

+J.M.J.

February 9, 2022

Dear SMS Families,

I feel called to share something with you today: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus told this to the crowds of people following Him, not just to His disciples or the chosen 12. It was a message to them then and is a message to us today.

We are deep into winter and the school year. I can sense the tiredness in our building and in myself. We are invited to rest with Jesus and give Him our burdens. What great news! Before reading the rest of this message. Allow yourself time to stop, breathe, and thank Jesus for the burdens He so easily takes on. *Come Holy Spirit!*

A BIG Shamrock Shout-Out Thank You List from PTO President, Shannon Thomas and myself:

- ☘ Thank you to Frank Thomas and Lily Thomas for your help with setting up the tables at Lateran Hall for Grandparent's Breakfast after our opening Mass.
- ☘ Thank you to our PTO officers Leighanne Bert and Tina Sheirer for donating their time to help set up for Grandparent's Breakfast, for helping to bag popcorn for movie day and for sorting beads for a bracelet craft that the students made during CSW.
- ☘ Thank you to Frank and Shannon Thomas for picking up and delivering the doughnuts for Grandparent's Breakfast and for getting the coffee and drinks set up.
- ☘ Thank you to Rebecca Scott, Randy Barr, PTO Secretary Shalyn Martin, and our teachers for helping to serve doughnuts and coffee on Grandparent's Day. You all helped make the day extra special!
- ☘ Thank you to Fr. Christopher for coming to the Grandparent's Breakfast and calling Bingo for the students and their grandparents, as well as coming to our movie day, Open House, and praying with us for our Patriotic Rosary!
- ☘ Thank you to Rebecca Scott, Randy Barr, Shalyn Martin, Emily Turner's grandfather Kevin Turner, and to Tierney Scullin's grandfather Dr. Scullin for being so kind to help us take the tables and chairs down after our breakfast.
- ☘ Thank you to Liberty Lanes for giving us the opportunity to host a bowling night for our students and for all the families that came out to bowl. Thank you too to Mrs. Hartenstein and Mr. Neral for making the extra trip to bowl with us too!

- ♣ A special thank you to Mrs. Leighanne Bert for ordering, designing and dedicating her time to make t-shirts for our students, staff, and PTO members for CSW. They are so nice and we appreciate the time it took to make them.
- ♣ Thank you to Jamie Petroski for picking up and delivering the lunch donated by Subway last Tuesday.
- ♣ Thank you to Connie, owner of the Greenville Subway and her staff for preparing and donating a wonderful lunch to our students during CSW. We are so grateful for your generosity and support of Catholic education!
- ♣ A shamrock" shoutout to Mr. Woodley for "National Crossing Guard Day" last Thursday Feb. 3, 2022. Thank you for keeping our children safe every day at dismissal!
- ♣ To all the parents that ventured out in the cold to come sled riding Saturday, it was "snow" much fun! 😊 Thank you too to Shannon Thomas for providing hot chocolate and cookies to our sled riders!
- ♣ Thank you to our principal Miss Emily Zgonc, our teachers and staff: Mr. Steve Neral, Mrs. Erica Dorio, Mrs. Alissa Bouch, Ms. Erin Warren, Ms. Haley Germano, Mrs. Emily Maloney, Mr. Brandon Busch, Mrs. Natalie Endicott, Mr. Doug Dorio, Mrs. Rita Hartenstein, and Mrs. Theresa Hoovler: for your dedication to St. Michael School, and all of the planning and hard work and extra time that went into making CSW so wonderful! Because of your support, parents are given the opportunity to choose a Catholic education for their children!

In Other News:

- Since we had 2 snow days last week during Catholic Schools Week, students will have the opportunity to dress up tomorrow and Friday. **Tomorrow, Thursday, February 10, students are asked to dress as "what they want to be when they grow up". Also tomorrow, we will be making up our PLAY IN THE SNOW time. Please send your child in with appropriate clothing for playing in the snow! On Friday, February 11, students are asked to "Dress Up for Jesus".** Nicest dress up, church clothes should be worn. As always, we'd love to welcome you to the Friday 9am Mass!
- **Arby's Hot Lunch will be tomorrow** for those who ordered it. Thank you so much to Mr. Randy Barr for picking up and delivering the lunches!
- We will wrap up our **Penny War to benefit AWARE** on Friday! Thank you to all who have been sending in cash and coins to fill our jars! The winning class will receive a prize that will be most meaningful to them!
- **Applications for financial assistance through the diocese for the 2022-2023 school year (STAR and BTAP) will be going home with students on Friday.** 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.
- **Open gym for basketball (PreK-8) will held again Friday, February 11, after school until 3:30pm.** Students attending may bring a change of clothes and should also bring a water bottle. Pick-up will be at the back door of Lateran Hall.
- There will be a **CAR RAFFLE planning meeting on Monday, February 21, at 6pm in the large meeting room of the church. This is the BIGGEST FUNDRAISER for our school, and we REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!** Please mark the date and time on your calendar and join us to make this event successful!

- Our **snow make-up days** will be remote Flexible Instruction Days (FID): Monday, February 21 and Monday, March 21. Packets of work will be sent home with students on February 18 and March 17 respectively. Completed packets will be counted for attendance for those days. No students or staff will be reporting to the school building on those days.
- **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 will be 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!*
- **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.
- **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