



# ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## *The Pink Note*

March 6, 2019

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### ***From the Desk of Mrs. Miscavish***

Dear Parents:

Today is Ash Wednesday and as so many Wednesdays have been this winter, Mother Nature threw us another curve ball! That's OK – we caught the ball and ran with it and had a lovely prayer service of our own. I appreciate your flexibility and Fr. Mike's as well. As we begin Lent today, it is my hope that each one of our families will take the time to reflect on how your family life is going and take this time to make some small, but positive changes, to help your family grow stronger. No matter how much you think your family is a well-oiled machine, there is no family that is not in need of a little fine tuning a few times a year. This is a great time for everyone to get on board to make the changes needed to grow in love as a family. A few suggestions for you for this Lenten season:

1. **Attend Mass together on the weekend:** I will say it over and over, if you take the time to make this a family commitment, the commitment you made at Baptism, you will be glad you did. Find the Mass that fits your schedule and make it an event on your weekend calendar. Go to Mass and then find something special to do as a family. It could be a dinner out, special trip to the grandparents' house, get an ice cream before dinner at home, go to breakfast, go to lunch, or any other special event. If you start this weekend, that gives you 6 weekends to focus just on your family being together, celebrating your faith, your love for one another for approximately 3 hours or longer. Will you spend 3 concentrated hours being a family together for the next six weekends? Or will you be scattered running errands? Or one parent going one way, the other going another way, siblings going in opposite directions, or listening to the sounds of Fortnite in the background, or will you sit around wondering if your child will ever look up from their phone? Would it not be nice just to stop and be a family for just a little while in this busy world? If you happen to take me up on this, come and find me. I would love you to be my testimonial that this really works! I would love for my First Reconciliation students to actually be able to go in the Reconciliation Room (aka Confessional of yesteryear) and not be worried about talking about their weekend Mass experience with their family, real family, not their St. Mary School family.
2. **Give up something as a family:** Now that you are going to Mass together, why not collectively decide on something that all of you agree "should go" in order to make your family life better. Hold a family meeting and decide together just what that should be.
3. **Do something as a family:** In that same meeting, why not decide on a family project to work on together. Depending on the ages of your children this will vary greatly, but together you can all do something to make your world or all our world a better place.
4. **Almsgiving Project: 40 bags in 40 days.** ... *purge a bag's worth of stuff every day during Lent. You choose the size of the bag, and you should definitely make it a family affair. Just think of how clean your home will be by Easter!*

5. **Lenten Candle Cross:** 6 candles of any size, make them into the shape of a cross and starting on the First Sunday of Lent, light a new candle each week. This will give you that same warm and loving feeling that the Advent Wreath brought to your dinner table at Christmas time. The simple flickering of a candle is sure to bring peace and tranquility to just about any situation, if, you take the time to pause and enjoy the light.
6. **Easter Books:** We all have so many Christmas books, but how many books do you have at home about Easter? There are some great books out there. Perhaps after Mass, take a trip to Barnes & Noble to pick out a few good ones to read together.
7. **Make a Prayer Chain:** On 40 strips of paper, write the names of 40 different people or situations in your family or in the world to pray for during Lent. As you light your candles at dinner nightly, cut a strip and add that prayer to your Grace before Meals. Just think of all the people you can lift up in prayer in the next 6 weeks.
8. **Gardening time:** Do you have a favorite flower that you purchase to plant every summer? Why not start it from seed this year and watch the tiny seed grow into a beautiful plant or flower by Easter? At the same time, you could also introduce your children to the story of the Easter Lily.
9. **Poetry Thank You Notes:** Why not take the time this Lent to thank all those special people in your child's life. Acrostic Poems are simple to write and great fun for kids. Take that special person's name and for each letter of their name, think of a special word or phrase that describes them. When you complete the last letter of their name, your poem is complete! Why not drop it in the mail, yes in the mail, good old United States Postal Service! What a wonderful surprise for those you love the most!
10. **Bake Homemade Pretzels:** *Pretzels were first baked during Lent because they can be made with only water, flour, and salt. The shape came from a posture of prayer, with arms crossed and hands on opposite shoulders. A monk made dough into this criss-crossed shape, and the pretzel was born!*

This Thursday night, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the next step in their faith journey as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the tumultuous times we live in, this step is becoming more important every day. There is not an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who will not be tested by the evils of this world by the time they graduate from high school, and you can thank your cell phone carrier and the internet for that. Every year, we see a group of young adults already having to bear crosses that you and I never had to carry. Who will help them carry those crosses when they find themselves alone and unsure of what to do? They will all stand in that spot, no matter how great a family they come from. Every teen in this world finds themselves at some point at a crossroad where decisions need to be made without their parents input. It is my hope that they have learned through their faith formation at St. Mary, and through their family, that God will always be there for them to call on in their time of need. They may not fully understand the "why" of Confirmation today, but one day they will. I hope they understand that the success that is sure to come their way in the future, came because they have been blessed beyond measure. Their faith is their foundation and upon that foundation they will continue the building blocks of a successful life because each step of the way God has cradled them in the palm of His hand. In the end they will have fulfilled our mission as a Catholic school as they persevere through the challenges of life to *become moral, productive God-loving leaders in society.*

Just a reminder that there is no school this Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers will be participating in a number of Professional Development opportunities. Some will be spending a long weekend in Grand Rapids at the Michigan Reading Conference, others will be studying the theories of the Orton-Gillingham Methodology, while others will be working on other topics through the Association of Supervision & Curriculum.

