




# SAINT MARY SCHOOL

## MARCH 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<i>Please see Miss Whittaker's Performing Arts schedule for dates/times of practices for March</i>	<b>1</b> <b>1:00 Dismissal Faculty Mtg.</b>	<b>2</b> Mass Schedule 4:00 p.m.
<b>3</b> Mass Schedule 7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Band <b>IOWA Test Week (Grades 3-7)</b>  Robotics 2:45 – 4:00	<b>5</b> SCRIP Orders Due Lab Week D  Garden Club Gr.1-8 2:45 – 4:00	<b>6</b> Ash Wednesday 9:15 Liturgy Ministry of Student Leadership Mtg. 2:45 - 4:00 Makeup Science Explorers 2:45-4	<b>7</b>   Chess Club 2:45 – 4:00	<b>8</b> Stations 1:15	<b>9</b> Mass Schedule 4:00 p.m.
<b>10</b> Mass Schedule 7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Band  Robotics 2:45 – 4:00 <b>Uniform Exchange 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Marian Hall</b>	<b>12</b> SCRIP Orders Due Lab Week A  Science Explorers 2:45 – 4:00	<b>13</b> Spring Pictures: Students may wear dress down clothes Scrabble Club 2:45 – 4:00 Science Explorers 2:45 – 4:00 Open House 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>14</b> Kindergarten Conferences  Rosary Club 2:45 – 3:20	<b>15</b> Stations 1:15  <b>School Dance Grades 6-8 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm</b>	<b>16</b> Mass Schedule 4:00 p.m.
<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 	<b>18</b> Band Robotics 2:45 – 4:00 Confirmation Rehearsal 8A/8B 6:30 pm Church	<b>19</b> Scrip Orders Due Lab Week B Mass 9:15 Garden Club Gr. 1-8 2:45 – 4:00 Science Explorers 2:45 – 4:00	<b>20</b>   Science Explorers 2:45 – 4:00	<b>21</b> 1:00 Confessions  Chess Club 2:45 – 4:00	<b>22</b> Stations 1:15	<b>23</b> Confirmation 8A/8B 10:00 am Church  Mass Schedule 4:00 p.m.
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Band  Robotics 2:45 – 4:00	<b>26</b> Scrip Orders Due Lab Week C Science Explorers 2:45 – 4:00	<b>27</b> Science Explorers 2:45 – 4:00 <b>Science Exhibit 6:30 pm</b>	<b>28</b>   Rosary Club 2:45 – 3:20	<b>29</b> Stations 1:15 Into the Woods School Play 7:00 pm AH	<b>30</b> Into the Woods School Play 1:00 pm



# March

## Elem. Lunch Menu St Mary's Williamstown



We Use Whole Grain Products!

**DAILY ALTERNATES:**  
Chex Cereal & Yogurt (GF)  
CHICKEN NUGGETS  
PB & J Sandwich (V)

**Daily Fruit Offerings:**  
Fresh, Cupped, 100% Juice  
All Salads Come With a Grain.

**Choose 1 Entrée.**  
(3 Daily Specials & 2 Daily Alternates for the Month)  
**Lunch Includes:**  
Protein ~ Grain ~ Fruit  
Veggie ~ Milk  
Choose at least 3 out of 5 components.  
You must choose at least 1 fruit or veggie.  
You may take 2 Fruit & 2 Veggie Choices!

