

From the Principal



St. Mary Catholic School 2351 22nd Ave Greeley, CO 80631
www.stmarycs.net

Mission Statement:

Under the protection of Jesus and the Blessed Mother, and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary Catholic School is a faith centered academic community that encourages service to God and others and strives to form the hearts, minds and souls of our students in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Faith.

Hopefully you saw the letter that was sent out by Fr. Goggins last Monday. He announced that Mr. Brian Donelson has accepted the position of Principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Donelson visited our school last Thursday and he had the opportunity to interact with the staff, students and SAC. I am confident that he will be a good fit for our school community. Mr. Donelson and I will be working closely together in the coming days and weeks ahead. Please join me in praying for and welcoming our new principal.

As I begin to transition out of this role, I wanted to take a moment to share my gratitude with all of you. I started working at St. Mary as a 2nd grade teacher in August of 2003. I remained in this position for 11 years until I made the move to principal in 2014. I have remained your principal for the past 7 years. I have grown to

truly love this school and the community we serve. I have many fond memories here and will treasure every one of them. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the St. Mary community for the past 18 years.

Registration

I am starting to see more and more registration applications coming in through FACTS. Thank you to those of you that have completed this process. Please be sure that you are uploading all necessary documents prior to submitting the enrollment paperwork. If there are missing documents I will return the application to you. Feel free to contact our school office with any questions you may have. We appreciate your patience as we navigate this new system together.

St. Mary Catholic Education Foundation Scholarships

If you would like be considered for a St. Mary Catholic Education

Foundation Scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year, all applications are due **Friday, April 30th**. We have a limited number of scholarships available and a lot of need! Please adhere to this deadline.

Restoring the Sunday Mass Obligation

Archbishop Aquilla has restored the Sunday and Holy Day Obligation. This obligation begins with Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. As the general dispensation is lifted, this undoubtedly raises a few questions and concerns. Included in this email is a FAQ from the Archdiocese of Denver to help you navigate through these questions and concerns. As we prepare for Pentecost Sunday and this reinstatement, I pray that the Holy Spirit will ignite and guide a renewal of faith in our families, school and parish. There is no greater gift than the gift Christ gave the world—himself.

April 21, 2021
principal@stmarycs.net
970-353-8100

Upcoming Events

- Week of May 3rd– Jog-A-Thon
- May 6– Birthday Spirit Day
- May 6– Noon Release
- May 7– No School– Staff Development
- May 11– PTO Meeting 6:30pm
- May 20– Spirit Day
- May 27– Last Day for 8th Grade
- May 27– 8th Grade Graduation Mass 6pm
- May 31– NO SCHOOL– Memorial Day
- June 3– Field Day
- June 4– Last Day of School

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me.” John 10:14

Jog-A-Thon News

The students will be seeking pledges starting today! Pledges can be per lap around the school or a flat donation. The students will be running according their class schedule Monday through Wednesday (May 3-5th). Come join the fun on **THURSDAY, MAY 6TH from 10am-12:00pm**

On Thursday, May 6th, we invite parents, family and supporters like you to gather a team - or individually - to run/walk for ONE HOUR. The students will be gathered in their classes on the perimeter of the school to cheer you on. We encourage themed teams - whether it be with fun and uplifting costumes - or coord-

inated colors/t-shirts - our students and staff would love to see your SCHOOL SPIRIT! Lunch from Chick-fil-A will be served from 11-12pm. Noon dismissal for all students.

We are celebrating our 20th year and our goal is to raise \$20,000 dollars! Will you .

help? Please go to stmarycs.net and click on "donation", then Jog-a-thon to donate. To help volunteer or for any questions, please contact Julie Uyemura through FastDirect Thank you for your support!



← Reencounter the Mass

FAQ on Restoring Sunday and Holy Day Obligation

When will the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation be restored?

Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

Catholics who have not already returned to Mass should use the Easter season to prayerfully discern if they have a serious reason that prevents them from attending in person. If not, they should begin to resume normal attendance over the next several weeks in anticipation of the obligation being restored.

See below for more on what constitutes a serious reason.

Why are Catholics not obligated to attend Mass?

As Catholics, we are invited by God to gather together in community, and participate fully in the Sunday Eucharist, which is the “source and summit of the Christian life.”

“Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God’s holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

Catechism 2182



The Sunday and Holy Day obligation is not something God asks of us out of his own necessity or need to be worshipped, but rather a gift to the faithful for our own spiritual well-being, happiness, and eternal salvation.