Friday night we hope all our families will attend the St. Mary Skate Night being held at The Rink in Utica. This event is sponsored by PAC and runs from 5:00 – 7:00. This is a St. Mary event only, so come and skate with your fellow St. Mary Mountaineers.

Please make sure you see the last page of the Pink Note in regard to a very special visitor coming to St. Mary next Wednesday!

I leave you with a prayer for Lent, perhaps the first prayer you read as you light the first candle on your Lenten Cross:

Loving God, we ask that during this sacred season of Lent, may we bring ourselves closer to you and to our faith.

Prepare a place in our homes and in our hearts for quiet and peaceful times not only together as a family, but in times of prayer.

Help us to rediscover the grace that a prayerful life can bring.

Give us the strength and guidance to stay away from those things that do not bring us great success, but bring us only great disappointment.

Lead us to those things that will bring us only goodness to ourselves and to those around us.

Enlarge our hearts so that we may give to those in need and in doing so help us to rediscover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season of Lent be a season filled with the much needed time to rekindle our love our love for you and our love and dedication to our Catholic Faith.

May grace and blessings be in your path,  
Maureen Miscavish



### **TUITION ASSISTANCE**

**Archdiocese Tuition Assistance Grant** information and application is available on our website, [www.stmarymtclemens.com](http://www.stmarymtclemens.com) for Kindergarten-12th grade. Your application with all information and documentation must be submitted online only by April 30, 2019 in order for your application to be considered for the first level. The Pastor Signature Form can be picked up in the school office and should be sent to Mrs. Miscavish for submission. Please note, tuition assistance is available for high school students as well.

**St. Peter Parish Tuition Assistance** forms are available in the school office. The application and required documents must be submitted to the school office, 'Attention Mrs. Miscavish' by April 20, 2019. You must be a St. Peter Parishioner and submit the Archdiocese Tuition Assistance Grant application to be considered.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Please turn in your completed volunteer log sheet to the office as soon as your volunteer hours are complete. Blank log sheets can be picked up in the school office or found on our website under "Downloads". If you have any questions email Mrs. Dempsey at [sdempsey@stmarymtclemens.com](mailto:sdempsey@stmarymtclemens.com)



### **OPEN HOUSE**

Open House for current and new families is Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 PM. Please encourage your friends and family to check us out. Any current family that refers a new family will receive a \$125.00 tuition credit.

### **Skate Night**

Join your classmates on Friday, March 8 for a St. Mary Roller Skating Party at 'The Rink' in Utica (50625 Van Dyke, Shelby Charter Township). This skate party will take place from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Information is come home last week.

### **Mark your Calendar Electronic Recycling**

In keeping with our Green School efforts, we will be holding our annual electronics recycling on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9-12 and March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11-3. Please check your inbox for more information and a list of what types of items can be dropped off.

### **Waste Free Wednesday**



Just a reminder that every Wednesday is "Waste Free Wednesday"! We encourage you to pack your lunches with reusable containers, utensils, and napkins instead of disposable items. Avoid paper or plastic bags, plastic wrap, foil, wax paper, styrofoam, single-serving snacks, single-use cans, bottles, cartons or pouches, paper napkins and disposable forks and spoons. If everyone does a little, we can make a big difference!

### **Save the Date**

- Mar. 8 ~ No School –Teacher PD  
–Skate Night
- Mar. 21 ~ Pierce 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation  
& Reception
- Mar. 22 ~ Sulek 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation  
& Reception
- Mar. 22 ~ End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- Mar. 24 ~ Open House for Current  
Families & E-cycling
- April 4 ~ Spring Concert
- April 5 ~ No School
- April 12 ~ Honors, Earth Day  
Paraliturgy
- April 18-28 ~ No School -Easter Break
- April 30 ~ AOD Tuition Assistance  
due for 1<sup>st</sup> Tier
- April 29–May 3 ~ Spring Book Fair
- May 1 ~ 4yr Pre V.I.P. Day
- May 3 ~ Kindergarten - 8 V.I.P. Day
- May 5 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion -  
Mrs. Minoletti
- May 10 ~ Kindergarten Tea  
-No Cafeteria Service
- May 12 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion  
- Mrs. Beffa
- May 17 ~ May Crowning -  
Mother - Son Outing
- May 24 ~ Noon Dismissal—Passing  
On after Mass
- May 27 ~ No School—Memorial Day
- May 31 ~ Kindergarten &  
4 yr. Preschool Graduation
- June 1 ~ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- June 4 ~ Fun Day - Noon Dismissal
- June 5 ~ Mass & Honors

St. Mary Catholic School provides strong academics within a faith-based community to prepare students for higher learning and to become moral, productive, God-loving leaders in society.