(V) = Vegetarian Ingredients (GF) = Gluten-Free Ingredients

<p><b>NEW</b> Meatless Monday</p>	<p>Fun Flavors Tuesday! AKA: Taco Tuesday, Mexican, Asian, Italian</p>	<p>Wacky Wednesday! A School Favorite! The random category!</p>	<p>Chicken Lover's Thursday! Everything &amp; Anything CHICKEN!</p>	<p>Pizza Lover's Friday! Cheesy Pizza By The Slice!</p>
<p><b>Lunch Prices:</b> Regular Lunch \$2.85 Extra Entrée: \$1.75 Reduced: \$0.40 Water: \$0.60 Milk: \$0.60 *Menu subject to change. Food Service Director: Debbie Spasari smw@nsfm.com Phone: 856-629-6419 Look for snacks, nutrition &amp; menu descriptions posted on the school website!</p> <p><b>Milk:</b> Skim White, Skim Chocolate, Skim Strawberry, 1% White, Lactaid</p> <p>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</p>			<p><b>Friday-March 1</b> <b>Pizza Dippers</b> w/Dippin Cup (V) Trix Yogurt &amp; Bagel Tuna Hoagie or Salad <b>Sides:</b> Caesar Salad Mixed Patch w/ Ranch</p>	
<p><b>Dr. Seuss Day!</b> <b>Gr.Egg&amp;Ham Bagel</b> w/ 1 Fish, 2 Fish Goldfish Crackers Hot Dog on a Bun Chicken Garden Salad <b>Sides:</b> Smiley Fries Cucumber Hummus w/ Chips</p>	<p><b>Tuesday-March 5</b> <b>Turkey w/ Gravy</b> On a Torpedo or w/ a Roll Chicken Patty on a Bun <b>Sides:</b> Mashed Potatoes Carrots w/ Cucumber Hummus</p>	<p><b>Ash Wednesday!</b> <b>Mozzarella Sticks</b> w/ Pasta &amp; Parmesan Grilled Cheese Sandwich Garden Salad <b>Sides:</b> Greenbeans &amp; Salad Cucumbers w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Thursday-March 7</b> <b>Chicken Tenders</b> w/ Dinner Roll Bacon Cheeseburger On a Bun <b>Sides:</b> Poppin Peas &amp; Carrots Broc Bites w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Friday-March 8</b> <b>Pizzeria Pizza</b> By The Slice (V) Trix Yogurt &amp; Bagel Tuna Hoagie or Salad <b>Sides:</b> Garden Salad Mixed Patch w/ Ranch</p>
<p><b>Monday-March 11</b> <b>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b> (V) Hot Dog on a Bun Chicken Garden Salad <b>Sides:</b> Steamed Broccoli Cucumber Hummus w/ Chips</p>	<p><b>Tuesday-March 12</b> <b>Nachos Grande</b> (GF) w/ Corn Chips &amp; Toppings Chicken Patty on a Bun <b>Sides:</b> Super Sweet Corn Carrots w/ Cucumber Hummus</p>	<p><b>Nat'l Chic Noodle Soup Day!</b> <b>Hot Ham/Cheese Sand.</b> w/ Chicken Noodle Soup Turkey &amp; Cheese Hoagie Fiesta Taco Salad <b>Sides:</b> Potato Salad Cucumbers w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Thursday-March 14</b> <b>Popcorn Chicken</b> w/ Breadstick Cheeseburger on a Bun Raffle Day <b>Sides:</b> Rainbow Veggie Medley Broc Bites w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>St. Patty's Day!</b> <b>French Bread Pizza</b> By The Slice (V) Trix Yogurt &amp; Bagel Tuna Hoagie or Salad <b>Sides:</b> Lucky Jello- Caesar Salad Mixed Patch w/ Ranch</p>
<p><b>Monday-March 18</b> <b>3 Cheese Grilled Cheese</b> w/ Tomato Soup Hot Dog on a Bun Chicken Garden Salad <b>Sides:</b> Gotta Get Em Green Beans Cucumber Hummus w/ Chips</p>	<p><b>Tuesday-March 19</b> <b>Pizza Crunchers</b> w/Cheese &amp; Sauce Chicken Patty on a Bun <b>Sides:</b> Garlic &amp; Parmesan Wedges Carrots w/ Cucumber Hummus</p>	<p><b>1st Day of Spring!</b> <b>Mini Pancakes</b> w/Syrup Cup Ham &amp; Cheese Sandwich Chef Salad <b>Sides:</b> Brownie &amp; Tator Tots Cucumbers w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Thursday March 21</b> <b>Chicken Cheesesteak</b> On a Torpedo Roll Rib-E-Cue on a Roll <b>Sides:</b> Cheesy Spinach Broc Bites w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Friday-March 22</b> <b>Personal Pizza</b> By The Pie (V) Trix Yogurt &amp; Bagel Tuna Hoagie or Salad <b>Sides:</b> Garden Salad Mixed Patch w/ Ranch</p>
<p><b>International Waffle Day!</b> <b>Dutch Waffle</b> (V) w/ Sausage Hot Dog on a Bun Chicken Garden Salad <b>Sides:</b> Home Fries-Mixed Berry Cup Cucumber Hummus w/ Chips</p>	<p><b>Tuesday-March 26</b> <b>Popcorn Chicken</b> w/ Breadstick Mini Corn Dogs <b>Sides:</b> Super Sweet Corn Carrots w/ Cucumber Hummus</p>	<p><b>Wednesday-March 27</b> <b>Spaghetti</b> w/Meatballs Turkey &amp; Cheese Sandwich Chef Salad <b>Sides:</b> Garden Salad Cucumbers w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Thursday-March 28</b> <b>Chicken Quesadilla</b> w/ Toppings Cheeseburger on a Bun Raffle Day <b>Sides:</b> Rainbow Veggie Medley Broc Bites w/ Ranch</p>	<p><b>Friday-March 29</b> <b>Pizzeria Pizza</b> By The Slice (V) Trix Yogurt &amp; Bagel Tuna Hoagie or Salad <b>Sides:</b> Caesar Salad Mixed Patch w/ Ranch</p>



