

# St. Mary's Catholic School

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

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

Today - March 25th - is the Solemnity or Feast of the **Annunciation**. This is the day that the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and announced, "Hail, Full of Grace! The Lord is with you!" On behalf of God, he then invited her to be the Mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her "Yes" to God was the most important and free response in all of history! Her answer made it possible for the Son of God to take on a human nature and show His love for us by living and redeeming every stage of human life from conception through adulthood. And of course, her "yes" made it possible for the Son of God to show His love by giving His life for us on the Cross.



How do we know when to celebrate the Annunciation? It is nine months before Christmas, (March 25th to December 25th) the normal term of a pregnancy. Though Christmas (Jesus' Birthday!) gets most of the attention, we wouldn't be able to celebrate it without what happened nine months before when the Word was made Flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are thankful to God for His superabundant grace in the gift of Mary and we are also thankful for the gift and importance of every human life.

## 2025 JUBILEE YEAR - ST MARY'S IS A PILGRIMAGE SITE

2025 is a Jubilee Year - a time of grace that happens every 25 years and features a special theme. This year's theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." St. Mary's parish has been chosen by Bishop McGovern to be a "pilgrimage site" for the diocese. In addition to other events that will happen at St. Mary's throughout the year, Bishop McGovern will also be at our parish all day on Sunday, April 6th for the following events:

10:00 A.M.	Mass
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.	Adoration and The Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:30 P.M.	The Bishop will speak about the Jubilee
4:00 P.M.	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
5:00 P.M.	Mass in Spanish

## FRIDAY, MARCH 21st, 1:30 A.M. DISMISSAL - BUS IS NOT AVAILABLE

## DADDY - DAUGHTER DANCE IN THE SMS GYM - THIS SATURDAY MARCH 29th

See the flyer for more information to take advantage of this opportunity to have a very special and memorable evening.

## "HOW TO LENT" - SUNDAY BEFORE THE 10:00 MASS

Mr. Colvis is offering a study series on Lent in the school cafeteria that discusses the main themes of Lenten practice. The theme for this Sunday is "Fasting." Refreshments are available at 8:45 and the presentation begins at 9:00. Come to the main entrance.

## KINDERGARTEN VISIT DAY! - APRIL 3rd, 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

All students who will be going into Kindergarten next year are invited to visit Mrs. Tanner's class for an exciting morning adventure!

**SMS TRACK EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

St. Mary's Athletic Department will be hosting two track and field events in April: Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 26th. To help make these events go smoothly, we need your help. Contact John Powell at (815) 641-6074.

**UNIFORM SHORTS CAN BE WORN STARTING NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 31st**

**SAWDUST PAINT FUNDRAISER FOR SMS - THURSDAY, APRIL 24th**

This fun event will be from 4:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. See the flyer for more information and how to register.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KC'S) OFFERS MONDAY LUNCHES & FRIDAY FISH DINNERS!**