

*Dear SMS Families and Friends,*

March is the month of St. Joseph! When we think of March, our minds automatically jump to St. Patrick (whom we love as St. Mike's Irish!!), but the Church prays with St. Joseph throughout the month of March, as his feast day is March 19.



Have you ever thought about St. Joseph past his role at the Nativity or Finding of Jesus in the Temple? Few do. And what a man to contemplate!! Consider what his life must have been like... married to a woman who was found to be pregnant and not by him, faced with a decision to have her stoned or divorced, spoken to in his dreams by angels, forced to travel with his very pregnant wife over 80 miles only to find the only available space for lodging is a cave, very likely the only person to assist at the birth of his adopted son, witness to shepherds and magi visiting with supernatural knowledge that his son was really the Son of God, forced to flee with his family to protect them from an evil king bent on destroying his son (he was the savior of our Savior - literally saving His life!), lived as a refugee - a stranger in a strange land - in Egypt, devout man of God who was tasked with the great responsibility of teaching the Son of God how to pray, how to work, how to treat others, how to grow into his vocation as Savior and Redeemer of mankind, head of the holiest family that ever was or ever will be, spouse to the most pure and blessed woman, died a quiet death surrounded by the two holiest people who ever lived. There is so much more to contemplate about his life than that short synopsis, and I would invite you this month to do so and also to ask for his intercession (his prayers) for you and your family. Above is a depiction of St. Joseph as one of his titles: Terror of demons (a favorite)!

Other titles of St. Joseph to pray with: Light of Patriarchs, Chaste guardian of the Virgin, Diligent protector of Christ, Head of the Holy Family, Joseph most just, Joseph most chaste, Joseph most strong, Joseph most obedient, Mirror of patience, Glory of home life, Guardian of virgins, Hope of the sick, Patron of the dying, Terror of demons, Protector of Holy Church. A bigger list could be found in the [Litany to St. Joseph!](#)

## Here's the latest peek into our classrooms:

- ✿ PreK3 with Mrs. Forsythe learned about their own shadows inside and outside. They also learned how to take care of their teeth. They talked about different community helpers and what they want to be when they grow up. In Religion, they learned about St. Valentine and the beginning of Lent!
- ✿ PreK4 with Mrs. Dorio and Mr. Neral got ready for the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School in Math by counting to 100 by 1s, 5s, and 10s! In Reading, they worked on vowel sounds. In Science, they learned about the life cycle of a dandelion, and in Religion, they learned about St. Valentine and God's love for US!
- ✿ Kindergarteners with Mrs. Toy had lots of fun making predictions on Groundhog's Day! In Science, they are learning about the solar system and how the planets orbit the sun. In Math, they learned about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. In Religion with Miss Zgonc, they finished learning about the days of Creation by making posters and reading stories of Creation that brought in Scripture, Art, and Science!
- ✿ 1<sup>st</sup> Graders with Mrs. Maloney are reading from the *Billy and Blaze* collection and learning capitalization rules. In History, they have read selections from the famous poet Homer and are currently reliving the time of the first Olympics. In Nature Studies, they are focusing on the 5 categories of animals with backbones!
- ✿ 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders with Miss Zuschlag are about to finish reading *The Courage of Sarah Noble*. In Religion with Deacon Marty, they prepared for their Sacrament of Reconciliation by learning the 10 Commandments front to back and back to front! 5 of them also received their First Reconciliation!
- ✿ 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders with Mrs. Endicott are reading *Mr. Popper's Penguins* in Literature. In Math, they started learning about the properties of multiplication. In Nature Studies, they have been focusing on honey bees, and in Religion, they completed a Lenten lapbook!
- ✿ 4<sup>th</sup> Graders with Mrs. Knicely learned about light behavior and made kaleidoscopes to show light reflection in Science. In History, they finished learning about Mary Queen of Scots (their room is decorated for this!) and the Reformation. They also started delving deeper into the 10 Commandments in Religion!
- ✿ 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders with Deacon Marty propagated jade plants in water and transplanted them in flowerpots after they rooted. In Math, they are cruising through solving algebraic equations with the four different operations. In History, they learned about the War of 1812 and how it affected the world we live in today. They are currently reading *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens!
- ✿ Music classes with Mrs. Giffone met Zero the Hero on the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School and are enjoying patriotic music. In Gym classes, they are jumping rope and learning line dances!
- ✿ Art classes with Mrs. Cawley drew winter scenes in perspective, made illuminative calligraphy texts, created works of art in the Surrealist Tradition, drew snowmen from below eye level perspective and aerial perspective, made papier mâché fish, made 3-D Trojan horses, created Grecian pinch pots, drew fish, dogs, elephants, self-portraits, and much more!

