Mission Statement: We partner with parents providing a Catholic school rooted in the gospel teachings of Jesus Christ, modeled by Mary our mother, encouraging a virtuous life following the Catholic faith and pursuing academic excellence.



MARIAN MESSENGER

January 14, 2021

Week – At – A - Glance

Friday, January 15, 2021	 8:30 Mass canceled
	End 2 nd Marking Period
	✤ ½ Day of School; Noon Dismissal
	Popcorn Day \$.50/bag limit 2
	 First Friday Food Drive
Monday, January 18, 2021	 Morning Prayer; Mrs. Kinsey
	No School; MLK Day
Tuesday, January 19, 2021	Dress Down Day
	 6:00 Education Team zoom
	meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021	♦ 8:30 Middle School Mass; gr. 8
	*
Thursday, January 21, 2021	*
Friday, January 22, 2021	♦ 8:30 All School Mass; gr. 7
	Report Card sent home through
	email by 3:00

LUNCH INFORMATION

Grades 6-8 Lunch 11:30-12:00

Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth

Grades 3-5 Lunch 12:05

Grades K-2 Lunch 12:25

Please provide your students with everything they need to eat their lunch; <u>plate</u>, <u>eating utensil</u>, napkin, drink, <u>condiments</u>

Principal Notes

God our Father, we ask that as we strive to bring Jesus to the center of the life of our family that you would help us to . . . speak the truth of the kingdom that you have promised, to bring our worries and cares to Christ our redeemer, to encourage one another in faith, we ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

As you may or may not know, we did have a number of students and two teachers who were exposed to Covid-19 over the holiday break and have been in quarantine this week. It was a blessing that we were not in school face-to-face last week and were working through online learning. I know that online learning is not fun for anyone; parents, students, or teachers. As it turned out, both weeks we went to that option was best for all health wise. We continue to pray for our family, neighborhood and the world that we will see an end to this terrible disease.

The question was asked at the PTC meeting on Tuesday if we would need to move to online learning the week after Easter break. That is a bit out there just yet so we will wait things out and see how the numbers in the community are doing as we get closer to that time but still allow you enough notice.

Coming Soon: We are in the process of opening up the link for families to register in the new tuition software FACTS Tuition that we are moving to for the 2021-2022 school year. I am going to put together a short video for you to help with this process. It should be a smooth transition for everyone. More information soon!



Fish Dinners: St. Mary School will be working with the St. Mary Men's Club this Lenten season to help with their annual Fish Dinners. The Men's Club are generously donating 90% of the profits back to the school to go towards the Dible Tuition Scholarship. (The other 10% will go towards cleaning the kitchen this summer.) These funds will help replace the \$15,000.00 that usually comes from our annual auction. What a blessing!

There will be six Fridays during Lent that we will need to help. They are expecting to serve (carry out only) 500 meals each night. Lots of hands will be needed to help package parts of the meal, put meals together, clean pots and pans, run from the multi-use room to the car to deliver the meal, etc. We are going to try to have two different pick up areas, one in the front and one in the back to make things go smoothly so we may need someone directing traffic in the parking lot. A sign up genius will be sent out in the next two weeks with more details. We will have to be patient as we work the kinks out the first night knowing exactly what will be needed.



<u>Diocesan Scholarship Application</u> is now available. When you apply, please be sure that your need is greater than the \$750 per child and that your child is Catholic. Please see the information at the end of the Messenger for greater detail! Note deadlines!!

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Thank you to everyone who lent us some of your Christmas decorations. We finally have them down and are going through them so that we can get them back to their owners! We are hopeful to get them back to you either this week or next week latest! Your donation helped this event to be a huge success! Thank you!

Snow Day Information: All families are on a phone chain for snow days. You will receive a text/phone message from Mrs. Kinsey letting you know if a SNOW DAY happens. It will also be put on TV channel WXYZ (7) and NBC (4) and I'm pretty sure FOX (2). Generally, if Pinckney schools are closed for snow/ice, we will be closed. (We will not close for "cold" days as we will be inside out of the cold and our students do not wait for a bus in the morning.)

