

## Parish of St. Mary



#### **Worship Schedule**

Lord's Day Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM (Lee) 5:30 PM (Otis)
Sunday: 8 & 11 AM (Lee) & 9:30 AM (Stockbridge)
Weekday Mass: (Lee) - 7:00 AM
Holy Days of Obligation (please see inside)

#### **Parish Offices**

40 Academy Street / Lee, MA 01238 Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-12pm or by appt Telephone (413)243-0275 Fax: (413)243-1926

Faith Formation Office (413)243-1079, Ext. 8
Email: lcsmchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarylos.com
Prayer Line (413)243-1523 (Vicki)

#### **Parish Pastoral Staff**

Fr. Brian F. McGrath - Pastor
Fr. Matt Barone - Parochial Vicar
Deacon Jim McElroy - Permanent Deacon
Deacon Bob Digan - Deacon Emeritus
Mrs. Karen T. Vidoli - Office Manager
Mrs. Katherine Murray - Faith Formation Coordinator
Mrs. Holly Cusack - Bookkeeper
Ms. Sandy Cummings - Music Director (Lee)

Mr. Art DeVylder - Music Director (Stockbridge) Mrs. Colleen Free - Youth Ministry Mr. Charles Houff - Pastoral Council

Ms. Susan Aery - Music Director (Otis)

Mr. Richard Brittain - Administration & Finance
Mrs. Brenda Bianco - Child Advocate
Mr. Jeffrey Simmons - Maintenance
Mr. Tim Holian - Maintenance

**Pastoral Council Finance Council** Charles Houff, Richard Brittain. chair chair Laura Sexton **Bob Gutmann Lewis Brooks Bob Kelly Richard Lacey Chad Klapes** John Masten Lori Koperek **Richard Lacey Cathie Sparks Thom Swift Carol Lombardo Holly Cusack** Kate Murray

Lynda Newton Erin Pollard Trish Santos

## St. Mary's School Est. 1885

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Miss. Cara Maiorano | Interim-Principal Mrs. Linda Winters| School Secretary Mrs. Gina Reiners | School Board Chair



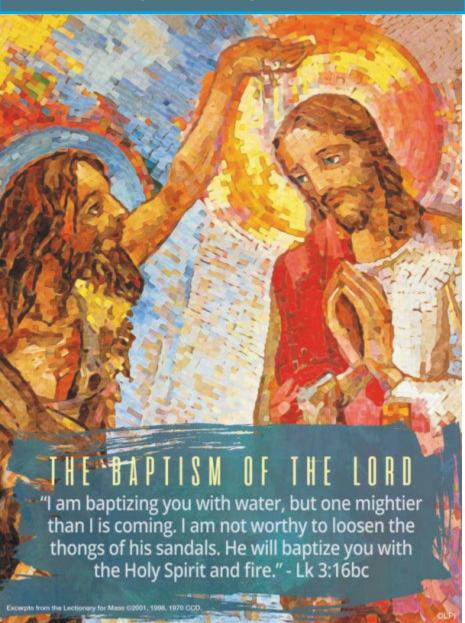




St. Mary, Mother of the Church 140 Main Street Lee St. Mary of the Lakes
72 North Main Road
Otis

St. Joseph Church
11 Elm Street
Stockbridge

One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites.



## Parish of St Mary

Please pray for the men and women who have been activated to serve our nation, all our police officers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, research scientists and essential services workers.

Let us also pray for our departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died due to the pandemic, anyone who has passed away recently, for those we miss so much.

## Dorothy Mottarella, Ray Moquin, Daniel McDonald

May they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven. AMEN.

If you would like to add a name of a deceased loved one, please call the rectory.