Dear Parents and Guardians,

From March 4, 2019 to March 8, 2019, students in grades 3-7 will take the *Iowa Assessments*™. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the tests so that—with your support and encouragement—your student will do his or her best on the tests.

### **About the *Iowa Assessments***

The *Iowa Assessments* help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The exact tests that your student takes will depend on his or her grade level.

The *Iowa Assessments* help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. The *Iowa Assessments* also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year and may provide information about college readiness for older students. The assessments produce information that enables sound decision making and provides a focus for teachers to evaluate instruction.

Each test includes sample questions to help students become familiar with the content and format of the tests. Samples help students understand what to do—how to mark answers and move from question to question.

For most tests, students read the questions and mark their answers by filling in a circle for each question. All test questions are multiple choice, and the tests last about 10 to 35 minutes.

### **How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help**

A student who is well rested, well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days. Reschedule dentist appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

### **Score reporting and how we use test results**

The school will receive test scores in about 6 weeks. These scores will indicate how your student performed on the tests compared with students across the nation in the same grade. Discuss the test results with your student, and if you have any questions, contact your student's classroom teacher. St. Mary School uses test results to measure individual student growth from year to year and to monitor the progress of class groups.

Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your student during testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Patricia Mancuso  
Principal



# **Adopt a Shrine Spaghetti Dinner**

**Saturday, March 2, 2019**

**3:30 pm to 6 pm.**

Eat in and Take out both in Marian Hall and Assumption Hall.

Prices: Advance Sales

Adults: \$6.00

Children 3 to 13 years old \$4.00

All children 3 years and under of age FREE  
(eat in only)

At the door, Sale Prices:

Adults: \$7.00

Children: 3 to 13 years of age \$6.00

All Children 3 years of age and under eat FREE  
(Eat in Only)

**Tickets will be available after all  
Masses this weekend AND next weekend.**

If you would like to become a member of Adopt a Shrine or help with the spaghetti dinner, please contact Deacon John Kacy at 856-629-6142 ext. 38.

Love to have you because many of us could use the help in our areas. And we also have fun in keeping our parish beautiful with love.

Thank you so much for your support  
Deacon John and Adopt a Shrine Ministry



# UNIFORM EXCHANGE



*Need a few more items to get you through Winter?*

*Want to stock up on uniforms for Spring?*

Good News! It's time for our next Uniform Exchange and we hope you'll help us find good homes for all of the generously donated, gently-used uniforms!!



DATE: Monday, March 11th

TIME: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

LOCATION: Marian Hall  
(church basement)

If you would like to donate uniforms you may drop them off in the school drop box between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm.

Please NO socks, tights, shoes or hair bows. If you have any

Uniform Exchange questions, please email: Karen Garber

kbbell@comcast.net, Nicole Lenhardt Nicole092405@aol.com

# St. Mary's Scrip Program

2018/2019 School year

Dear Families,

Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their non-profit organization (NPO). Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards.

You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for your organization. It's really that simple!

Orders can be sent into school with your child and in most cases, are filled the same day. We usually have Shop Rite, Wawa, Walmart, Target and Kohl's daily. All other cards are ordered on Tuesday and sent home Thursday.

Rebates are issued twice a year to families, in January and June. They can be used to reduce tuition or as a rebate to the family directly. The rebates are based off a 50/50 split between you and SMS, so if your total rebate is \$500; it would mean \$250 for you and \$250 for SMS. No selling anything and money in your pocket!

I encourage you to check out [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). There you can see a full list of retailers or register for an online account. Online orders come to me directly.

\*\*Keep in mind you can use Kohl's gift cards to pay your Kohl's credit card bill in store. This allows you to shop when you have a coupon or at your convenience, then you can get your Kohl's Scrip to pay your bill.

You can contact me anytime with any questions or issues.

