise her son. Perpetua, however, famously replied, "I cannot call myself anything other than what I am, a Christian." She was secretly baptized in prison and found joy even in her suffering, saying her prison "became a palace" when she was reunited with her baby.

Felicity, a pregnant slave, was also arrested. Fearing she wouldn't be allowed to suffer with the others due to her pregnancy, she gave birth in prison before being condemned. On the day of their martyrdom, Perpetua and Felicity walked to the arena with courage. They were wounded by a wild cow, but the executioner had to strike the final blow.

Children's video about their story [here](#).

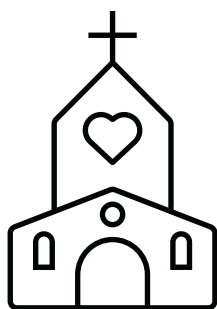


Domestic Church

- Virtue of the Month: Temperance-Saints
- PreK-2nd - [St. Teresa of Avila](#)
- 2nd-5th - [St. Camillus de Lellis](#)
- 6th-8th - [Ven. Matt Talbot](#)
- Create a Stations of the Cross for your home, illustrations [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#).
- Pray the Stations of the Cross (*Catholic All Lent* booklet)
- Family discussion: Imagine yourself in St. Perpetua and St. Felicity's shoes. Would you have the courage to face death and stay true to your faith under such pressure? Pray to these saints, remembering that the greatest gift we can give others is our witness to Christ. Life is empty without His love, and death loses its sting when we live for Him.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, you loved your infants and you loved your God. By embracing martyrdom for your faith, you gave the greatest witness possible to your children. Please pray for me, that I will never shy away from living my faith openly in a hostile world and that I will be a holy witness of God's most pure love to all. Saints Perpetua and Felicity, pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You. Amen



Don't forget to join us for Mass on Thursday at 8:15am!

PTO Corner



Thurs. March 13

We are looking for parent volunteers. All volunteers must go through the background check process - which is simple! Please reach out to Cat O'Bannon in the office for more info. Only volunteers will be allowed on campus. All volunteers should arrive early to check in the front office on Field Day.



Are you our next PTO Board Member?



The nominee deadline has been extended to March 25! Scan the QR code for a description of each position and a link to nominate a board member. Please email pto@saintmaryschool.net if you have ANY questions about nominations, current nominees or joining the PTO Board next year,



We want to show our teachers love next week during Teacher Work Day! Scan the QR code here to buy a teacher lunch by Thursday, March 13!



Minutes from the March meeting will be distributed next week!

If you have questions about anything PTO, please reach out!

pto@saintmaryschool.net

TUTORING



with Ms. Sartz

will be held on Wednesdays beginning on March 12 for grades 1-4. Please contact her at jacqueline.sartz@saintmaryschool.net for more information. Space is limited so contact her soon for a spot.

ARCHANGEL SPORTS



Track

Registration

continues through Monday, March 24

Practice

5th-8th grade Monday 3:00 - 4:10

3rd-4th Tuesday 3:00 - 4:10

Pick up is in front of the PLC.



When we return from Spring Break, K5-4th grades will wear their PE uniforms to school on practice days.

Saint Mary Catholic School



Track Team 2025

Name _____ grade _____

Parent/guardian _____

Phone _____ email _____

Shirt size: _____

Emergency contact info: _____

Allergy/medical conditions _____

Fee: \$75.00 per athlete, includes practice, meet registration, and t-shirt costs.

Payable by check, cash, or FACTS.

Communication is through TeamSnap. An invite will be emailed after the registration form is submitted.

St. Patrick's Day

Lucky Grams

Let your Friends and Teachers know
how **LUCKY** you are to know them by
sending them a **LUCKY GRAM!**

\$1.00 Each

Sales End Wednesday, March 26th

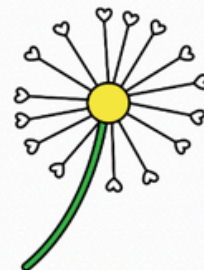
Sponsored by Student Council



SAINT MARY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**Military
KIDS
Club**



Wednesday, March 12th
7:10-7:40am RM 422

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship before school!

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SMCS SUMMER CAMPS

We are excited to introduce SMCS Summer Camps. These camps are hosted by many of our talented teachers! Camps are one week sessions, and will be held the weeks of June 16th-20th and June 23rd-27th. Detailed camp descriptions and registration information will be shared soon!

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATERCOLORS

June 16-20, 9:30 am- 1:00 pm 6th-8th Grade
June 23-27, 9:30 am- 1:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade
Cost: \$250
Instructor: Monica Minarchin

PRESCHOOL ART EXPLORATION

June 23-27, 8:30 am- 12:30 pm Pre-K
Cost: \$250
Instructor: Brandy Rice & Ali Liles

THEATRE BASICS

June 16-20, 9:00am- 1:00 pm 5th-8th Grade
Cost: \$250
Instructors: Catherine Parker & Cindy Brandewie

COLOR GUARD

June 23-27, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm 5th-8th Grade
Cost: \$250
Instructor: Catherine Parker & Jennifer Pratt

CHEER CAMP

June 16-20, 9:00 am- 1:00 pm K-4th Grade
June 23-27, 9:00 am- 1:00 pm 5th-8th Grade
Cost: \$250
Instructor: Ashley Gordey

GYMNASTICS CAMP

June 16-20, 9:30 am- 11:30 pm K-2nd Grade
June 23-27, 9:30 am- 11:30 pm K-2nd Grade
Cost: \$200
Instructors: Jackie Sartz

