
ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Faith

Hospitality

Service

Excellence

Dear SMCS Families,

Another Lenten season has arrived, and I am excited to walk this journey with you and your family. There are a number of activities that will be taking place during this time. I hope that you find the information enclosed helpful.

As we move forward, the monthly newsletter will transition to a quarterly update. This will change the content of what can be expected to be included in the quarterly news letter, and how information is dispersed. For more timely information from the school, please orient yourself to the Bulletin in your parent PowerSchool account. This will allow the front office to communicate in a more timely manner, and as information comes available as opposed to a monthly update. For more urgent message or reminders, the front office will use school messenger. If you ever need help to log in to powerschool, please contact the front office and we will help you.

In addition to Lent, March is also a time for State Assessments for grades 3rd through 8th. We will begin state assessments starting the week of March 27th. Please make sure that even the week before that you are being especially mindful of bedtime routines and breakfast. A steady routine and full stomach to start the day are a great launching pad for success on the state assessments.


Finally, the lunch program is reevaluating costs and resources, especially in light of food prices that have increased significantly since the cost of breakfast and lunch were set at the start of the year. Should it prove necessary, SMCS may have to increase the price of breakfast and lunches to cover the costs for the hot lunch program. Notice will be given in advance should this prove to be necessary.

Your brother in Christ,

Joshua Bargdill,
Principal

<https://stmarynewton.org/school>

MARCH 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2	6th grade Vocation Day Hutchinson	
2	7-8 grade Cosmosphere - Hutchinson	
9	2nd/5th grade Cosmosphere - Hutchinson	
6-7	Kindergarten Roundup	
9	Pre-Enrollment Begins (Online in PS)	
10	All Staff Retreat	
13-17	End of 3rd Quarter Spring Break	
20	½ Teacher In-service/ ½ Workday	
21	Spring Individual Pre 3 through 8th Grade	
22	Classroom Group Pictures Pre K 4 and any individuals who were gone on 3/21	

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

03 Adrian Romero 5th
 03 Mr. Bargdill Principal
 07 Marcia Matthews - Parish Office
 10 Benjamin Tauilili K
 12 Kollin Coffey Pre K 4
 13 Hayden Will Pre K 3
 13 Everett Patton Pre K 4
 13 Lola Barnes 3rd
 16 Samantha Hrenchir 3rd
 24 Beau Scott 3rd
 24 Mrs. Ehlers 5th Teacher
 26 Mr. Middlemist 7th Teacher
 28 Mr. Bergman Band Teacher
 30 June Claassen 4th



Prayer of the Month

March 2023 Prayer - Act of Contrition

O my God,
 I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
 and I detest all my sins,
 because I dread the loss of heaven, and the
 pains of hell;
 but most of all because they offend Thee, my
 God,
 Who art all good and deserving of all my
 love.
 I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace,
 to confess my sins, to do penance,
 and to amend my life. Amen.

Oh Dios mío,
 Me arrepiento de todo corazón de haberte ofendido,
 y detesto todos mis pecados,
 porque temo la pérdida del cielo, y las penas del
 infierno;
 pero sobre todo porque te ofenden, Dios mío,
 Quien eres todo bueno y merecedor de todo mi amor.
 Resuelvo firmemente, con la ayuda de tu gracia,
 confesar mis pecados, hacer penitencia,
 y enmendar mi vida. Amén.

A letter from Fr. Bergkamp:

Dear Parents,

I pray the season of Lent is off to a good start for you and your family. Lent always reminds me of my childhood experience of the faith. We would attend Stations of the Cross together on Friday evenings, and say a nightly Rosary. We also all made the same Lenten sacrifices, giving up TV and desert (except on Sundays). It wasn't all enjoyable, but it did impress upon me the importance of taking Lent seriously, and Easter was definitely something we looked forward to. Starting this month I am adding a new opportunity for you and your children to live out the sacramental life. The sacrament of Confession is vital to our spiritual lives, and I want to ensure that everyone has the chance to receive it regularly or when needed. I understand our lives are busy and that it may be difficult for you to take your children on Saturday afternoons (the most common time it's available).

During the school year, on the first Friday of the month, I will be offering Confessions at 3:15pm until the last person is able to go. This will allow your children to go to Confession at the end of the school day if they choose, and provide you an opportunity as well when you arrive for pick-up. Perhaps you could go with your children to the church together.

Also, on the first Friday of the month, I will be leading the students in the First Friday devotion after Mass. This is a traditional devotion to the Sacred Heart of Christ, becoming widespread in 1675 when our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. It's a beautiful and powerful prayer to our Lord which serves to increase our love for him and make reparation for our offenses against his love. I encourage you to attend daily Mass with the students, especially on First Fridays, it'd be a great addition to your spiritual life.