#### The Candles this Week

Sanctuary:

Grotto Lamps:

Oratory Lamp:

Candles may be reserved by calling the rectory at 243-0275

## Mass Intentions for This Week

|             |          | States Interested for Interest,                                     |  |
|-------------|----------|---|--|
| Sat. 1/8    | 4:00 pm  | † George Membrino, by Jane Membrino                                 |  |
| Otis        | 5:30 pm  | ▼ Amy Benner for her health, by Isabella Shea                       |  |
| Sun. 1/9    | 8:00 am  | † Audie Furgal (10th Anniversary) by the Furgal and Simone families |  |
| Stockbridge | 9:30 am  | † Deceased Members of the Thorne & Mackey Families by Lisa Thorne   |  |
|             | 11:00 am | † William Morrissey, by Jane Membrino                               |  |
| Mon. 1/10   | 7:00 am  | † Souls in Purgatory  |  |
| Tue. 1/11   | 7:00 am  | † Edward and Geraldine Vogl, by their family                        |  |
| Wed. 1/12   | 7:00 am  | † Leo McGrath (22nd Anniversary), by Fr. b. and family              |  |
|             |          | † John Connors, by Matthew Joyce and Nina Koors                     |  |
| Thu. 1/13   | 7:00 am  | † Devon Lewis, by Bill and Becky Brunell                            |  |
| Fri. 1/14   | 7:00 am  | † Christy Rich, by her aunt Laurie Forfa                            |  |
| Sat. 1/15   | 4:00 pm  | † Pete and Dawn Simmons, by Mary Ann                                |  |
| Otis        | 5:30 pm  | ♥ Wlada Gasperowicz, by Isabella Shea                               |  |
| Sun. 1/16   | 8:00 am  | †   |  |
| Stockbridge | 9:30 am  | † Catherine Chichester, by the Tagge family                         |  |



11:00 am

## 4000

## Weekly Parishioner Contributions 1/2/22

Mail:\$2,537Consider Online giving.Online:\$1,024Set up your gift today.Lee:\$3,885Visit our Website orOtis:\$62call Karen at theStockbridge:\$1,028rectory (243-0275)

Thanks! You make all our ministries possible.

### Ministers on the Altar Next Week

† Joseph Scapin, Sr. (Birthday Remembrance), by his family

Sat. 1/15 3:00 pm (Confessions): Fr. Matt

4:00 pm (Lee): Fr. Matt Lector: Mary Ann Saunders

E.M.: Mary Ann Saunders & Tom Rollinger

5:30 pm (Otis): Fr. Brian Lector and A.S.: Logan and Dylan Fedor

E.M.: Carol Lombardo

Sun. 1/16 8:00 am (Lee): Fr. Matt w/Dec. Jim

E.M.: Bill Ingegni and Ann O'Brien Lector: Richard Lindsay

9:30 am (Stockbridge): Fr. Brian w/Dec. Jim Lector: Robert Kirschmann

11:00 am (Lee): Fr. Matt

E.M.: Mary Jo Engels and Holly Baccoli Lector: Ed Lahey

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9TH, 2021

*The Baptism of the Lord*: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Mon.: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116/Mk 1:14-20 Tue.: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2/Mk 1:21-28

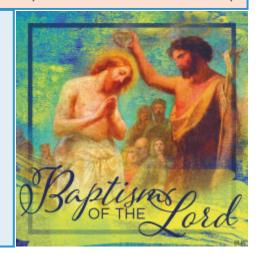
Wed.: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40/Mk 1:29-39

Th., *St. Hilary*: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44/Mk 1:40-45

Fri.: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89/Mk 2:1-12

Sat.: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21/Mk 2:13-17

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



#### FROM THE PASTOR

A new year is upon us! I am still getting used to writing 2022. I hope and pray it is a year of grace and joy and peace and love for each and all of you.

Here at the parish it started with some beautiful celebrations ... Mary, Mother of God and Epiphany. On Saturday we were reading Luke's account of the shepherds glorifying and praising God upon seeing the Christ Child with Mary. On Sunday we were reading Matthew's account of the Magi offering gifts while giving homage before the Christ Child. Having both feasts on the same weekend brought the focus on the great gifts we have in God. Sure, the shepherds gave the gift of their worship and the wise men brought of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But I am overwhelmed by the gift God gave us in his very self, word made flesh, Emmanuel. I am ever grateful for the gift of Mary and Joseph who continue hold us tenderly in their love even from heaven. We are blessed.

