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Upcoming Events

Dec. 7: Boys BB vs St. Thomas at 5:00

Dec. 8: **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
Boys BB vs Pleasant Valley at 5:00

Dec. 9: **End of 2nd quarter**

Dec. 12: Boys BB vs St. Jude at 5:00

KRIS KRINGLE starts

Dec. 13: Boys BB vs Pleasant Valley at 5:00

Dec. 14: Boys BB at Hollis at 5:00

Dec. 15: Boys BB at Robein at 5:30

Dec. 19: **Christmas Concert**

Dec. 21: **Christmas parties at 10:30 --11:30 Dismissal**

Dec. 22- Jan. 3: **No School-Christmas Break**

Jan. 4: **School resumes**
Boys BB vs Roanoke-Benson at 5:00

Jan. 5: Boys BB vs Hollis at 5:00

Jan. 9: Boys BB vs South Pekin at 5:00

Jan. 10: Boys BB at Bartonville at 5:00

Jan. 14: VB at Peoria Christian at 2:00

Jan. 16: **No School MLK day**

The E-Falcon Newsletter

Dec. 1, 2022

Sausage Sale

St. Mary of Lourdes is having a sausage sale. The new price is \$4 per pound for either bulk or link. Please contact Bill Kessling at 309-645-7795 by December 4 to order. Please pick up on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 7:00am-12:00pm at St. Mary of Lourdes Hall.

DONUT SUNDAY - December 4th, 2022

Our theme for December is Emmanuel: God Is With Us Please join us in the school cafeteria for donuts, coffee, milk and juice and enjoy time with fellow parishioners, family, friends. All are welcome! Santa will be joining us this Sunday for a special visit and photo opportunity!

Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you for another successful Thanksgiving pie baking fundraiser for our school. We sold 108 pies with a profit of **\$2,178**. Due to the generosity of our community the pie boxes were donated, all fruit was donated and cash donations we were able to turn such a profit. Fourteen ladies volunteered to make our pies from making the dough, rolling the pie shells, making the filling, striping, adding the finishing touches and baking we were able to finish in four hours. THANK YOU!

Lunch Menu (Subject to change)

All lunches include milk

(Dec. 5 - 9)

Monday, Dec. 5 – Chicken nuggets or strips, fries, green beans, fruit

Tuesday, Dec. 6 – Walking tacos, corn, fruit

Wednesday, Dec. 7 – Corn dog or hot dog on bun, chips, peas, fruit

Thursday, Dec. 8 – Chicken noodle soup, turkey sandwich, Goldfish, fruit

Friday, Dec. 9 – French toast stick, sausage, hash brown, fruit

(Dec. 12-16)

Monday, Dec. 12 – Hot dog on bun, potato wedges, carrots, fruit

Tuesday, Dec. 13 – Chicken sandwich, fries, peas, fruit

Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Pizza boat, corn, fruit

Thursday, Dec. 15 – Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green bean, fruit

Friday, Dec. 16 – Grilled cheese, tomato soup, chips, fruit

Cookie Sale

St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society is having our Annual Holiday Cookie and Candy Sale this Saturday, December 10th, from 9:00-11:00 am or until Sold Out in the school gym. New this year, special appearance by Santa. Stop by for a photo op with Santa. Please consider donating some of your baked goods. You can drop them off in the school cafeteria between 1:00 and 7:00 pm on Friday, December 9th. And be sure to shop the sale! We will be selling an assortment of prepackaged cookies for \$8.00 per dozen, other misc., delicious goodies available also, and it's a good cause! Through our fundraising, we supply the new vestments for Father as well as all the hosts, wine, candles, and flowers for the Altar for Mass.

Caterpillar Matching

Caterpillar will do a 2:1 match for any donation of \$25-\$500 between November 28 through December 12. This is over and above the \$10,000 that they will match per year. First come first serve until they reach 2 million.

After Care

Starting Jan. 4, when school resumes after Christmas break, After Care will only run until 4:30. The need for After Care is not being shown so we are reducing the hours. The fee will then be \$15 for After Care no matter the amount of time.

Also, there will be no After Care on Friday, December 9 for staff Christmas party.

No Buses

There will be no afternoon buses on Dec. 20 due to an early dismissal at Metamora Grade School. Also no buses on Dec. 21 due to Metamora Grade and High School not being in attendance. On Jan. 4, there are no buses due to both schools not being in session.