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN JIG? IRISH DANCE

June 23-27, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm 1st-8th Grade
Cost: \$250
Instructor: Cindy Brainerd

MATH CAMP

June 16-20, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm 5th-8th Grade
Cost: \$250
Instructor: Cindy Brainerd

SOCCER CAMP

June 16-20, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade
June 23-27, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade
Cost: \$150
Instructor: Angela Casas

Summer Camp Coordinator: Monica Minarchin summercampcoordinator@saintmaryschool.net

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Saint Mary Catholic School

2025-2026 School Calendar

August

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

16

September

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

21

October

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

22

November

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

14

December

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

15

January

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

18

February

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

19

March

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

17

April

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

20

May

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

18

June

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Legend

- Full Teacher Workday (190)
- Student School Day (180)
- *Student Half Day/Faculty Half Day
- Holiday - School Closed

First Day - August 8 (Early Dismissal)
 Last Day - May 27 (Early Dismissal)

Grading Periods

First Quarter - August 8 - October 10 (45)
 Second Quarter - October 14 - December 19 (43)
 Third Quarter - January 6 - March 13 (47)
 Fourth Quarter - March 23 - May 27 (45)

Parent-Teacher Conferences Days

October 23 - 24: 3rd - 8th
 January 22 - 23: Pre-K 3 - 2nd
 *Full day for teachers conferencing

Holidays

Labor Day - September 1
 Columbus Day/Data Day - October 13
 Veterans Day - November 11
 Thanksgiving Break - November 24 - November 28
 Christmas Break, December 22 - January 2
 Faculty Retreat - January 5
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 19
 President's Day - February 16
 Spring Break, March 16 - March 20
 Easter Break, April 3 - April 6
 Memorial Day - May 25

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

110 ROBINWOOD DR. S.W.
FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32548
(850) 243-8913 * FAX (850) 243-7895



Msgr. Doug Halsema, Pastor
Mr. Peter Rodgers, Principal

Dear Saint Mary Catholic School Community,

After Spring Break, there will be a minor change to the morning traffic pattern that will impact Pre-K 3 – 5th grade drop-off. This is due to needed repair work on the HUB front columns. Middle school drop-off will not be impacted nor do we anticipate any changes to afternoon pick-up procedures. Blue arrows indicate our current Pre-K3 – 5th morning drop-off traffic pattern. Red arrows indicate the change. The change will go in effect on **Monday, March 24**. There will be a staging area in front of the HUB (and slightly where we currently drop-off) but it should be limited in scope and not interfere much with student movement or any other operations.



Kind regards,

Mr. Rodgers

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SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

110 ROBINWOOD DR. S.W.
FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32548
(850) 243-8913 * FAX (850) 243-7895



Msgr. Doug Halsema, Pastor
Mr. Peter Rodgers, Principal

Dear Saint Mary Catholic School Community,

I was recently informed by Chief Robert Bage of the Fort Walton Beach Police Department that on December 5, 2024, from 6 AM – 6 PM the police department conducted a one-day school zone traffic study near Saint Mary Catholic School and 15 other locations throughout the City (all in school zones). Robinwood Drive (the road east of the school) was one of the areas observed in the study. Some of the details/findings of the study are the following:

- School Zone Speed Limit (During Enforced Hrs) - 15 MPH
- Speed Limit (During Normal Hrs) – 25 MPH
- Violation Trigger Speed – 26 MPH and 31 MPH (respectively)
- School Zone Hours of Operation – 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM/2:30 PM- 3:30 PM
- Study Date & Time – 12/5/2024, 6 AM – 6 PM
- Traffic Study Vehicle Count – 1,011
- Weather Conditions – Fair, No Rain
- # of Lanes – One Lane in One Direction (both lanes)
- Direction – Northbound – Southbound
- Violations Detected – 212

Some additional findings were the majority of violations (145) occurred during our drop-off and dismissal times.

The Chief informed me that photo enforcement of speed limits in school zones (CS/CS/HB 657) throughout the City is a new initiative from the department. On Tuesday, January 14 the Fort Walton Beach City Council voted unanimously to accept and implement the initiative. The cameras will operate during the entire school day. The automated system will issue citations to drivers exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 MPH in school zones. The City will be conducting a 30-day educational campaign with warnings only (when we receive word of the start date, we will inform you). Citations will be \$100 and will be issued after a police officer reviews the footage. Points will not be assessed from licenses. Insurance companies will not be notified. There will be an appeal process for those who think they were wrongly cited—

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Fort Walton Beach Police Non-Emergency Line at 850.833.9546.

Kind regards,


Mr. Rodgers

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We would like to personally invite all middle schoolers to join us for this incredible week of camp this summer. This is an unforgettable experience. **Not only is it a fun and action-packed week, but it's also a powerful and beautiful encounter with Jesus!**

 **Dates:** June 16th–21st

 **Location:** Camp Hidden Lake, Dahlonega, GA, nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains

Who Can Attend:

Incoming 6th graders through outgoing 8th graders.

Cost:

\$725 per camper. This includes:

- Travel to and from camp
- Accommodations
- All meals at camp
- Activities

Campers will need additional money for:

- Meals during travel (to and from camp)
- Optional purchases from the Outpost Store (shirts, books, snacks, etc.)

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to experience faith, fun, friends and adventure!

To reserve a spot for your teen, please bring a non-refundable deposit of **\$125** to the church office or on Sunday before/after Mass at the info desk by the front doors of the church by **February 23, 2025** and please register at: <https://permission.click/GwD62/int/signee-info>

**REGISTER
HERE!**



Questions? Email
julianne.walker@saintmary.life

