

Dear SMS Families and Friends,

September 29 is the feast of our parish and school's patron saint: St. Michael! St. Michael has been and continues to be one of the Church's most POWERFUL intercessors. We are so blessed to have him as our patron! If you'd like to learn about him, look in Scripture! He's found in Daniel 10, Daniel 12, Jude, and Revelation 12.



There is also a powerful prayer that St. Leo XIII wrote in 1866 and encouraged the Church to pray, especially after each Mass. Read the backstory [here](#).

Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

St. Michael has been interceding for SMS in a BIG way this year! We...

- ✿ increased our enrollment by 13 new students (keep you prayers coming for more!),
- ✿ beautified the gym, lunchroom, Lateran Hall entryway, and 3 classroom floors with the help of the Ribley family and friends, Packard Paint, Dave Slack, an anonymous donor, and many parish and school volunteers,
- ✿ cleaned and readied the school thanks to the grunt work from Fr. Brandon, Dcn. Marty, seminarian Brandon, Brian and Chris Durniok, and MANY parish and school volunteers,
- ✿ opened a second PreK4 class: the first double class per grade in over a decade,
- ✿ welcomed 3 new teachers and an additional PreK Aide,
- ✿ hosted a fun and full Back-To-School Picnic and Open House,
- ✿ introduced our Irish Ideals of Saintly, Mindful, and Safe to our students with lessons all around our campus to teach them our Irish Ideal expectations in each section,
- ✿ celebrated our first school Masses,
- ✿ “sorted” our students into Saint Houses (think Harry Potter Hogwarts houses, but named after Saints!) with St. Gemma Galgani, Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, Bl. Chiara Luce Badano, and Bl. Carlo Acutis as patrons,
- ✿ chose patrons saints for all our classes,
- ✿ had our first Clubs: Jump Rope, Crochet, and Chess/Checkers,
- ✿ learned all about how to be “Safe at Lunch” with a puppet show put on by Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV,
- ✿ raised money for the Pink Angels (\$200.02!!!), our first Casual for a Cause this year,
- ✿ held a successful Shamrock (Golf) Scramble thanks to our Marketing/Fundraising Coordinator, Trichelle Eddy, and many parent and parishioner volunteers,
- ✿ administered the NWEA Map Growth and Fluency assessments to our Kindergarten – 7th Grade students,
- ✿ ventured to the Waugh House to learn about and interact with Greenville history,
- ✿ and, of course, began the wondrous adventure of learning in all our subjects this year! 😊





SAINT HOUSES



We are big on learning about, befriending, and striving to one day BE a Saint at SMS! A fun way our students are interacting with the Saints this year (and for years to come!) is by being sorted into Saint Houses! Throughout the year, students will meet together with their Houses to learn about that person, do crafts related to that Saint, sit with their House for Mass and occasionally for lunch, celebrate their Saints' feast day by having a special lunch and planning an activity for the school to celebrate with them, compete with their Houses against the other Houses for Shamrock Shoutouts and in athletic events, and complete service projects together. Fr. Brandon and I chose these Saints because they are all young, modern Saints, who our students may not know a lot about. Students will stay in their Houses for the duration of their time at SMS! I encourage you to learn about your child's Saint with them!



St. Gemma Galgani
Feast Day: April 11

GALGANI HOUSE

Heads of House: Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. Toy, and Mrs. Forsythe

House Members:

Zariah, Siena, Erika, Mia, Laynie, Cateri, Skylar, Haley, Rachel, Morgan, Layla, Raven, Izzie, Paislee, Delaney, Lizzy, Olivia, Olive, Sidney, Kennedy, and Claire



Bl. Carlo Acutis
Feast Day: October 12

ACUTIS HOUSE

Heads of House: Mrs. Knicely, Miss Zuschlag, and Mr. Neral

House Members:

Mason, Jacob, Dean, Finn, Jackson, Cameron, Monroe, Elliott, Matthew, John, Camden L., Jase, Reid, Camden C, Ethan, William, Deacon, and Lachlan



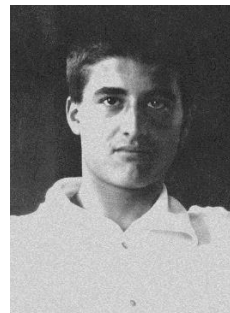
Bl. Chiara Luce Badano
Feast Day: October 29

BADANO HOUSE

Heads of House: Mrs. Endicott, Mrs. Giffone, and Mrs. Dorio

House Members:

Krystal, Gwen, Cabella, Gianna, Capri, Ava, Emmalin, Emily, Maelene, Brooke, Elaina, Elsie, MaKenna, Lexi, Brooklynn, Frankie, Nora, Kora, and Brie



Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati
Feast Day (celebrated): April 6

FRASSATI HOUSE

Heads of House: Miss Zgonc and Mrs. Cawley

House Members:

Braeden, Bentley, Elijah, Kolt, Owen, Greysen, Colton, Jayden, Connor, Huck, Miles, Carson, Bryce, Aiden, Tucker, Max, Benicio, and Gene

In addition to belonging to a Saint House, students have also chosen patron Saints for their grades!

