

How good and pleasant  
it is when God's people  
live together in UNITY.  
Psalm 133:1

# St Mary Catholic School November 2020 Newsletter



## What?! No more shorts!?

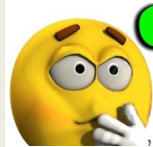
That's right! School rules say NO uniform shorts November through February. Pull out the pants if you haven't already. Belt loops mean you wear a belt! And girls, tights are okay under jumpers/skirts (black, navy, or white).



Woop! Woop!  
That's because  
**MONDAY, No-**  
Wait!...if I get  
Mass since it's  
*respectfully remember our loved ones who have died and pray that they are in heaven! May they rest in peace!*



I'm sleeping in! Yep!  
I don't go to school on  
**November 2nd!** Hooray!  
*up, I should go to 8AM  
All Souls Day! We should*



**GOBS**

Despite what you might have seen in the church bulletin, WE **DO** HAVE SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 9TH!



That's right! On Thursday, November 5th, we get to

wear blue jeans & St. Mary Catholic School or faith-based spirit wear T-shirts &/or sweat-shirts. Let's show our support of our school!

**First Thursday Spiritwear!**

It is with sadness that we bid Father Devin Burns farewell as he heads to Christ the King Parish/School November 10th. We have been blessed by his presence and service in Newton, although for too short of a time. He **WILL** be missed! **There is a come & go reception**

**November 9th from 6-8PM at OLG parish hall where you can offer Fr. Devin your blessing!**

It will be with gladness that we welcome Father

Jorge Lopez as he arrives in Newton at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish on November 10th. We will see him at SMCS at Wednesday weekday Mass as well as for classroom visits. Be sure to welcome Fr. Jorge when you have the opportunity.



## Trash Bags are here and need to be delivered!

Thanks to the 60 families (representing 95 students) who participated in this year's fundraiser. Around 1,365 rolls of trash bags were sold in 2 weeks' time. Our top-selling families were Littlejohn's (125), Sweasy's (71), & Antle's (64). Our top-selling students were Madeline O, Koelton E, & Evan A. We appreciate your support! Please consider making deliveries over this long weekend! Thanks, volunteers, for unloading and sorting orders!



## Letter from the Principal:

Dear SMCS Families,

I want to start out by thank you each for your ongoing support of our students and their teachers during this trying time. Due to your ongoing support, our students have been able to attend school in person...for the entire length of the school day...for much longer, and much safer than many schools in our region have been able to. Ongoing support looks like many things, and I feel so blessed to be able to witness the sacrifices that many have offered in the name of making Catholic education in our community a priority. For some this has been generous donations to the school, in either funds or materials, to equip our school with enhanced safety measures. For others, this has been taking on new volunteer positions, or keeping old volunteer positions so that our school can operate smoothly no matter what hurdle or regulation lays before us. Other families have re-evaluated treasured activities and travel, and have opted not to participate in order to keep themselves and the community safe. Even getting our children ready for school and making time to talk about their day in the evening plays its part in making sure that our children are not just safe from a virus, but living life as a child should get the opportunity to do. Each family has found a path to contribute and meet the challenge that has been put before us. Thank you for making the offerings that you have, in the name of Catholic education in our community!

So far we have been able to remain compliant with regulations and successfully avoid moving to a hybrid or online learning setting. However, as we enter cold and flu season and the number of quarantines increase, it would be beneficial to take a look to prepare for what learning may look like if it needs to happen at home. Even if we are never asked to move to a remote learning scenario, this is an important practice to explore to get the best results from homework. A designated place for homework can help students focus on their practice and learn as much as they can from it. An ideal homework spot is a place that is free from distractions, has basic supplies available (pencils, sharpener, crayons, ruler, etc.), is well lit, and is comfortable to sit and write. Taking time to establish routines for homework and being purposeful in designating a space or routines around homework could go a long way in easing the transition from homework as normal to a remote/hybrid learning setting.

After much prayer and discernment, I have decided not to have St. Mary Catholic School participate in the CSAL girls' basketball season this year. The Valley 9 league had already suspended sports for the semester, and given the current conditions it was not in our best interest to offer girls basketball. With gating criteria and quarantine regulations as they are, to offer girls' basketball would have been an undue risk for the entire school being required to go to remote/ hybrid learning. If conditions change or the interpretation of guidance changes, other sports that would be similar to girls' basketball may be offered in the future. Each sport/activity will be reviewed independently as the year progresses.

Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day). This is a special feast day set aside for the departed for whom we have loved and who need our prayers, as well as those faithful still in purgatory who may no longer have anybody to pray for them. While not a day of holy obligation, this is a special feast day that has been set aside this year in a special way as there is no school on this day. Fr. Voelker will be offering a low Latin Mass Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mary, and Fr. Burns will be offering Mass at OLG at 8:00 am as well. Please consider joining your community and participate in this special feast day.

