

ST PATRICK SCHOOL

*Reverence, Respect,
Responsibility... What
starts here can change
the world.*

Welcome back! As we kick off this new year, the entire faculty and staff at St. Patrick School would like to extend our *gratitude* to all of our wonderful families for their generosity this Christmas season. We ended first semester with a great mix of learning and fun. We started the semester without skipping a beat and completed MAP testing this week. *Report Cards* will be available online after school today, 1/12/24. We are looking forward to cheering on our *Boys Basketball* teams as they wrap up the regular season and enter post season play soon and our *Girls Volleyball* teams as they are just getting started. Please join us in praying for our 2nd graders as they prepare for their *First Reconciliation* this month. *Catholic Schools Week* kicks off Sunday 1/28/24. Our teachers are busy planning a fun week to celebrate our entire school community culminating in *Family Fun Night* on 2/3/24. We can't wait to see you all there!



January 12, 2024

ST PATRICK SCHOOL

Christmas Programs



ST PATRICK SCHOOL

STEM



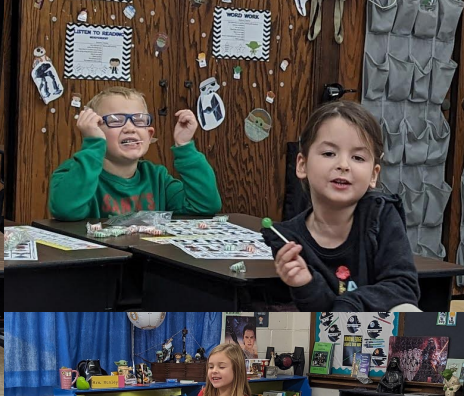
5th & 6th Grade students designed a sleigh to carry toys down a zip line- without dumping any of them out!

ST PATRICK SCHOOL

Holiday Fun



ALL ABOARD! We love Polar Express Day in Third Grade! The hot chocolate and candy canes are especially yummy!!!

