



ACADEMY NEWS



St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

October 18, 2017

Our Mission Statement:

St. Mary's Academy promotes academic excellence within a Christ-centered Catholic community. Students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 learn acceptance and appreciation of others and develop to their full potential within a nurturing, family environment.

Gospel Reflection

.Gospel:

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them. "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Reflection:

Jesus plays a great trick. No devout Jew should have had a coin with the idolatrous image of Caesar in his possession. Rather than proving that he was disobeying Roman law, Jesus instead shows that the hypocrite is disobeying Jewish law.

Important Dates:

- Family Frolic THIS Thursday, October 19th; Starts at 6pm (don't forget your canned good(s) for entry)
- Basketball registration deadline is October 23rd
- No School Friday, October 20th
- Winter Uniforms begin Monday, October 30th
- Custom Wood Painting Event: November 3rd at 6:30pm (see description in newsletter)

Principal's Message



- We would like to remind families of our photograph policy as field trips have started and will continue to take place throughout the year. Please be mindful that there are families in our school who have opted out of all marketing publications. This means they do not want their students on social media, newspapers, TV, etc. *As we want to be respectful of all families wishes, we are asking that you do not post photos of other children on any sort of social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.* We appreciate your cooperation as we want to protect all families privacy.
- A link to Sign-Up Genius has been sent to each family so that you may sign up for your Parent/Teacher conference. Please make sure to return them as promptly as possible so that the final schedule can be set.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33777D907A2C9EBC06-stmarys>

- This past Saturday evening I had the pleasure of meeting the 8th grade graduating class of 1979. They came to the school for a walk down memory lane before their reunion dinner. We spent an hour and a half together walking through classroom as they reminisced about their time spent at the school. All of them shared their joy of “family” time together while attending our school. They shared so many stories of friendships, class time, teachers, and our beloved Mr. O’Hara. They spoke about how they have stayed close friends all of these years, and each of them took a moment to be like an elementary school age child one more time! It was an honor to be introduced to each of them and to spend a short period of time with them. Thank you to the Class of 1979!



Fair Share Opportunities:

- **Advent Calendar Church Sales:**

Looking for fair share hours? We still need families to sign up to sell Advent Calendars after Mass. Parishes that need families are St. Mary’s, St. Michael’s and St. John’s in Agawam. 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, please contact Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org to sign up.

- On October 27th the Symphony will be coming for an Enrichment experience for students in grades PK-2. We are in need of six parent volunteers from 9:00-2:00 to help. Please contact me if you are interested.

Athletics/After School Registrations:

Basketball Registration:

Basketball registration has begun with sign-ups for grades 3-8th by Oct 19th. There will be skills and drills practice for grades 3-8th starting Oct 23rd week. If interested, please fill out the attached forms and return with payment ASAP. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Besse at Melissa.m.l.besse@accenture.com

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.



A Teachers View:

Dear families,

Did you know that the students in Grades 1-8 have a class to learn about the Liturgical Calendar once every other week? We actually started this venture last year in conjunction with the gift of our Prayer Tables. So, we've now begun our second year. I'm actually thinking about giving it an official title "Saints, Seasons and Symbols." Our work is to learn about the calendar itself, which begins on the first Sunday of Advent and goes all the way through until the next first Sunday in Advent; so from December to December. We've learned about the seasons of Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent, the Easter Season, the Weeks of Pentecost and all the Ordinary times in between. We've learned about the three colors of the year: Purple, White, and Green and how we travel from one color to the next.

This class counts as a Religion Class, but there are no grades or tests, or projects outside the classroom. We take time each day to pray the Daily Prayer of the Church (the children's version), then we talk about the Saint of the Day, if there is one or concentrate on the Gospel, or a theme connected with each month. For example, during October we have spent time with Mary and the Rosary. Each day's prayer includes opportunities for volunteers to read the scriptures of the day and to share Prayers of Petition out loud, if they wish to do so. But all of our prayers are heard by God, whether they are said out loud or stay within our hearts.

We also do a little bit of art, sometimes. We have begun both years with creating a bookmark. Last year's said "I have called you by name," and this year's "I have loved you with an everlasting love." I firmly believe that the children should know that God loves each one of them unconditionally. We've made beautiful Latino crosses; colored pictures of Mary; created posters about where we find God and crosses with the names of those we love, who have died, for the All Souls Bulletin Board. We will begin that project for this year next week.

I thoroughly enjoy working with all your children. So, have a chat with them about the Liturgical Calendar. I hope that you'll be pleasantly surprised with how much they know.

Blessings and prayers to each of you,

Sr. Christine

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Invite your friends!

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!



- Thank you to Dr. Dennis for helping in the Longmeadow community with the distribution of flu shots at the clinics they had. Also for giving many of the faculty and staff their flu shot as well so that we can stay strong and healthy this winter.
- Thank you to Jenna Banaitis for creating our new Weekly Newsletter look!
- Thank you to our parents who have attended our field trips this week. We had our Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 5, and grade 7 go out for a field trip during this week. All had a wonderful time.
- Thank you for all the prayers for Mrs. Keeney and her family. Mrs. Keeney returned to work this week after a house fire in her home.