Again...thank you for your ongoing support of our students and their teachers.

Your brother in Christ/ Tu hermano en Cristo,

Joshua Bargdill  
Principal

# Partners *in* FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2020

Mr. Joshua Bargdill  
Principal



## Thoughtful Moments

### A new year begins

Each year the Church begins a new liturgical year on the Sunday closest to the feast of the apostle Andrew (November 30). This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 29. We begin Year B in the liturgical cycle.

### Welcome saints into your family

Saints are holy people who lived a life of extraordinary virtue and now celebrate with God in Heaven forever.

All Saints Day (November 1) reminds us that we are still connected to them through the Communion of Saints. Introduce children to new saints regularly.



### Judge not

Help children to remember that criticizing others is a serious business. *"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.*

*Forgive and you will be forgiven"* (Luke 6:37). Better to worry about our own behavior and let others do the same.



## Heaven is worth the wait

No one likes to wait, and children are particularly poorly suited to delayed rewards. Yet, Advent is all about waiting for something amazing. So how can we help youngsters see that Heaven will be worth the wait?

**There are no worries in Heaven.** *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain"*

(Revelation 21:4). When we get there, we leave behind concerns, pain, worries.

**Everything good comes from Heaven.** *"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above"* (James 1:17). If all good things come from Heaven, imagine how great it will be

when we get there.

**The company is great there.** When we get to Heaven, we will have joyful reunions with beloved grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who have died before us.

Best of all, we get to mingle with the saints, angels, and with Jesus, himself.

**The one who loves us best is there.** As much as earthly parents love their children, it's nothing compared to the love God has for

each of us. He is the perfect parent – our true Father – and he is waiting for us in Heaven.

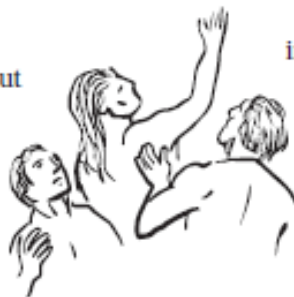
**Heaven is our true home.** *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Philippians 3:20).



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

### Why do we pray for the souls in Purgatory?

All who die in God's friendship go to Heaven. But if we haven't properly atoned for our sins, we are purified in Purgatory first. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Purgatory, "a final cleansing of human



imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven."

Praying for the souls in Purgatory helps them pass through faster than they would otherwise. *"Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin"* (2 Maccabees 12:46).

## Make Christmas all about love

What parent doesn't cherish the sparkle of excitement in a child's eye at Christmas? As Catholic parents, though, we want our children to have the joy of the holiday, not just the anticipation of receiving gifts. Try these ideas to experience Christmas as a holiday of love.

**Help children give, not just receive.** Children love to give gifts. Write up a list of grandparents, teachers, and siblings and help children make and send handmade gifts like Christmas cookies or ornaments.



**Focus on Jesus.** Start the season by reading a few verses of the story of Jesus' birth each day. Sing your favorite religious Christmas carols. Make birthday cards for the Baby.

**Come alive.** In the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, act out your own Nativity. Each take a part to play. Imagine what it would have been like to have been there for the real event.

**Thank you note.** All good gifts come from God. Write Jesus a "thank you" note for the blessings you received in the last year.

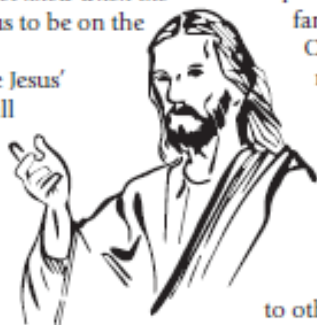
### Scripture LESSON

### Mark 13:33-37, Keep watch!

In this reading, Jesus urges us to always be ready because "You do not know when the time will come." He wants us to be on the watch for Him.

Next month we celebrate Jesus' arrival at Christmas. He will come twice more for certain: at our death and at the end of time. Advent is the time to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?"

**What can a parent do?** Start by doing your best to remain in a state of grace and help children to do the same. Teach youngsters to perform a daily examination of



conscience, and pick one sinful practice to eliminate. Make it a family practice to go to Confession regularly – once a month, if possible.

Then attend or watch Mass weekly and try to spend more time in prayer. Finally, see if there are ways your family can offer yourselves in service

to others.

Keeping watch means fixing our eyes on God at all times. Then, when Christmas comes, we can greet the Lord with joy.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Nov. 1 – All Saints Day.** In the early Church, saints and martyrs were each assigned a feast day. However, the extreme persecution of the Christians meant there weren't enough days in the calendar for individual commemorations. Eventually Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day.

