

Dear SMS Families and Friends,

May is the month of Mary! Out of anyone in the history of mankind, she is probably the Lady with the most names! Every country and state is dedicated to a different title of Mary. Every place that Mary appeared on earth honors her by a different title - and there were a lot of Marian apparitions!

Mary is also called by her myriad attributes. I wanted to share some of those with you here in the form of the Litany of Loreto. (On the digital version of the newsletter, you can click [here](#) to learn more about the history of this beautiful litany.) Under each attribute of Mary, we beseech her prayers for us.

May this prayer be a source of comfort and peace for you and your families during this month honoring the Mother of God!



Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.
Christ hear us.
Christ graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,
have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary,
pray for us.
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of the Church,
Mother of Mercy,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother of Hope,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Saviour,
Virgin most prudent,

Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Solace of Migrants,
Comfort of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of Angels,
Queen of Patriarchs,
Queen of Prophets,
Queen of Apostles,
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins,
Queen of all Saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen assumed into heaven,

Queen of the most holy Rosary,
Queen of families,
Queen of peace.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

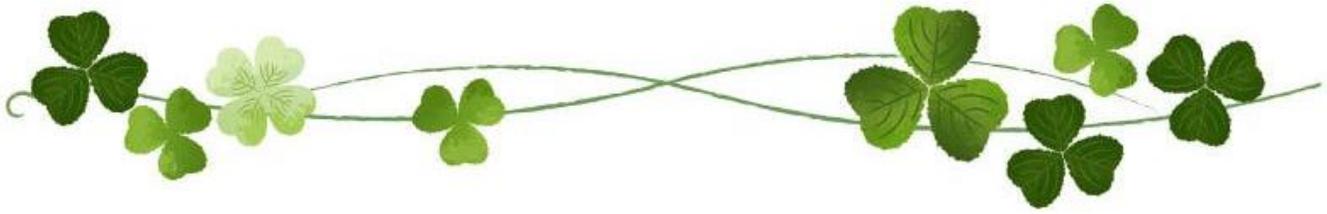
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.
Grant, we beseech thee,
O Lord God,
that we, your servants,
may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body;
and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,
may be delivered from present sorrow,
and obtain eternal joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Looking back on March and April. This past month, we...

- ✿ adored Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on First Fridays (and enjoyed doughnuts, thanks to our PTO!),
- ✿ prayed Stations of the Cross by class,
- ✿ celebrated Literacy Week with Reading Under the Clouds when students were able to read outside with their favorite hat or hair accessory, Team Up with a Good Book when students were able to wear a favorite sports team jersey and participate in a Socratic seminar, Go Crazy for Reading when students were able to wear silly socks or have crazy hair and create their own bookmark, Cozy Up with a Good Book when students were able to have a free dress down day and read with a buddy class, and Reading Makes Us Bright when students read in the dark with flashlights and were allowed to bring in a stuffy,
- ✿ danced the Irish jig and to more contemporary music at our annual St. Patrick's Day Glow Dance,
- ✿ raised money for the Reynolds VFW that recently burned down in our March Casual for a Cause,
- ✿ celebrated Pi Day,
- ✿ raised money while earning prizes for the Kids Heart Challenge sponsored by the American Heart Association,
- ✿ celebrated St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Days,
- ✿ visited St. Peter's cathedral in Erie for the Chrism Mass on the Monday of Holy Week (7th and 8th Grade),
- ✿ prayed along with a presentation of Shadow Stations, performed by the 4th-8th Graders,
- ✿ learned the true meaning of Holy Week and Easter,
- ✿ enjoyed our Easter Break,
- ✿ met for a day to discuss student data, and Math: warm-ups, games, focused free-time, and an ideal Math lesson (teachers),
- ✿ hiked cemetery hill with the Frassati House boys to pray a giant living Rosary at the Marian grotto for Bl. Pier Giorgio's "feastday" (his actual feastday is July 4, so we celebrated around the time of his birthday),
- ✿ delighted in the wonder and awe of the 2024 Solar Eclipse (hence many classes studied the solar system!),
- ✿ celebrated the feast of St. Gemma Galgani by gathering for a special lunch complete with pizzelles (Galgani House Girls),
- ✿ enjoyed 2 scrumptious hot lunches prepared by fantastic volunteer parents,
- ✿ prayed for seminarian, now Deacon Brandon Feikles, as he was ordained to the transitional diaconate,
- ✿ discussed the exciting things 7th Graders will be able to do in 8th Grade at Padrone's (Deacon Marty, 7th Grade parents, and Miss Zgonc),
- ✿ honored Mrs. Hoover for Secretary's Day,
- ✿ raised money for the Knights of Columbus during our April Casual for a Cause,
- ✿ celebrated our students following our Irish Ideals with a special, extra-long recess with bubbles, chalk, a kite, and popsicles,
- ✿ said goodbye to our last remaining 7th and 8th Grade tadpole,
- ✿ planned a restoration project for the Frs. Kearns' graves,
- ✿ gave tours to many new prospective SMS students and families,
- ✿ applied for the 2024-2025 school year with a \$10 a day tuition,
- ✿ and, of course, continued the wondrous adventure of learning in all our subjects this year!





