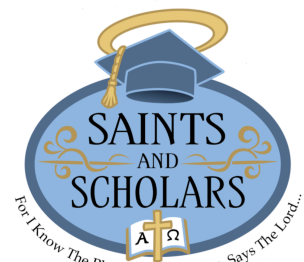


# St. Mary's Catholic School

[www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org](http://www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org)

## SMS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - TOMORROW NIGHT! (DEC 10)

Doors open at 5:30 P.M. and the program starts at 6. The program has three parts: First up is Preschool; followed by K-4th; and then 5th-8th!



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

The Church reminds us that the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is a beautiful gift from God to help us grow in friendship with Him and to have healing and forgiveness from the sins that we have freely chosen - especially the serious ones that break our friendship with God. Catholics need to take advantage of this Sacrament at least once a year, but it can be a great blessing to go frequently. (Pope St. John Paul II used to go once a week!) While Reconciliation is offered every Saturday afternoon before the Vigil Mass or can be arranged any time by appointment, during Advent and Lent the parish offers a beautiful Penance Service that provides an opportunity to go, with a variety of priests available to hear confessions. This is one of the best ways during Advent to prepare for celebrating Christmas! St. Mary's Church will have its **Advent Penance Service this Sunday afternoon at 2:30 P.M.**

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### Meet St. Juan Diego

- My Feast Day: December 9
- I am the patron saint of Indigenous people
- I was raised an Aztec pagan, but was converted to Catholicism when Franciscan missionaries came to Mexico.
- On December 9, 1531, on my way to Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception I was stopped by the Blessed Virgin Mary and asked to make a request to the local bishop for a chapel in her honor there on Tepeyac Hill, site of a former pagan temple.
- To make the bishop believe, Mary sent me to pick flowers on the hillside to carry in my tilma for the bishop.
- When I presented this gift, a miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared and remained on my tilma.
- I was canonized a saint in 2002.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th - 1:30 P. M. DISMISSAL - BUS IS AVAILABLE - NO AFTERCARE AVAILABLE**

**CHRISTMAS DRESS UP DAYS START TOMORROW**

Wed. 10th: "Countdown to Christmas": Wear your favorite Christmas shirt

Thurs. 11th: "Snowy Winter Wonderland": Wear blue and white or silver

Fri. 12th: "Holiday Headwear": Wear Christmas hats

Mon. 15th: "Christmas Cozy Day": Wear scarves, beanies, mittens, cozy socks

Tues. 16th: "Long Winter's Nap": Wear Christmas pajamas

Wed. 17th: "Falalalannel": Wear flannel

Thurs. 18th: "Dress like a Christmas character": Santa, elf, Rudolph, Grinch, etc.

Fri. 19th: "Holiday Cheer": Wear an ugly Christmas sweater

**CHURCH TOURS THIS WEEK (THURSDAY AND FRIDAY)**

From 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. this Thursday and Friday, St. Mary's will be joining other Chester churches offering tours to share, enjoy, and feature our beautiful parish Church in preparation for Christmas.

**ANNUAL KC's SMS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th @ 5:00 P. M.****MONTHLY QUILT RAFFLE - \$20**

The St. Mary's CCW is selling raffle tickets for a quilt drawing/or \$100 that benefits SMS. Please contact the school office to get your tickets!