

November-December 2020



SMCS 6th graders with Coach DeLeon

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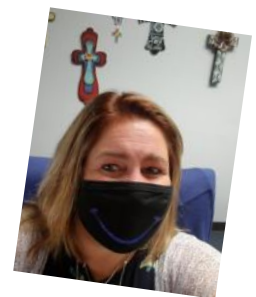
And much more!



Hello Bobcat Families,
I can't believe that it is almost

Thanksgiving! There are so many things to be thankful for, especially faith, family and friends! Each day I am grateful that I get to be a part of this wonderful community! At the beginning of the year, I was worried that our community would not be able to give back to those in need as we have in the past.....Then we started our first canned food drive to support the SMCC Food Pantry, then the second, before we knew it over 1,000 items had been donated to those in need. Students have visited the St. Mary Food Pantry many times this year to stock the shelves. I am not sure who has benefitted more, those we serve or our students getting to be a part of stocking shelves and praying for those in need. I know that together we are supporting God's kingdom by supporting growth in mind, heart and spirit every day here at SMCS and I am so thankful that your family is a part of the SMCS family! May God bless our families, friends and communities with health, love and a grateful heart!

Blessings,
Mrs. H.



Mrs. Halbardier 



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Date	Time	Activity
November 13		Progress Reports available online
November 15		Tuition Assistance applications open for 2020-2021 school year
November 23-27		Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6		First Sunday Masses— <i>Come to any SMCC Mass this weekend in full dress</i>
December 8		Feast of the Immaculate Conception— <i>Full dress</i>
December 14-17		Christmas Spirit Week— <i>Students may wear Christmas-themed shirts with their school bottoms every day the last week before Christmas</i>
December 17	Noon	Early dismissal
December 18		Christmas Break begins (through January 4)
January 5		Classes resume
January 8		Report cards go home
January 22		Make-up individual school portraits
January 25		Clubs begin
February 19		First round Tuition Assistance deadline
February 26		Class portraits



First Sunday Mass

December 6

Students who attend any Mass in person wearing full dress uniform will earn **free dress the following Monday**.

Due to COVID-19 limitations, you do not need to sign up in the Narthex at this time.

News About Clubs

St. Mary plans to restart after-school clubs on January 25!

More details to follow!

This and other changes are reflected in the school's [Return to Learning Plan](#) online.

Also, changes to the [school calendar](#) have been made regarding in-class days in May and early dismissal times on several days, so be sure to check that out as well!



SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIRS®

Check out the Scholastic Book Fair online!

When: Nov. 9th - 20th

Where: [Online](#)! Click "Shop the Store" to get started

There are special online features, including:

- Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs
- All orders ship direct to home
- FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25

ALL purchases benefit our school directly and earn 25% in rewards!



Pre-k 4 and their magic pumpkins

Thanksgiving Food Drive Competition

The St. Mary food pantry is in great need of non-perishable foods! School families generously donated 290 items during October, but still the pantry is empty by the end of each week. For November our traditional food drive will feature a competition outlined as follows:

Dates: November 3-17

Rules: Each item bought in will earn the

student one ticket in the drawing.

Winners will be selected November 18.

Prizes: 1st Place — A 15-20lb. turkey

2nd Place — A ham

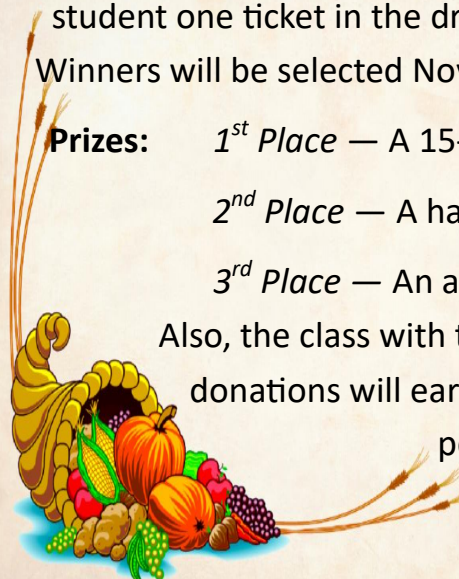
3rd Place — An apple pie

Also, the class with the most

donations will earn a movie,

popcorn, and

PJ day!



Junior High Competition Winners

Mrs. Pate recently challenged Junior High students to take the beginnings of a mystery story, along with some evidence, and craft a solution of their own. Students had to decide who stole some jewels, why they did it, how, and then offer evidence to support their conclusions. Three students were recognized for their responses: 8th grader Rebecca Peterson, the overall winner, and 7th graders Pedro Sequeira and Jessica Smith. All three did a fabulous job of crafting an explanation and supporting it with evidence! Each of the winners received an antique-style quill pen.