Here's the latest peek into our classrooms:

- ✿ PreK3 with Mrs. Forsythe learned about the planets in our solar system. Each child created their own planet! They are now learning about flowers and plants and what they need to grow. Each child planted marigold seeds to take care of and will soon be taking them home. They have also been working on their fine motor skills by practicing writing, cutting, and using Play-Doh to make their own creations!
- ✿ PreK4 with Mrs. Dorio and Mr. Neral have been working on word problems, patterns, and skip counting in Math, blending sounds and initial consonant sounds in ELA, and learning about the solar system in Science! They also did a Science experiment with shaving cream and food coloring to learn about the water cycle, a unit on bugs, and another on volcanoes, in which they made their own! In Religion, they have been learning about the story of Creation!
- ✿ Kindergarteners with Mrs. Toy have been practicing their sight words as well as identifying setting, characters, and main points in a story. In History, they have been learning about the daily life of the people of Ancient Egypt and ways in which it is the same and different from our own lives. In Nature Studies, they have been learning about our solar system. They talked about Earth Day and the ways we can keep our planet healthy and happy! In Math, they are learning about addition and subtraction and how to write equations! With Miss Zgonc in Religion, they have been reading books about Creation and discussing how GOOD God made us and the world!
- ✿ 1st Graders with Mrs. Maloney have been able to read some fantastic literature that included *Blaze and the Forest Fire*, *Keep the Lights Burning Abbie*, *Stone Soup*, and *The Little House*. These are not stories they are listening to but reading themselves! After learning about the first Olympics in History, they studied the difference between Sparta and Athens as well as how they worked together to defeat the Persians. They've also learned about famous ancient philosophers and scientists from Greece such as Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, and Archimedes (who created a device that showed the position of the sun, moon, and planets that could be used to predict eclipses!). In Nature Studies, they started learning about the plant life cycle and parts of the plant. They even planted their own lima bean plants to study and take care of. Finally, they are finishing off the year in Math with measurement, time, and money!
- ✿ 2nd Graders with Miss Zuschlag have been enjoying *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. They have also enjoyed learning about the solar system. In Religion with Deacon Marty, they are learning about the different types of miracles: miracles of supply, miracles of healing, miracles of nature, and miracles of the supernatural!
- ✿ 3rd Graders with Mrs. Endicott finished the book *Paddington*, complete with tasting marmalade: the main character, Paddington's, favorite! In Math, they started learning fractions. In History, they have been studying Marco Polo, and in Religion, they learned about the Rosary while making lapbooks!

☘ 4th Graders with Mrs. Knicely have been enjoying collections of the best-known and loved fairytales, drawn from the folklore around the world in Literature. In History, they have been studying the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation response to the Protestant Reformation and the pivotal figures such as St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Pius V!

☘ 7th and 8th Graders with Deacon Marty are still reading *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens. In Science, they are designing cars that are propelled by rubber bands. In History, they are beginning to study the American Civil War. In Math with Miss Zgonc, they are preparing for the Math Madness Competition at IU4, to compete with students across the 3 counties the IU serves in addition to their regular course work of solving 2-step algebraic equations and ratios. This week, as a service project, they are working to clean and paint the urn on the graves of Fr. John Kearns and Fr. James Kearns, the founders of our school. In Religion with Fr. Brandon, they have been learning a number of classical philosophical proofs for the existence of God - proofs that will help them fortify their faith and show there is a basis for what is spoken in the Scriptures!

☘ Music classes with Mrs. Giffone worked on patriotic songs, musical form, and imaginative movement to music. Gym classes were introduced to volleyball (we got out the net!) and striking activities. Choir students also began to prepare for the Fine and Performing Arts Night!