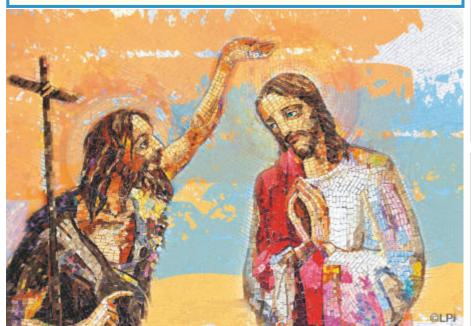
The world wants us to focus on the many ways we are challenged ... by health issues, by finances, by unrest and incivility ... by the brokenness of this world. I don't think we should shrink away from facing those challenges. But let us face them in the grace of God who is with us, in the family of angels and saints who surround us, in the support and encouragement of the Church, God's family on earth.

This weekend we will be celebrating the Baptism of the Lord. The Christmas decorations are much more muted as we move from Bethlehem to the Jordan River. The echoes of the manger and the light that dawned in our darkness still reverberate in our worship. But now they are brought forward in water and the call to conversion, in our profession of faith and our striving to follow Jesus. Jesus enters the waters of the Jordan to open a way forward for each of us in the waters of baptism. Let us live our baptismal call.

May God bless you and your families in this new year.

Pax. Fr. b.

Answer to Catholic Trivia from p. 8: Filippo Brunelleschi



## **ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

SMC = St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Lee
STJ = St. Joseph's, Stockbridge
SML = St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis | SMS = St. Mary's School, Lee

We are live-streaming the Weekend Masses from St. Mary's Church on our Facebook page

(St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge).

You can keep updated on the diocesan (diospringfield.org) parish (stmarylos.com) and school websites (stmaryslee.org) as well on Facebook & MyParish App.

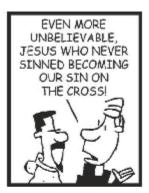
| Sun 1/9   | BAPTISM OF OUR LORD |                              |  |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
|           |                     | Faith Formation - SMS & Zoom |  |
|           | 6:00 pm             | Confirmation Class - SMS     |  |
| Mon 1/10  | 6:00 pm             | School Board - SMS           |  |
| Tue 1/11  | 6:30 pm             | Homebound Ministry - SMS     |  |
| Wed 1/12  | 6:00 pm             | Knights of Columbus Dinner   |  |
| Thu 1/13  |                     |                              |  |
| Fri. 1/14 | 8:00 am             | School Mass                  |  |
| Sat. 1/15 |                     |                              |  |
| Sun 1/16  | 6:00 pm             | Confirmation Class - SMS     |  |

Upcoming: 1/17 Martin Luther King Day - No School; 1/21 March for Life; 1/29 Catholic Schools Week Begins; 2/4 First Friday Devotions and Nursing Home Masses; 2/6 St. Mary's School Open House; 2/12 St. Mary's School Father-Daughter Dance; 3/1 Shrove Tuesday Dinner & Burning of the Palms; 3/2 Ash Wednesday; 3/4 Stations of the Cross and Simple Suppers begin; 4/10 Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins; 4/14

## www.stmarylos.com

BAPTISM OF THE LORD







## January 9th, 2022 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

We are a Eucharistic community, finding strength in Jesus and His Church by living both Word and Sacrament. We minister to the needs of the People of God through Worship and living out the Gospel and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Rectory Office Hours** are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon.

Registration: We welcome all new members to our parish family. To formally join the parish, please fill in the Parish Census form. Our parish census helps us keep track of who is a member of the parish. It is how we send parishioners the Catholic Mirror and parish mailings. If you want to be registered with us, simply fill in the Census Form (found at the entrances of the church or on our website) or stop by the rectory.

**Baptisms** take place at the request of the family. In preparation, parents are asked to complete one class. Contact the rectory for additional information

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Oratory

Mon.-Fri. 8 am - 11 pm Sat. & Sun. 9 am - 11 pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation & The Anointing of the Sick is offered every Saturday from 3:00-3:30 in St. Mary's Church, Lee. These sacraments may be received any time by appointment.

Sick or Homebound: Kindly inform the Rectory if you or someone you know would like a visit at home, hospital or nursing home. You've come to church for all those years, now let us bring church to you.

Marriage: Congratulations to our newly engaged. Please contact the rectory to begin the process of preparation. The preparation can take up to a year. God's grace lasts all the days of your life.

