



St. Mary's Parish School Newsletter
Week of February 28, 2022

It is the **Mission** of our school to encourage and challenge our students to grow tangibly in their relationship with God, as they strive to be life-long learners *igniting their faith, knowledge, creativity,*

Note the following GREAT news

Recently our 7th and 8th graders took part in MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION SERIES which is a national program that provides students the opportunity to compete in live contests against and alongside their peers. We have received the following news from the Idaho State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, Frank Eckwright.

“Congratulations on having the St Mary's School MATHCOUNTS team advance to **the state competition!** The following students on this team are:

Hannah Johnson-Leung ***

Matthew J Ristine***

Isabella Visger

Matthew J Ristine

Seeley J Johnson

(*** have earned the right to compete as *individuals*)

If needed, we are able to send an alternate:

Carter Hawkins is our first alternate

Mason Poxleitner is our second alternate

They have earned the right to participate in the Idaho State MATHCOUNTS competition at BSU on March 12th. The state competition is an in-person competition.”

We want to thank **Mrs. Jennifer Johnson-Leung** who has stepped in as coach to assist Mrs. Bright while she is with her son, Samson, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.



Monday, February 28:

At morning assembly Father Joe will burn the palm branches that will be used as ashes for Ash Wednesday Mass and the beginning of Lent

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Kamryn Seidel, our Fifth-Grade teacher.



Tuesday, March 1:



today.

It is our plan to have students return to the cafeteria from eating in their classrooms starting

Wednesday, March 2nd:

UNIFORMS required today...the students (Gr. K-8) will be going to Mass today at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to come.



Thursday, March 3rd.

Regular day

Friday, March 4th.
day...no Mass.

No uniform required....regular dress



Monday, February 28:

Pizza with pepperoni and cheese toppings

Tuesday, March 1:

Burritos

Wednesday, March 2:

Cream tuna over mashed potatoes + green beans

Thursday, March 3:

Buttered noodles + corn + ham

Friday, March 4:

Fish Sticks + Tater Tots

Some Questions That Have Been Asked:

Q. How is Samson Bright doing?

A. The latest information is that they are hoping that he will be able to transfer from ICU to a regular hospital room. The jaundice has cleared; his voice is stronger and he has been on a liquid diet for a few days. The stent appears to be doing its job. The parents truly appreciate your prayers and concerns.

Q. How are Mrs. Bright's classes being done while she is on leave?

A. We have had several key subs working consistently with the classes: Mr. Herrenbruck continues to be their religion teacher; Mr. Bill Kerr has been teaching math for Grades 6-8; Mrs. Niehenke is teaching the science program on Fridays and Sister Margaret will be teaching history and English Language Arts starting this week. We are working together for the sake of the students until Mrs. Bright can fully return. Mrs. Bright is providing the outline of lessons for us to follow with the students so there are no gaps in their learning.

Q. How did we do on the bake sale for the benefit of the Bright family.

A. As soon as we have an accurate account from Friday (and the weekend since Catholic Women's League had the continuation of a bake sale for the Bright family this weekend) we'll publish it in next week's Newsletter. Special thank you to Sixth Grader, Aubrey Vogel and her fellow students who organized and sold the baked goods on their time Thursday and Friday!

Q. Why was St. Mary's Parish School's timeline for moving from mandatory masking to optional different from Moscow School District's timeline?

A. Moscow School District's Superintendent, Dr. Greg Bailey, had to bring his recommendations to the Moscow School Board for their decision on February 23rd.

Catholic School Boards in Idaho are advisory only and not decision making. However, Fr. Joe, our local superintendent, wanted input and advice from our School Board. Their meeting was Feb. 15. Father Joe was not able to be physically present (due to meetings in Boise) so he asked the Board members to fill out a questionnaire that he had created.

In addition to the School Board members, he gave a similar questionnaire to the faculty/staff at the school for their input to him regarding the mandate since they are the key group working with students daily.

When Father Joe returned from his meetings in Boise on February 18 he and Sister Margret met to carefully review the input/advice of the School Board members and faculty/staff. It was very clear that it was time to drop the school's masking *mandate and transfer the mandate to the parents.*

Q. Do you have the latest CDC information?

A. Yes, we have received the following information from CDC links as of February 25. Please note the requirements regarding checking for Covid; days of being out of school and when one may return with the requirement of five additional days of masking. If you have any questions, please ask Sister Margaret. CDC links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation-background.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Link to: **What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

At this site you can check health of Latah county by typing in state and county.

