

# NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10 NOVEMBER 16, 2022

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

St. Mary’s Families,

Since this is my last message before our Thanksgiving Break, I wanted to share with everyone some of what I am thankful for this year:

I am thankful for all families that attended SME last year and returned to our school this year. I appreciate your commitment to our school, your support, and the trust you have placed in all of us, to provide the best education and school experience possible.

I am thankful for all K-8 families that are new to St. Mary’s. I appreciate the infusion of new ideas and energy that you have added to our community, and hope that our partnership has gotten off to a successful beginning, that your children are happy here.

I am thankful for all of our Pre-K families. The excitement and pure joy that your children bring to our building each and every day remind all of us that school and learning began as fun ... and that they should never cease to be. Thanks for brightening our days!

I am thankful for our parent volunteers. Simply stated, without your time, volunteerism, and care, our school would not exist as it does. This year, we have seen a welcome return to community events, an enthusiastic buzz in the halls of SME, and a friendly atmosphere of cooperation. Thank you for helping to create this.

I am thankful for our outstanding teachers, who always put the person ahead of the student. We are truly blessed to have such a phenomenal group of qualified, caring, responsive teachers. Without their sacrifice and service, our school would not be able to offer the high-quality education we do. Thank you, teachers.

I am thankful for all staff members who comprise a support team that is truly second to none. Every day, our staff members perform countless thankless acts of charity, as they perform innumerable duties to help our school operate at the highest level. Thank you!

When I think back to our recent past and consider our present, I can genuinely say that I believe that our school is growing into a nurturing, supportive community. Rather than simply attend the same school or work in the same building, I feel that we now can proudly say that we are all members of the St. Mary’s community.

And for that, I am thankful.

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless,  
Mr. Olejniczak



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11/17 - Bills Dress Down Day \$1
- 11/18 - Grandparents Mass, Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- 11/22 - Fall Picture Retake Day
- 11/23-11/25 - Thanksgiving Recess
- 11/28 - 1:00 Early Dismissal, Staff PD, NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE
- 12/1-2 - Merry Moose Holiday Shop
- 12/2 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 12/8 - Immaculate Conception Mass, 8:30
- 12/9 - No Mass today, NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE
- 12/16- Living Nativity 7:00pm in the Gym, NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE

## BY THE NUMBERS

**RaiseRight:**  
Sales office open for walk-ins every:  
Wednesday 12:30-2:30  
Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

The office is located within the Faith Formation office in the school building. Please come to our main door #1 to be buzzed in.

**Little Caesars (HSA):**  
Profit: \$1542.00

**Heart & Home (HSA):**  
Profit: \$2029.80

**Year round ways to help:**  
◊ Boxtops 4 Education  
◊ Amazon Smile (search for St. Mary of the Assumption)  
◊ RaiseRight Program



## PARENT T-SHIRTS

SME Parent T-Shirts are available for purchase anytime!

Shirts are \$10.00 and can be ordered here:  
<https://forms.gle/ozf8ihiapbUkd2Lw5>

Also available anytime:  
Car Magnets & Shirt Patches for \$1 each.

Please send payments Attn: Mrs. Kuhn  
Orders will be distributed upon receipt of payment.



Living Nativity - **Update:** We will host our annual depiction of the Living Nativity on Friday, December 16th at 7:00pm in the school gym.  
All families are invited as all of our classes will partake in this special event.

## SME GEAR ONLINE STORE

The SME Gear store will be open by the end of the day today! The store will be open from 11/16-11/30 and will have the option of direct delivery or ship to school for distribution with your child. Items will be ready for shipping on 12/16. If you have a special pick up request, please contact Mrs. Kuhn to arrange that.

**Online Store Link:** <https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/stmarysmerchstore>  
**Open: 11/16 - 11/30/22**  
**Ships: 12/16**

We also have several logo items available via cash & carry.  
Cash & Carry Gear Store: <https://forms.gle/jHfsmzSQBZNNjgNr5>  
Items are first come first serve and will be released upon payment received.

## HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**Save The Date!** Breakfast with Santa, Saturday December 11th, 9-11am! See the invite attached electronically today!

**November:** Craft & Vendor Fair - THANK YOU to those that attended, helped, sold and supported in any way! The event was a great success because of YOU!

**Heart & Home Holiday Gift Fundraiser:** Thank you to those that participated in this sale. Please keep your eye on the NewsNote for the exact delivery date. Items are set to ship out to us 11/22. Items will be distributed with your child unless otherwise directed once received.

**December:** Merry Moose (11/30 set up & 12/1-2 store)  
The shop will be Thursday December 1st and Friday December 2nd in the Parish Center. Parents are welcome to come in and help their child shop. The schedule will be coming soon. Set up for the shop will be Wednesday November 30th at 3:00 p.m.

We are looking for donations of small and medium sized gift bags, tissue paper, tape, and gift tags for wrapping.

If you would like to volunteer for Merry Moose, please fill out this form:  
<https://forms.gle/Jx4wxAFuAaRzTZhM9>

Thank you for making Merry Moose merry and bright!  
If you have any questions please contact Jenny at [jennifersparmo@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersparmo@gmail.com)

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## ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112  
Fax: 716-683-2134  
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S WILL



## COVID TEST KITS

While we have not seen an uptick in Covid cases here at SME, we do have a surplus supply of Covid-19 test kits.

If you would like test kits to be sent home with your child, please email Mrs. Kuhn.

## RAISERIGHT

RaiseRight walk-in office hours are each Wednesday from 12:30-2:30 & Friday from 8:00-12:00. The brown envelope that you received in September is what you can use to send your orders in to school with your child, and what your gift cards will be sent home to you in.

To expand our selling hours we could use a few more volunteers! If you are interested in learning more about that, please email raiseright@smeschool.com.

**To use the RaiseRight app on your mobile device, please email raiseright@smeschool.com to receive the enrollment code.**

If you have any questions, please email raiseright@smeschool.com.  
We thank you for your support of the RaiseRight Program!

## BILLS DRESS DOWN DAYS

The Athletics department will be hosting Bills themed dress down days on the following dates:  
Tomorrow 11/17, Thursday 12/15 & Thursday 1/5.  
For a minimum donation of \$1/day students can be a part of the fandomonium! Funds raised will benefit the athletics program.

Students choosing not to participate are expected to be in their regular school uniform.



## SME/FF CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

The giving season is upon us! This season we are partnering with Saint Mary of the Assumption's parish Faith Formation program to help the homeless. Please consider donating new adult-sized athletic socks and/or travel-sized toiletries. Stockings of Hope will be distributed to the homeless shelters in December. Donations can be brought to school and will be collected in the classrooms.

We are collecting:

- \* New Adult Sized Athletic Socks
- \* New Toothbrushes
- \* Travel-sized toothpaste
- \* Unisex Deodorant
- \* Travel-sized body wash
- \* Travel-sized hand sanitizer



ALL DONATIONS ARE DUE BY  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING  
IN THIS CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY!

## FROM THE ART ROOM: SQUAREART 2022

Hello SME Families - Coming home to you soon will be your child's custom catalog (and FREE stickers) for the Square1Art fundraiser. Get a head start, and start ordering keepsakes and gifts featuring your child's art online NOW, if you like!

Simply search for your child's art using [Art Search](#), and enter state, school name, and your student's name. Your student's art and code will appear, and you may order! *New this year: Ordering is done exclusively On-line, plus ALL orders ship directly to home!*

**Order by: 11/29/2022**

Upload additional art if you like, using [Art Upload](#)! Shop directly using this link - [square1art.com/shop](https://square1art.com/shop)

If you have questions, or need anything at all, [contact customer care online](#). OR email - Mrs. Pesany-Au at SME. Thank you for supporting the Visual Arts at St. Mary's Elementary.