**Holy Orders:** If you feel the call to religious life or a vocation to the diaconate or priesthood; contact Fr. Brian or Fr. Matt at the rectory or the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Jon Reardon: 413-739-0456, ext. 4

email: vocations@diospringfield.org

New Direction Crisis Pregnancy Center: Has a help line available 24/7. Call: 413-347-8005



ADORATION NEWS: OUR LADY'S ORATORY could use you! As the Year of the Eucharist begins, please consider spending an hour a week with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 20 OPEN HOURS. Available hours are posted in the Oratory. More info can be had by calling Laurie Forfa at 413-464-8143 or Lisa Thorne at 298-3261

OUR LADY OF FATIMA TRAVELING STATUE: We have resumed the holy practice of having our beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima travel to homes throughout the parish. If you would like to have this statue in your home for a week during the coming year, the instructions and sign-up sheets are in Our Lady's Oratory. Also, when you come by the Oratory, be sure to take a moment to adore Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Remember this is the Year of the Eucharist in our Diocese.. If you have any questions, you may call Laurie Forfa at 413-464-8143.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND: Fr. Matt is hosting a Ministry to the Homebound meeting this Tuesday (1/11/22) at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's School. All ministers who visit our homebound are asked to join the Zoom. If you need the code, contact Fr. Matt. If you know someone who could use a visit, or if you would like to get involved in bringing communion to those who cannot make it to church, please give him a call at the rectory (243-0275).

DIAPER DRIVE: The Knights of Columbus will be running Diaper and Baby Bottle Drives in January to support Right To Life. Diapers will be collected at the church and Baby Bottles will be available to be filled with coins. Diapers and Baby Bottles will be collected the weekends of January 15-16 and January 22-23. Diapers will be donated to the Berkshire County Diaper Project and money raised from the Baby Bottles will be donated to the New Direction



Women's Center in Pittsfield. Thank you for supporting these worthy Right To Life causes. You may contact Donald Zukowski at (413)822-7408 with questions on either the Diaper or Baby Bottle Drives.

ST. Joseph's Organ & ST. Mary's SOUND SYSTEM: Our beloved Organ at St. Joseph's is in need of some repairs. About \$8,500 worth. At the same time we are finally replacing St. Mary's sound system (yes, the one that had all the troubles in early December and is held together with duct tape and a prayer). We are very blessed to have planned ahead for emergencies such as these in our budgeting process. But we also know there are some amazing parishioners out there with a deep love for a real pipe organ and the necessary upgrades to our Sound System. If you feel called to help us with donations, please drop them in the collection basket



Welcome Back to a new year of learning ang growth. Our plan is to meet again in person beginning this weekend, January 9th (9:00 am for Grades K-10 | 6:00 pm for Confirmation Students). The younger grades will take next weekend off for Martin Luther King weekend, while the Confirmation Students will meet on January 16th.

FAITH FORMATION

There is still time to sign your child up for Faith Formation. Please email me and I'll get your family signed up!

If you have any questions or I can be of any assistance, please contact me at

stmaryleeccd@gmail.com

Joyfully in Christ, Katie Murray

#### From the Area and the Diocese

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST: "After the happiness of communicating: Rise modestly, return to your place, kneel down, and do not immediately take up your book or rosary. What good are the words of men when God is speaking? We must be like someone who is very curious and listens at the door. We must listen to all that the good God says at the door of our hearts."

- St. John Vianney, Eucharistic Meditations: 16th Meditation.

## www.yearoftheeucharist.net

<u>VOCATIONS</u>: Let's continue to pray and support vocations. Perhaps priesthood or consecrated life awaits you. Contact Fr. Jon Reardon at 413-248-7034 or <u>vocations@diospringfield.org</u>

#### REGISTRATION FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY NOW OPEN:

Registration for the 2023 Diocese of Springfield trip to World Youth Day has now opened. Our official pilgrimage to Fatima and Lisbon Portugal for World Youth Day will take place July 28 to August 8 2023 and is an incredible opportunity for youth and young adults (ages 18-35 in 2023) to encounter

