

Let the peace of Christ  
control your hearts.  
Colossians 3:15

## St Mary Catholic School March 2021 Newsletter



The SMCS Auction Committee is excited to share that our annual auction is happening this year but will look different. Save the date for this year's **online auction** and raffle, **April 22-24**. More details to come regarding online auction. Raffle tickets will be sent home with students prior to

Spring  
Break.



### Dress Code for Students

Pgs.17-19 of handbook in student planner  
Excerpts: Dress is an important factor in the educational environment. At SMCS, it is believed that personal appearance affects feelings, attitudes, and actions of the students. Parents are expected to use good judgment in sending their children to school dressed appropriately.

Clothing should be neat, clean and of proper length and size. Modest and proper grooming affects the attitude and self-image of the students. The dress code cannot address every situation and as such SMCS reserves the right to make decisions on dress attire.



#### Dress for Success!

Shirts must be tucked in. Belts must be worn when there are belt loops. Jumpers/ Skirts shall be knee length or longer.

Scouts and athletes may wear approved uniform shirts on game/meeting days.

Shorts are allowed March—May and must be longer than the fingertips when standing straight.

Eighteen Middle School Students have expressed interest in Track & Field, so we will have a team! We DO still need 1 or 2 parent volunteers to help with practices & meets.

Contact [mmiddlemist@smcsnewton.org](mailto:mmiddlemist@smcsnewton.org)



# Principal's Newsletter

Hello SMCS Families,

You have been in my prayers as we have moved into the Season of Lent, and look forward to the last 3 months of the school year. This has been a particularly challenging year, but our school community continues to thrive in the face the challenges set before us. In the last three months of school we will continue to deliver instructional services, while working to safely reclaim traditions and events that we treasure.

**Spring Break** – School will be closed for the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. All diocesan students and staff who travel *internationally* over Spring Break will need to quarantine upon return from a foreign country for 10 days, or 7 days pending a negative COVID-19 test. Other travel restrictions can be found on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website.

**Middle School Track & Field**– Due to several factors, SMCS *will* participate in the CSAL track and field season, with practice starting March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please direct questions about participation to Mark Middlemist by email to [mmiddlemist@smcsnewton.org](mailto:mmiddlemist@smcsnewton.org). We would love to have a few more dedicated volunteers to help with practice!

**School Auction** – The SMCS Auction Committee is excited to share that our annual auction is happening this year, but it will look different. Save the date for this year's *online auction and raffle*, April 22-24. More details to come.

**School Facilities** - Limited use of the school facilities will be made available to parish organizations, pending principal approval. If you are a part of a parish organization that has used school facilities in the past, please contact Joshua if you would like to use them again. Important considerations for approval will be date of the event, COVID-19 mitigation plans for the activity, and compliance with those plans during the activity itself.

**In person instruction** – SMCS continues to prioritize in-person instruction during this pandemic year. As a KSDE accredited school, SMCS will continue to follow KSDE COVID-19 mitigation mandates, as long as they are required. Thank you for your continued support of keeping us “in-person” by keeping sick students at home, and following quarantine guidelines as needed. We will continue to do what we can during the school day to keep our students and community safe.

Wishing you a prayerful and safe Lenten Season,



Joshua Bargdill,

Principal

## 2020-2021 SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

### Principal's Honor Roll

#### All A's

##### 3rd Grade

Mila C  
Luke H  
Veronica S  
Marah B

##### 4th Grade

Maddyx E  
Caleb O  
Amaya O  
Landen R  
Benjamin S  
Penny W

##### 5th Grade

Ashley A  
Evan A  
Ava C  
Xitlali L  
Natalie M  
Natalie O  
Hannah P

##### 6th Grade

None

##### 7th Grade

Itzel T  
Charli W

##### 8th Grade

Giahne L

### Honor Roll

#### All A's & no more than 2 B's

##### 3rd Grade

Madison C  
Bret L  
Gianna O

##### 4th Grade

Blake A  
Marya B  
Jaxon M  
Sofia R

##### 5th Grade

Ella B  
Aven H  
Renee J

##### 6th Grade

Koelton E  
Matthew H  
Calista W

##### 7th Grade

Ryan A  
J.D. E  
Elizabeth O  
Anthony S

##### 8th Grade

Lily B  
Anthony H  
Skylin S  
Desiray S  
Ethan S

### Honorable Mention

#### All A's & B's

##### 3rd Grade

Antonio H  
August K  
Gavin S  
Owen W

##### 4th Grade

Adler M

##### 5th Grade

Mireya C  
Vanessa S  
Annabelle S

##### 6th Grade

Luke L

##### 7th Grade

Sophia C  
Erica R  
Xaydi V

##### 8th Grade

Freddy A  
Rocio H  
Baleigh K  
Itzel L  
Ian M

## Schedule for Altar Servers, Mass Attendance & Stations of the Cross

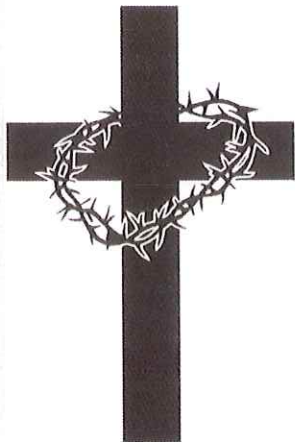
Wednesday, 3/3 - 6th-8th grades attend Mass (Fr. Jorge)