Article in the paper: https://welovedexter.com/2021/01/10/people-need-this-st-mary-students-parishioners-shine-lights-in-the-darkness/?fbclid=lwAR3ue2UU7Kt4RumOC15lvjHipPEguLZmSs5Wfonxgs-RvHTl4PChMO6Zlg8

Three Things to Watch for:

1) St. Mary's "All Roads Lead to Bethlehem" will be featured in the Dexter Guardian newspaper, in newsstands Friday 1/15

2) "All Roads Lead to Bethlehem" will be featured on WHMI this Sunday 1/17

3) "All Roads Lead to Bethlehem" Best Costume winner will be awarded and announced next week

CLASSROOM NEWS

MRS. HAMER'S ART CLASSES

Happy New Year! I would like to thank all families for the Christmas gifts. Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth It's hard to believe the new marking period is upon us. In the next few weeks the students will be bringing home artwork from the 1st semester. This year the art classes will be participating in the **Original Works** Art fundraiser. This fundraiser helps with various art supplies for the art room and provides families with a nice keepsake from their child. There will be more information to follow about the program dates.



MRS. HAMER'S MEDIA CLASSES

Please remind your child to return library books on their library day. If a student has more than two outstanding books, they will not be able to check out a book.

Library Days:

Wednesday- 4th, 5th, 1st grade

Friday- K, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, PreK

Thank you and Happy New Year, Mrs. Hamer



Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth

MRS. RIVETT'S SPANISH CLASSES

This quarter students in kindergarten through grade two have been introduced to Spanish words for colors and shapes. We talked about our favorite and least favorite colors, and we made crowns to celebrate Día de los Reyes/Three Kings Day. Students in grades 3-5 have learned to talk about their classes and about the objects that are found and used in the classroom. In grades 6-8 we are learning about authentic Mexican foods and the cultures that influence them. Soon middle school students will be able to understand and ask questions about menu items in Spanish. The goal for this year is for students of all ages to be able to have a basic conversation in Spanish by the end of the year.





Virtue of the Month:

Gratitude: meaning: seeing everything as a gift and being thankful.

When we receive gifts from others, we respond by saying, "Thank you!" To have the virtue of gratitude means to always have a "thankyou" in your heart, especially to God, Who has given us the gift of life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Every joy and suffering, every event and need can become the matter of thanksgiving which, sharing in that of Christ, should fill one's whole life" (#2648). It can be easy to race through a day without giving thought to how grateful we should be, even for the splendor of a sunset or the fidelity of a close friend. Yet we are called not only to be grateful for these things, but even for the difficulties in life, which God allows for the greater good of our salvation. Everything God has made, everything that happens, is a gift. So, in all things, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His love endures ...FOREVER"!

Saint of the Month for Preschool to grade 2: **Saint Francis of Assisi;** feast day is October 4th.

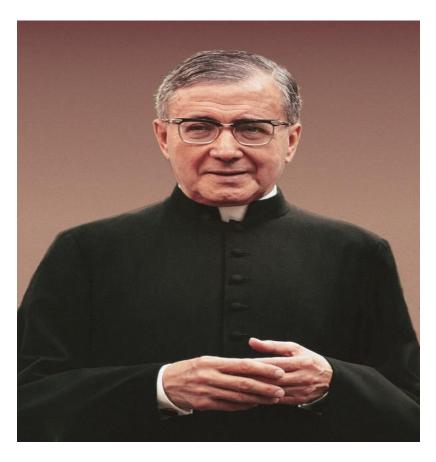


Saint Francis was born into a wealthy family but gave up everything he had to follow God. St. Francis was so thankful to God for all that He had created that he wrote songs about the sun and the moon, the plants and the animals, and all of creation. He taught others to see everything as God's gifts.

Saint of the Month for grades 3-5: Saint Julie Billiart. Feast Day is May 13.



As a young girl, St. Julie was so poor that she did not go to school very much. In spite of this, she knew her faith very well and would often teach other children about God. She promised her life to God when she was 14 and spent the rest of her life serving and teaching the poor. She started a group of Religious Sisters whose purpose was to teach young girls, and the name she gave her community was the Sisters of Notre Dame-the Sisters of our Lady. St. Julie was known for always smiling, even though she was bedridden for 22 years until cured by a miracle. St. Julie once said she was ashamed that she had not already died of gratitude to God for all He had done for her!