Cookie Exchange Contributions

For the traditional faculty/staff Christmas cookie exchange, this year the participants will be doing the baking for each other instead of the parents doing it. However, they have requested some help providing a few items like drinks and serving tools.

Here's how you can contribute to this effort:

- Send a small monetary donation with your child in an envelope marked "Patricia Richards"
- Transfer money via Zelle to Patricia at 214-674-6827
- Venmo – use @Patricia-Richards-35

Thanks for your support!!



St. Mary is partnering with the Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County to provide Christmas gifts for needy children.

A tree will be put up in the school lobby covered in tags representing gift requests, and each class will sponsor a family on the tree. Look for further details soon!

PSA Advent Sales

The Christmas season is upon us! The Annual PSA Advent shop is coming soon. Choose from chocolate Advent Calendars, Wreaths, and more. Be on the lookout for more details and order forms.

Items will be sent home in your student's backpack.



Pre-k 3 and their Play-Doh letters

Sounds of the Season

All grades have recorded Christmas performances that will be consolidated into one program and shared with families via YouTube to enjoy this holiday season!



Christmas Spirit Days



Students may wear Christmas-themed shirts with their school bottoms each Wednesday in December and every day the last week before Christmas (Dec. 14-17)!



COVID-19 has had many wide-ranging impacts. Due to group restrictions and exposure concerns, the St. Mary Catholic School family has not been able to do the normal fundraising activities we look forward to as a community since the start of the pandemic. **The school has a general fund that accepts donations year-round.** The general fund supports:

- Classroom Supplies
- Incidentals for teachers and classroom activities
- Technology equipment and updates
- Faculty and Staff Salaries
- Building maintenance
- General administration costs

Beyond the general fund, SMCS accepts contributions of classroom materials, technology equipment, and more. Your donations help our students grow in mind, heart, and spirit. Please contact Mrs. Halbardier for more information.

All donations to SMCS received by the end of the year are tax deductible for 2020!



CMG
CONNECT

Safe Haven

Online Training

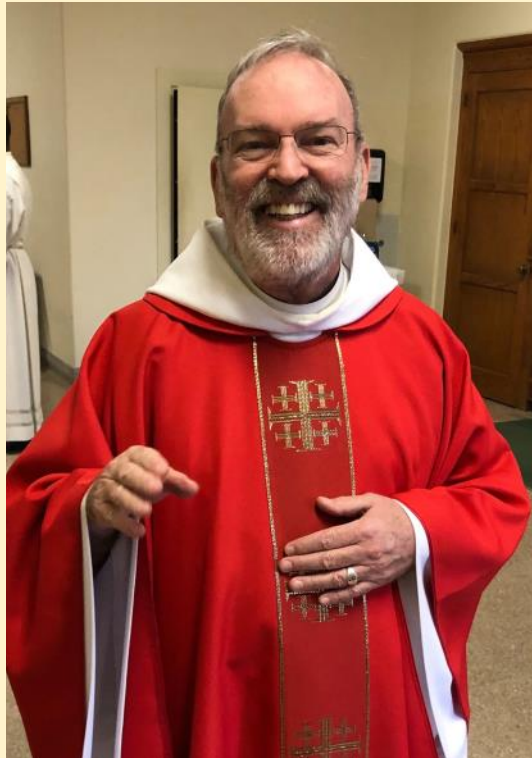
SMCS and the Diocese are dedicated to the safety of our students. Last year, CMG Safe Haven online training replaced the old Virtus program. CMG Safe Haven consists of 3 vignette-style online training videos and includes a criminal background check. **Safe Environment training is only available online.**

- 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 covered with their training.** The 5-year anniversary date is still valid - however, you immediately lose certification once it lapses. You must go through CMG Safe Haven training.
 - ◆ Mrs. Ellison will contact you with your upcoming expiration date.
 - ◆ As the VIRTUS 5-year anniversary date is met, you will need to log in to [CMGConnect](#) with your previous VIRTUS user ID and 1234 as the password.
 - ◆ The course takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete.
- **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](#).



Welcome, Fr. John Rooney!

New pastor of St. Mary of the Expectation



Congratulations to
Mr. and Mrs. Miller on the birth
of their baby boy, John-Louis!



Mrs. Gonzalez and Ms. Vanessa coordinated this
Ofrenda Wall with the younger Spanish classes

THANK YOU

- ... Mr. and Mrs. Romero for the popcorn and treats for Halloween
- ... The Osterbergers for donating eight Kindle Fires to our school library
- ... Mrs. Pray and the 4th and 5th graders for making cards for the League City Police and Fire Departments
- ... Mrs. Springrose for the candied apples for the school staff
- ... Coach DeLeon, Ms. Vanessa, Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Sisson, and Mrs. Peacock for planning, setting up, and running the Halloween games
- ... The parent and grandparent volunteers who drove and chaperoned our 6th graders at Camp Kappe last month

 **Survey**

Provide your input
about the St. Mary Gala!