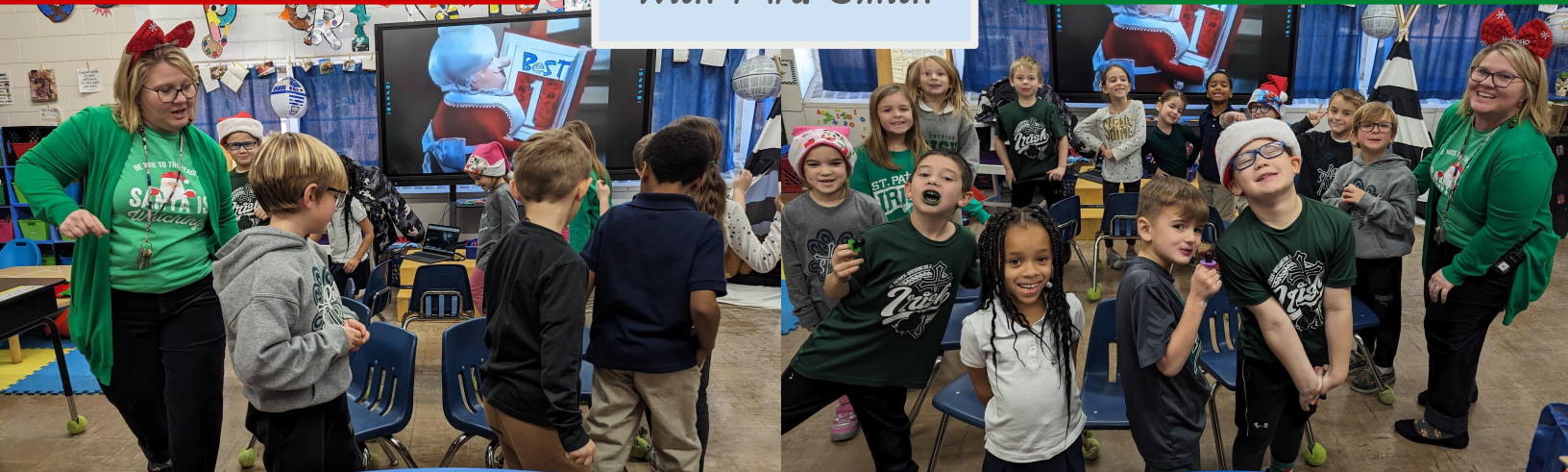


BINGO



MUSICAL CHAIRS

With Mrs. Smith



ST PATRICK SCHOOL

Spirit Week



5th & 6th Grade really got into the Holiday Spirit week!



CURRENT VIRTUE



"Watch over me, Father, so that everything I do may be with the intention of pleasing Jesus."

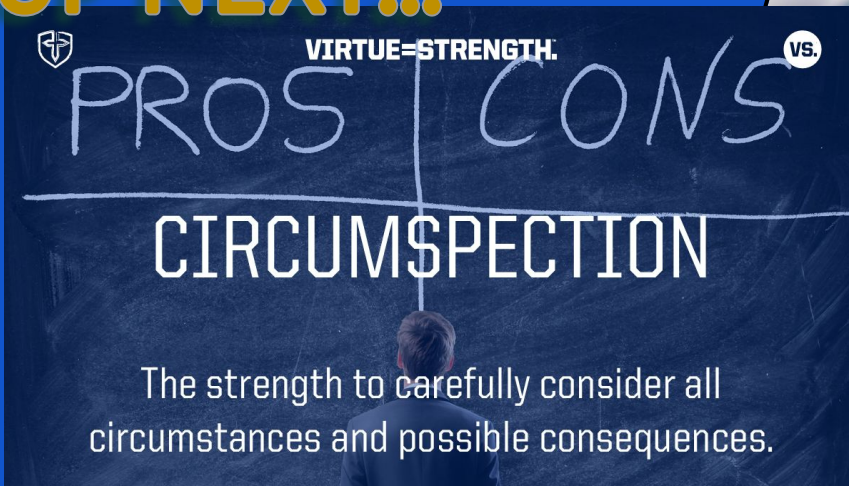
- St. Bernadette Soubirous



RESOLUTION

Always use the name of Jesus with prudence and reverence. Do not take the Lord's name in vain.
Praise Jesus!

UP NEXT...



IRISH BOYS BASKETBALL ACTION

8th Grade Night Success vs D50



7th Grade W 33-23

8th Grade W 31-13

CONGRATULATIONS EIGHTH GRADERS

Cheerleaders: Abby H, Mariah N, Ava R, Madeline S,
Catherine P, Lily L, Maryn J, & Mary C

Basketball Players: Bennet B, Coach (Bennet) E, Jayce H,
David J, Edison T, Jude G, & Lucas B

We are the Irish!

**Come cheer on the 7th Grade Team @ REGIONALS
HOME in the SMA Gym on Saturday, Jan 20th @ 8:30AM**

IRISH GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

CONGRATULATIONS

to the 5th & 6th grade girls volleyball team as they placed third in our 5th/6th grade home tournament



Come cheer on the Irish
vs St Jude
Tuesday 1/23 @ 4:30PM
Sister Mary Ann Gym



Attention!

**2ND
GRADE
PARENTS**

FIRST COMMUNION MEETING

Parent Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Church

This meeting will give parents background information about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how-to guide for helping parents to prepare children for the Sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
& RECONCILIATION
January 24th— school students at 6 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

