



SMS NEWS December Edition 2019

Dear St. Mary Catholic School Families,

The Advent Season will begin Sunday, December 1, 2019. This is a perfect time to concentrate and visit your faith, putting emphasis on hope & joy for the season. The Advent wreath is very symbolic of this happiness.

The Advent wreath signifies God's infinite love. It consists of an evergreen circle, symbolizing the Eternity of God. The four candles depict the four weeks of Advent. There are three violet candles and one pink. The first Sunday of Advent, represented by a purple candle, symbolizes hope; the second Sunday of Advent, represented by a purple candle, symbolizes faith, and the third Sunday of Advent, represented by a pink candle symbolizes joy. This third Sunday, (*pay attention here...Father enjoys asking the congregation if they know this term*) is known as "Gaudete" Sunday, (Rejoice). The fourth Sunday, and third purple candle, represents peace. So in preparation for Advent, organize your Advent calendar for the season, make your gift idea/ lists, have a budget, plan your charitable giving, decide what is IMPORTANT this year, and above all enjoy the spirit of Christmas.

All students will attend Mass on Monday, December 2 and Adoration on Friday, December 6.; and Grades 3-8 will participate in Confession on Friday, December 13. Please don't miss the band concert Wednesday, December 18 at 7pm in the school gym; and the 3, 4, & 5th grade vocal concert Thursday, December 19 at St. Mary Catholic Church. Both events are sure to warm and envelop your heart for the season.

There are two events planned for Saturday, December 7. The first is father/ son laser tag, from 9-11am, located at Arena 51 in Middleburg Heights. The second is the annual Berea Jack Frost parade. The parade lineup has changed. The lineup is NOT at Coe Lake. Line up is on Seminary Street in Berea. You must access Seminary Street from Church Street. The PTO requests families arrive by 5:00pm, parade begins at 5:30pm.

May you all have a joyous Christmas season!

Mr. Andrew Carner, Principal

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Is 40:3; Mt 3:3)

St. Mary Catholic School resumes January 6, 2020. The SMS News: January Edition is your information highway for current events, especially, news regarding Catholic School Week and registration for the 2020-2021 school year, so please remember to read the email.

Berea Jack Frost Christmas Parade

The Berea Jack Frost Christmas Parade takes place, Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 5:30pm in the Coe Lake parking lot. Parents and students are invited to march in the Berea Jack Frost Christmas Parade. Families are encouraged to represent St. Mary Catholic School by wearing spirit wear. City of Berea DOES NOT allow objects or candy to be thrown. All students need to have an adult accompany them. Pets are not permitted.

Eighth Grade Students and Parents

High School Selection Week will be held in January. The eighth grade students have been given a variety of opportunities to assist them in making an informed choice for high school. Mr. Jones has worked with each child to secure high school visitation days. Students received the ACAD (Association of Catholic Admission Directors) High School magazine listing all Open Houses and admission testing dates.

Your child is encouraged to spend some time over the holiday break making a final decision on where to apply and writing an application essay. Remember the application essay may be the first and only chance your child has to impress the administrators of the high school they are hoping to attend.

Parents of eighth grade students should be aware that **2nd Quarter grades** will be sent with the application. The selected high school will then expect parents to send a copy of your child's final June report card.

Scholarship Fund

We are beginning to plan for our eighth grade graduation! For the past 24 years we have been able to provide financial assistance to our graduates who will move on to a Catholic high school. We would like to continue offering these scholarships as we have done in the past, however, our funds are depleting, and we need your support to continue this practice. Please consider supporting the Scholarship Fund this year when determining your year-end contributions. Don't forget that many employers match contributions. We will happily complete any paperwork necessary to match your donation. A Scholarship Fund Donation Form can be found on our website.

Progress and Interim Reports, 2nd Quarter

All Kindergarten students will receive a Progress/Interim Report. Students in Grades 1 through 8 will only receive a written report when the student is having difficulty in a subject area. Parents will need to sign, and return envelope only, to the classroom teacher. Parents are encouraged to visit Progress Book every week to access student grades, classroom assignments, and homework.

SMS Uniforms

Christmas Break is the perfect time to look over your child's uniform. Our Uniform Policy can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook, www.smsbera.org. *We are noticing some jumpers and skirts needing to be lengthened, and pants with holes.* Dress Code violations will be issued in January.

(December Calendar of Events on following page)

Monday, December 2	Chess Club, 7:30-8:30am, Discovery Hall All school Mass, 10am, St. Mary Catholic Church
Wednesday, December 4	Sewing Club, 3:30-4:30pm, rm 103 Band practice, 3:30-4:30pm, Spanish room
Thursday, December 5	Engineering Club, 3:30-5:15pm, Discovery Hall
Friday, December 6	Adoration, All day, St. Mary School Chapel Power of Pen, 3:30-4:30pm Classroom of Champions, 3:30-4:30pm, room 115
Saturday, December 7	PTO Father/ Son Laser tag, 9-11am, Arena 51 Berea Jack Frost Parade, 5:30pm, Coe Lake Berea
Sunday, December 9	Sacraments, <i>Grades 2 & 8, 9:30AM Mass, St. Mary Catholic Church</i> <i>Grade 2, 10:30AM Class, Father Garrity Center</i> <i>Grade 8, 6:00PM Class, Father Garrity Center</i>
Monday, December 9	Chess Club, 7:30-8:30am Student Council, 8-8:30am, Library
Wednesday, December 11	Band practice, 3:30-4:30pm, Spanish room Sewing Club, 3:30-4:30pm, rm 103
Thursday, December 12	“Do Good Be Good” T Shirt day (Please wear if purchased, otherwise, uniform)
Friday, December 13	Confession, Grades 3-8, St. Mary School Gym, 1:10-3pm Interims Sent Home, Kdg-Gr 8
Saturday, December 14	First Reconciliation
Monday, December 16	Chess Club, 7:30-8:30am, Activity Room
Tuesday, December 17	Faith Family day (not a dress down day)
Wednesday, December 18	Christmas Band Concert, 7pm, St. Mary School Gym (All are welcome)
Thursday, December 19	Gr. 3, 4, 5, Vocal Christmas Concert, 7pm @ St. Mary Church
Friday, December 20	Fr. Marty Dress Down Day (\$1) All School Mass, 2pm, St. Mary Catholic Church Power of Pen 3:30-4:30pm Classroom of Champions, 3:30-4:30pm, room 115
Monday, December 23 - Friday, January 3	Christmas Break (No School)
Monday, January 6, 2019	Happy New Year! Welcome Back! MAP Testing Begins Chess Club, 7:30-8:30am, Activity room

Extended Care

Extended Care and Preschool Day Care provided on:

Friday, December 27, 2019

Monday, December 20, 2019

Friday, January 3, 2020

Parents will be notified in the event we do not receive enough pre-registrations to warrant being open on any of these days. Registration forms can be found online, in the school office, or from the Extended Care staff.