

MARCH NEWS

St. Mary's School is dedicated to enhancing in each student a strong sense of Catholic values and enriching each child academically in a safe, caring environment.

Dear Parents,

The weather is still unpredictable as we welcome in the wonderful month of March. Everyone is patiently anticipating the onset of spring and the warm weather. There are many activities going on this month so please keep your calendar handy.

Last week we began the beautiful season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. As Catholics, Lent is an opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with Jesus. At St. Mary's School, teachers and students alike will use this opportunity to pray often, help others and sacrifice time.

Each day during lent there is a 6:30 a.m. Mass in the lower Church Hall. Each Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church followed by a meatless meal downstairs in the lower Church Hall. Please join us for this solemn tradition of prayer during Lent. On Friday evening, March 26th at 6:30 pm the junior high students will perform the Living Stations. We hope you can join us.

Every parish and chapel of the Archdiocese of Boston will be participating in "The Light is on for you". This initiative is to encourage all faith filled Catholics to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. At St. Mary's School & Parish we have set aside a Wednesday evening for each class to come with a parent and or siblings. We hope this experience will strengthen your Lenten journey. Please mark the date for your participation. If you are unable to come on your assigned Wednesday feel free to come on another Wednesday.

March 3 (6:30 -8:00) Grade 3 & 4

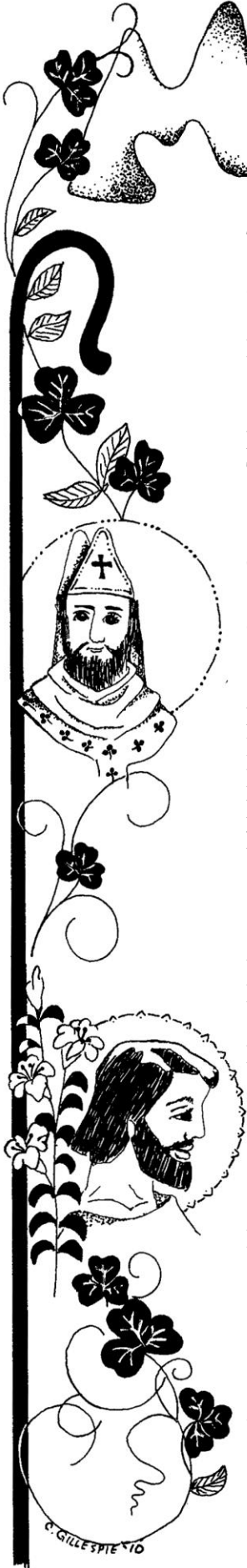
March 10 (6:30 -8:00) Grade 5 & 6

March 17 (6:30 -8:00) Grade 7 & 8

March 31 (6:30 -8:00) Grade 2

If you have more than one child you may pick the evening that works best for you and come as a family.

The fourth season of ARISE has begun. There are more than 200 people in St. Mary's Parish participating in these small faith sharing groups. The students of St. Mary's School will be participating each week during religion class. This is a wonderful connection of prayer among the parishioners, teachers and students.



Our second trimester is coming to a close. Marks will close on Friday, March 5th. Report cards will be given out on Thursday, March 18th. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher please do not hesitate to call or email us. Communication between school and home is vital to the success of your child.

The St. Mary's Auction is being held on Saturday evening, March 6th at the Colonial Hilton in Lynnfield. Tickets are now on sale. We hope you can join us for this wonderful evening of coming together for the students of St. Mary's School. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year so your support is essential for its success.

New Smartboards were installed last week in Grades 2 & Grades 3. The students and teachers alike are excited about this addition to their classrooms. It adds endless possibilities to the presentation of concepts and ideas in the academic environment. Teachers in Grades 2 and Grades 3 are enrolled in an afterschool course for Smartboard training.

All children in Grades 1-8 will be participating in school wide testing the week of March 22- 26. The Archdiocese is implementing the Stanford 10 Testing this year for all grade levels. This standardized test will be given throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. Students should be well rested and eat a good breakfast each day so that they perform at their best. Students should not be late or dismissed so that there will be no distractions.

We have many after school clubs going on presently. The tin whistle lessons have started and Irish Step and Robotics registration is now going on. If you are interested in Robotics there will be an information night on Wednesday, February 24th in the Computer Lab. A new season will begin in March.

Irish Step will begin in March also with this group performing during our 100th Anniversary celebration after 11:30 Mass on May 2nd in Memorial Hall.

We will be having an Information Night for interested new families on Tuesday night, March 23rd from 7-8. If you have friends who are interested in SMS please let them know.

All deposits for next year (\$400.00 per family) are due on March 1st. If you have not sent it in please do so.

May this season of Lent be a time of reflection and renewal for each of us. Thank you for your continued support.

Gratefully,

Mrs. Cynthia Boyle
Principal