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH: JESSE TREE SIGN-UP

Please click the link to sign up your children/teens to participate in our Jesse Tree Ornament procession & ornament hanging at our Masses during Advent. You can sign up your children/teens for multiple Masses if you wish. We need 7 ornament hangers for each of the 4 Masses during the 4 weeks of Advent. **Please be advised that your children/teens will need to be at Mass 10 minutes early in order to participate. The ushers will find a replacement if you are not at church 10 minutes early.** Thank you for your understanding and for your participation!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/>

If you want to learn more about the Jesse Tree Advent tradition and to share this with your children click here: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/the-jesse-tree/>

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

Get your tickets for the 12 days of Christmas you sure don't want to miss this. We have lots of prizes which make fun surprises, but you've gotta be in it to win it!

Additional tickets are available by request in the school office.  
Thank you & good luck!



## MEGA RAFFLE

The Mega Raffle will be held on Friday, June 9th and is LIVE & IN PERSON!! To ensure that the event is a success, and to welcome back our guests who have missed the live event the past 3 years, we are in need of additional committee members to help with the planning.

The committee will be meeting via Zoom on  
Tuesday, November 8th at 3:30PM.

If you would like to be added to the meeting, or would like more information, please email megaraffle@smeschool.com.

Help is needed in the following areas:

- ◆ Bankers (2 ppl): sit in a secure room and handle the money
- ◆ Bar (4-8 ppl): reach out to vendors for donations, order the beer/wine/cups, brew coffee, serve drinks during the event
- ◆ Decorations (1-2 ppl): order & pick up balloons, assist with set-up the night before the event, wash tablecloths after the event
- ◆ Food/drinks (1-2 ppl): order pizza, pick up pop, make sure cups/plates/napkins are available/ordered
- ◆ Raffle baskets/donations (1-4 ppl): reach out to businesses for donations, assist with basket assembly for the event, sell tickets during the event

## AFTERSCHOOL CARE SCHEDULE UPDATES

Due to various Staff & School events there will be  
**NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE** available on the following dates:

**Monday 11/28, Friday 12/9 & Friday 12/16**

Please be sure to make arrangements for your children to be picked up or take the bus home that day.

We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

## CALENDAR CLUB



We will once again run the Calendar Club fundraiser for the 2023 calendar year.

With 365 days of prizes there is over  
\$10,000 to be won!

Upon the receipt of your \$20 donation, your name and number will be registered for all drawings for the year 2023. Winning numbers will be physically drawn monthly at St. Mary's Rectory and will be published monthly on the parish & school websites.

Please see the order form on the NewsNote tab of the website to reserve yours today!



## 8TH GRADE INFO

Thank you to those that participated in the 8th grade Poinsettia & Wreath Fundraiser.

Poinsettias will be available for pick up on Tuesday, November 29th. Wreaths can be picked up from Kate's Country Cousins on Broadway from November 28th until December 2nd. (Mon - Fri hours 10-7). You will receive a voucher as proof of purchase to present there.

thank you



## NURSE NOTES

You can reach  
Nurse Dara Sirianni, RN at:

nurse@smeschool.com  
716-683-2112 x128

Health Office Hours  
9:30am-1:00pm

## STAY IN THE KNOW



**Make Note:** 11/22 (all grades) Fall Picture Retake Day

**Make Note:** 11/28 No Afterschool Care

**Save the Date :** 12/16  
Living Nativity 7pm in the Church

**Make Note:** 12/9 No Afterschool Care

**Make Note:**

# December 2022



## St. Mary's Elementary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>11/28</b> <b>1:00 Early Dismissal: Staff PD</b>  NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE TODAY	<b>11/29</b>	<b>11/30</b>  Merry Moose Set Up 3:00	1 Merry Moose Holiday Shop	2 Merry Moose Holiday Shop  Christian Witness Mass 8:30	3
4	5	6	7	8 Immaculate Conception Mass, 8:30	9 No Mass today  NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE TODAY	10 Breakfast with Santa 9:00-11:00
11	12 Pre-K Christmas Sing-a-Long 1:00	13	14 Report Card Upload	15	16 Living Nativity 7:00pm Whole School Christmas Show NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <del>Living Nativity</del> Rescheduled to 12/16	24
25 Merry Christmas	26 No School: Christmas Recess	27 →	28 →	29 →	30 →	31