1/12/24	REPORT CARDS PUBLISHED
1/12-13/24	8th Boys Basketball @ Blessed Sacrament Tournament
1/12/24	7th Volleyball @ Central City Tournament 4 PM
1/13/24	8th Volleyball @ Central City Tournament 9 AM
1/15/24	NO SCHOOL - MLK DAY
1/15/24	Volleyball @ Bartonville Monroe 4:30 PM
1/16/24	Volleyball @ Robein 4:30 PM
1/17/24	Boys Basketball @ Low Point Washburn 5:30 PM
1/17/24	1st Communion Parent Meeting for 2nd Grade Parents, 6:30 PM in Church
1/19/24	Volleyball vs St. Jude @ Home 4:30
1/20, 1/22, 1/24	7th Grade Boys Basketball Regionals @ Home
1/23/24	Volleyball vs St. Mary @ Home 4:30 PM
1/24/24	1st Reconciliation for 2nd Grade Students, 6 PM in Church
1/25-26/24	Preschool Conferences (No Preschool, K-8 in Session)

The mission of St. Patrick School is to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO

Swinging into St. Pat's!

A FREE event for all current & potential
pre-k3/4 & kindergarten families!

Kick Off to
Catholic School's
Week!



January 28, 2024

4 -5:30pm

@ St. Patrick School Gym

Join us for face painting,
games, crafts, & sweet treats!

RSVP Preferred

309-444-4345

shughes@stpatswashington.org

100 Harvey St / Washington, IL



St. Patrick School and Parish Community,

We did it again!!! State Champs!

We would like to thank the entire St. Patrick School and parish family for all of their support throughout the girls' basketball teams' runs to state. This season was an amazing and challenging one, and it was filled with so many amazing moments down the stretch.

I am sure no one will forget our regional championship games, especially the double OT game in 7th grade. Both of our teams played as well as they could for their three games at state, and our fans were right there with them every step of the way.

Every trip to the state tournament is a special one, but this year will long be remembered by all of us. Two, undefeated state championships will be hard to ever top. Thank you, again, for cheering on the Irish.

We could not have done this without all of you. Thank you, especially to Father John and Father Bazi, Mrs. Smith, Kathy Werstein and all of our teachers/staff who helped make this all possible. From the pep rallies in the gym, the special blessings at mass, and the many car loads full of students and parents, all of your work helped make this Championship season a reality.

May you all have a blessed Christmas season! We will see you next year, and maybe we can try to do it all over again!

Sincerely,

The Coaches and Players
of the 7th and 8th Grade
State Champions

St Patrick
IRISH
Basketball
2023



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

January 2024

St. Patrick School

Cassi Smith, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Born at Troyes, France in 1620, St. Marguerite desired early on to become a missionary. A friend introduced her to the mayor of Ville Marie (now Montreal, Canada) and, at his invitation, St. Marguerite traveled to Canada to teach the children of the colony. She was later joined by several women – all consecrated to God and devoted to teaching and Works of Mercy. In 1676, she gained approval for her order, the Congregation of Notre-Dame de Montreal.



Fishers of Men

Some of the first apostles were fishermen working in the Sea of Galilee. The fish there were known for their quality and commanded a high price. Next time you eat fresh fish, remember Peter and Simon, James and John, the hard-working fishermen who left their boats to follow Jesus.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



Shape children's hearts with virtues

A key element of Catholic parenting is to shape the hearts of our children, not just manage their behavior. One way to shape a child's heart is to offer opportunities to grow in virtue:

Modesty: "Modesty protects the intimate center of a person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden"

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), #2521). Modesty awakens in youngsters a respect for the human person. Teach them to dress, speak, and take in entertainment that is wholesome, uplifting, and respectful of themselves and others.

Faithfulness: When children see that their parents are faithful to one another, for example, they intuit that

faithfulness or fidelity means to act in a way that honors a commitment. Children may not always hear what we say, but they are influenced by what they see us do.

Meekness: Meekness is not timidity. It fuels self-control. St. Thomas Aquinas cautioned against expressing physical anger because it makes anger outsized. Guide and model how to use meekness to manage anger. Meekness will help prevent evil from ruling actions.