In Christ,

Fr. Bergkamp

From the Front Office:

Pre-enrollment will be opening on March 9, 2023. In order to complete pre-enrollment, all outstanding fees from this year should be current AND your stewardship envelope should already be on file with your local parish office (this was due before Jan 1st). This is an important step to having a Parish-Family Agreement signed by your Pastor, and the PFA must be on file with your parish so that pre-enrollment can be completed with the school office. Without a Parish-Family Agreement on file, a payment plan for tuition would need to be set up with Mary Ann in the St. Mary Parish office prior to completing pre-enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year.

If your stewardship forms are not completed with your parish, please reach out to your parish secretary ASAP to complete this necessary step. Families who do not have a Parish-Family agreement on file with their Parish Office before pre-enrollment opens will not be able to pre-enroll for next year until this step is completed.

If you have outstanding fees due to the school, please make payment in the front office with Miss Jackie or establish a payment plan in the St. Mary Parish office with Mary Ann. All fees must be current, or a payment plan established prior to pre-enrollment for next year.

Pre-Enrollment Online this year

As you are aware, SMCS has been moving to having all of our forms completed online. Pre-Enrollment is one of the last items that we were working to get online. This year we now have Pre-Enrollment ready for you to go in and complete it online!

You will go in the same way you would for Online Registration and go into Forms/General Forms. Instructions will be sent out the day Pre-Enrollment begins, March 9. If there are questions once you get into the forms or if you cannot get into PowerSchool, Please call the school office if you need help, Miss Jackie is always happy to help with any problems you may encounter.

A computer is also available in the school office for any who would like to come in and use it to complete Pre-Enrollment. We are looking forward to working with and seeing your child(ren) again next year!

Dress for Success!

1) As listed in the school handbook (pg. 18), it is required that the length of jumpers and skirts must be at least knee length. Students who arrive to school without at least knee length skirts/ jumpers will need to change. Parents will be contacted to see if they are able to bring an alternative uniform option or would prefer to have their child borrow from the uniform closet that day, with what is available. If an alternate option is not available, a parent will need to either bring a suitable option or pick their child up from school that day. This would be an unexcused absence. Skirt and jumper length will be actively monitored after Spring break.

Please double check the length of your daughter's skirts/ jumpers and make arrangements prior to return from spring break. If you need to order from School Belles, please feel free to go to their Wichita location located at: 2021 N Amidon Ave Suite 125, Wichita, KS 67203 or visit their website at schoolbelles.com. Our online school code is S2781.

If your child(ren) qualify for free/reduced lunches, and you need financial assistance with getting uniforms, please contact Mr. Bargdill.

****Reminder: As we embark on warmer weather, shorts are now an option again! From August through October, and March-May every year, uniform shorts are allowed to be worn. Please check the weather in advance, as this can lead to some discomfort if shorts are worn on a cold day. Unless there is inclement weather, recess will be taken outside as often as possible.

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS**SMCS Annual Auction - April 29, 2022**

Your help is NEEDED!!!!

The school Auction is a great event to attend and is a key component of providing for the needs of the school program, but it is only possible with your help. Every year, it is requested for each family to find a way to contribute at least 6 hours to prepare and hold the school auction. There are a variety of ways to do this, from attending planning meetings, serving at the auction, helping with the auction website, washing dishes, counting raffle money, organizing classroom projects, among many other activities. The last week prior to the auction, it is all hands on deck for the final decorating and set up, and it is a great time to be in the school and spend time with other parents! I would encourage you to reach out early and even attend an auction meeting this month to find out how to get your six family hours completed and contribute to another great auction.

**Our next auction meeting will be held on
Wednesday, March 1st at 6:30 p.m.
in the school cafeteria.**

As part of this mission to solicit help from our school community, the raffle ticket sales and family hours will be combined this year for your child to earn the auction reward. In years past, for children to earn the reward (often bowling at Eastgate lanes) a minimum number of tickets had to be sold and turned in by the deadline. This year, while no change has been made to what is being asked of families, in order for a child to qualify for the trip, both raffle tickets must be turned in AND documentation must be made of the minimum six hours to the auction that you have made for your child(ren) to participate/receive the reward.

Auction Decorating begins March 22nd and will be Monday and Wednesday evenings until the week of the Auction.

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS



Kindergarten Round-Up

On March 6 we will be conducting Kindergarten Round-up!

Pre4 students attending St. Mary Kindergarten will be screened during their preschool sessions that day.

If your child is not a preschool student at SMCS, please contact Miss Jackie in the office, 316-282-1974, so she can set up a time for you to bring your child to the school on March 7. Screening will take place from 8am - 3:00pm.

Spring Individual/Classroom Group Picture Day - Tuesday, March 21 & Wednesday, March 22

Spring Individual Pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, March 21. Then Group Classroom pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 22

For Individual Pictures on March 21, students can wear either "Sunday Best" or school uniforms.