- ♣ PreK3: St. Francis of Assisi
- ♣ PreK4 (Dorio): St. Anne
- ♣ PreK4 (Neral): St. Maximilian Kolbe
- ♣ Kindergarten: St. Nicholas
- ♣ 1st Grade: Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ♣ 2nd Grade: St. Patrick
- ♣ 3rd Grade: St. Kateri Tekakwitha
- ♣ 4th Grade: St. Thomas Aquinas
- ♣ 7th Grade: St. Ferdinand III



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

October Jeans Day

The following Thursdays are Jeans Days for the remainder of October:

- October 5
- October 12
- October 26

Please follow the dress code in our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Jeans Days.

School Masses

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

- [October 6](#): Frassati House
- [October 13](#): Acutis House
- [October 20](#): Galgani House
- [October 27](#): Badano House

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

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

Every **First Friday** of the month, St. Michael parish offers Eucharistic Adoration. As Catholics, we take Jesus at His word when He says, "This is my Body." "This is my Blood." (Luke 22:19-20; Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25) After Mass on these First Fridays, Fr. Brandon will place Jesus, in a consecrated host, in a monstrance (Latin for "to show"). The faithful are then invited to pray in front of and with Jesus throughout the day. Students love visiting Jesus in the Eucharist on these days. Each age group has an opportunity to talk to Him, voice personal intentions, be silent, sing, and meditate on Scripture. We also have the tradition of celebrating these days with doughnuts or cookies! 😊

October Casual for a Cause

The Cause we'll be adopting on Thursday, **October**



19, is [Stray Haven](#). Stray Haven is "Greenville, PA's non-kill animal shelter." In order to participate,

students and staff need to bring in *at least* \$1 on that day. See our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Casual for a Cause days.

Trunk or Treat!

Saturday, **October 7**, will be St. Michael Parish/School's annual Trunk or Treat! Please decorate a trunk (for a prize) or come in your favorite Halloween costume! The event will take place in St. Michael Church's parking lot from 6:30-8:00pm.

"Fall Break"

SMS students can look forward to a Fall Break from **October 7** to **October 11**. Classes will resume on Thursday, **October 12**. October 9 is Columbus/Indigenous People Day, October 10 is an SMS Teacher Inservice Day, and October 11 is a mandated diocesan Teacher Professional Development Day – this day counts as the students' 180 days of school, even though it is just the teachers attending. It is called an Exception to 180 Days.

Picture Day

Thursday, **October 12**, is Picture Day! All students and staff will have their picture taken by staff from Lifetouch, through whom we get our yearbooks. Parents have the option to order copies of their child's portrait through Lifetouch's website OR through the paper order form which was sent home the last week of September. As long as students are dressed in school appropriate attire, they need not wear their uniform or jeans and SMS Spiritwear (as it is a Thursday).

October Hot Lunch

October's Hot Lunch on Thursday, **October 12**, will feature rigatoni, salad, and dessert.

Fire Safety Week

October 9-13 is Fire Safety/Prevention Week. To give our students a firsthand learning experience about what firefighters do, the Greenville Fire Department will be visiting SMS on Thursday, **October 12**, with a fire truck to talk about their jobs as well as fire safety and prevention. Our local State Farm representatives will also be visiting that day to distribute coloring books and activities for our students. Each month, students have fire drills. They also practice what to do in case of an intruder, using the pillars of ALICE.

Bl. Carlo Acutis Feast Day

Thursday, **October 12**, is the feast day of Bl. Carlo Acutis! Acutis House will celebrate with lunch together. They will also have planned a special activity for the rest of the school to do to celebrate Bl. Carlo Acutis with them! Bl. Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

Open PTO Meeting

All parents, grandparents, and teachers are invited to join us on Tuesday, **October 17**, for an Open PTO Meeting at 6:30pm in Lateran Hall. PTO works hard to make sure that our students get to experience all of the extra at school. They fundraise to provide busing for field trips, doughnuts and cookies for First Fridays, special activities for the students and families, and much more. Please consider lending your voice at the meeting. We also need your hands to volunteer for the events planned throughout the year.