Charity: "If I...have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3). Charity is giving love without an expectation of receiving in return. Teach children to put others' needs first. They will find that as they grow in charity, they will be happier and more joy-filled.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have infants baptized?

As a Sacrament, Baptism conveys grace and the "washing away" of sin and the "rebirth" of the baptized as a child of God. It starts us on the surest path to salvation: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will



be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Catholic parents, desiring the best for their children, baptize them as infants, believing it will give them the best chance of true joy in this life and eternal life in the next.

If the saints had social media, what would they post?

Is there a "holy" way to use social media? Consider these suggestions from the saints:

To friend or unfriend? St. Teresa of Ávila cautioned that parents "be very careful whom they allow to mix with their children when young." Although socially outgoing and fun-loving, she didn't try to be liked by everyone, but sought the close friendships with those who encouraged her in holiness.

"Kind comments, only." St. Philip Neri advised someone who gossiped to pluck a chicken and scatter the feathers in the wind. Those far-flung



feathers were like rumors – impossible to take back. Today, he would warn us to be careful what we post, who knows how many will see it.

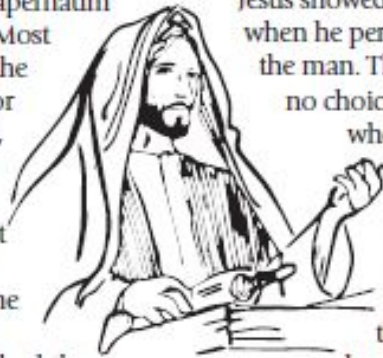
Disagree, but charitably: St. Thomas Aquinas debated often and won admiration, if not agreement, from his adversaries for his respectful conduct. "We must love [those who agree and disagree]...for they help us in the finding of [the truth]." For those in online debates, he would advise all to respond with charity and humility while still seeking the Truth.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 1:21-28, Jesus is no ordinary teacher

In this Gospel reading, we read that Jesus entered the synagogue at Capernaum with His apostles to teach. Most teachers would draw from the writings of other scholars for authority, and would begin, "Thus says the Lord..." but Jesus said, "I tell you..." As God, He already knew what the Scriptures meant without leaning on someone else's teaching.

Jesus taught as one who had the authority of God and that astonished His listeners. Even the unclean spirits who were torturing a man at the synagogue recognized Jesus as "the Holy One of Israel." Clearly, this was



no ordinary teacher!

Jesus showed His authority again when he performed an exorcism on the man. The unclean spirits had no choice but to obey Him when he commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance.

What can a parent do? Jesus shows us that God's power and love are greater than any evil. Teach children that they can talk to Jesus about anything that happens, good or bad. At the same time, stress that Jesus is God and deserves to be worshipped and obeyed.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 3 – Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. "...At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10). Today, a deep bow of the head at the Name is an accepted form of respect.

January 7 – Epiphany of Our Lord. Epiphany is Greek for "manifestation." When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

January 21 – St. Agnes (304). St.

Agnes consecrated herself to God. Reportedly she was betrayed for being a Christian by a suitor whom she refused to marry. She maintained her faith and was executed as a result.

January 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul. Formally called "Saul" he persecuted the Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). After that, Saul became Paul and traveled around the known world, preaching the Faith.



Parent TALK

Our busyness was crowding out family time. Between homework, practices, and playdates, we hardly ever had family dinner or attended Mass together. One Sunday when my daughter expected to skip Mass for a soccer tournament, I realized we needed a reboot.

That Saturday night we gathered around the table. I lit a candle and announced that Family Day had begun. I said that God wants us to keep Sunday holy, so Family Day starts at sundown on Saturday and goes through Sunday.

Now Sunday morning begins with church music while we dress for Mass. There are muffins or coffee cake made the night before so we can enjoy them and still observe the Communion fast. Then we attend Mass together and have a meal afterwards.

Then, whatever we do during the day, we do together. After dinner we blow out the "Sunday Candle" and feel ready to face the week.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
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