Thursday, 3/4 - Kindergarten-2nd grades attend Mass (Fr. Max)

Friday, 3/5 - 3rd-5th grades attend Mass (Fr. Voelker); **Lily B & Ben H altar serve**; Stations at 9:00 for Kdgn-2nd; at 10:00 for 3rd-5th; & at 12:15 for 6th-8th



No school day Masses during Spring Break, which is March 15-19



Wednesday, 3/10 - Kindergarten-2nd grades attend Mass (Fr. Jorge)

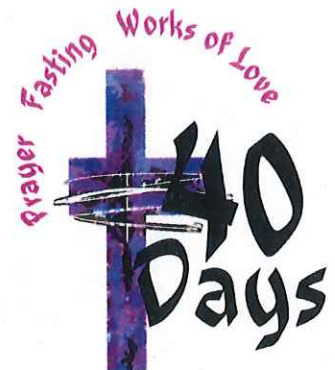
Thursday, 3/11 - 3rd-5th grades attend Mass (Fr. Max)

Friday, 3/12 - 6th-8th grades attend Mass (Fr. Voelker); **Elizabeth O & Anthony S altar serve**; Stations at 9:00 for Kdgn-2nd; at 10:00 for 3rd-5th; & at 12:15 for 6th-8th

Wednesday, 3/24 - 3rd-5th grades attend Mass (Fr. Jorge)

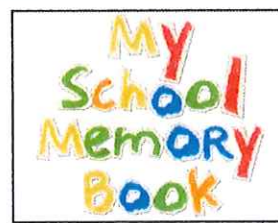
Thursday, 3/25 - 6th-8th grades attend Mass (Fr. Max)

Friday, 3/26 - Kindergarten-2nd grades attend Mass (Fr. Voelker); **Natalia P & Vanessa R altar serve**; Stations at 9:00 for Kdgn-2nd; at 10:00 for 3rd-5th; & at 12:15 for 6th-8th



Wednesday, 3/31 - 3rd-5th grades attend Mass (Fr. Jorge)

Do you know anyone with preschool-aged children who might be interested in **enrolling in our preschool**? Please tell them to call the school office **ASAP (316-282-1974)**. We're building our lists now. We are offering **Pre-3 on Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-11:00** and **Pre-4 on Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00-11:00**. We are looking at offering **Pre-4 in the afternoon Monday through Friday if there is enough demand.** Please help us recruit!



Please use the attached order form from Lifetouch to order a **2020-2021 yearbook**.

Return the order form to Mrs. Kim, even if you order online. If paying with a check, pay "SMCS." Our yearbook will be created in June. Yearbooks will be distributed in July/August.



## Schedule for Events/Activities, Staff/Student Birthdays



3/3 Walk  
in Sisters  
Shoes ends  
- last day  
to bring in  
donations  
3/4 Wear  
SMCS  
Spirit

Wear Shirts & Jeans instead of school uniforms (if you choose)

3/9 Dental Fluoride Treatments for those who opted in last fall

3/11 Lifetouch here for Class pictures (wear school uniforms)

3/12 Lifetouch here for Individual Spring portraits (Wear appropriate spring outfit. Shoes need to be appropriate for all-day wear!)

3/14 Daylight Savings Time begins. Clocks **SPRING** forward 1 hour.

3/15-3/19 Spring Break  
**NO SCHOOL**

3/26 End of 3rd Quarter

3/29 **NO SCHOOL** Teachers work to enter all 3rd Quarter grades. (Report Cards will be sent home with students on Friday, April 2.)

