

+J.M.J.

March 2, 2022

Dear SMS Families,

It's Ash Wednesday! The start of Lent. How will you and your family be praying, fasting, and giving alms in a special way this Lent to prepare your hearts for Easter? Look below for Maggie Shaughnessy's Children's Liturgy video and PDF with ideas for Lent.

Around the School:

- **If you have not yet turned in your Letter of Intent, please do so or contact the school if you've mislaid your form. This helps us plan for the 2022-2023 school year.**
- **Friday is a Mass day.** Remember: parents are always welcome to attend with us. We are very excited to have student Lectors and Cantors at Mass again!
- **PreK-1st Grade will have Basketball this Friday after school. Please refer to the Basketball schedule.**
- It's **Read Across America Week!** Each day this week, the students have the opportunity to show their love for Reading!
 - **Monday:** *Cozy Up with a Good Book!* (Pajama and Stuffed Animal Day + Book)
 - **Tuesday:** *We Can't Mask Our Love for Reading!* (Wear a Mardi Gras-Colored Shirt: Green, Purple, Gold/Yellow – we'll be creating masks in school)
 - **Wednesday:** *We're Crazy About Reading!* (Wear your craziest socks!)
 - **Thursday:** *Dress Up as Favorite Book Character!*
 - **Friday:** *Hat's Off to Reading!* (Wear your favorite or funniest hat!)
- **Please kindly be mindful of due dates/return date on forms.** It helps us out a great deal.
- **On March 12, SMS PTO will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Glow Dance from 5:30-7:30pm! Free pizza and drinks will be provided. A parent/guardian must be present with their child(ren) at all times.**
- You may be contacted to be on the **CAR RAFFLE committee. Please consider saying YES! We need AT LEAST 20 school parents to make this a reality. This is the BIGGEST FUNDRAISER for our school (we typically raise \$50,000+), and we REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!** Our next meeting will be after Easter.
- **Our website has some fun new things on it,** including a video featuring 2 of our Heart Heroes as well as a new series, featuring an alumni titled "Why I Value Catholic Education."
- **The American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge** was a great event! Please take a few minutes to watch this [video featuring 2 Heart Heroes from our school!](#)
- **Applications for financial assistance through the diocese for the 2022-2023 school year (STAR and BTAP) were sent home with students last Monday.** These applications, along

with an application fee are to be mailed to the diocese by April 15. An internal financial aid packet will be coming home within the next few weeks.

- **Scholarship forms and applications for our school and community will be coming home soon.**
- **Thank you to those who placed Daffin's orders!** The following is from Leighanne Bert: The kiddos were so close! The school's top seller was Mia Wisnyai selling \$625.75! Lily Thomas was the second top seller selling \$593.00 and the third top seller was Jacob Rust selling \$400.25. The top 3 sellers prize will be a gift card of their choice! The next closest three were Colton Eddy selling \$365.75, Liliana Bert selling \$358.50 and the Gibson family selling \$354.75! The total amount sold was \$5,259.25! Everyone did an awesome job 😊
- **Please prayerfully consider nominating another parent, teacher, or yourself to serve on the PTO Executive Board for the 2022-2023 school year.** A Google Form was sent out on which you can submit your nomination(s). Open positions for next year will include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Co-Treasurer. **Elections will take place at our next open PTO Meeting: Monday, March 14 at 5:30pm in Lateran Hall.** *Thank you to our current Board: Shannon Thomas, Leighanne, Tina Sheirer, and Shalyn Martin for all you have done and continue to do to support our school!*
- Our **snow make-up day** from Friday, February 4 will be remote a Flexible Instruction Days (FID): Monday, March 21. Packets of work will be sent home with students on March 17. Since the day we are making up was a noon dismissal day, packets will reflect a lighter workload. Completed packets will be counted for attendance for that day. No students or staff will be reporting to the school building on that day.
- **Do you have your clearances with us (or would be willing to get your clearances) and like working with our littlest students? We can use your help as a PreK Aide Substitute!** This will be a volunteer role, and only needed occasionally throughout the rest of the year. Call the school's office to get on our sub list!
- **YOU and your CHILD are the best PR for SMS!** Please share positive stories with your friends, family, and neighbors: in person and on social media to help bring more students and families into our community!
- Join the **40 Club!!** It is one of the biggest fundraisers for our school!! You can win 100s and even 1,000s of dollars! Call the church or school for more information! Spread the word to your family and friends!
- **Please bring your families to Mass! St. Michael School is a mission of and an integral part of St. Michael and St. Margaret Church!** Going to Mass on Sundays, I miss seeing and praying with young families, especially our school families. Our parish offers 4 Masses each weekend: 4:30pm on Saturday, 7:00am, 11:00am on Sunday (this is the Mass I always go to!) at St. Michael in Greenville and 9:00am on Sunday at St. Margaret in Jamestown.



