

January 2020



Happy New Year!

I can't believe it's 2020! Students and teachers started back this week and I had the best, "God is Good, All the Time", interaction with them Monday! They were happy to see their teachers and friends! I was so happy to see the joy in their faces!



Registration is just around the corner. There are three early registration incentives for families. Please register as soon as you can so I can start planning classes for next year! Are you considering your options other than SMCS? If so, contact me, so we can talk about the benefits of SMCS. Students grow in faith, knowledge and service every day! They can shine in many areas: including service projects, citizenship, clubs, sports, music and leading others.

SMCS is a place that supports students in mind, heart and spirit through engaging clubs, challenging academics, service projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Art and Math) lessons are integrated across the curriculum, and students are prepared for real life situations through lessons that focus on decision making coupled with caring for the world around us. We are always working to strengthen our program to support growth so our future leaders can be moral, mindful and compassionate!

St. Mary Catholic School....Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve!

May God bless your family this new year!



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*And much more!*

  
**Mrs. Halbardier**



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Date	Time	Activity
January	10 6:30-8:30pm	Daddy/Daughter Night Out — Cargill Hall
January	13 1:30pm	Elementary Spelling Bee — Library <i>Parents welcome to attend</i>
	3:15pm	After school clubs resume for spring semester
	6:00pm	School Board Meeting — Library <i>Closed meeting this month</i>
January	14 1:30pm	Junior High Spelling Bee <i>Parents welcome to attend</i>
	4:30pm	Bobcat Boys Basketball Game vs. Mt. Carmel — Cargill Hall
January	15	Mix and Match Day <i>All students may wear creative outfits to school as a reward for the school having raised over \$2500 for Steps for Students!</i>
January	17 12:00pm	Early Dismissal
		Conferences <i>Teachers will contact parents with whom they would like a conference; not all families will have one</i>
January	18 9:30am	Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship — True Cross <i>See <a href="#">page 3</a> for details</i>
January	20	No classes
January	21 7:50am	3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Certificates Presented
	4:30pm	Bobcat Girls Basketball Game vs. Holy Rosary — Cargill Hall
	5:30pm	Bobcat Boys Basketball Game vs. Holy Rosary — Cargill Hall
January	22 7:50am	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Certificates Presented
January	23	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School
		Archdiocesan Junior High Science Fair — St. Thomas More
January	26	Catholic Schools Week Begins! <i>See <a href="#">page 4</a> for detailed schedule of activities</i>
January	27 2:15pm	Pep Rally — Cargill Hall
January	28 6:00pm	Junior High Showcase — Library
January	29 12:00-3:00pm	Middle School Social — Cargill Hall
February	1 7:00pm	Catholic Schools Got Talent! — St. Pius X High School
February	4	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Houston Museum of Natural Science

# Extra-Curricular Activities Schedule

## MONDAY

3:10-4:00pm  
Sign Language Club (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:00pm  
Orchestra (Kinder-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:30pm  
Musical Theater Rehearsal

3:30-4:30pm  
Jr. High Track Practice (starting in February)

## TUESDAY

3:15-3:45pm  
Tutoring (Kinder-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:25-4:00pm (ages 3-5)  
4:15-4:55pm (ages 5-8)  
Soccer Shots

3:30-4:30pm  
Jr. High Track Practice

## WEDNESDAY

3:15-4:00pm  
Chess Club (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:00pm  
Orchestra (Kinder-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:30pm  
Musical Theater Rehearsal

3:30-4:30pm  
Jr. High Track Practice

NOTE: Clubs do not meet on early dismissal days.

## THURSDAY

3:15-4:30pm  
Engineering Club (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:00pm  
Spirit Squad (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>)

3:15-4:00pm  
Board Games Club (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:00pm  
Orchestra (Kinder-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:30-4:30pm  
Jr. High Track Practice

## FRIDAY

3:15-4:00pm  
Crochet Crew (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

3:15-4:00  
Sports Skills Club (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

3:30-4:30pm  
Elementary Track Practice (starting in February)

Call the school office at 281-332-4014 to inquire about joining any of these activities!