☘ Art classes with Mrs. Cawley have been very busy in the Art Room! Kindergarteners worked on directed drawings reviewing letters I - Island and Insect, J - Jellybeans, K - Kite, L - Lion, M - Monkey, N - Nest, and O - Octopus! 1st Graders folded a paper amusement park with pom-pom pals, folded paper fans with painted plum trees and Spring blossoms, and figured out facial proportions! 2nd Graders worked on a Henri Rousseau jungle scene and imagined constellations! 3rd Graders worked on Amazing Monks Medieval History Illuminated Manuscripts, Leo Lionni fish collages, and dandelion directed drawings! 4th Graders worked on foreshortened figures, drew Pysanky designs on paper eggs, and drew angels from references and their own imaginations to supplement learning about the Catholic Counter Reformation in History to foster imagination through faith! 7th and 8th Graders worked on a surrealist collage and one-point aerial perspective of a city with falling objects!



See what's happening this May and June!

School Masses

Each Friday, a different Saint House provides greeters and gift bearers. For May and June, the following Houses and Grades will serve at Mass:

- **May 3:** Galgani House
- **May 10:** Badano House
- **May 17:** Frassati House
- **May 24:** Acutis House
- **May 31:** Galgani House
- **June 7:** 7th and 8th Grade Mass

Students love when their parents and other family members and friends attend Mass!

Math Madness Competition

4th-8th Graders will be traveling to the Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4 building on Friday, **May 3**, to compete in the tri-county Math Madness Competition! Students have been working hard on their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills to prepare. Also called Math 24 or Challenge 24, the game asks players to use 4 numbers 1 time each to get to the number 24. The fastest one wins! Students will be competing with single digit, double digit, and variable cards – in which they have to not only make it to 24, but also figure out the 4th missing number to get there!

Teacher Appreciation Week

Monday, **May 6** – Friday, **May 10** is Teacher Appreciation Week! You cannot even begin to imagine all of the work, sacrifice, planning, grading, love, and more that our teachers have poured into our students, their families, each other, their classrooms, and our whole school this year! I am SO PROUD of our teachers! Please join me this week in thanking them. Handwritten notes are the best! 😊 Teachers will also have a Teacher Dress Down Day on Wednesday, **May 8** just for fun.

Nurse's Day

Monday, **May 6**, is Nurse's Day! Although she won't be here that day, as she comes on Wednesdays, we will be celebrating Mrs. Kathy Williams, our faithful, friendly, and fun nurse!

May's Hot Lunch

May's Hot Lunch on Thursday, **May 9**, will be chicken nuggets from Wendy's, sponsored by the PTO!

Dress UP for a Cause

We will hold a Dress UP (we'll be attending Mass this day) for a Cause on Thursday, **May 9** to raise money for Greenville VFW. Greenville VFW has been a supporter of St. Michael School, and we'd like to give back! Rather than dressing *casually*, students are asked to dress UP in their best Sunday clothes for this day. If K-8 students are not participating in the Cause, they are expected to wear their Mass uniform.

Ascension Thursday

Thursday, **May 9**, is Ascension Thursday – 40 days after Easter Sunday – the day that Jesus, before many witnesses ascended into heaven, promising to send the Holy Spirit! On this day, students will be attending Mass, as it is a Holy Day of Obligation.

May Crowning

May is the month to create May altars dedicated to Mary! We will be creating a May altar at the church on Friday, **May 10**, at the 9:00am Mass, to which you are all invited! Anna Ryckman, as the oldest girl in our school, will have the honor of crowning a statue of Mary which will be out for display for the month of May. 7th Graders will process with flowers for the altar followed by Anna with the crowning.

Mother's Day Tea

1st Graders are inviting their moms to a formal Mother's Day Tea, to be held on Friday, **May 10**, at 1:00pm. 1st Grade Families, please look for invites that came home from Mrs. Maloney!

May Jeans Days

The following Thursdays are Jeans Days in May: **May 2**, **May 16**, **May 23**, and **May 30**. Please follow the dress code in our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Jeans Days.

NWEA Map Assessments

PreK4-8th Graders will be taking their Spring NWEA Map Assessments during the weeks of **May 6** and **May 13**. The assessments measure the students' achievement as well as growth in the subjects of Reading Fluency, Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science. Our goal is to see each student growth at the 60th percentile level or higher. Those who achieve this goal will be honored at our annual Awards Ceremony!

St. Paul's Singalong

PreK-Kindergarten students will be traveling to St. Paul's on Monday, **May 13**, to sing for and with the residents! Lunch will be provided for the day. Students are asked to wear their Irish Ideal shirts.

