

St. Mary's Catholic School

www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org

TABLES FOR SALE

At the end of last year we had a few very generous donations that enabled us to get new 8' tables to use for events in the gym. (An added bonus is that these tables will be much gentler on our new gym floor!). To make room for these tables, our old 8' tables have to go! We are selling them for \$10 per table (a larger donation would be accepted too!) with a limit of 5 tables per family. We want to make them available to parish/school families first! Please contact the office if you are interested as soon as possible.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

This Sunday, our students who are preparing for 1st Communion will have their 1st Confession. It is a beautiful opportunity for them to experience that God is loving, merciful, and desires to have no hurdle in the way of friendship with Him. Did you know that the Catholic Faith calls us to receive this Sacrament *at least* once a year as a minimum? When is the last time you took advantage of this incredible gift of God? There can be many reasons that people don't often (or never) go, but it is not an exaggeration to say that the benefits *infinitely* outweigh any fear of going. Our faith teaches us that if we have committed any serious (mortal) sin, that Confession is the way God provides for us to be restored to friendship with Him. [Mortal sin is sin which is serious, we know it is serious, and we still choose it. It is called "mortal" or "deadly" because it destroys divine life in our souls.]

Imagine if you really did something mean to a friend. . . for instance, if you **pushed them down a flight of stairs** (yikes!). Do you think there would ever be a hope of repairing your friendship if you didn't even apologize, ask for forgiveness, and show true remorse? Our serious sins violently push God out of our lives and He respects our rejection of Him. He doesn't force friendship on us, but He makes a way for us to be reconciled through this Sacrament. We also need Confession because as God works through His priest, we audibly hear and objectively receive God's announcement of forgiveness! We don't have to wonder or guess if we are truly forgiven and our burden of sin taken away because we have His Word!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 1:30 P.M. DISMISSAL - BUS IS AVAILABLE

PTO SMOKED PULLED PORK FUND RAISER - ORDERS DUE BY TOMORROW!

Orders are due by Wednesday, February 5th and the pork will be ready for pick up on Saturday, February 8th in time for the Super Bowl! The order form is included in the packet.

MONTHLY QUILT RAFFLE

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION - THIS 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) after the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th IS 11:30 A.M. DISMISSAL

GALA DINNER AUCTION IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY - SATURDAY, MARCH 1st!

Check out the information in your packet for donations, tickets, tables, and help needed to make this evening amazing!

WE HAVE OUR ACCREDITATION DATE

The Diocese and the Regional Office of Education have chosen Thursday, March 6th as our meeting for Diocesan Accreditation and for our Non-Public School Recognition renewal. Our faculty and staff have been working EXTRA hard preparing for this meeting and we ask for your continued prayers as the day draws near and we finish our many tasks in anticipation of a successful result!

DADDY - DAUGHTER DANCE: MARCH 29th

The PTO is sponsoring a Daddy-Daughter Dance on Saturday, March 29th from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. Check out the flyer for more details!

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KC'S) MONDAY LUNCHES

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.