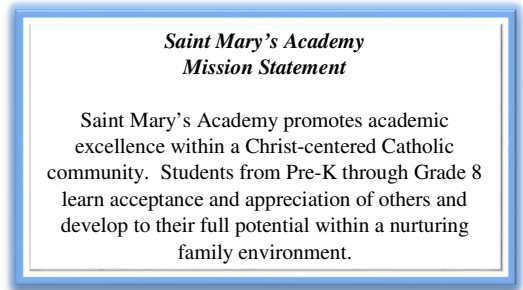




WEEK AT A GLANCE

Week of 10/11/17 - 10/16/17

God is not a God of disorder but a God of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33



Gospel Reflection

Gospel for this weekend:

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guest to the feast but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast,"' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the street and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests."

Reflection:

When we arrive in heaven, one of the things that we hope for will be to encounter the wonderful diversity of those who are feasting and rejoicing. We might be quite amazed at who "made it" – although we are told over and over that arriving there is simply to accept Gods Gracious invitation. Who is standing outside waiting to be asked to come in and have a seat at the table?



Principal's Notes

- **Do you know an alumni?**

As St. Mary's Academy celebrates our 50th year, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge past students with an *Alumni Mass* and reception. Please join us at St. Mary's Parish on Thanksgiving weekend, *November 26th at the 9:30 Mass* as we honor our alumni. Following Mass, there will be a reception in the Parish Center. No need to RSVP. We hope to see you there as we celebrate past students who helped shape the school's future.

- **Calling all SMA ALUMS!** Share with us. We would love to hear from you. Here's your chance to tell us about yourself! At St. Mary's Academy we ARE a family, past, present, and future! Help us keep in contact with each other. Share with our SMA "Family" how St. Mary's helped shape YOU! Please email us at: jmacdonald@stmaryslongmeadow.org

- There seems to be a little confusion with the winter uniform. Winter uniform is not beginning until October 30th. I will make it a point to speak with each class next week to remind them that we will be in winter uniform soon.



Important Dates

- We are so excited! Our rocks are painted, the Spring bulbs are here and we are ready to plant our 50th Anniversary Flower Garden. Our planting day will be Monday, October 16th. We are asking that the students wear their gym uniforms and bring garden gloves if you have them.
- Box Tops turn in date for dress down is Thursday, October 19th. Dress down will be on Friday, October 27th. Please see the attached flyer for further explanation.
- We will pray the Rosary on Wednesday, October 18th at Morning Prayer led by our 8th grade class. Please join us if you are available.
- **REMINDER:** There is no school next Friday, October 20th. The faculty will be attending an In-Service Meeting offsite.
- **SMA Custom Wood Sign Event:**
- Each year, SMA brings in some fabulous enrichment programs for your students. Some of these have included, Springfield Symphony, Mystic Aquarium, and even a production by Bay Path Theater department. In order to help fund some of these wonderful enhancements, we try to do a few small, but fun, fundraisers each year. This year, we are excited to announce our first event where we will be painting custom wood signs. There are 7 signs to choose from – they are all unique and would make a great addition to your home or even a Christmas present! This is open to the public so feel free to invite your friends! It's the same night as our Junior High Dance on November 3rd at 6:30pm. The event will be held in the Parish Center. Feel free to bring in your own snacks and drink. You must sign up and pay online by clicking here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-marys-parish-center-tickets-38638867894>. Please share!



Fair Share Opportunities

LEGO Robotics:

Our second session of LEGO robotics is starting on Nov. 1st and sign-ups are out. (see attached). This session will explore natural disasters. We'll need your help designing solutions to help people through floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. You'll design and build creative robotics and program them using WeDo software. You'll be paired up according to your grade. This program did fill up last session so please don't hesitate to sign up to ensure your student's spot.

Basketball Registration:

Basketball registration begins this week with all sign-ups for grades 3-8th by Oct 20th. There will be skills and drills practice for grades 3-8th starting Oct 23rd week. Here is information on the different programs:

- Grades 3-8 CYO basketball program with boys and girls teams in the following divisions – 3rd & 4th Grades, 5th & 6th Grades, and 7th & 8th Grades. There will be short evaluation games one weekend in Nov.

to determine placement of the team with the division. Practices will be in the St Mary's gym or in one of the nearby Longmeadow schools one day a week with potential of another practice a week depending on gym time availability. Games are on the weekends playing other schools in the Pioneer Valley both home and away. The season runs November through March with divisional playoff for all teams.

- PreK-2nd there is an instructional basketball program on Saturdays at Greenwood Gym in Longmeadow. The season runs December until February break. The kids will be separated into different timeslots based on grades. Grade 2 will play organized games against other CYO teams during the season on some Saturdays to get ready for grade 3. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Besse at Melissa.m.l.besse@accenture.com

Advent Calendar Church Sales:

We have had an overwhelming response from families who have signed up to sell our Advent calendars in November at various churches. Below are the spots we still have open. Remember, you do not need to be a member of a particular parish to sign up, your family receives 2 fair share hours for each church exit you sell calendars at, and your students receive a dress down for helping out. Detailed instructions will be given to you a week prior to your assigned weekend. If you are interested in helping out at one of the Masses below, please contact Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org to sign up.

St. Mary's Parish, Longmeadow		
<i>Family Name</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>
	Nov. 19	8:00am
	Nov. 19	8:00am
	Nov. 19	9:30am
	Nov. 26	8:00am
	Nov. 26	8:00am

St. Michael's Church; East Longmeadow	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>
	Nov.	10:00am

St. John; Agawam	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>
	Nov. 18	4:00pm



Angel Acts

- I would like to thank the Jr. High students and faculty who took care of our students at our first Funfest this year. They worked very hard to offer an afternoon of fun for our students in Pre-K through grade 5.
- I would like to thank everyone who has given so many Fair Share hours in this short amount of time. It is wonderful to see so many parents actively involved in so many projects and events.



A Teacher's View

It is hard to believe that we are already in the middle of October. Fall is here and the second graders have been busy learning and discovering new things.

We are enjoying reading many wonderful stories this year. We just read a play in our reading books and discussed the narrator and characters. We are also reading fables which teach the students wonderful morals to use in everyday life. We are using a Big book to read the story "Make Way for Ducklings". The students enjoy reading this book especially for the fact that the setting of this story is Boston, Massachusetts.

In math we have used the math manipulatives to learn about tens and ones. We are learning about place value, expanded form, and how to compare numbers. We have also worked on problem solving and the steps it takes to solve a word problem correctly. We also worked on adding and subtracting and before you know it we will be adding and subtracting two digit numbers. The students understand the importance of practicing their math facts every day.

In Social Studies we learned about communities and places that people live. We completed a project in which we studied Massachusetts. We learned about our state flag, state bird, and state flower. Our state bird is the Chickadee and our state flower is the Mayflower. We will discuss Boston and the Public Garden while we read the story "Make Way for Ducklings".

In Science we will be learning about life cycles. We will complete a fun project to model the life cycle of a butterfly. We will use supplies including rice, pipe cleaners, and tissue paper to help with our models.

This is a very exciting year for the second grade for they will be making two wonderful Sacraments this year. We have already learned a lot in Religion and we have begun to use the Second Step program. The Second Step program teaches the students how to handle their feelings and solve problems effectively.

We have been doing some writing exercises for the season of Fall. We are working on a Halloween acrostic poem and will be writing Halloween stories. We have also written a poem using opposite words to describe pumpkins.

We have accomplished so much already this year. It is a joy to work with such wonderful children each and every day. It is going to be a great year full of learning and happy memories.

Mrs. Widmer