Fine and Performing Arts Show

Join us as we showcase Kindergarten – 8th Grade artwork and performances on Tuesday, **May 21**, at 6:00pm in Lateran Hall! This show will be open to the public: invite your family, friends, and neighbors! Attendees will enter through the lunchroom doors of Lateran Hall to stroll through and admire the students' art in the art gallery. 6:30pm will begin the performance pieces of the show in the main body of the gym. Refreshments will also be served!

1st-8th Grade Field Trip

1st-8th Graders will be traveling to Lutherlyn on Wednesday, **May 22**, to participate in a whole host of outdoor adventures with their Environmental Education Program (LEEP). Students are asked to wear their green or grey Irish Ideal shirt with appropriate pants or shorts. They may get dirty! 😊 Chaperones must have clearances and pay their own way.

PreK-Kindergarten Field Trip

PreK-Kindergarten students will be traveling to the Erie Zoo on Thursday, **May 23**, to visit and learn about the animals in the zoo! Students are asked to wear their green or grey Irish Ideal shirt with appropriate pants or shorts. Who knows if they'll get dirty! 😊 Chaperones must have clearances and pay their own way.

Memorial Day

Monday, **May 27**, is Memorial Day! There will be NO SCHOOL that day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 28.

Special Irish Ideal Activity and House Party

Students will participate in a delightful *surprise* activity the afternoon of Friday, **May 31**! 😊 Saint Houses will get together to celebrate the year on Tuesday, **June 4**.

PreK4 and Kindergarten Graduation

You are all invited to cheer on our PreK4 and Kindergarten students as they graduate from their respective programs on Wednesday, **June 5**, at 5:30pm in Lateran Hall! The graduation will feature performances from PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten classes as well as speeches, a graduation ceremony, and refreshments!

Field Day and School Picnic

Thursday, **June 6**, will be our Field Day and School Picnic! Students do NOT have to wear their uniforms on this day. More information will be coming home on attire for the day as well as what families can send in for the picnic. Pray for sunny weather!

Last Day of School!

Friday, **June 7**, is the LAST DAY OF SCHOOL for the 2023-2024 school year! There will be a 12:00pm NOON dismissal on this day and NO SAFE! Visit Iggy's afterwards to meet up with other SMS families and kick off summer vacation! 😊

8th Grade Graduation

All are invited to 8th Grader, Anna Ryckman's, Graduation from SMS on Friday, **June 7**, during the 9:00am Mass! Anna will be receiving her diploma and giving a graduation speech. Please come to cheer her on as she ends this very significant chapter in her life! Refreshments will be offered at Lateran Hall to celebrate this momentous day.



Awards Ceremony

All families and friends are invited to our annual Awards Ceremony on Friday, **June 7**, at 10:30am in Lateran Hall. Please join us in celebrating our students who have worked so hard this school year!

8th Grade Banquet

In recognition of Anna's 8th Grade Graduation, she and her parents along with the 7th Graders and the teachers and staff who worked most closely with her will be attending a fancy dinner out on the evening of Friday, **June 7**!

We Need Boxes!

Do you have cardboard boxes lying around your home or business? We could really use medium and large collapsed boxes before the end of the school year! For the first time since our renovation in the summer of 2011, the interior walls of our school will be painted! Teachers will need to box everything up in their rooms not only to be moved for the painters but also for the crew stripping and

waxing our floors. We will also be *remodeling* our library this summer, so we'll need boxes for library books!! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Summer Cleanup

Looking for a way to volunteer or give back this summer? Call the office and let us know! Cleanup crews (made up of volunteers) will start coming into school on Monday, **June 10**, and throughout the summer, to do a deep clean, organize, move furniture for painters and floor crews, complete inventories, weed and landscape, pack and unpack books from the library, and so much more!

2024-2025 School Calendars

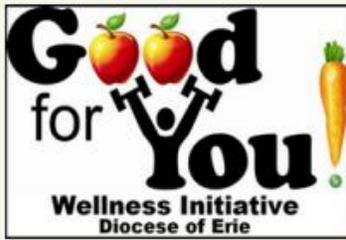
The 2024-2025 School Calendar will be posted and shared with SMS families in the month of May. The calendar is currently going through an approval process and will be shared as soon as that process is completed!



**Thank you for a wonderful year!
May God richly bless you, your child, and your family!
Mary, Cause of our Joy, pray for us! St. Michael, pray for us!**

*Love,
Miss Emily Zgonc, Principal :)*

"Open wide the doors of your heart to Christ! Do not be afraid!" -St. John Paul the Great

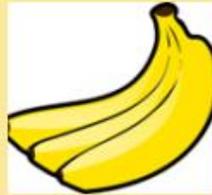


Spring 2024 Elementary Edition



Thank You for spring, the season of Your expression of joy! Let every bloom remind me of Your grace. Let each sunny day bring light to my soul. As I spring ahead let these months give birth to warm thoughts and kind gestures.

