

# St. Mary's Catholic School

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

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2025!

We hope that you have enjoyed your Christmas Holiday, with an unexpected week extension due to winter weather! Let us remember in prayer those who have been affected by storms and other tragedies at the beginning of 2025. We also pray for Fr. Sebastian throughout the month of January as he visits family in Nigeria.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

The Christmas Holiday is often a mix of spiritual and emotional ups and downs. While it is good to remember that the chief reason we observe Christmas is to celebrate the Birth of our Lord (Christ-Mass), we also enjoy seeing family and friends, giving and receiving gifts, and eating lots of delicious foods and treats. When this extended holiday is over and we come back to the regular rhythms of life, we might be less fulfilled and relaxed than we hoped. We also come to realize that the newness of those greatly anticipated gifts is wearing off and we are thinking about future gifts we don't yet have. **Maybe the next one will be perfectly fulfilling!?**

As one Catechism asks and answers: "For what end are we on this earth? We are upon this earth in order that we may glorify God, and so win for ourselves eternal happiness." There is much to unpack with this, but maybe for now it is enough to reflect on our participation in giving glory to God. Do you actively, intentionally, and increasingly strive to make the glory of God more prominent in your life? To the extent that we do this, we can rest in the expectation that God alone is able to provide that eternal happiness that we desire.

## E-LEARNING ON SEVERE WEATHER DAYS - COMPUTER AND ACCESS SURVEY

As we make plans to finish the number of days needed for the rest of the school year, we hope to make use of "e-learning" and at home assignments on some days when in-person classes may not be possible. We will be sending home more information soon to explain how this will work. To assist in this planning, please see the questionnaire in your packet.

## 2ND QUARTER GRADES ARE IN STUDENT PACKETS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1:30 P.M. DISMISSAL - BUS IS NOT AVAILABLE**

**NO SCHOOL - MONDAY, JANUARY 20th - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS JANUARY 26th - MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!**

## SIGN UP FOR OPENING MASS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We hope that you and your student(s) will be available to attend the opening Mass of Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26th! See the sign-up sheet in your packet for more information.

**SINGO IS BACK AND PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 31st - SEE THE FLYER!**

**DAIRY QUEEN BENEFIT FOR SMS 8th GRADE - FEBRUARY 3rd, 4 - 10 P. M.**

**MONTHLY QUILT RAFFLE**

The St. Mary's CCW are selling raffle tickets for a quilt drawing/or \$100 that benefits SMS!

**FIRST RECONCILIATION - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th**

Our students who are preparing for 1st Communion this year will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Confession or Penance) for the first time after the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

**GALA DINNER AUCTION IS COMING SOON - SATURDAY, MARCH 1st!**

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KC'S) MONDAY LUNCHESES**

The KC's offers \$11 lunch from 11:00 AM to 1:00 P.M.  
Also, check out their Facebook page for news and events.