### Attendance Reminder

Please email the school office at  
**attendance@stmarymtclemens.com**  
before 9:00 am when your child is going to be late or absent.  
*You may email the teacher, but you **MUST** notify the office.*

### Weekly Highlights

#### Thursday, Mar. 7

NJHS Tutoring Team B 3:10-4:00  
Confirmation at St. Peter 7:00 PM

#### Friday, Mar. 8

No School  
SMS Skating Party at The Rink 5:00 PM

#### Saturday, Mar. 9

Children's Choir 4:00 Mass

#### Sunday, Mar. 10

First Sunday of Lent  
Daylight Savings Time  
—Spring Forward

#### Monday, Mar. 11

No Mass  
Chess Club Gr. 4, 3:10-4:00  
Student Council Meeting 3:10-4:00  
"Snow Body Loves You" Food Drive Begins

#### Tuesday, Mar. 12

Little Mountaineers 12:30-2:00  
Chess Club Gr. 5-8, 3:10-4:00  
Children's Choir 3:10-4:00  
Varsity Sports Recognition 6:30

#### Wednesday, Mar. 13

Mass at SMS Kdg.— Gr. 4  
Free 'Redwings' Jeans Day  
#HockeytownCares about  
March is Reading Month  
Gr. 6 DIA  
Stations of the Cross 2:30

#### Coming Home

Pink Note

#### E-mailed Home

"Snow Body Loves You" Food Drive  
Summer Solutions Order Form



### SAVE THE DATE Mother - Son Outing

Mark your calendars for an evening out with your son on Friday, May 17. Our Mother-Son Outing will be held at Jimmy John's Field in Utica, game time 7:05. Watch for ticket details to come . . .



### The St. Peter Dynamic Parish

The Turning Point  
A Gospel of John Bible Study  
Come to 4:00 Mass, followed by dinner in the Fr. Welch Hall and then the bible study. Register at <http://bit.ly/parishbiblestudy>

Cost is \$15 per participant  
March 23, April 6 & 27  
Check the flyer that was emailed 1-3-19 for more information.



### CAFETERIA NEWS

Lunch time volunteers are needed March 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 & 15. Please log in:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe4ca8a72aa0f58-lunch2>

**Walk-ins are always welcome.**

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**March 20—No lunch service  
Bring bag lunch and Bring**

### St. Peter ROCK Middle School Youth Group

The Youth Group Middle School meeting is this Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Check the ROCK website for more information.

<https://rockyouthmin.weebly.com/>  
Check out the website of our parish youth group to see what is going on!

## **“Snow Body Loves You” Food Drive**

**March 11—20**

(No glass containers)

Preschoolers & Kindergarten: Individual wrapped snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.)

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Canned Soup or Broth

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Canned fruits or vegetables

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Cold Cereal, Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Peanut Butter or Jelly

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pasta, Rice, or Macaroni & Cheese

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Tuna, Chicken or other Meat

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ravioli, Canned Spaghetti or Sauce

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Laundry Soap, Dish Soap or Fabric Softener

## **Important Registration Information**

It is time to turn in your packet so it can be processed in time for your first payment on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The 10 month tuition payment plan for 2019-2020 school year is from March 15, 2019 until December 15, 2019. If you are late turning in your packet for March's payment, your tuition will be divided by 9 payments. **You may include March's payment with your paperwork. Make your check payable to 'St. Mary School'.**

If you are planning to pay in full, full tuition minus 1.5% must be submitted with your registration paperwork.

Tuition for 2018-19 must be paid in full before 2019-20 can be processed.

## **#HockeytownCares About Reading**

On Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> we will be joined at school by Danny DeKeyser, of the Detroit Red Wings, to celebrate March is Reading Month. Mr. DeKeyser, a St. Mary alumni, is very excited to tour the school and meet the students. He will be bringing a book to read to our Kindergarten classes in our new gym. This day will be a **free Red Wings themed Jeans Day for all of the students**. We are very blessed to have Mr. DeKeyser take time away from his busy schedule to relay the message of how important reading is to our students.

**GO RED WINGS!**

St. Peter Parish will be hosting a

### **Protecting God's Children**

#### **Workshop**

in the Parish Hall on

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Registration and a light meal

will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The workshop will begin promptly

at 6:00 p.m.

To register, please visit

[www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) or call the Parish

Office at 586-468-4578