Christ with several million youth from around the world who share their faith. For more information, to watch the recording of the November 16 virtual info session, or to register, go to: <a href="https://www.youngandcatholic.org/get-involved/worldyouthday">https://www.youngandcatholic.org/get-involved/worldyouthday</a> or scan the QR code:



#### **Everyday Stewardship - I Hope I Am Like Him**

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

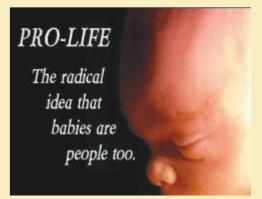
Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Novena for Life 2022: The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Catholic Church and of the Knights of Columbus. A Novena for Life is meant to bring Knights of Columbus and parish families together in a spiritual battle to lead their communities, through both public and private acts of prayer, to ensure a culture of life in our nations. Our very own Berkshire Hills Council 314 invite you to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, *Wednesday, January 19 – Thursday, January 27*. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more.

Download the novena or sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message at <a href="https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life">https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life</a>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for some important dates ahead:



#### January 19 at 10:00am -Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at

St. Michael's Cathedral, followed by a local march to City Hall (those who prefer may stay at the Cathedral after Mass to pray "The Rosary for Life", followed by a lunch sponsored by Pro-Life of Pioneer Valley.

March 2 - Lenten 40 Days for Life Begins

## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

©LPi

#### <u>Upcoming Training Sessions for both Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors</u>

The Diocesan Office of Divine Worship created training sessions for both Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. Our very own Fr. Matt and the deacon from St. Ann's Lenox have been chosen to facilitate these trainings. Their hope is to help the ministers do a "better job" and also, to grow in their understanding of their ministry - why they do what they do. And ultimately to help them to grow in their relationship with the Lord through their ministry. This is a great opportunity to add new ministers and help our veteran ministers to grow in their ministerial role and their faith. In the Berkshire Deanery, there are three training sessions schedules this month.

All existing Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors are invited to participate in these trainings. We are also putting forward a call for those who are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister or Lector at Mass. If you are new, please talk to Fr. Matt or Fr. Brian before you go to the training.

Eucharistic Minister and Lector sessions will take place simultaneously at each location. If someone needs both trainings, they can attend at one of the other times/locations as well.

Each session will be 2½ hours from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Saturday, January 15, 2022 – St. Peter's, Great Barrington Saturday, January 22, 2022 – St. Joseph's, Pittsfield Saturday, January 29, 2022 – St. Elizabeth's, North Adams

To register, contact Deacon Dan Romanello either by phone or e-mail: **(413) 232-7889** (H) or **(203) 209-5258** (M) d.romanello@diospringfield.org

Thank you! We pray that this will be fruitful for the liturgical ministers of our deanery and beneficial for our parishes. May God bless you all!



## GOSPEL MEDITATION | JANUARY 9, 2022 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." - Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

### January 9th, 2021





#### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL'S ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Here at St. Mary's School, as we hang our new 2022 calendars on the wall, we realize how blessed we are to have such a supportive parish. St. Mary's School is thriving and we want to take this opportunity to thank you, our faithful parishioners, for all of your support. You are generous in many ways; as prayer partners, attending and sponsoring fundraisers, and joining us for school Masses, plays, and events. You are so very important to all that we do; your prayers sustain us!

Thank you for your ongoing contributions via the envelopes, as well! If you have not contributed to our school envelopes in the past, we ask you to consider supporting our school with a donation this way. We appreciate any gift that you can give. Fundraising has always been critical over the years in order to keep school tuition affordable. Our fundraising events changed drastically last year, due to the pandemic, and this year is not very different. With heavy hearts, we decided not to host our annual bazaar and in-person auction again this year. (\*note that we will have an online auction again this spring; stay tuned!) Last year we initiated our Parish Appeal in the bulletin and you responded generously via the envelopes. We hope you will respond with enthusiasm again this year!

During the month of January, we would like to highlight just how important our parish and school are to each other. Next week we look forward to sharing some testimonials from two parishioners! In coming weeks, we will hear from students, as well. It's an exciting time of year for SMS, as we gear up for national Catholic Schools Week during the first week of February. It's the perfect time of year to celebrate



#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who designed the dome of the cathedral of Florence? (answer on page 3)

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