Annual Calendar available on our Website ([smeschool.com](http://smeschool.com)) under the QUICK LINKS tab





# **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

*Pancakes, Sausages &  
Beverages*

*\$10 a person*

RSVP:



**Sat., Dec. 10th, 9-11am  
SME Parish Center**





# 12 Days of Christmas Raffle



**December 25<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Winner drawn every day!\***

**\*Winners will be contacted after January 5th**

## **\$5k Grand Prize!!!**

**\$30 per ticket or 3/\$75**

Checks made payable to **St. Mary's**

**1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086**

Payment due by **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** to guarantee entry in the drawings.

### **It's Snowing Prizes!**

12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5
\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000

**Sponsored by:**

**St. Mary of the Assumption Parish & St. Mary's Elementary School**

Any questions please contact **12Days@smeschool.com** or call 716-473-7115 ext. 321





# 2023 Calendar Club

Sponsored by



## ***St. Mary of the Assumption Parish & St. Mary's Elementary School***

***1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086***

*365 days of prizes!  
Over \$10,000 to be won!*

1. Upon receipt of your \$20.00 donation, your name and number will be registered for all drawings for the year 2023. Winning numbers will be physically drawn monthly at St. Mary's Rectory and will be published monthly on the parish and school websites: stmarysonthehill.org and smeschool.com
2. All winnings will be determined by the amount of money indicated on each day of the calendar.
3. All calendars not sold and returned by December 31, 2022 become the property of St. Mary's.
4. All winnings are paid at the beginning of the following month.

***Please return the completed stub below with your donation of \$20.00 per calendar.  
All questions may be directed to Joe Magiera at [calendarclub@smeschool.com](mailto:calendarclub@smeschool.com) or (716) 473-7112.***

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select delivery method:

\_\_\_\_\_ Rectory Pick Up

\_\_\_\_\_ Mail (Please consider including an additional \$1.20 to cover postage expenses).

\_\_\_\_\_ Send with St. Mary's student (child/teacher): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email digital copy (please provide email address above)

Return this stub with check payable to  
St. Mary's to:

St. Mary's Elementary School  
Attn: Calendar Club  
1 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

If you would like to request a specific number,  
please list your preferences here. Requests are  
filled on a first come, first served basis, and run  
from **0001-1000**.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_



# MERRY MOOSE HOLIDAY SHOP

Is coming to our School!  
Find Something for Everyone on Your List.  
The In-School Holiday Shopping Program,  
That's Fun for Everyone!

As a special service for your child, our school is offering "Merry Moose In-School Holiday Shop". Children will have the opportunity to pick out their own inexpensive, high quality gifts for family and friends during school hours. "Merry Moose Holiday Shop" will be set up in the school and will be run by parent and school volunteers. Gifts are priced with a child's budget, with most ranging from \$1.00-\$5.00.

Before your child's shopping days your child will bring home a "Merry Moose" budgeting envelope allowing you and your child to decide together how much can be spent on each gift.

"Merry Moose Holiday Shop" is designed to be a safe, Child-Centered Environment where children can learn how to budget and spend wisely, while they also experience the "Joy of Giving Gifts"

We are always in need of volunteers to help.

If you're interested in giving the gift of time please send this part of the sheet back to school with your child. Someone from our parent group will be happy to contact you.

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

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_



# *Your Opportunities Await at* **St. Mary's High School**

142 Laverack Avenue • Lancaster, N.Y. 14086

Phone: (716)683-4824 • Fax: (716)683-4996

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St. Mary's Elementary School Families,

St. Mary's High School has launched a new academic initiative this year called The Academies at St. Mary's High School. Students in grades 10-12 have the opportunity to pick one of ten subject areas, similar to college majors, to dive deeper into and explore if that major is something they would like to pursue in college and beyond. Every Tuesday and Thursday, students attend their Academy for a schedule block (roughly 40 minutes) and receive instruction specific to that subject area from the faculty of St. Mary's High School, hear from guest lecturers and speakers, or do activities that help further develop interest in their Academy.