## Looking back on February. This past month, we...

- ☘ celebrated the latter half of Catholic Schools Week with visits from Fr. Brandon, Deacon Marty, and Deacon Frank, as well as our first Chili Cook Off,
- ☘ adored Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on First Friday,
- ☘ enjoyed a salad bar and brownie lunch sponsored by the PTO,
- ☘ prayed for and celebrated with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders who received the Sacrament Reconciliation for the first time: Elliott Barr, Colton Eddy, Cameron Forsythe, Monroe Giardina, and Laynie Kantner,
- ☘ drew the winners of our Side by Side/\$20,000 Raffle at a Mardi Gras Dinner/Basket Raffle event,
- ☘ celebrated Mardi Gras, St. Valentine, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of school - ALL on the SAME day,
- ☘ kicked off our Kids Heart Challenge with an assembly to learn about how to be heart healthy with the American Heart Association,
- ☘ celebrated our 101<sup>st</sup> Day of School with our PreKers,
- ☘ sent home Letters of Intent to return for the 2024-2025 school year and started signing up new students,
- ☘ visited (Deacon Marty and Miss Zgonc) Franciscan University in Steubenville to recruit teacher candidates for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades next year,
- ☘ received ashes at Ash Wednesday Mass and kicked off Lent,
- ☘ had a looong weekend break for the teachers to be able to attend exciting professional development days with the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) all about *Bringing Liberal Arts Education to Life in the Classroom*,
- ☘ began going class by class to the church to pray the Stations of the Cross,
- ☘ raised \$37 for our Casual for a Cause: *Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County*,
- ☘ celebrated LEAP DAY with a special Irish Ideal assembly as well as finding 432 leaping frogs throughout our school,
- ☘ and, of course, continued the wondrous adventure of learning in all our subjects this year!



# See what's happening this March!

## Read Across America/Literacy Week 2024

Each year we celebrate the gift of literacy through fun activities that promote reading! Read Across America/Literacy Week will take place **March 4 – March 8**. Join in the fun!

- Monday: **Reading Under the Clouds** *Wear a favorite hat or hair accessory with your UNIFORM.*
- Tuesday: **Team Up with a Good Book** *Wear a favorite sports team jersey.*
- Wednesday: **Go Crazy for Reading** *Wear silly socks or crazy hair with your UNIFORM.*
- Thursday: **Cozy Up with a Good Book** *FREE Dress Down Day!*
- Friday: **Reading Makes Us Bright** *Bring in a stuffy with normal Mass UNIFORM.*

## School Masses

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

- **March 1**: Galgani House
- **March 8**: Badano House
- **March 15**: Frassati House
- **March 22**: Acutis House

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

## March Hot Lunch

March's Hot Lunch on Thursday, **March 14** will be a Baked Potato Bar with all the toppings and fruit, sponsored by the PTO!

## Casual for a Cause

We will hold a Casual for a Cause on Thursday, **March 14** to raise money for Reynolds VFW building that recently burned down. Reynolds VFW has been a supporter of St. Michael School, and we'd like to give back and help them rebuild! See our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Casual for a Cause days.

## pi Day and Daffins Pick Up

Thursday, **March 14**, is pi Day! Celebrate geometry and circles by eating circular-shaped food! Pie, pizza, pancakes – the possibilities are endless as is 3.14 15926535 8979323846 2643383279

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It is also the day to pick up your Daffins order! Stop by after school or on your way home from work to collect your candy!!

## St. Patrick's Glow Dance

Brush up on your Irish jig by dancing with us at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Glow Dance on Saturday, **March 16**, from 6:00-8:00pm in Lateran Hall.

## St. Patrick's Day Celebrated

Because St. Patrick's Day falls on Sunday this year, we will be celebrating this great Irish saint on Monday, **March 18**. Students and staff may wear their green, Irish, or St. Patrick's Day apparel. St. Patrick is not only the patron saint of the Irish people (we are St. Mike's Irish!!), he is also the patron saint of our diocese!!

## St. Joseph's Day

St. Joseph's Day is on Tuesday, **March 19**! It is traditional to wear **RED** on his feast day. Students and staff may wear a red shirt on this day (with uniform pants, skirt, jumper). I would also encourage you to look up a good recipe for St. Joseph Bread. My mom baked some each year – that we looked forward to!

## March Jeans Day

The only Jeans Days in March will be **March 21**. Please follow the dress code in our [handbook](#) for what is permissible for Jeans Days.

## Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join us and the Easter Bunny for a pancake with topping bar and sausage breakfast on Saturday, **March 23**, in Lateran Hall from 9:00 to 11:30am. Visit with the Easter Bunny and a kids activity to take home! Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and FREE for children under 2.

### **Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt**

Palm Sunday is **March 24!** Join us for the 11:00am Mass at St. Michael Church and stay after for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

### **Shadow Stations**

4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be performing Shadow Stations for the school and community on Tuesday, **March 26**, at 1:00pm in Lateran Hall. This is a powerful prayer experience right before the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) that you are all invited and encouraged to attend!

### **NO SAFE Afternoons**

There will be **NO SAFE** on Wednesday, **March 27**, (due to our NOON Dismissal), and Monday, **April**

**8**, (so all of our teachers could participate in the Total Solar Eclipse festivities).

### **12pm NOON Dismissal**

Classes will end for our Easter Vacation on Wednesday, **March 27**, at 12:00pm NOON. There will be **NO SAFE** offered that afternoon!

### **SMS Easter Vacation**

Our Easter Vacation will begin at **NOON** on Wednesday, **March 27**, and continue through Tuesday, **April 2** (which is an inservice day for teachers). Classes will resume as normal on Wednesday, **April 3**. Please join us for Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter Masses at St. Michael Church! Stay tuned for times on our parish's website: [www.stmichaelgreenville.com](http://www.stmichaelgreenville.com)

**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*