

✠J.M.J.



December Newsletter

Dear SMS Families,

We are in a new year in the Church: the season of Advent. Unlike what the secular world would have us believe, it is a time of slowing down and waiting with great expectation for the coming of Christ. The coming of Christ as a baby at Christmas, the coming of Christ in the Second Coming, and most especially, the coming of Christ into our hearts in a deeper and more profound way. This Advent, make it a time for you and your family to make space and room for the miracle of Christ's coming. What better gift could the Holy Babe have than a quiet, expectant, and ready heart!



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Side by Side/\$20,000 Raffle Volunteer Opportunities:

December 3: If someone is not in the parade We are trying to find someone to sell tickets in the afternoon in town in Greenville until the parade. Please contact Trichelle Eddy with your availability at 724-456-7555.

December 10 & 11: Yankee Lake Gun Show (inside)

January 14 & 15: Yankee Lake Gun Show (inside)

School Masses

Each Friday, a different class is in charge of providing readers and greeters. For December, the following classes will be in charge (December 2 and 9 have been switched from the red calendar that was sent home): December 2: 6th/7th Grade; December 9: 1st Grade; December 16: 4th Grade.

Students love when their parents or other family members attend Mass! Please know you are welcome and wanted!

December Jeans Day

There will only be ONE regular Jeans Day in December: December 1. The following Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and we

will be going to Mass that day, therefore students are to **wear their uniforms on December 8**.

First Friday and Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 2, is the First Friday of the Month! Please join us for Mass that day and for Eucharistic Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the school day. I also encourage you to make a visit Jesus in Adoration with your family that day too!

Hot Lunch

Thursday, December 8, is our Spaghetti Hot Lunch!

Casual for a Cause

Thursday, December 15, will be our Casual for a Cause. Our Cause for this month will be the Good Shepherd Center. Please see page 21 of our Handbook for what is permissible on Casual for a Cause days. In order to participate, students and staff need to bring in *at least* \$1 toward our adopted Cause for the month.

Advent

Throughout Advent at school, students will be lighting the Advent wreath and hearing the story leading up to and including Jesus' birth. We'll also be celebrating some of the major Saints whose Feastdays fall in Advent: St. Nicholas (December 6), St. Juan Diego (December 9), Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), and Santa Lucia or St. Lucy (December 13).

Pancakes and a Parade

Saturday, December 3, will be a PTO-sponsored Pancakes with Santa and Grub with the Grinch Breakfast from 9:00-12:00pm. Later that day, SMS will be walking in the Greenville Christmas Parade! We'll need you and your children to walk with us! The parade begins at 5:00pm. (There was a misprint on the red calendar that went home.) Please meet our float in your SMS gear to walk with us! If you could bring a bag of candy with you to throw in the parade, that would be greatly appreciated!

Santa Land

Santa Land will take place for students on Tuesday, December 6, which is the Feastday of St. Nicholas! 😊 Forms went home with students to plan their shopping lists. Thank you to the PTO and parent volunteers for making this a reality!

School Picture Day

SMILE! 😊 School Picture Re-Take Day will be Wednesday, December 7.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in December, Fr. Brandon will be offering time to hear Confessions to prepare hearts for Christmas. Please take advantage of these times and this awesome Sacrament! Attached is the schedule for the month. On Friday, December 9, students in Grades 3 and Up will have the chance to go to Confession during school.

Pancakes with the Priest

Fr. Brandon will be eating lunch with the students on Tuesday, December 13: PANCAKES! Thank you, PTO for arranging this! He also plans on a special activity for recess that day!

Special Dress Days for Christmas Week

Students will be able to wear the following rather than their uniforms on these days:
Monday, December 19:
Tuesday, December 20:
Wednesday, December 21:
Thursday, December 22: Christmas Pajamas

Special Event for Christmas Week

The teachers and staff will be celebrating Christmas together with a Staff Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 20. There will be **NO SAFE** that day after school.

Wednesday, December 21, will be our Christmas Family Night at 6pm in the **church**, to which you, your family, and your friends are all invited. We have a beautiful program planned, in which all of the students have a part! Students are asked to dress up for the evening.

The morning of Thursday, December 22, will be Christmas parties for the students. Our Christmas vacation will start with a **NOON Dismissal** on December 22. There will be **NO SAFE** on this date either.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

SAFE During Christmas Week

There will be **NO SAFE** on Tuesday, December 20 and Thursday, December 22. Please make arrangements accordingly for those dates.

New Year's Eve Party

To help ring in 2023, we'll be hosting a kid-friendly New Year's Eve Party on Saturday, December 31, from 1:00-3:00pm in Lateran Hall. Stay tuned for more information!

Catholic Schools Week 2023

It's hard to believe, but Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner! Please mark your calendars for the following:

Sunday, January 29: 11am Opening Mass of Catholic Schools Week! PreK students are asked to wear an SMS shirt. Kindergarten and Up are asked to wear their uniforms. Following Mass, all current and prospective students are invited to Open House at the school.

Monday, January 30: Students are asked to wear SMS Spiritwear. We will be volunteering in the community during school hours. That evening all families are invited to bowl with us!

Tuesday, January 31: Students are asked to wear

Wednesday, February 1: Students are asked to wear Red, White, and Blue for our Veterans Day Breakfast. If you have a veteran in your family or know a veteran who would like to come, please invite them!

Thursday, February 2: Students are asked to wear clothes from their favorite decade to Love Jesus Through the Decades. Students will have the opportunity to ask Fr. Brandon, Deacon Marty, and Deacon Frank questions this day.

Friday, February 3: Students are asked to Dress Up for Jesus. 9:00am will be the closing Mass for Catholic Schools Week as well as Eucharistic Adoration.