**Nov. 2 – All Souls Day.** On this day we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and souls in Purgatory to help them get to Heaven faster.

**Nov. 12 – St. Josaphat (1623).**

Born in the Ukraine to Orthodox parents, St. Josaphat converted to Catholicism, became a Basilian monk, then a priest, and was named Bishop of Vitebsk (now in Russia). He worked for unity in the Church and was martyred for his efforts.

**Nov. 13 – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1917).** Mother Cabrini started the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Italy and founded 67 institutions to care for the sick and forgotten in Europe and the Americas. She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.



### Parent TALK

One afternoon, my daughter, Kara, went to a friend's home and came back in a thoughtful mood. It seemed that at three o'clock, everyone in the

house stopped what they were doing and came together. They spent time in prayer: fifteen minutes for the Divine Mercy chaplet (at the

hour of mercy) and thirty minutes for a family Rosary. Everyone took turns praying a decade and sharing a meditation on the Mystery, which Kara liked, because then she didn't have to "pray all those beads" by herself.

When Kara came home, she told me about the family holy hour and asked if we could do it, too. I told her it might be hard to make a whole holy hour every day, but it gave me the idea to put a "Rosary reminder" in my phone, for three o'clock. Thanks to Kara's friends, daily prayer has become a family habit.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

# Schedule for Altar Servers, Cantors, Mass Assignments

At this time we are only using Altar Servers for school day Masses on Fridays. We are only using 6th through 8th graders. Here's the schedule for November:

- 11/06 Anthony H & Itzel L
- 11/13 Gabby S & Gage S
- 11/20 Vanessa R & Ximena S



At this time we are not singing at Masses due to concerns about Coronavirus being spread through aerosol particles and droplets into the surrounding air. Therefore, we are not scheduling students to cantor. It is our hope that this will change in the future!

At this time we are only allowing three grades to attend Mass at one time. They attend once a week, rotating between Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday. Kindergarten through 2nd grade attend together; 3rd-5th grades attend together; and 6th-8th grades attend together. The priests celebrate Mass on a consistent schedule (Fr. Devin on Wednesdays, Fr. Max on Thursdays, Fr. Voelker on Fridays), so students benefit from all three priests each month. Here's the schedule for November:



- 11/04 6th-8th
- 11/05 3rd-5th
- 11/06 Kdgn-2nd
- 11/11 3rd-5th
- 11/12 Kdgn-2nd
- 11/13 6th-8th
- 11/18 Kdgn-2nd
- 11/19 6th-8th
- 11/20 3rd-5th

Parents are welcome to attend school day Masses. However, parents cannot sit with their son/daughter at this time. Parents can sit in the back two pews or in the gathering space. We'd love to have you!

# Schedule for Events/Activities, Staff/Student Birthdays

## Report Cards

First quarter ends on October 30th. Mrs. Kim plans on getting report cards out one week later.

Remember that you can sign in to PowerSchool and check your student's grades any time!

Kindergarten through 2nd graders receive a **Standards-Based** grade card, the purpose of which is to provide detailed feedback regarding your child's progress. This allows you to understand what is expected at this grade level. If a grade is not present on a row or in a column, this means that the standard has not been evaluated yet and as such, no grade can be reported.

**Traditional** grading is used for 3rd through 5th graders. Many elements are combined to determine your child's grade - test scores, quizzes, completed homework, classroom participation, attendance, extra credit - then, the average of the quarter's work equates into a percentage that correlates with a specific letter grade (A, B, C, D, F). For Catholic Schools in the Wichita Diocese it looks like this:

- A = 92%-100%
- B = 83%-91%
- C = 74%-82%
- D = 65%-73%



# VOTE

**Tuesday, November 3rd** is Election Day! Students, remind your parents & siblings 18+ to vote!  
Every vote counts!

**HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



**Lifetouch Photography** will be in our building **Wednesday, November 11th** to take Pre-4 year-book pictures. They will also do retakes if you were dissatisfied with your child's fall picture (or if they were absent that day). K-8th students may wear regular clothes for picture retakes; but they **MUST** change into their school uniform right after their picture is taken. Contact Mrs. Kim if you need an order form.



Mrs. Kim is behind on announcing birthdays. Sorry! We have been announcing it over the P.A. system each day! As for the newsletter, let's get started with November!