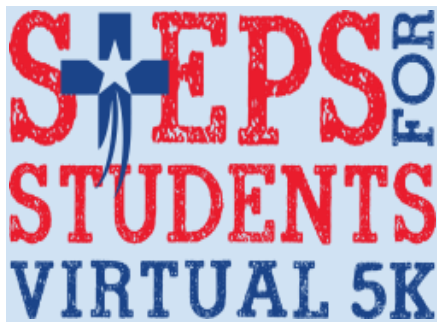
At this time we plan to hold the St. Mary Catholic School Gala as a virtual event in April 2021, and the planning team wants your input as they determine the specifics of what it will involve! Please complete [this survey](#) by December 1st to make your voice heard.



1st grade made cards for Veteran's Day



November 4	Mrs. Donaldson
November 20	Mrs. Sisson
November 29	Mrs. Miller
December 15	Mrs. Pray
December 31	Mrs. Rivet



It is time to register for the 2021 Steps for Students Virtual 5K!

Steps for Students is an Archdiocesan-wide fundraiser for Catholic schools. All money raised comes directly back to SMCS!

February 12, 2021 will be the school-wide event

- **Each Student Must Be Registered to Participate in the Color Walk.** Students that are not registered can still participate in other activities.

February 20, 2021 will be the Virtual 5K, for those registered to run.

Phase 1: Registration

(Oct. 7th - Dec.31st)

- There are two categories:
 - Virtual 5K - \$20 (for those who want to run!)
 - Hit the Snooze - \$18 (for those who want to join in the fun without the run!)
- Go to www.steps4students.org to register - **you must complete an online registration for each student to qualify for incentives.**
- Be sure to click our school name (St. Mary Catholic School - League City) at registration
- The whole family can register!

Classes with 100% Registration earns a Class Party, Jean Day, and a Pig for the Pig Race

Phase 2: Fundraising

(Jan. 1st - Feb. 19th)

School Wide Incentives, Raising:

- \$1,000** - Jeans Day
- \$2,500** - Crazy Hair Day
- \$5,000** - Favorite Sports Team Jersey Day
- \$10,000** - Super Hero Day
- \$15,000** - Free Dress for a Week

Individual Student Incentives, Raising:

- \$25 by Jan. 8th** - Ice Cream Pass
- \$50 by Jan. 20th** - Free Dress Pass
- \$100 by Feb. 5th** - Movie Invite and Pajama Day
- \$200 by Feb. 19th** - Ice Cream Sundae Party and Open Gym after school

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you to all who have supported the school through our fundraising opportunities! Here are the numbers so far:

Amazon Smile	\$237.76
Randall's Good Neighbor	\$40.86
Kroger Community Rewards	\$267.18
CB Jewelry Blingo Night	\$1,276.80

Remember use our multiple fundraising opportunities such as [Amazon Smile](#), [Kroger Community Rewards](#), [Box Tops for Education](#), the Randall's Good Neighbor program, and cafeteria lunch sales.



Resources

ParentsWeb (FACTS, grades, lunch ordering)

stmy-tx.client.renweb.com/pwr

Teacher's Friday Letters

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

Safe Haven Training

galvestonhouston.cmqconnect.org

St. Mary Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/stmarylc

St. Mary Instagram Page

https://www.instagram.com/stmary_bobcats/

Bobcat Buzz Archives

<http://stmarylc.org/student-life/bobcat-buzz/>

Uniform Reminders

- ◆ SMCS Uniform Sweaters/Jackets are encouraged - many students find the classrooms to be chilly.
- ◆ Fridays are Full Dress Days
- ◆ Extra large headbands with ears, unicorn horns, top hats or other accessories that are not part of the uniform are not allowed.
- ◆ Belts are no longer required for Grades 3 and below.



P.E. classes working hard and having fun

CAR LINE UPDATES

Morning Car Line has changed! Due to construction work, Morning Car Line will be in the front of the school until further notice. Line up the same as afternoon pick up to avoid blocking Texas Ave. **Form a single file line until the line is in front of the Food Pantry - then begin making separate lines for merging.**

Students should be masked and ready to have temperatures checked prior to drop off. **Since cooler weather is on the way, please roll down your car window in advance of your child(ren) having their temperature checked.** This avoids the car heater making the students' temperatures read higher than normal.

No Changes to Afternoon Car Line!