Recommended reading: [Only One Thing is Necessary](#)

Why is the general dispensation being lifted?

In the interest of promoting the common good, the dioceses and our parishes have taken many steps to help protect public health during this global pandemic.

This briefly included suspending in-person Masses last March and April, and then instituting thorough protocols and guidelines to make sure our public Masses could resume in as safe of a manner as possible.

As the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our Christian life, we have always considered Mass to be an essential activity and have done our best to balance public health concerns while still providing access to the Mass and Sacraments to the faithful.

A general dispensation was granted when public Masses were initially suspended and kept in place while it remained reasonable for any Catholic to decide it was prudent for them to stay home.

However, for the last several months we have been encouraging Catholics to prayerfully consider if they have a prudent reason to stay home, or if they are just using the dispensation as an excuse.

Now, as the worst of the pandemic seems to be behind us, access to the vaccine for those who desire it has increased, and many other areas of life continue to move back towards normal, the time has come that a general dispensation is no longer necessary for every Catholic.

Does this mean everyone is obligated to go to Mass again?

No. Long before this pandemic, the Church has always recognized that there are “serious” or “grave” reasons that prevent Catholics from attending Mass.

For example, if a person is sick or homebound, or living/visiting areas of the world where access to the Mass is limited, or a situation arises that prevents travel (snowstorm or flat tire), such persons would not be bound by the obligation.

In the case of this pandemic, serious or grave reasons would include:

- Anyone who is sick, symptomatic, or has been recently exposed to the coronavirus. Protecting the health of others is an act of Christian charity and our moral duty to one another.
- Anyone with significant health risk factors that requires them to avoid public spaces, or if you care for someone with significant risk factors.
- Anyone who cannot attend Mass through no fault of their own, for example, if a parish has reached capacity.

Recommended reading: [Dispensations: An Excuse to Skip Mass?](#)

I am unsure if I have a “serious reason” to stay home, what should I do?

Anyone who is unsure about their personal situation should speak with their pastor or any priest.

Will there still be safety protocols at Masses?

Yes. Parishes have consistently followed the recommendations of public health experts during the pandemic and will continue to take prudent steps to ensure that public Masses are celebrated in a safe manner.

As positivity rates and health protocols will continue to vary across the state, please check with your local parish for specific guidelines.

Are Masses safe to attend?

For almost a year, the dioceses and parishes have implemented thorough safety protocols based on the recommendations of health experts. While entering into any public space

has included some risk, the precautions taken by our parishes have proven to be extremely effective, and we are unaware of any issues of community spread happening at a public Mass.

Is a vaccine required to return to Mass?

No. The [Bishops of Colorado have affirmed](#) that receiving certain COVID-19 vaccinations is morally acceptable, but that it is a matter of personal conscience and a private health decision. They have also stated that vaccination should never be a requirement for admittance at any public event including public Masses. However, regardless of if one gets vaccinated, all Catholics should continue to take prudent steps to prevent the spread of the coronavirus until this pandemic has completely passed.



En Español

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2021-2022 School Calendar

You will find the 2021-2022 school calendar attached to this email. Please pay special attention to the start and end of school dates as well as holidays and breaks.

Faith Day at the Colorado Rockies

The Colorado Rockies will be hosting a post-game concert featuring “Mercy Me”. This event will take place on Sunday, August 8th. Please see the flyer included with this email for more information.

Read-A-Thon

Thank you to all of our families, friends and students that participated and supported our Read-A-Thon. I especially want to recognize Shanelle Guzman for chairing this event and for the support of the PTO. Our goal for this fundraiser was \$12,500. Our actual fundraising dollars were \$8,132.06. These fundraising dollars will go toward our general fund. Thank you!

Silent Auction

Thank you to all that participated in last Friday’s Silent Auction. Ten baskets were sold for a total of \$2,205. These funds will go to the general fund. Thank you especially to Shanelle Guzman, Kim Miano, Abbey Horton and our PTO for procuring items and the hard work organizing the event.



The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, and at the direction of the Superintendent, attest that none of the Catholic schools discriminates on the basis of sex in its admission policies, its treatment of students or its employment practices

Notice of Student Non-Discrimination Policy The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Denver, under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L. and at the direction of the Superintendent, state that all of their Catholic schools admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. Furthermore, Archdiocesan schools admit disabled students in accord with the policy on Admissions in the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools Administrator’s Manual. These schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, age, disability, color, and national or ethnic origin in the administration of their educational policies, employment practices, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other school-administered programs.