Saturday, February 4: All families, friends, and parishioners are invited to a special celebration in Lateran Hall for food, drinks, and the drawing of the Raffle!

In the News and Shamrock ShoutOuts:

- ♣ Thank you to Cindy Eckhard for agreeing to be our school Librarian! Because of Cindy, our students can now go to the Library and borrow books each Tuesday!
- ♣ Thank you to all of the people who helped to make the PTO Spaghetti Dinner a success on November 12! It was such a fun event and so well run! Thank you! Thank you! The following people either helped with planning, set up, and/or the actual dinner: Tammy McConnell, Katie Forcier, Dan Eaves, Mikealina Stanec, Tina Sheirer, Christina Sensesak, Hope Couch, Kurt Sensesak, Jamie and Siena Petroski, Anna Brickwood, Karen Eddy, Kenda Hoovler, Shannon and Lily Thomas, Pat Hayes, Theresa Hoovler, Trichelle Eddy, Sara, Randy, and Elliott Barr, Aimee, and Cameron Forsythe, Leighanne Bert and Kaylee Keeter, Melissa Archambeau from Mercer County Juvenile Advisory Council who donated all the paper products, girls from Keystone who came and volunteered their time. Thank you to all of the teachers, students, and families who donated items for the basket raffle as well!
- ♣ We raised \$155.00 for Hunters Sharing the Harvest in our Casual for a Cause on November 17! Thank you for your generosity!
- ♣ Thank you to all of the parents who came for parent/teacher conferences! We love talking to you and partnering with you in the education of your child!
- ♣ Thank you to all of the families that filled out our Authentic Catholic Schools Survey and 2023-2024 School Survey! We loved reading your comments and look forward to partnering with you in a deeper way as the school year progresses and we look toward 2023-2024!
- ♣ On Tuesday, November 29, the teachers had the opportunity to learn some great new Reading strategies from our Act 89/Title 1 MIU4 Reading Specialist: Mrs. Terry Brock, as well as strategies that we think will be a game changer for helping our students not only learn their Math facts but also have better number sense. The Math portion of the day was presented by Mrs. Lisa Panighetti, Director of Curriculum for the Diocese of Erie.
- ♣ This year's raffle grand prize is a 2022 Yamaha Wolverine RMax2 1000 XR-T Side by Side Utility vehicle OR \$20,000 cash. We have a huge opportunity to raise significant funds to benefit St.

Michael School and Catholic education. We invite everyone to help support us by purchasing tickets, selling tickets to friends and family, volunteering to sell at an event in the community and by promoting the Side by Side Raffle. We would like every family to sell at least 1 packet of tickets (they come in bunches of 10) to make this event a huge success!! Tickets will be available after all Masses and can also be acquired through the school office. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP US SELL TICKETS AFTER MASSES AND AT EVENTS AROUND THE COMMUNITY!!**

- ♣ **ST. MICHAEL FORTY CLUB 109 CHANCES TO WIN PRIZES TOTALING \$26,150!** Ticket cost is \$100. There are 3 weekly winners for \$100, \$100 & \$50. There are 8 winning numbers drawn at Christmas and Easter week for \$500, \$250, \$125, \$75 (2 each prize). One SPECIAL drawing on October 20 for people that have fully paid for their ticket. The final drawing is May 28, 2023 with 57 winners for a total cash prize of \$13,400. Only 600 tickets sold. Tickets still available. Please contact any seller listed to purchase tickets: Wes Bates @ 724 699-6255 Walter Beh @724-588-3108 Natalie Higbee @724-699-9021 Mark Holian @ 724-932-5937 Fran Krachkowski @ 724-588-3749 Roseanne McConnell @ 724-588-3254 Judy McKay @ 724-456-5654 Charles Stepp @724-588-2127

Reminders:

- The drinking fountains at school are turned off, but we do have water bottle filling stations with filtered water. Please double-check each day to make sure your child has a refillable water bottle.
- When packing lunches for your child, please be sure to pack appropriate utensils. We are going through our backup store of plastic spoons like water!
- As per our dress code, all students in Grades K-8 need to have their shirts tucked in. Belts are required for students in Grades 4-8 when wearing pants or shorts with belt loops.
- Toys should not be sent/brought into school. The exception will be by special permission/request from the teacher (i.e. a show-n-tell project).
- You are an awesome, amazing person and your child is too! We are so blessed to have you at our school this year!

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

St. Michael, pray for us!

Grace and Peace,

Emily Zgone 😊

Principal

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

DEC 2022 ADVENT PENANCE & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 9:45 – 11:00 AM	02 11:00 AM - Noon Fr's Ray & Brandon
	04 7:00 – 8:00 PM Father Ray	05 8:00 – 9:00 PM	06 4:00 – 5:30 PM	07 9:45 – 11:00 AM	08 11:00 AM - Noon	03 2:45 – 4:00 PM Fr's Ray & Brandon
11 2:00 PM Grove City 5:00 PM Mercer	12 7:00 – 8:00 PM Father Ray 6:30 PM Sharpsville	13 8:00 – 9:00 PM	14 4:00 – 5:30 PM 6:30 PM West Middlesex	15 9:45 – 11:00 AM 6:30 PM Sharon	16 11:00 AM-Noon	17 2:45 – 4:00 PM Fr's Ray & Brandon
18 2:00 PM Hermitage	19 7:00 – 8:00 PM Father Ray 6:00 PM Farrell	20 8:00 – 9:00 PM	21 4:00 – 5:30 PM	22 9:45 – 11:00 AM	23 11:00 AM - Noon	24 4:30 (St. Michael) 7:00 (St. Margaret) 9:00 (St. Michael) Midnight (St. Michael)
25 9:00 AM (St Michael)						

Key:
 Parish Penance Times
 Area Penance Services
 Christmas Mass Times