You're invited to the Synod!

Pope Francis has called the Church to a World-Wide Synod. The “Synod on Synodality” has begun, and the Church wants to hear from every baptized person.

Why? To develop the practice of becoming a “listening Church,” one that effectively journeys with its people.

Who is invited to participate? All people of goodwill, Catholics who practice the faith or not, and everyone in between. Deacon Marty Aubel and Deacon Frank Luciani will be facilitating the listening sessions where you will be invited to pray together for the coming of the Holy Spirit, then offered time to share your thoughts for the Synod.

When & Where? There will be 3 in-person meetings in March. Pick a time/date convenient for you and **pre-registration by Feb 26 is needed to attend.**

- March 1, 2022 (Zoom or In Person) at St. Michael from 6:30 to 8:00 PM
- March 5, 2022 (In Person) at St. Michael from 1:30 to 3:00 PM
- March 10, 2022 (In Person) at St. Margaret from 1:00 to 2:30 PM

RSVP by Feb 26, 2022 online @ <https://form.jotform.com/220274946310148> or to Sandy Ohl at 724-456-5209.

What will you be asked to share? The Synod is an opportunity for people to evaluate how the church and our parish are doing in terms of living out the Gospel message that Jesus entrusted us with. There are things we are doing well and need to keep doing and things that have not gone quite as we had planned or hoped and can do better. So, pray about what you will share in this process. We want to hear your stories about how we ARE meeting your needs specific to your life circumstances, how we are NOT meeting

your needs specific to your life circumstances, and about how is God speaking to you and through whom or in what way. Your thoughts will be compiled into an overall report to the Diocese. The Diocese will gather information from all its parishes and forward it to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. They will gather it from across the US and forward it to the Vatican. Every country in the world will be participating in this same process. The final results and the Pope's direction on all this information will be published in 2023. - Hope to see you! Deacon Marty & Deacon Frank

- **The following is from Maggie Shaughnessy:**

Welcome back, everyone! Here's a question for today: *have you ever criticized someone? Teased someone too much or made fun of them?* **Jesus** talks about looking into our own hearts in today's gospel, to **search out our own** weaknesses and failings, and to **correct** them, before we point out our neighbors'. **WOW!** It's like that old saying, "People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." **Click on the link below to hear today's gospel and the wonderful lesson it teaches us:**

BONUS: This coming Wednesday, March 2nd, is **Ash Wednesday!** It's also the beginning of **LENT!** *See the attachment below for a list of ideas for making your Lent a special time to grow closer to Jesus!*



[KLCalendarLent2022PDF.pdf](#)



- **After careful consideration and discussions with our Wellness Committee, Fr. Christopher, and other principals in our diocese, we are updating our face mask policy. Starting on Monday, February 28, face masks will be HIGHLY RECOMMENDED in**

school (especially for those who have health issues), but NOT MANDATED. If the numbers in our school or county increase again, we will be revisiting this update. Thank you all for your support and patience with COVID regulations these past 2+ years!