## Father Daughter Event



**When:** January 10, 6:30pm

**Where:** Cargill Hall

**What:** Home Depot is sponsoring a father daughter workshop to build a bird

house! A small fee covers pizza and drinks. Come and join the fun and return the form distributed via email by noon Friday, Jan. 10.



**Undefeated Girls Basketball Team**

*First Sunday Mass*

**March 1, 10:15am**

Students who attend Mass wearing full dress uniform will earn **free dress the following Monday**. Sign in at the table in the narthex when you arrive. There is a section reserved for school families in the back, but you may sit anywhere. After the Prayers of the Faithful, students gather in the back for the Presentation of the Gifts as a group.

**\*\*\* There will be no First Sunday Mass in February due to the Catholic Schools Week Masses the prior weekend. \*\*\***

**FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP**

**WHAT:** Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Championship

**WHO:** Boys & Girls ages 9-14  
Birth certificate or other proof of age required at registration

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 18  
9:30am Registration  
10:30am Competition begins  
12:00pm Awards ceremonies

**WHERE:** True Cross Catholic School Gym  
400 FM 517 Rd. E  
Dickinson, TX



# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2020

January 26 -  
February 1  
#CSW1920

- Sat-Sun Jan. 25-26** Ambassador families speaking at all Masses  
Students encouraged to wear full dress at any Mass this weekend to show support for SMCS and all Catholic schools
- Mon Jan. 27** Spirit Dress of anything supporting St. Mary or that is navy, red, or white  
Pep Rally at 2:15pm
- Tues Jan. 28** Junior High Showcase at 6:00 pm  
*Come hear from our Junior High team and get your questions answered*
- Wed Jan. 29** Spirit Dress  
Move Up Day (students only)
- Thurs Jan. 30** Saints Scramble  
*1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will compete in competitions arranged by the Specials teachers to earn points for their group and win prizes!*
- Fri Jan. 31** Middle School Social 12:00-3:00pm  
*Catholic musical artist Jacob DeRusha entertaining, other local Catholic schools invited*
- Sat Feb. 1** Catholic Schools Got Talent including SMCS 4th grader Mia Alvarez!  
*For more information and to buy tickets visit the [CSGT web page!](#)*



St. Mary Orchestra's First Concert

## JUNIOR HIGH SHOWCASE

January 28, 6:00pm

Parents, especially of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, are invited to attend an informative meeting lead by our Junior High teachers. Come and hear all about the great things junior high at St. Mary has to offer!

## Family Shield Project

Start working on your family coat of arms for display during Catholic Schools Week!

Include your family name and the things that are important to you, using pictures, symbols or any visuals you want. Be creative and complete it as a family! Shields should be turned into the school office by January 22.



January 17

Mrs. Ellison



# February 15, 2020 **STEPS** FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK

**SMCS Goal: \$15,000**

To support after school programs, including microphones for the Spring production of the Little Mermaid Jr.

**UPDATE FROM COACH DELEON:**

“We have raised \$4900 as of January 10 and have a total of 89 people registered. Top boy is Garrett; top girl is Kamryn!”

**Register by January 30**

**to secure the lowest price and to have your packet sent to St. Mary.** (After this date you will have to pick it up yourself downtown.)

Donations to specific runners can be made at the [St. Mary fundraising page](#).

**INCENTIVES**

Classes with **100% class participation** will choose either a Pizza Party, Ice cream Party or Donut Party. The **Top Fundraising Boy and Girl** will each get a \$25 gift card and 5 free dress passes.

**Individual Student Rewards:**

- \$25 Ice Cream Pass
- \$50 Taco Tuesday Lunch on Feb. 18
- \$100 Movie and Pajama Pass
- \$200 Pizza Party and Open Gym Pass after school on February 21

**School-Wide Rewards:**

- \$1000 Popcorn Snack Day **\*\*Achieved!\*\***
- \$2500 Mix & Match Day **\*\*Achieved!\*\***
- \$5000 Superhero day
- \$10000 Free Dress for Week!

The afternoon of February 14 we will have a **tailgate party** to prepare for the event. All students will participate in the on-campus party with a pep rally, color walk, live DJ, games, and a cookout for lunch!