Amen



Chocolate Banana Popsicles

Ingredients List:

- 4 Bananas
- 3/4 Cup almond (or other nut butter)
- 1/2 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 2tbsp. Cocoa powder
- 1tbsp. Maple syrup
- 1/2 Teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Place all ingredients in a blender and puree until very smooth and creamy. Taste and adjust sweetness as needed.
2. Pour the batter into 8-10 popsicle molds and freeze for at least 6 hours until solid.
3. Enjoy! Store in a sealed container in the freezer until ready to serve.





5 fun ways

to increase your child's activity levels
(without them even noticing)

1



Dance like no-one is watching

Turn on the music and have a disco in the kitchen. A good dance can raise the heart rate in no time and before you know it you are all having fun.

2



Balloon fun

Blow up some balloons and give a competition to see who can keep it off the floor the longest.

3



Hop-a-long

Set up a stopwatch and see how long they can hop on one foot.

4



Water bomb race

Set up an egg and spoon race but instead of an egg put a water bomb on the spoon. The winner gets to water bomb all the other participants!

5



Frog jump challenge

Set up a daily challenge of who can do the most frog jumps. Gribbet!

MENTAL HEALTH & SELF-CARE TIPS FOR KIDS

- 

Find **social groups** that will make them feel like they belong



Establish a **self-care routine**



Motivate them to **focus on the present moment**



Practice **self-care for yourself too**



Encourage them towards **journaling**
| TheMindsJournal



Recognize their emotional **triggers**

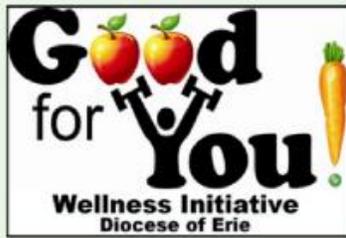


Help them articulate & **voice out their feelings**



Set aside time for **solo activities**

MINDJOURNAL



Spring 2024 Middle/High Edition



Bring your hope and happiness into the lives of young people. Guide them as they search for meaning and purpose in their lives. Take special care of those who struggle with issues of self-worth, rejection, and despair. Safeguard them from danger, and bring peace to their minds and hearts. May your grace enfold all young people of the world and draw them closer to you.

Amen



Chocolate Avocado Pudding

Ingredients List:

- 1/2- 2/3 cup chopped, pitted dates
- 1/2 cup smashed avocado
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 Tbsp cocoa powder
- Optional toppings: bananas, nut butter, seeds, etc.

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a high powered blender or food processor and process until smooth.
2. Taste and add more dates if not sweet enough or more milk if too thick for your preference.
3. Top as desired.

EAT SEASONAL & LOCAL

SPRING

FRUIT	VEGETABLES
APPLE BERRIES CHERRIES CITRUS MANGO PEACH PINEAPPLE POMEGRANATE STRAWBERRY WATERMELON	ASPARAGUS SPINACH BROCCOLI CAULIFLOWER CUCUMBER GARLIC MUSHROOMS ONION PEAS POTATOES SQUASH TOMATOES ZUCCHINI

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ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR TEEN TO STAY HAPPY AND POSITIVE

<p>My letter to me Let them write a letter to themselves as their future self and ask them to give advice to their present self.</p>	<p>Alter the photo Have them change a random picture of a cat into something unique with pens, scissors, colors, etc., using their imagination.</p>
<p>The fear cap A group activity where they write about their deepest fears and try to guess who wrote it as they randomly pick the chips from a cap.</p>	<p>Select your music Let them pick a song of their choice and listen to it in a quiet space. After it ends, ask them what emotions they felt through the song and why.</p>
<p>Spot the strength Have them go around narrating their stories of achievements while the others give their take on what strength the narrator displayed in their story and why.</p>	<p>My happiest memory Each one shares their happiest memory while acting it out, and the others may also share their memory of the same incident through acting.</p>

BUILDING MENTAL WELLNESS IN TEENS

<p>Talk to them about what is happening</p>	<p>Stay connected to friends and family</p>
<p>Help them develop positive self-image</p>	<p>Find a new hobby or skill</p>
<p>Encourage healthy diet and exercise</p>	<p>Role model finding the positives in themselves and those around them</p>
<p>Teach coping skills for stress and difficult situations</p>	<p>Seek professional help</p>