- 2 Nevon in 5th
- 4 Penny in 4th
- 5 Isaiah in 1st
- 8 Lyla in 7th
- 10 Aven in 5th
- 12 Mireya in 5th
- 13 Mrs. Kim in the office
- 14 Calista in 6th
- 15 Lilianna in 1st
- 18 Evan in 5th; Mila in 3rd
- 19 DJ in 1st
- 24 Parker in 2nd
- 25 Mrs. Oden in 8th
- 29 Marya in 4th

## Gobble till ya



**WORBLE!**  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
WishAFriend.com

**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
NOVEMBER 23-27**

# November 2020

## BREAKFAST MENU

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> No school	<b>3</b> Monkey Bread Cereal	<b>4</b> Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Cereal	<b>5</b> Pancake on a Stick Cereal	<b>6</b> Pancakes Omelet Cereal	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Breakfast Pizza Cereal	<b>10</b> Apple Fru-del Cereal	<b>11</b> Breakfast Bites Yogurt	<b>12</b> English Muffin with sausage Cereal	<b>13</b> Muffins Cereal	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> French Toast Sticks Cereal	<b>17</b> Monkey Bread Cereal	<b>18</b> Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Cereal	<b>19</b> Pancake on a Stick Cereal	<b>20</b> Pancakes Omelet Cereal	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No School	<b>24</b> No school	<b>25</b> No school	<b>26</b> No school	<b>27</b> No school	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Breakfast Pizza Cereal	<p>Juice &amp; Milk are served at every breakfast.</p> <p>Menu is subject to change at Food Service Director's discretion.</p> <p>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</p>				

# November 2020

## LUNCH Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 NO SCHOOL	3 Hamburgers Baked beans Peas Pears	4 Piggy blankets Cucumbers Mac & cheese Pineapple	5 Chicken chunks Mashed potatoes Green beans	6 Soft taco Lettuce Cheese Tomatoes Peaches	7	
8	9 Spaghetti Carrots Pears	10 Hamburgers Potato wedges Apple salad	11 Nachos Applesauce Corn	12 Turkey Sandwich Salad Peaches	13 Hot dogs Cucumbers Fries Fruit cocktail	14	
15	16 Bean cheese burrito Chicken fajita salad Peaches	17 Meatloaf Cheesy potatoes Peas Pineapple Roll	18 Corn dog Tri tator Broccoli w/ Cheese Pears	19 Chicken Sandwich Fries Corn Mixed fruit	20 <b>Turkey Dinner</b>	21	
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28	
29	30 Beef steak Sandwich Tator tots Green beans Oranges	<p>Milk is served with every school-provided hot lunch. Milk only (with a sack lunch) is 50 cents.</p> <p>Menu is subject to change at Food Service Director's discretion.</p> <p>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</p>					

**WWJD's**

# **PTO News & Teachers News**

# Sports & Extracurricular Activities News

Our Volleyball Girls had two teams this year. They were both combined teams, 6th-7th graders on one team playing up in the 7<sup>th</sup> Mount Carmel Division. They finished with a 1-9 record, with most of them being 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Our other team of 7th-8th graders competed in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mount Carmel Division. They had a great season, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 7-3 record. No post season tourney was played due to the pandemic.

## 7th Grade Mount Carmel Division

<u>Team # / Team Name</u>	<u>W</u> <u>n</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>% Won</u>	<u># of matches</u>
11. Resurrection	10	0	100%	10
9. St. Joe	8	2	80%	10
15. St. Joe Ost	8	2	80%	10
8. SEAS Blue	5	5	50%	10
14. Holy Cross	5	5	50%	10
16. St. Catherine White	5	5	50%	10
17. St. Peter	5	5	50%	10
12. St. Mary Derby	2	8	20%	10
10. St. Anne	1	9	10%	10
<b>13. St. Mary Newton</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10</b>

## 8th Grade Mount Carmel

<u>Team # / Team Name</u>	<u>W</u> <u>n</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>% Won</u>	<u># of matches</u>
11. St. Peter	9	1	90%	10
18. All Saints	9	1	90%	10
20. St. Mary Derby	8	2	80%	10
<b>21. St. Mary Newton</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>10</b>
15. St. Joe	7	3	70%	10
17. Blessed Sacrament	5	5	50%	10
22. St. Joe Ost	5	5	50%	10
13. SFA White	4	6	40%	10
19. Resurrection	4	6	40%	10
12. SEAS Blue	3	7	30%	10
14. Christ the King	2	8	20%	10
16. St. Margaret Mary	1	9	10%	10
23. Holy Spirit	1	9	10%	10



### Basketball Update:

As a result of the recent spike in Covid-19 cases in Harvey County, Principal Bargdill has made a very difficult decision. St. Mary will be opting out of playing in CSAL Girls Basketball this fall (October through December). This decision did not come lightly; the bottom line was keeping our school safe and hopefully not having to go to remote learning. This was in the best interest to our students. The CSAL has gone to a split season, with the Boys season running December through February. At the present time, the decision to play in CSAL Boys Basketball has not been made. It will be made at a later time. We will keep you posted as we get closer to December.

*Mr. Middlemist*

*Athletic Director*

# **Tri-Parish News**