## St. Mary Spring Gala April 18, 2020



### Welcome to Gala Season!

**Next Meeting:** Topic will be Classroom Auction Baskets. We look forward to seeing all room parents there and welcome other parents as well! Date to be announced soon.

**Live and Silent Auction:** Items are being accepted now. If you have a lead on something, big or small, contact Patricia Richards via [email](#) or text at 214-674-6827.

**We need you to be on one of the Gala Committees — [Sign up](#) today!**

**Follow St. Mary Catholic School on Facebook!**

Click [here](#) to join the St. Mary School Facebook page and keep up-to-date with school news!

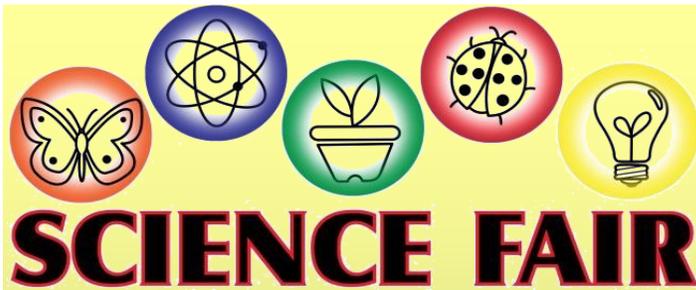


# 2020-2021 School Year

Register Early and Save!

- Families who register by **January 31** will receive a **\$125/student** discount off registration fees. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee.
- Families who register by **February 18** will receive a **\$75/student** discount off registration fees. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee.
- Families who register by **March 24** will receive a **\$50/student** discount off registration fees. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee.
- Registration fees must be paid by May 1
- Registration is online again this year!

Every St. Mary family will receive an e-mail in the upcoming days with tuition details and steps for online registration. The online process will be through your existing ParentsWeb account and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Contact [Janet Ellison](#) in the school office (281-332-4014) with any questions.



Congratulations to the following students who earned a trip to the Archdiocesan Junior High Science Fair on January 23!

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Michelle Cerda
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Abigail Higgins
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jennifer Rios

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ewan Schwanbeck
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Julissa Lamboy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Rebecca Peterson

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Brooke Fledderman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Brenna Fledderman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Mackenna Bessler



<i>Week</i>	<i>Class Leading Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Class Serving at Friday Mass</i>	<i>Class Singing at Friday Mass</i>
January 7-10	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Ms. Richardson's Kindergarten	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
January 13-17	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mrs. Whatley's Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
January 21-24	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades
January 27-31	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
February 3-7	Mrs. Mellado's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
February 10-14	Ms. Matthew's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade

# THANK YOU

- ... **All room parents** for the great work you do all year to help the teachers and serve our students
- ... **Mrs. White, Mrs. Keaten, and the Leyva, Richardson, Crumb, Taylor and Valdes families** for all your work on the St. Mary float for the League City Christmas Parade
- ... **Dr. Tambling and "Miss D"**
- ... **Mrs. Adela Briner** for the tech equipment
- ... **Mrs. Klibert** for managing the Advent items sale
- ... **Mrs. Battle and Mrs. Eaves** for organizing and running the Christmas Shop for students
- ... **Mrs. Matthews** for classroom help across the school throughout the year
- ... **All donors** to the Interfaith Caring Ministries drive supporting their Christmas store
- ... **Mrs. Battle, Mrs. Crum, and all bakers and other contributors** to the modified cookie exchange
- ... **Mr. Belisle** for the sound system at the Christmas Program



## Track and Field

- ◆ Open to Junior High and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders
- ◆ Practice Monday through Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm
- ◆ 3-4 Saturday meets that can last all day
- ◆ \$125 fee to participate

## Elementary Track

- ◆ Open to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and any 5<sup>th</sup> graders who do not want to compete at the JH Level
- ◆ Practice Fridays, 3:30-4:30pm
- ◆ 3-4 Saturday meets that last from 8:00-10:00am
- ◆ \$50 fee to participate

**All athletes must have a current physical form on file to participate!** Forms are available [online](#) and in the office. Bring athletic shoes, a change of clothes, and a water bottle to every practice! Practices will begin in February, and registration information will be sent out soon. Meet dates and locations TBD.