"Sunday Best" does NOT include Spirit Wear, jeans, or t-shirts with logos/ print on them.

For Classroom Group pictures students should wear their school uniforms.

A flier was sent home for the March 22nd date. There were not any fliers for the March 21 date to send home.

Picture envelopes for both dates will be sent home on March 9.

Walk In Sisters Shoes Update:

Each year we celebrate and show our appreciation for being able to attend a wonderful Catholic School. Walk in Sisters Shoes helps support the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund. St. Mary's Catholic School is a "Drexel" school and benefits from the funds collected. We can help support this by collecting coins to be donated to the Drexel School funds for our Diocese. All grades, Pre K through 8, help in raising funds each year. We hope you can be generous in this support. The children get to deposit the change into the containers in their classroom. Consider having your child look for coins they can bring to school - couch cushions, floor boards of the care, etc. Of course the paper kind works as well!

This year Walk in Sisters Shoes goes from January 6 through March 3. What a successful year this has been for Walk In Sisters Shoes!

6th-8th grade did Penny Wars during Catholic Schools week (January 29 through February 4). They did an amazing job of collecting money!! We heard from some parents that their children were doing chores around the house just to earn money so they could give to Walk in Sisters Shoes!! This is such a wonderful way to give back to your school! Way to go!!

Pre K through 5th grade has done an outstanding job as well - they successfully raised more money together than last year's total amount raised!

We have such great students here at SMCS and they are always so willing to give of their time and treasures!!!

Below are the totals for WISS for this year

Pre K through 2nd \$537.14

Pre K	\$ 41.85
Kindergarten	\$250.27
1st grade	\$120.32
2nd grade	\$124.70

3rd-5th grade \$635.32

3rd grade	\$272.31
4th grade	\$205.93
5th grade	\$157.08

6th-8th grade \$904.96

6th grade:	\$346.68
7th grade:	\$310.74
8th Grade:	\$247.54

Current Grand total is \$2,114.01

Final Totals will be provided in April! Thank you for all you do for St. Mary Catholic School and the students!!

HEALTH & WELLNESS

As a school committed to health and wellness, it is important that students follow a few healthy guidelines for breakfast and lunchtime in the cafeteria. A local commitment that has been made at SMCS is that fast food meals should not be brought to the cafeteria at meal time.

Parent and guardians are welcome to come and eat with their student during breakfast or lunchtime. However, if the visiting parent or guardian want to eat with their child, they should either bring a packed lunch or contact the school office as soon as possible in the morning to be included in the daily lunch count for an adult school lunch.

VIRTUS INFO/ UPDATES:

Our next local VIRTUS training will be:

Where:

Sacred Heart Parish
419 Poplar
Halstead

When:

Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM
Questions? Contact Gloria M Arellano (316)518-7566

Athletic & Academic League News

It's Spring!!! Time for Track - Track Practice started the week of February 27th. All 6th-8th grade students who are interested can still sign up and start practicing for this years track season.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Antonio Heredia (5th Grade) finished 2nd place in the REGIONAL Knights of Columbus free throw competition at Garden Plain, making an amazing 20 of 25 free throws, and just coming a bit short of qualifying for State competition. Great job Antonio!!!! You represented the Newton Community well!!!

PTO INFORMATION:

You're Invited!

1) ALL parents and guardians of SMCS are members of PTO. We want your input and your new ideas! Come to a meeting!

Next meeting is April 12 @ 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. Childcare will be provided by middle school students.

2) One of the missions of PTO is to host presentations and events for parent education.

PTO is hosting a parent & community education event on **Sunday, March 5th at 2:00pm in the SMCS gym.**

The focus of the presentation is Online Safety 101, presented by Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center.

Ideas or requests for future presentations? Come to the next PTO meeting to share!



Heart to Heart
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Presents

ONLINE SAFETY 101

Learn

- How to keep your child safe online
- What to do when you come across unsafe situations
- What online dangers look like in our community

Gain

- Resources to help your child stay safe
- A better understanding of what it means to have online safety

Altar Server Schedule

Mass is held every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Mornings. All grades will attend Mass each day. Father Bergkamp will say Mass on Wednesday and Friday and Father Jorge will say Mass on Thursdays. Below is a schedule of Masses for November with Altar Servers and Readers.