Box of Joy

This month our school and parish will be participating in the Box of Joy ministry, a Christmas gift outreach organized by local Catholic schools, parishes and groups nationwide. By packing Boxes of Joy with toys and other gifts, your child will bless children suffering from extreme poverty by sharing the joy of Christmas and planting seeds of hope through the Gospel. We are excited to learn more about compassion and share in our Lord's mercy through this experience! Attached is a list of requested items to help fill boxes this year. Items may be turned in at the school or church from now until Sunday, December 18th.

Spirit Wear

Our LogoWear Spirit Wear Store has been updated and is currently open for ordering! We have added some additional products, colors and logo variations, so please click through to see all options!

-Orders are due back on December 7th

-Products will be delivered to school and sent home with children unless alternate arrangements are made

-Will try to get all orders back by Christmas, however not guaranteed

-PTO is buying all Pre-K to 8th grade students a tshirt this year, color TBD

<https://www.logowearunlimited.net/shop/st-mary-s-school/33>

2023 Auction Sponsorships

The 2023 Auction Committee is currently seeking sponsors for our primary fundraiser, the St. Mary's Dinner Auction on Saturday, March 18th! Sponsorship opportunities include event tickets and recognition opportunities while helping to kick off this fundraiser event. This is a great way for you, your business, or your employer to support our school! Please visit the event website for additional details: <https://stmarysmetamora.schoolauction.net/2023auction>

Note: double your sponsorship from now until January 1st with an employer match! Email askstmarys@gmail.com with questions.

John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Protocols and Procedures 2023-2024 Deadline Date: April 28, 2023

The John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship is an endowment fund established with contributions from the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria. If you would like to make a donation that would provide families the opportunity of a Catholic education for their children, go to the Peoria Catholic Diocese online giving page. Scholarships of \$730,000 were recently awarded for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications for scholarship grants will be available for the 2023-2024 academic year beginning in November 2022. Assistance is open to students enrolling, or intending to enroll, in any Catholic school, grade kindergarten through 12, located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are parishioners in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application procedure will be available here on the website or by contacting any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria in January. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for next year must reapply. Tuition assistance other than the Spalding Scholarship is also available. The Invest in Kids Act in Illinois authorized a Tax Credit Scholarship Program to provide scholarships for Illinois students to attend non-public schools (grades K-12) in Illinois. You are encouraged to apply for that assistance as soon as the application process opens. Learn more!

PROTOCOLS:

A family applying for Spalding Scholarship assistance must be an active member in good standing of a parish in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

The student[s] for whom the aid is being sought must be enrolled in good standing [or seeking to be enrolled] in grades K through 12 in a Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria.

All scholarship assistance will be based on a family's financial need objectively assessed. The diocese will use FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment Services to determine financial need.

All scholarship assistance will also be dependent upon the recommendation of the pastor that the family is an active member of the parish in good standing. If a student changes schools during a school year, tuition assistance grants will follow the student as long as the student is enrolled in and in good standing in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Peoria and the family is a member in good standing of a parish in the Diocese of Peoria.

All awards are for one school year only. A family must apply for Spalding Scholarship assistance each school year.

The number of grants and the amount of each grant for the school year will be dependent upon the funds available and the size and need of the applicant pool. Payment of Spalding Scholarship Grants will be made twice a year directly to the Catholic school a student attends. These grants will be applied to the family's tuition obligation. It is anticipated that tuition assistance grants will be announced in early June 2023.

If the student receives an Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship for full or partial tuition for 2023-2024, (qualifications and application information can be found at www.empowerillinois.org), they are ineligible to receive a Spalding Scholarship, and any Spalding award previously granted for 2023-2024 will be rescinded.

PROCEDURES:

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance from the Spalding Scholarship Fund must complete an online **FACTS Grant & Aid Application** at online.factsmgt.com/aid. **The application and required supporting tax documents must be received online by FACTS by the application deadline date of April 28, 2023.**

The FACTS application, payment of the application fee, and any required supporting documents are to be transmitted online to FACTS according to their directions.

Families must also request the pastor submit a recommendation to the Office of Catholic Schools verifying good standing in the parish.

The application process is complete only when the pastor's recommendation has been submitted to the Office of Catholic Schools and when a completed parent financial aid application, required supporting documents, and the application fee have been uploaded and submitted to FACTS. **Only completed applications, which include supporting documents, submitted on or before the April 28 deadline will be considered when Spalding assistance awards are determined.**

A checklist for a Spalding Scholarship Application, as well as a downloadable version of these Protocols and Procedures can also be found on the forms in the Spalding Scholarships in Catholic Schools folder.