### March Birthdays

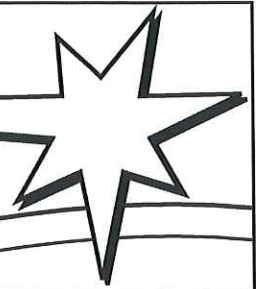
3/3 Adrian R in 3rd  
3/3 Ethan S in 8th  
3/3 Mr. Bargdill, Principal  
3/10 Maddyx E in 4th  
3/10 Kayden W in 6th  
3/13 Lily B in 8th  
3/13 Lola B in 1st  
3/16 Ava C in 5th  
3/16 Samantha H in Kindergarten  
3/24 Beau S in 1st  
3/26 Vanessa S in 5th  
3/26 Mr. Middlemist, 6th Grade Homeroom  
3/28 Mr. Bergman, Band



Do you need to get VIRTUS-trained in order to volunteer around children at our churches or schools? Lizzet Arelanes is a certified trainer. She will be holding a training in the St. Mary Parish Center (old school) on **Saturday, March 13 at 9AM**. The training lasts less than a couple hours. You can just show up (on time!). You do not have to sign up in advance. You **DO** have to let the school know you were trained in order for us to use you at SMCS (and we **NEED** you!). Doing the training now will make you eligible to volunteer next school year also. **We LOVE our VOLUNTEERS!**



# TRAINING



St. Mary Catholic School

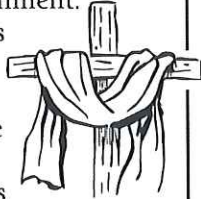
Mr. Joshua Bargdill, Principal



## Thoughtful Moments

### Penance vs. punishment

Penance isn't punishment. Real penance helps us undergo a change of heart that helps us become better people who positively affect others. Our sin affects others, and our penance and reparation can, too.



### Foster loving kindness

In a time that seems to be full of bad news, selfless acts can result in an emotional uplift for the giver and the recipient. Practice acts of kindness each day. Use a gentle voice in every circumstance. Smile at someone who looks like they need it. Allow others to go get ahead of you in line. Sit with someone who looks as if they need a friend. Pray for those who are unkind to you.

### As God loves

"Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us." Pope Francis



## Raising good decision makers

At the root of every sin is a bad decision. Children's inexperience and lack of perspective often leads to bad choices that get them into trouble. A well-formed Catholic conscience, accountability, and experience are powerful ways to raise happy, healthy and holy decision makers.

**Faith as foundation.** Solid ways to form a Catholic conscience include taking families to weekly Mass, regular Confession to a priest, making religious education classes a priority, and expecting and modeling Gospel-centered behavior at home.

**Modeling good choices.** Parents have the biggest impact on forming children's consciences. The process begins when children start developing attachments. Children start to imitate

the mannerisms, speech, and habits of trusted adults. It is important that they see our faith in our actions.

**Experience is a powerful teacher.** If parents are attentive, respectful, and nurturing to a child, she learns to internalize these characteristics as the way to relate to others. For example, attending to a child's emotion pain will teach remorse when she causes others pain. Invest active time in children, foster a sense of belonging, and communicate love.

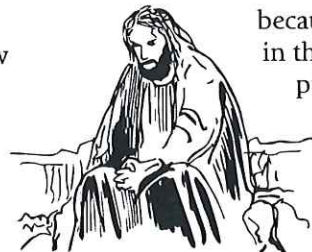
**Accountability is** loving parents holding children responsible for their own decisions. When confronted by their bad behavior, youngsters may try to shift blame, refuse to acknowledge or follow rules, or attempt to avoid consequences. Set standards, give consequences, and follow through.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do we fast?

Fasting is a traditional form of penance to show sorrow for our sins. By creating hunger and a desire for that which is denied, we are reminded of the reason why we are fasting. During Lent, we fast



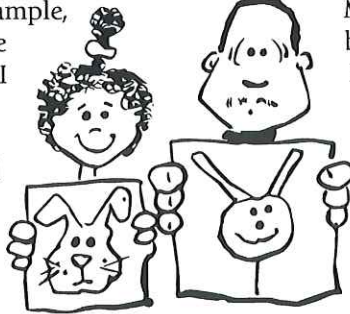
because Jesus fasted during his time in the desert before he began his public ministry.

We also fast to sympathize with those who are hungry or poor and don't have the blessings we enjoy. Fasting helps us to be more loving and compassionate.

## Find renewal during Lent

When choosing Lenten observances, children are inclined to give too much or too little. For example, "I'll give up playing video games for the entire season!" or "I'll give up green vegetables that I don't like." Yet, Lent isn't just about sacrifice. This is also a time to make changes that will bring us closer to God and give Him a central place in our family life.

**Practice gratitude.** Gratitude helps to keep everything in perspective. Encourage children to share what they count as



blessings and guide them to recognize the source as God.

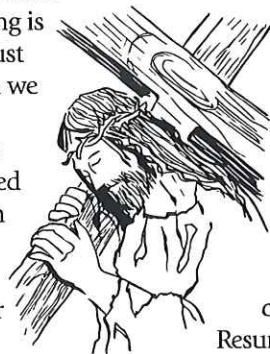
**Make Sunday about God.** If you have to choose between sports and Sunday Mass, choose Mass. Resolve to make sure the Eucharist and Mass come before anything else.