Christine Eberhardt  
Scrip Coordinator

(609) 276-0030 Call or Text  
scripcoordinatorsms@gmail.com

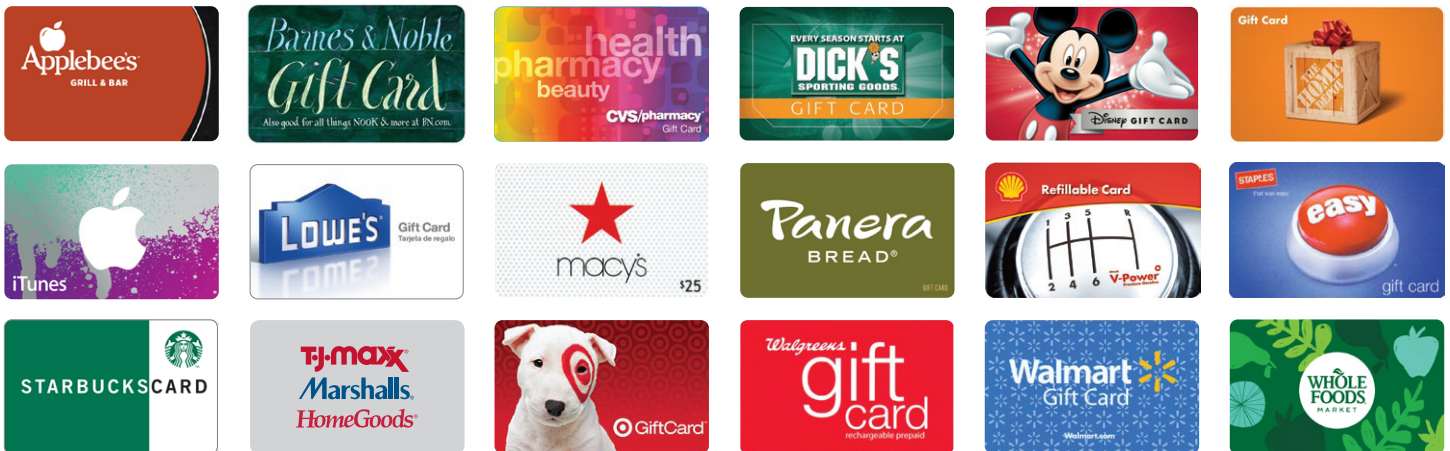
# Fundraising WHILE YOU Shop<sup>®</sup>



Stop selling and start earning! Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that allows families to raise money for their non-profit organization (NPO). Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards.

You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for your organization. It's really that simple!

When you use scrip gift cards at your favorite retailers, you're fundraising while you shop. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers more than 700 of the country's biggest retailers, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise \$500 or more per year. It's time to put your shopping dollars to work!





## From the Desk of Miss Smith

---

*Dear Parents/Guardians,*

*Kindness Club will be collecting items to send to soldiers from New Jersey that are currently stationed in Afghanistan with the Army. We will be sending them a care package along with homemade cards thanking them for their service. We will begin collecting items any time after our February meeting and go until our March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Students can bring their donations to homeroom to be collected by Miss Smith. Below are some of the sought after items that can be a big boost to soldiers' morale.*

*Small/easy to carry containers of snacks*

*Drink mixes (Gatorade, mio, instant coffee/creamer)*

*Meal enhancers. Anything that can be mixed with MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), such as ramen noodles, seasoned salt, individual packets of hot sauce, mustard, relish, and ketchup.*

*Quick protein. Energy bars, tuna fish, non-perishable beef jerky, or beef summer sausage. Make sure the meat is labeled USDA Beef.*

*Candy- avoid anything that can melt such as chocolate and gum or an expiration in the next month.*

*Small toiletries - Toiletries. Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, cotton swabs, shaving lotion, disposable razors, shampoo, individually packaged tissues.*

*Personal care. Individually packaged baby wipes, eye drops, lip balm, lotion*

*Foot care. Moleskin, medicated foot powder, ointment.*

*Batteries. Size AA and D batteries are in high demand.*

*Thank you for your support! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out: [counselor@smarys.org](mailto:counselor@smarys.org) / 856-629-6687 (direct line)*

*Kindly,*

*Miss Jessica Smith, School Counselor*





## “Jenny’s Garden”

Our school garden was made possible by contributions from families in memory of Jennifer Lowry. Jennifer’s service and dedication to her children and our school will be remembered by all who tend this garden and sit on the memorial bench at this site.

If you’d like to donate to this project or serve on the garden committee, we welcome the help and contributions.