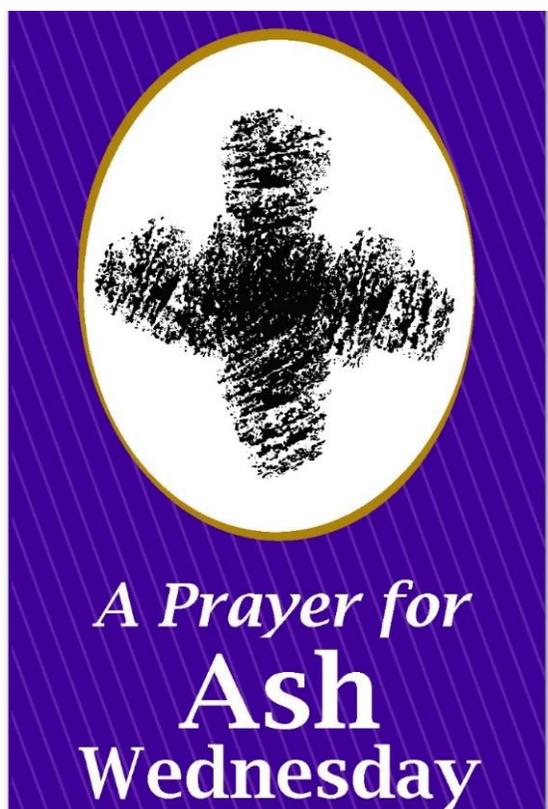
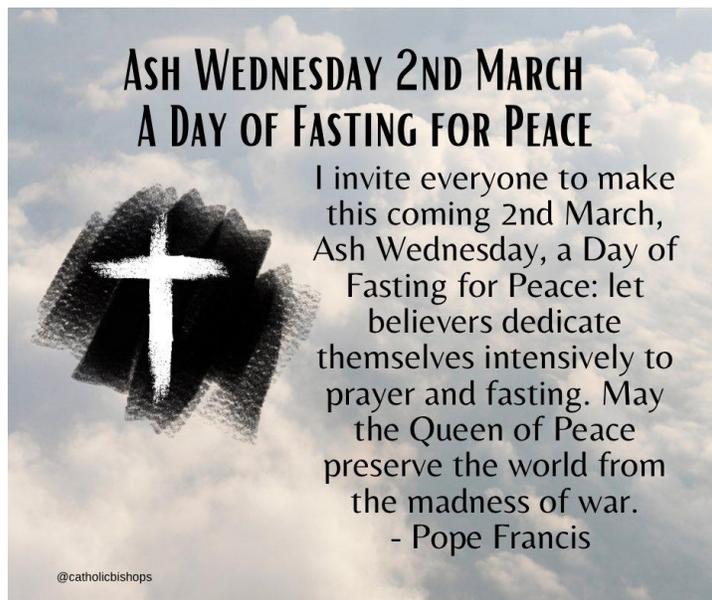
Q. Will the school be having an "Open House" this year?

A. We are changing the format of Open House from a one-night event to having interested families come and tour the school during the day. We will be having our students be *ambassadors* to lead the families in the school. This will give interested families the opportunity to see the school as it is happening. *Please pass on to your relatives, co-workers and friends the invite to come and see what an education at St. Mary's Parish School is all about.* Our school is open to **all peoples** who want and desire a faith-based education for their child.



Due to our anticipated increase in school for 2022-2023 school year, St. Mary's Parish School is accepting applications for additional staff members. This may include full time or part time teachers and aides. For more information contact Sister Margaret Johnson, osu at 208-882-2121.

For your reflection:



*M*erciful Father, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the holy season, Lent. I ask that it be a time for reflection of myself and a time of renewal for my faith.

During these forty days, let me be aware of the needs of others and of our church. By self-examination, prayer and fasting, allow me to repent for the sins that I have committed and regret any sign of contempt that I have shown towards those who differ from me.

Let these weeks leading up to Good Friday and the glory of Your Resurrection show me how much You suffered for me and how much You love me. Grant that these ashes, remind me of my own mortality and the realization that only through You can I receive everlasting life.

Amen.