As one of these ten Academies, the Education Academy seeks to develop tomorrow's teachers. In working with these 20 very talented and enthusiastic St. Mary's High School students, a lightbulb went off at the opportunity to team up with our neighbors up the hill – St. Mary's Elementary.

After meeting with your principal, Mr. Olejniczak, and Admissions Director, Mrs. O'Grady, we are excited to announce that St. Mary's Elementary will be seeing some new faces in the hallways in the coming weeks. Students from the Education Academy will be coming to St. Mary's Elementary every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning November 29th and concluding on January 31st, to shadow the wonderful, hardworking teachers of SME. Teaching all grade levels and in every subject area, our students will be able to truly get a feel for life in the classroom and learn from some of the best in the business. In turn, the teachers of SME will get a renewed sense of energy in the classroom from the eagerness and ideas that St. Mary's High School students will bring to this new adventure.

Our students are so excited to be a part of the St. Mary's Elementary community and get to know the students they are working with. This partnership is truly a win-win for both sides, and we couldn't be more thrilled to get the ball rolling. I will personally be overseeing the St. Mary's High School students as they learn and work at the elementary school, so I too am excited to be a part of this idea.

We would like to thank the St. Mary's Elementary faculty, staff, and parents like you for being so welcoming and open to this new initiative. We cannot wait to see all the good that comes from it!

Mrs. Kathy Walh-Henshaw  
St. Mary's High School Science Dept.  
Dean of the Education Academy





ST. MARY  
OF THE  
ASSUMPTION

**Altar Server Registration/Permission Form**  
**4th Grade and up for new and current servers**

*\*youth must have received their First Communion\**

**\*To be filled out by parent(s) only**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Altar Server \_\_\_\_\_ New Altar Server \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Current servers of St. Mary's church do not need to attend training unless it's been a long time since they last served and they could use a refresher. If a student is a server at a parish other than St. Mary's, they need to attend the training to learn how altar serving happens here at St. Mary's.*

**(Print) Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Print) Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Grade for 2022/2023 School Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please rank #1, #2 and #3 top preferences for weekend Masses you wish to serve.*

*\*SME school students are invited to serve at parish masses as well!\**

SME School Masses \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: 4:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00pm \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday: 8:00am \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00am \_\_\_\_\_ 12:00pm \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional instructions or request made by parent(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you willing to serve during Holy Day Liturgies?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Are you interested in serving Wedding and Funeral Masses?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*If yes, you will be contacted for further training by email.*

**Parent's Permission:** My child, listed above, has my permission to be an altar server at St. Mary of the Assumption R.C. Church and/or St. Mary's Elementary School. My child and I understand that this commitment entails serving at all assigned Masses, attending a training session, and following all the rules and regulations for altar servers at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Becky Hoag (Faith Formation Office)**  
**or to the Rectory Attn. Deacon John Owczarczak ASAP.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST ATTEND THE TRAINING WITH THE STUDENT.**



**ST. MARY  
OF THE  
ASSUMPTION**

# **Altar Server Training**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at 11:00 am in the church**



## **What does an altar server do?**

- Assists the priest and deacon
- Prepares the altar
- Lights candles
- Handles the special items used during the Mass

## **Why be an altar server?**

*Some of the reasons are silly...*

- You don't have to sit with your parents at Mass
- You'll get a front row seat
- You'll look really cool in that white robe

*But seriously and more importantly...*

- You will make a difference by performing an important ministry
- You will become a leader in our parish and/or school
- You will learn more about the Mass and it will mean more to you
- It can lead to a deeper relationship with God

**Plan to attend the initial training session!**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am in the church**

**A parent/guardian must attend with the student.**

Boys and girls 4th grade & older (must have received their First Communion) are invited to sign up by completing the attached registration form.

Return the completed form to the Faith Formation Office or to the Rectory *attn. Deacon John*

- Becky Hoag, Director of Faith Formation

[becky@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:becky@stmarysonthehill.org)