The mission of Jenny’s Garden is to nurture an appreciation of God’s creation as stewards of the land, enhance classroom lessons in science and health by growing a sustainable organic vegetable garden and in time, contribute to our community by sharing fresh vegetables to those in need through our parish food pantry, which helps more than 80 families weekly.

# SMS Garden Club

Meetings for Spring will begin on Tuesday, March 5th and will be held every other Tuesday for grades 1-8 from 2:45–4:00 pm.

### NEED CHANGE OF CLOTHES, SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP

If your student did not sign up in the Fall and they would like to participate, please fill in below permission slip. We are also asking participating students to contribute \$10 to support our programming and to purchase supplies. Other planned fundraisers will hopefully defray this fee in the future.



Yes, my student has permission to attend the SMS Garden Club:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 fee for participation enclosed: CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

# SMS Garden Club

## **GARDEN CLUB IS IN NEED OF ADULT HELPERS, AND GARDENERS!**

We are seeking parents and grandparents who would like to join our club & committee by helping with gardening lessons and working with students! Helpers can sign up on a rotating basis. Help is needed every other Tuesday beginning March 5th from 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. **Bi-weekly** or **monthly** or as much as you are able to do! No experience necessary, but we would love to hear from parents who have skills to share!

**If you can help, please fill out and return slip below.**

-----  
Yes, I would like volunteer to help at Garden Club:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# MANDATORY PARENT MEETING



FOR ANY CURRENT 2<sup>ND</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES  
INTERESTED IN **CHEERLEADING** FOR THE  
2019 – 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

 DATE: Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

 TIME: 7pm

 LOCATION: Science Lab

Please contact Nicole Lenhardt ([Nicole092405@aol.com](mailto:Nicole092405@aol.com)) if you have any questions.



COME TAKE YOUR CHANCES



AT

SAINT MARY SCHOOL CASINO NIGHT / AUCTION DINNER



ASSUMPTION HALL



SATURDAY, April 6, 2019

7-11 PM

TICKETS: \$45 per person

Includes: Buffet Dinner, Soda, Hot Beverages, Dessert & \$500.00 Casino Chips

**BYOB**



Please complete the reservation form below and return to school in an envelope marked "Auction Tickets" All tickets need to be requested on or before 4/2/19

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ (checks payable to Saint Mary School PTA)

*Tickets may be purchased individually or by tables of 8, 10 or 12*

*Tables will be reserved for parties of 8 on first come first serve basis*

*Tables seating 10 or 12 are limited & will also be reserved on first come first serve basis*

*Other seating will be on a first come first serve basis*

Questions Contact: Dana Elentrio

[Teecee1031@aol.com](mailto:Teecee1031@aol.com) or 856-237-6542

If you or anyone you know would like to be a  
**TABLE SPONSOR**  
at  
**SAINT MARY SCHOOL**  
2019 CASINO NIGHT/AUCTION DINNER



Please fill out the form below and send into school to the attention of SMS PTA

Your name/business will be prominently displayed at one of our casino tables

**Cost \$200.00 per table**

**Deadline April 2, 2019**

**Table Sponsor Form**

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (checks payable to Saint Mary School PTA)

Message \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Attach message, photo or advertisement to this form.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN AT SAINT MARY SCHOOL**

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary School:

Our Casino Night/Auction Committee is currently collecting prizes and donations for our event to be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at St. Mary School in Williamstown, NJ. We would greatly appreciate any contributions that you and/or your business can donate. The Casino Night/Auction has various levels of prizes, from gift certificates to vacations, so no prize is too small or too large! We gladly accept gift cards and monetary donations that the committee will use to purchase prizes.

Please send or drop off your contributions to the school office by Tuesday, April 2, 2019. If necessary, arrangements can be made to have your donations picked up by a member of the committee.

It is only through the generous participation of the parents, families and friends of St. Mary School that we are able to make this wonderful fundraiser a success. We thank you most sincerely for your donations.