Grandparents Brunch

Calling all Grandparents!! Please invite your child's grandparents to join us for a delicious homemade, hot brunch on Wednesday, **October 18**, at *10:30am in Lateran Hall! Time spent with grandchildren and entertainment are also on the menu! If your child no longer has grandparents, or doesn't have grandparents who will be able to attend at that time/day, we will have "Rent-A-Granny"s on hand! These are wonderful women from our parish who love to have the opportunity to stand in for children's grandparents! *Note: The time of this event is different from the October calendar originally sent home.

PreK-Kindergarten Field Trip

On Monday, **October 23**, PreK and Kindergarten students will travel to Apple Castle to enjoy a wagon ride through the orchard, a chance to check out the apple trees, receive a seasonal gift, go on a tractor ride with a farmer, and listen to a story!

First Annual PreK Pumpkin Fest



PreK classes will enjoy an afternoon of songs, pumpkin decorating, and other fun pumpkin activities with their families on Friday, **October 27**, at 1:00pm in Lateran Hall!

Bl. Chiara Luce Badano Feast Day

Sunday, **October 29**, is the feast day of Bl. Chiara Luce Badano! Badano House will celebrate either on Friday, October 27 or Monday, October 30, with lunch together. They will also have planned a special activity for the rest of the school to do to celebrate Bl. Chiara Luce Badano with them! Bl. Chiara Luce Badano, pray for us!

GSO Children's Concert

Students in Kindergarten – 7th Grade will be traveling to Thiel College's Passavant Center on *Tuesday, **October 31**, in the morning to enjoy the Greenville Symphony Orchestra play an exciting collection of pieces titled "Halloween Spectacular"! Permission forms are needed in order to attend. *Note: This date is different from the October calendar originally sent home.

Halloween Parade and Parties

Students are encouraged to bring (not wear) their Halloween costumes to school on Tuesday, **October 31 – Halloween!** During lunch, students will have the chance to change into their costumes to prepare for our annual parade at 12:30pm (outside or in Lateran Hall – depending on weather). Costumes must be in keeping with our Irish Ideals: please stay well clear of violent or scary costumes. All families and friends are invited to watch the parade!! Following the parade, students will enjoy parties with their classmates. Wait to hear from your child's teacher about what can be sent in on this day.

All Saints Day

The reason we have Halloween is because of All Saints Day! Just as we celebrate Christmas Eve the night before Christmas Day, we celebrate Halloween (All Hallows Eve) the day before in preparation for All Saints Day, **November 1**. It is such an important day, the Church declared it a *Holy Day of Obligation*, meaning it holds as much weight as a Sunday, and Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. All families and friends are invited and encouraged to join us for Mass this day!



All Saints Day Continued...

Since 2011 (and from what I hear from alumni: also from decades ago!) SMS students and staff have dressed up as a Saint on this day. A Saint is simply someone in heaven, which is where we all hope to be! In addition to dressing as a Saint on this day (students are to wear their costumes to school this day), students will process into Mass, present a project or presentation to their classmates about the saint they dressed as, and have an All Saints Day party, complete with food, games, and activities! I'd like to encourage students to dress as their House's Saint or class's patron Saint this year!

WANTED!!

So many of our students, staff, and families would LOVE to see a **strong athletic program** thrive again at SMS! Since the pandemic, our athletic offerings have been limited to Little Dribblers in the Spring – which our students have really enjoyed! This year, I would like to provide more choices. With our class sizes, sports that require individual competition or small teams are ideal. We can **only** offer these with VOLUNTEERS! Ideas I came up with that would fit this individual/small team category are:

- ♣ Running Club
- ♣ Archery
- ♣ Little Dribblers
- ♣ Cheerleading



- ♣ Bowling
- ♣ Track
- ♣ Golf
- ♣ Tennis/Badminton/Pickleball

If YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW is willing and able to coach one of the above OR offer another sport I didn't list, **PLEASE** contact me!! All volunteers will need to complete their clearances and have them on file in our school office.

Please take time to become familiar with and bookmark our **school's website**: saintmichael1.org. We update our scrolling banners regularly to reflect the latest going on in our school. You can also find our school calendar, handbook, OptionC parent portal (to check your child's grades), FACTS portal, uniform guides, videos from recently graduated students, and so much more! At the bottom of the site, newsletters will be uploaded throughout the year. You can also see pictures posted to our school's Facebook (especially fun for people, like me, who don't have a FB account). 9 times out of 10, if a parent has a question on where to find something, the answer can be found here!



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