## Vocations Cross - Praying for People to Heed God's Call

You may have noticed the Vocations Cross program highlighted in the Friday Updates. This program, new for the 2019-20 school year, is inspired by a similar program at St. Mary of the Expectation parish. Each month the parish Vocations Cross is entrusted to a new family to bring home and to incorporate into their daily prayers. But what is the Vocations Cross, and how does it impact students?

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops defines vocations as "a call, or God's invitation to each person to love and serve Him and His Church" by living a religious or consecrated life such as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother. Vocations are a vital part of our Church and community as they bring God's love to everyone and allow individuals to serve God through prayer and ministry. A Vocations Cross is a reminder to pray for those who have chosen a religious life as well for

more individuals to answer His call to religious life.

Mrs. Croniser, our Junior High Religion and Social Studies teacher, has been leading the Vocations Cross program at SMCS and describes it as a "blessing at our school." Introducing vocations to our students not only opens their hearts and minds

to the possibility of a career and life within the Church, but also "opens a dialogue on the importance of vocations." Mrs. Croniser's hope "is that it will open our students' hearts and start a dialogue between the students and God." As the cross takes its turn in each class, the students contribute their prayers

*"Becoming a priest or a man or woman religious is not primarily our own decision... Rather it is the response to a call and to a call of love."*

*- Pope Francis, Address to Seminarians and Novices, July 6, 2013*

to raise up priests, deacons, sisters, and others to religious life. Praying for vocations and religious life helps strengthen our faith and our Church. The Vocations Cross program educates students on these aspects of our faith and ties in directly with the SMCS motto, "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve."

# YEARBOOK

2018-19 yearbooks are in! If you ordered one, it will be distributed to you at school. If you did not order one but now regret that decision, a limited number of extras are available in the school office for \$40.



## Birthday Bear

Celebrate your child's birthday by donating a book in his/her honor to our library! For a minimum donation of \$20, a hardback book will be purchased and labeled with a bookplate acknowledging the student's birthday. The student may also choose a stuffed bear from a fun selection of themes (astronaut, soldier, princess, sports, and more). On your child's birthday the book and the stuffed bear will remain in your child's classroom



the entire day. Your child is then allowed to bring the book home for the normal checkout time of one week. **Order forms with more information are located in the hallway outside of the school office.** Students in

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades may choose to enjoy a Spirit Dress Day instead of a themed bear.

CMG  
CONNECT

**Safe Haven**  
Online Training

All school volunteers, chaperones of field trips, and others who have regular contact with students (eating lunch on campus, visiting the classroom, etc.) are required to have CMG Safe Haven online training. This program consists of 3 vignette-style online training videos and includes a criminal background check. **Live training will no longer be offered. All Safe Environment training will only be available online.**

- All school volunteers, chaperones of field trips, and others who have regular contact with students (eating lunch on campus, visiting the classroom) are required to have Safe Environment training.
- **All up-to-date VIRTUS trained individuals are still covered with their training.** The 5-year anniversary date is still valid but when your anniversary date is met, you must go through CMG Safe Haven training.
  - ◆ As the VIRTUS 5-year anniversary date is met, log in to [CMGConnect](#) with your previous VIRTUS user ID and 1234 as the password.
- **All new (non-VIRTUS trained) volunteers or regular visitors will complete the Safe Haven online training program instead of VIRTUS PGC training.** You can access the training program at [CMGConnect](#).



## Resources

**ParentsWeb** (FACTS, grades, lunch ordering)  
[stmy-tx.client.renweb.com/pwr](http://stmy-tx.client.renweb.com/pwr)

**Teacher's Friday Letters**

<http://stmarylc.org/createneeds/important-links-for-fast-access/>

**St. Mary Facebook Page**

[facebook.com/stmarylc](https://facebook.com/stmarylc)

**Bobcat Buzz Archives**

[stmarylc.org/the-bobcat-buzz](http://stmarylc.org/the-bobcat-buzz)