**Please attach the slip below with your donations.**

Prize: \_\_\_\_\_

Monetary/Gift Card Contribution: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. MARY SCHOOL**

## *Casino Night Quick Reference Sheet*

*Upon entering, you will use your ticket to receive \$500.00 in casino chips.*

*This evening's games will include:*

***BLACKJACK CRAPS ROULETTE BIG WHEEL POKER***

*Additional gaming chips may be purchased at the bank at the following ratios:*

*Donate: \$15.00 and receive \$1,000.00 in casino chips*

*Donate: \$25.00 and receive \$2,000.00 in casino chips*

*Donate: \$50.00 and receive \$5,000.00 in casino chips*

*The bank will be accepting Cash & Checks. Please make checks payable to Saint Mary School PTA.*

***NO CHIPS WILL BE EXCHANGED FOR CASH! CASINO CHIPS WILL BE EXCHANGED FOR AUCTION SHEETS.***

***AUCTION SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE WITH CASINO CHIPS THAT EVENING ONLY.***

*When finished playing, exchange your chips in at the bank. For every \$1,000.00 in chips you will receive 1 Auction Sheet.*

***THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT & GENEROUS DONATIONS.***

***SINCERELY, SAINT MARY SCHOOL PTA BOARD***

# JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP JESUS' FISH 6TH-8TH GRADE



## MARCH

Sunday, March 10th:

NO Youth Group this night due to a personal commitment for Kari & Dan.  
You will have a meeting next week instead.

Sunday, March 17th:

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the JP2 YG! You will learn about this great Saint and get to make Irish Potatoes to take home! 7-9pm in Marian Hall

Sunday, March 24th:

Mini Retreat night filled with activities, talks, small groups and other fun topics based around our Catholic Faith. 7-9pm in Marian Hall

Sunday, March 31st:

8th Annual Diocese's iRace 4 Vocations 5K Walk/Run held at Washington Lake Park. Join the whole Camden Diocese for Mass followed by a free 5K race/1 mile walk. Information can be found on a separate flyer and also on [www.CamdenPriest.org](http://www.CamdenPriest.org)

## APRIL

Saturday, April 13th:

Youth Group Fundraiser: Pancake Breakfast with The Easter Bunny! Help needed with the craft table, serving food, set up and clean up between 8:30am-1pm.  
Breakfast will be from 9am-12pm. Please email Kari to sign up.

Sunday, April 14th:

With Parent's Permission, join the JP2 YG to view "The Passion of the Christ" from 7-9pm in Marian Hall. It is rated "R" due to the movie's violent scenes. Parent Permission form is required from [www.YouthGroupInfo.com](http://www.YouthGroupInfo.com)

Friday, April 19th:

Reflect on Our Lord's Passion by joining our Youth Group for the Living Stations of the Cross Performance in the Church at 7pm.

### School Spiritual Guidance for 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

Join us on the 2nd & 4th Thursday beginning after school from 2:45-4pm for Guys & Girls faith sharing groups lead by Kari, Dan and our CORE Team Youth Group Leaders. Free Pizza will be served from 2:45-3:15pm followed by the sharing from 3:15-4:15pm. SMS Students please send in a cars & walkers note to come over. Other students can come late during the pizza time (we will save you some)!



Follow us on SnapChat:  
@OLOPPYouthGroup



Face book name:  
"Jesus Fish OLOPP"



Follow Us:  
@JFYouthGroup



Videos on YouTube  
OLOPP YouthMinistry



Follow us on Instagram:  
@OLOPPYouthGroup





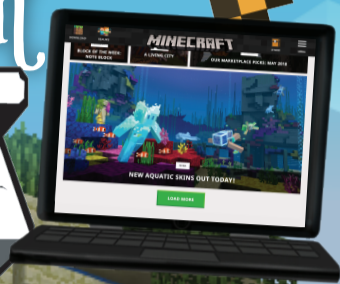


Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game,' which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately **74m** users each month

AGE RESTRICTION **10+**

# What parents need to know about **MINECRAFT**



## GROOMING

As the majority of users who play Minecraft are children, this makes it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

## CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. This chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

## COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

Minecraft incorporates thousands of servers to choose from which are a single world or place created by the public and allow users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

## VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information about you or your child.

## AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the 'Entertaining Software Rating Board' (ESRB), Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence,' the ESRB states that this rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as setting animals on fire and harming them with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

## CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.



**National Online Safety**

# Top Tips for Parents

## DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may restrict their game play.

## MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to 'YouTube' for video tips on improving their game play and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to safely find the content they want.



## SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give extra options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. However, although 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec stated that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on and make sure it's regularly kept up-to-date.

## PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest restricting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

## SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child plays games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand which 'mode' they are playing the game. This may help you decide on the amount of time you would like them to play. For example, a mini game will have an 'end,' but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode,' the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

## CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

To protect your child from engaging in conversation with strangers, advise them to only enter servers with people they know and trust. Your child can also create their own multiplayer server and share this with their friends, which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

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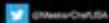
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