**Spend time with your family.** In a pandemic, alone time may be what keeps us sane. Yet, family time is critical to forming healthy families. Try to find ways to spend more time together. Read books, tell stories, draw pictures. Make the good times overwhelm the bad.

### Scripture LESSON

**Mark 14:1-15:47, Join our pain with Jesus'**

This Gospel reading tells of Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross. Remembering Jesus' suffering is not just something we do just once a year. The more often we remember, the more it will help us recall that Jesus was human, too, and experienced what we feel – and so much more. If we offer him our suffering and remember his, it makes our pain easier to bear.



Every day our frustrations, our fears, our loneliness and temptations can become ways in which we share in the suffering and death of Christ. Likewise, our

joys, our good health, our family and friends are all important ways to share in the joy of his Resurrection. The point is to offer everything to Christ.

**What can a parent do?** Suffering is part of life. Yet, disciples of Jesus can have the same attitude toward suffering as he did, and we can also share in his joy of the Resurrection. When children are hurt, sad, or scared, help them remember to turn to Jesus because he wants to comfort them with his great love.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**March 2 – St. Agnes of Bohemia (1282).** Born in Prague to King Ottocar I of Bohemia, St. Agnes renounced court life to become a Poor Clare instead. She was known for serving the poor and working miracles.

**March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland (493).** Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland as a slave when he was about sixteen. He escaped several years later and became a priest. He was ordained the bishop of Ireland and is credited for having established

the Church there.

**March 19 - St. Joseph (1st century).** Husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

**March 28 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.** The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. It recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. It marks the beginning of Holy Week. We use palms to commemorate this special day.



### Parent TALK

As Lent approached this year, I realized that children were pretty stressed between online learning and missing usual activities curtailed and eliminated by the pandemic. So this year, we took a different Lenten path.



Every time the children asked us to buy something – a new game, takeout for dinner, a new toy – we asked if it was something they could live without. If they said, "yes" (often with guidance), we looked up the price of the item and put that amount into our family Lent jar. Once the jar was full, we dumped the contents into the Poor Box at church.

Next, we tackled excess. Every day during Lent, we go through our closets and drawers and put one item in the give-away pile.

The daily activities keep us focused on Lent and we are working to simplify our lives. When Easter comes, we will be lighter and more grateful for what we have.

#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>  
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

# March 2021 Breakfast Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <i>Breakfast Bites; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>2</i> <i>English Muffin with Sausage; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Muffins; Yogurt; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>4</i> <i>French Toast Sticks; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Monkey Bread; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Sausage &amp; Cheese Biscuit; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Pancake &amp; Sausage on a Stick; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>10</i> <i>Pancakes; Omelet; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Breakfast Pizza; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Apple Frudel; Yogurt; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<i>16</i> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<i>17</i> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<i>18</i> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<i>19</i> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Breakfast Bites; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>23</i> <i>English Muffin with Sausage; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Muffins; Yogurt; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>25</i> <i>French Toast Sticks; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>26</i> <i>Monkey Bread; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<i>30</i> <i>Sausage &amp; Cheese Biscuit; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<i>31</i> <i>Pancake &amp; Sausage on a Stick; Cereal; Juice; Milk</i>	<b>Menu is subject to change at Food Service Director's Discretion.</b> <b><i>This institution is an equal opportunity employer &amp; provider.</i></b>		

# March 2021 Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Crispy Carrots Pears Milk	2 Hamburger/Bun Baked Beans Peas Pineapple Milk	3 Soft Shell Taco lettuce/tomato Baby Carrots Strawberries/ Bananas Milk	4 Phenomenal Pizza Tossed Salad Applesauce Milk	5 Fish Sandwich Potato Salad Peaches Milk	6
7	8 Taco Salad Tortilla Chips Applesauce Milk	9 Roast Beef on Wheat Cauliflower/ Broccoli Pineapple Milk	10 Hamburger Potato Wedges Apple Salad Milk	11 Super Nachos Mandarin Oranges Corn Milk	12 Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Fresh Pears Milk	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL	16 NO SCHOOL	17 NO SCHOOL	18 NO SCHOOL	19 NO SCHOOL	20
21	22 Turkey/Cheese Sub Tossed Salad Peaches Milk	23 Hot Dog on Bun Cucumbers French Fries Fruit Cocktail Milk	24 Chicken/ Cheese Wrap Salad Mix Green Beans Melon	25 Ham Sandwich Baked Beans Oven Fries Peaches Milk	26 Cheese Quesadilla Carrots/Celery Mexi-corn Fruit Cup	27
28	29 NO SCHOOL	30 Crispito Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk	31 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Carrots Pears Milk	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Meals will continue to be free of charge through USDA funding.</b></p> <p><b><i>Milk only will be provided for 50 cents per carton.</i></b></p> </div>		