3/1 Servers: Brett Littlejohn & Adler Mabry

Reader: Johnny Acevedo

3/2 Servers: Madison Cooper & Koelton Erwin

Reader: Luke Littlejohn

3/3 Servers: Antonio Heredia & Blake Alexander

Reader: Favour Tembei

3/8 Servers: Marah Bargdill & Annie Smith

Reader: Annelise Baker

3/9 Servers: Luke Heppler & Ella Baier

Reader: Maddyx Erwin

3/10 to 3/20 NO SCHOOL

3/22 Servers: Gus Kitzke & Annelise Baker

Reader: Luke Littlejohn

3/23 Servers: Adrian Romero & Evan Antle

Reader: Johnny Acevedo

3/24 Servers: Matthew Heppler & Luke Littlejohn

Reader: Favour Tembei

3/29 Servers: Koelton Erwin & Penny Weber

Reader: Johnny Acevedo

3/30 Servers: Sofia Rojas & Cameron Marsden

Reader: Penny Weber

3/31 Servers: Matthew Heppler & Evan Antle

Reader: Luke Littlejohn



Are you aware of an upcoming Harvey County parish event that you would like to share about in the school newsletter? Tell us! Please submit details no later than the 3rd Friday of the month before event happens.

Knights of Columbus - Fish Fry Meals

ITS TIME!!!

The Knights of Columbus Annual Fish Fry will be on Friday, March 10 and Friday, March 24. Mark your calendars and come on out for a wholesome Lenten meal. Dinners served at St. Mary Catholic School, enter through the 9th street doors.

Totus Tuus Summer 2023

Totus Tuus dates have been set for 2023. July 16 to July 21, 2023. More information will come later!! Save the Date for this fun filled event!!



Weekly Mass & Confession Schedules

PARISHES OF HARVEY COUNTY



St. Mary

(316)282-0459
106 E. 8th St.
Newton, KS 67114



Our Lady of Guadalupe

(316)283-3499
421 S. Ash St.
Newton, KS 67114



Sacred Heart

(316)830-2818
419 Poplar St.
Halstead, KS 67056

Confession:

Saturday 4:30pm to 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am to 8:30am
(Also 20 minutes before
daily Masses)

Monday through Friday 7:30 am
Saturday 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Saturday 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Daily Mass

Tuesday 5:30pm
Wed 8:00am
Thursday 8:00am
Friday 8:00am

Monday through Friday 8:00am

Tuesday 5:30pm
Wednesday 8:00am
Thursday 8:00am
Friday 8:00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 8:30am
10:30am

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am
11:00am
12:30pm Español
(Spanish)

Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 8:30am
11:00am

March 2023 Breakfast

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Menu is Subject to Change At Anytime			01 Sausage Cheese Biscuit Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit, or Yogurt Juice Milk	02 Pancake on a stick Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	03 Mini Pancakes, Cheese Omelet Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	04
05	06 French Toast Sticks Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	07 Cinnamon Roll Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	08 Sausage Cheese Biscuit Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	09 Pancake on a stick Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	10 No School Staff Retreat	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK						
19	20 No School Teacher In-Service	21 Cinnamon Roll Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	22 Sausage Cheese Biscuit Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	23 Pancake on a stick Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	24 Mini Pancakes, Cheese Omelet Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	25
26	27 French Toast Sticks Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	28 Monkey Bread Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	29 Sausage Cheese Biscuit Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	30 Pancake on a stick Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	31 Mini Pancakes, Cheese Omelet Cold Cereal or Oatmeal Fruit or Yogurt Juice Milk	

March 2023 Lunch

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Menu is Subject to Change At Anytime			01 Spaghetti & Mtsce, Garden Spinach Salad Green beans, Applesauce Breadstick Milk	02 Hot Dog Chips Cucumbers Baby Carrots Peaches Milk	03 Cheese Pizza Tossed Romaine Salad Steamed Carrots Pineapple Chunks, Pudding Milk	04
05	06 Chicken Patty on a bun French Fries Fresh Broccoli Pears Milk	07 Little Smokies Macaroni & Cheese Peas, Fruit Cocktail, Baby Carrots Milk	08 Italian Dunkers Ceasar Salad Corn Orange Milk	09 Chicken Tender Mashed Potato w/gravy Green Beans Pineapple Chunks Dinner Roll Milk	10 No School Staff Retreat	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK						
19	20 No School Teacher In-Service	21 Pizza Quesadilla Garden Salad Steamed Carrots Pears Pudding Milk	22 Walking Tacos Refried Beans Pineapple Chunks Milk	23 Sloppy Joe Crinkle Fries Strawberries & Bananas Cucumber Brownie Milk	24 Bean Tostada Spanish Rice Red Bell Pepper Strips Peaches Milk	25
26	27 Cowboy Cavatini Green Beans Pineapple Bread Sticks Milk	28 BBQ Rib on Bun Oven Fries Peas Blueberries Choc. Cake w/Choc. Frosting Milk	29 Turkey & Cheese on a bun Curly Fries Baked Beans Peaches Milk	30 Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potato Steamed Broccoli Pineapple Tidbits Milk	31 Bean & Cheese Burrito Mexican Rice Fruit Cocktail Romaine Salad Milk	
						