

St. Mary's Catholic School

www.stmaryscatholicchesteril.org

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF POPE FRANCIS

O God, who in your wondrous providence chose your servant, Pope Francis, to preside over your Church, grant, we pray, that having served as the Vicar of your Son on earth, he may be welcomed by him into eternal glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.**



FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

For the next several days, the Church will be in mourning for the passing of Pope Francis. Shortly following this, there will be the gathering of the Cardinals called a *conclave* - certain Bishops from around the world that were chosen especially for this task - that will meet in Rome to pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit and select a new Pope.

Why is this such a big deal in the Catholic Church? Primarily because we believe that Our Lord gave a special ministry to St. Peter and his successors (the Bishops of Rome = Popes) which we see established in the Gospel of St. Matthew. In Chapter 16, Jesus says, "... you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven . . ." This ministry of the "keys" is that of a Prime Minister (or Vicar - substitute/representative) to lead in the care of the people *while the King is away* (see also Isaiah 22:22). In this passage is also something that is called the "indefectibility" of the Church. This means that Jesus - the King of kings - promises to keep the Church which is in the custody of St. Peter and his successors in existence until He returns at the end of time.

What does Rome have to do with Peter? Rome - the capital city of the Gentile world - is the city where St. Peter was the first Bishop and where he died. Also, The Book of Acts, the book which documents the spread of the Gospel in the early Church, begins in Jerusalem, but ends in Rome. This signifies that the Gospel is not simply a "Jewish" thing, but is Good News for the whole world. So in these days leading up to the selection of a new Pope, we especially pray that Our Lord will continue to fulfill His promises and will continue to guide, protect, and inspire the Church to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25th

EARTH DAY EVENTS / NO-UNIFORM DAY

1:30 P. M. DISMISSAL - BUS IS AVAILABLE

PTO MEETING - APRIL 29th @ 4:30 P.M.

1st COMMUNION ON MAY 4th AT THE 10:00 A.M. MASS

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION ON SATURDAY, MAY 10th

8th GRADE GRADUATION ON SATURDAY, MAY 17th; LAST DAY FOR 8th GRADE IS 21st

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - FRIDAY, MAY 23rd, DISMISSAL AT 11:30 A. M.

This will be for Preschool through 7th Grade. There will not be bus available and no aftercare.

QUILT OF THE MONTH SMS FUNDRAISER CONTINUES!

Tickets are available and hand-quilted quilt donations are accepted!

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KC'S) OFFERS MONDAY LUNCHES