

St. Mary's School Chaplain's Plan 2023-2024

(updated 8/10/23)

Mass

We are planning Weekly Masses, each Friday (except for weeks with Holy Days). We will continue to start at 8:00 am with the hope to have the students able to get to homerooms to take attendance and settle in before coming down to the gym. Mass would begin with Morning Announcements. The class who has announcements for that month would serve at the Masses of that month. One thing we are going to try to increase is Mass Buddies. The hope is that 8th Grade buddies with 1st Grade and 7th Grade buddies with Kindergarten (next year they will do the same ... thus Classes move forward with their buddies).

September 1, 8 (*Grandparents Mass & Breakfast*), **15, 22 & 29** – **Eighth Grade**

October 6 (*honor St. Francis ... Mass of the Stuffed Animals*), **13 & 27** (NOTE: there will not be a School Mass on October 20th ... Convocation for Priests in NH. Also, the 27th is tentatively the Vocations Day ... invitees at Mass followed by visits to classrooms) – **7th Grade**

November 1 (NB this is at **9:00 am** so the youth can get dressed as saints and on a Wednesday, Holy Day of Obligation. celebrate the Saints with 5th Grade, NO Mass on 11/3 ... also NO Mass on 11/10 as there is no School for Veteran's Day being observed ... NO Mass Thanksgiving Week) and **17** – **6th Grade**

December 1, 8 [*Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception of Mary*], **15 & 22** (NB the 22nd is a half day ... we hope to do Mass at the Church and have 7th & 8th Grade stay to decorate for Christmas) – **5th Grade** (8th Grade will help lighting the Advent Wreath as Mass begins each of these Masses)

January 5, 12, 19, 26 & 30th [NB this is Catholic Schools Week Mass – 9:00 am Mass with St. Agnes & St. Stanislaus ... there is also a Diocesan-wide Mass on January 25th to which we will be sending some of our Middle School] – **4th Grade**

February 9 & 14 (NB the 14th is Ash Wednesday ... 8th Grade begins the Stations of the Cross. No Mass on the 1st – Catholic Schools Week Mass is on the Tuesday before ... nor the 16th as Ash Wednesday is two days prior, there will be morning Announcements and Stations instead ... nor on the 24th – February Vacation) – **3rd Grade**

March 1 [NOTE we will have Stations & Morning Announcements at each Mass], **8, 15 & 22** – **2nd Grade** helped by **8th Grade** (especially with the Stations at the beginning of Mass ... No Mass on March 29th – No School for Good Friday)

April 5, 12 (NO Mass on the 19th, it falls during School Vacation) and **26** – **1st Grade** helped by **6th Grade**

May 3, 9 (NB this is Ascension Thursday – a Holy Day of Obligation ... NO Mass on the 10th), **17, 24 & 31** – **K** helped by **7th Grade** (except for Ascension Thursday ... traditionally **8th Grade**)

June 7 (NOTE this the tentative last day of School ... MASS at 9:00 am at the Church) – **TEACHERS**

Reconciliation

(Fr. Brian and Fr. Matthew are available for confessions any time.)

December 11 (Monday) – Advent Communal Penance Service (1:00 pm in the gym)

March 11 (Monday) – Lenten Communal Penance Service (1:00 pm in the gym)

Family Faith Formation

This will be our second year of Family Faith Formation. It was a great success last year. It is a Catechetical experience for the whole family, parents and children, parents without children, single people ... all in the Community are invited to attend. For more details and a full schedule check out the parish website:

Stmarylos.com

Prayer

Remember the Parish Prayer Manual. It contains the basic prayers for every child. We are focusing on teaching specific prayers in each grade of both our CCD and Parish School.

Daily Prayer as part of Morning Announcements. Remember to pray for our parishioners, benefactors and friends of the school. Also to mention the Saint of the Day (Each Class leads a month)

NET Ministries Retreat for Middle School (and St. Agnes & St. Stans), November 8th.

On Fridays during Advent we will begin Mass with the lighting of the Advent Wreath (led by the 8th Grade).

On Fridays during Lent we will begin Mass with the Stations of the Cross (led by the 8th grade)

March 27th, 2024 6:00 pm (tentative) – Living Way of the Cross – Wednesday of Holy Week (led by 8th Grade)

Education-Formation

Done as part of their normal classes. We are starting a new Religion Series (Word of Life). This will be implemented K-6th. 7th & 8th Grades continue to focus on the Scriptures and special projects.

Teachers are encouraged to invite Fr. Brian & Fr. Matthew for special classes, to answer questions, or to teach on a certain topic. They are going to make a special effort to reach out to classes and schedule time to teach the youths.

One very successful event last year was the Vocations Day. We hope to repeat it this fall on Friday, October 27th as part of the 8:00 am Mass and following during second period.

Service

Service is an integral part of our faith journey. The students participate in service through many ongoing ministries like Recycling, Bulletin Stuffing, Parish & School Clean-ups, Helping at Grandparent Luncheon & Stone Soup and so many other ways. Each class organizes a charitable outreach. Efforts are being made to coordinate these and expand the awareness of them throughout the parish community. Maybe this could be coordinated with a once-a-month Dress Down Days with the proceeds going to the charity.

One great success over the years has been the March for Life. The anniversary is on Monday, January 22nd. Once again, Fr. Brian hopes to lead a group from grades 6-8 either to Washington DC for the National March or to Springfield to march with Bishop Byrne

Social

The community life of our students and families is fostered through PTO Events, Open House, Catholic School's activities, the Ski Program, Father Daughter Dance and so many more. Please be attentive to invite Fr. Brian & Fr. Matthew to special activities or occasions and when appropriate to advertise them in the parish bulletin.

Promotional

November 13-17, 2023 Discover Catholic Schools Week – Encourage many to come and see.

January 27 – February 2, 2024 Celebrate Catholic Schools Week. On the first weekend we hope to have Speakers at all the Masses at St. Mary's and our area churches to share the Good News of our School.

One of the great things about being part of St. Mary's Parish are events that are part of the larger parish community. Everyone is invited to these. We hope to be more attentive about putting them in the monthly calendars, but here are some that are already scheduled:

R.C.I.A & Adults Seeking

Confirmation. Sessions will be organized in the late fall. Talk to Father if you know someone who is interested.

9/17/23, 11:00 am (Sunday) – Teachers and Administration are encouraged to attend

Catechetical Sunday Mass

One beautiful part of the celebration is a special blessing & commissioning of Catechists.

10/7/23 – Blessing of Animals outside of St. Mary's Church 9:00 am ... bring your pets to be blessed in honor of St. Francis.

10/28/23 – Parish & Cemetery Yard

Clean-up. 9:00 am – 12 noon.

A fun time to spruce up the grounds around the church & parish cemetery

11/ 5//23 – Mass of Remembrance 11:00 am. This is great way to lift up our deceased loved one's to God's mercy and love.

12/17/23, 3:00 pm Communal Penance Service including First Reconciliation at SMC

12/22/23 8:30-10:30 am Decorating the Church for Christmas – wonderful to involve the youth in transforming the church from Advent to Christmas

2/21/23 5:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Dinner. This takes place during February vacation.

2/14/24 Ash Wednesday

3/24/24 Palm Sunday. This marks the beginning of Holy Week.

3/31/24 Easter

5/4/24 9:00 am First Communion

5/5/24 2:00 pm Confirmation

5/27 8:00 am Mass at SMC Cemetery followed by the Memorial Day Parade at 10:00am.