

TUESDAY TIMES

August 18, 2026

St. Mary's Catholic School

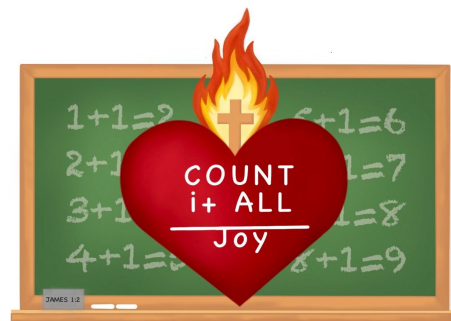
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WELCOME BACK!

We hope you had a great summer break and are excited for a new school year! As always, we thank you for choosing SMS and your continued help in making St. Mary's a great place to be!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

With our new school year we also have a new theme and logo: **"Count it All Joy."** This proclamation comes from James 1:2-3 where he writes, "Count it all joy, my brethren when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." It can be challenging to find true Joy when things are going well, so **how is it possible to encounter Joy when everything seems to be falling apart?** How do you find Joy when you or a loved one are sick, a big unexpected expense comes up, work is overwhelming, or family relationships are tense? We will always be disappointed if we focus too much on our constantly changing circumstances which might be great today and terrible tomorrow. Counterintuitively, some of the biggest challenges we face in life can be a profound experience of sorrow turned to Joy. The Cross shows Jesus' burning love for us as He takes the worst event of history through His Crucifixion and makes it the very greatest - the way He saves us! If He can do this, He can also transform any of our trials into blessings for us and others. When we focus on Jesus we can possess a Joy which endures regardless of the ups and downs of life. He is always present, He never stops loving us, and when we draw closer to Him we will find an abiding Joy that is steadfast even in difficulties.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW SMS TEACHER!

We are thankful to have a new teacher join our school community: Mrs. Amanda Pecaut, our 3rd and 4th Grade homeroom teacher. We are excited to welcome her to our SMS family!

OUTDOOR MASS AND BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

This Wednesday, August 19th, we will celebrate our first All-School Mass (8:15 A.M.) in front of Father's house (rectory front yard) as long as weather permits. Students will need to bring a towel to sit on and adults are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st, 2:50 P.M. DISMISSAL - BUS IS NOT AVAILABLE

ST. MARY'S HAWKS WEAR - T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, CAPS

Be sure to put in your online order for SMS Hawks Wear. The last day to order is Thursday, August 27th. See the flyer for more details.

SMS FAN CLUB SHIRTS

Your friends and family are invited to show their support with these fan club shirts! Proceeds will benefit the SMS Athletic Department activities for our students. Please fill out and turn in the flyer/form with payment by Tuesday, September 1st.

PTO NEWS & MUMS SALE

St. Mary's PTO is an incredible blessing to our entire school! If you would like to be involved, please consider joining this group that does so much for the benefit of the school all throughout the year. Currently, the PTO is taking orders for **Mums**. The deadline is Monday, August 31st. Please see the flyer for details.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Beginning on September 8, after school tutoring for grades 3 through 8 will be available from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th) - NO SCHOOL**PARISH PICNIC - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th**

You are invited to Mary Help of Christians Parish Picnic! The food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family will follow right after the 4:00 P.M. Mass. More information to come!

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Starting in September, there are plans to start a series of meetings now known as OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults - formerly called RCIA). This will be a great opportunity to ask questions about the Catholic faith, to learn what it is all about, and potentially join the Catholic Church for those who are interested. For more information, contact the parish office at (618) 826-2444 or talk to Mr. Colvis.

NEW AIR CONDITIONERS

We are thankful for the generous donations given to purchase new air conditioning units for our classrooms! Also a big "thank you" to Mike, Todd, and Dave for the installation.

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

All those who have received 1st Communion can inquire about serving at the Saturday 4:00 P.M. and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Masses. This is a great experience and wonderful blessing to our parish family. Father Sebastian will be hosting a training for new servers soon. Please contact the school office if you are not already signed up!