- **Please be on the lookout for COVID symptoms in yourselves and your children.** If you suspect any symptoms, please have your child or you tested. In order to maintain a safe environment for all, please practice and help your children practice COVID protocol: proper mask wearing at all times, social distancing, and frequent hand washing with warm soapy water. **If your child is sick, please keep them at home!!** Kindly contact the school if you or your child does develop any symptoms and also check with your child's doctor for next steps. Talk with your doctor and your child's doctor about whether the COVID vaccine is right for you and your child. **COVID vaccines are available now for children ages 5-12.** Speak with your child's pediatrician about the right decision for your child.
- **If your child is in need of a uniform, please let us know!** We can save you a lot of money! We have a PLETHORA of uniform shirts and pants that we are willing to give away at no charge. If your daughter is in K-4, we have plaid jumpers of many sizes! If you have a daughter in Grades 4-8, we have a LOT skirts of many sizes as well! All plaids from us are \$20. If you are *exchanging* a plaid, there is NO COST!

Thank you for partnering with us to make our students' year a great one!

Have a wonderful evening!

St. Michael, pray for us!

Many Blessings,

Emily Zgone ☺

Principal

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

Season of Lent 2022

FIRST WEEK: We receive ashes on our foreheads on **ASH WEDNESDAY**, the beginning of LENT. We prepare our hearts for Easter by **PRAYING OFTEN**, by "**GIVING UP**" something that keeps us away from God, and by doing something that brings us **CLOSER TO GOD**.



SECOND WEEK: We often do not remember to say three very important words: "**I LOVE YOU**". Be sure to say these important words to **family, friends and GOD** every single day!



THIRD WEEK: We live in a world where people who look, sound or act differently are often treated unkindly. **MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO BE KIND** to people who are different than you.



FOURTH WEEK: We may not be thankful for our many blessings, like our food, home, family, friends, freedom... Choose a favorite charity that helps those who are not blessed as we are. **Donate ONE COIN for each of your blessings** to that charity. It helps others so much!



FIFTH WEEK: We are such 'busy' people: we work hard, run errands, do household chores, we even play hard! Let's step back each day this week from our 'busy' times and **give a little of our time to God, in prayer**.



SIXTH WEEK: We tend to forget about people we don't see much of: people who live in nursing homes, in prisons, in hospitals, in group homes and in institutions. **Remember, they are God's children, too! They need our prayers, our help, our visits, and our love!**



EASTER TRIDUUM: The Easter "Triduum" lasts from Holy Thursday evening until Easter! We remember Jesus' love and sacrifice for us during our special Triduum Services: **Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord.**





St. Michael School Needs YOUR Help!

We can't do this without you!

Please consider saying yes
to being a part of
St. Michael's

CAR RAFFLE COMMITTEE

We need AT LEAST 20 school parents to make this a reality. This is the BIGGEST FUNDRAISER for our school (we typically raise \$50,000+), and we REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

*Are you thinking-
"I wish I could help but I don't have time"?*

This committee has jobs of all sizes that need filled. Some will take a lot of time and effort, others may only need a day or even just a few hours of your time.

Please join us at our next meeting, where we will discuss what help we need to make this event happen!

Next meeting will be after Easter, date to be announced.

To receive more information about the Car Raffle Committee please complete and return this form to the school. Thank you for your interest!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you prefer call / text / or email (please circle)

St. Michael School
PTO presents:



St. Patrick's
Day
GLOW DANCE

LATERAN HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH

5:30-7:30 P.M.

FREE PIZZA & DRINKS PROVIDED

* A parent/guardian MUST be present with student at ALL times

**Please fill out and return form to school by
March 10th, 2022:**

Child(ren) attending: _____

Parent/guardian attending: _____

Total # attending: _____

*** A parent/guardian MUST be present
with student(s) at ALL times!**