Saint of the Month for Middle School: Saint Josemaria Escriva. Feast Day is June 26.

"I did not know what it was (the Lord) wante4d, but I went forward...without doing anything unusual..." these words uttered by the young seminarian Josemaria Escriva would be a premonition of the "Work" literally, "Opus Dei," the Work of God—the movement encouraging personal holiness through ordinary life that would become his apostolate as a priest and his gift to the whole Church.

Born in 1902 in the small town of Barbastro in northern Spain to Jose Escriva, a prosperous textile merchant, and his wife Maria Delores, Josemaria was the second-oldest of six children, only three of whom were to survive to adulthood--a loss that was to have a profound affect on the family. Josemaria himself almost died of a serious illness at the age of two; but his devout mother commended him to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mother, and he made a full recovery, which he always attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

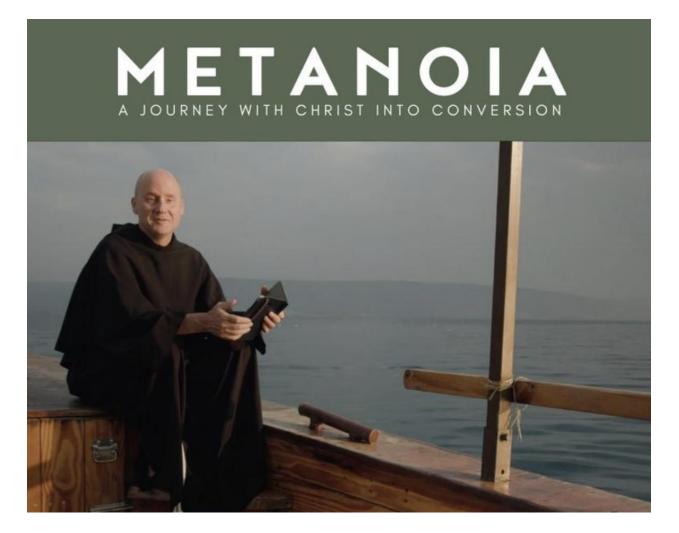
As a teenager, glimpsing the footprints in snow made by the bare feet of a monk ignited in Josemaria a desire to give to God whatever He wanted, to make his life a pleasing gift to the Lord. With this end in mind, he entered the seminary, was ordained a priest, and served in various ways—as pastor, confessor, and teacher, ministering to the poor, sick, and abandoned. It was not until the Feast of the Guardian Angels, October 2, 1926, that St. Josemaria received the inspiration to found Opus Dei, a movement to help ordinary lay people pursue holiness in the midst of their work, sanctifying the world around them, and bearing great spiritual fruit for the whole Church.

Despite a horrible persecution of the Church in his country, St. Josemaria worked tirelessly for the next 50 years to further his mission, establishing lay groups and organizing priest to help carry out the work of growing in holiness through "ordinary life." Today, Opus Dei has more than 80 members worldwide.

All his life, St. Josemaria felt a deep gratitude to God for the gift of his family, especially the formation in living a Christian life provided by the example of his parents. Throughout his priestly life promoting Opus Dei, he would always regard the family as the first school of holiness, the place where both parents and children would learn to "sanctify themselves and sanctify others."



Project Healthy Schools Wellness Tip: Lack of sleep can reduce your ability to fight infections. Stay healthy by getting 8 hours of sleep every night. As long as you exercise two hours before bed, exercise can improve the quality of your sleep.



METANOIA – and believe in the Gospel. In the Gospel of Mark, the first words of Jesus are an invitation to metanoia, to repent, to change, to be converted through a continual process of turning away from the things of the world and discovering a deeper union with Christ.

This 10-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka of The Wild Goose leads us on a journey with Christ into conversion exploring areas of our life where conversion is so often necessary. Metanoia will examine topics such as who is Jesus, what must we do to inherit eternal life, and many other significant matters of faith, while inspiring you to seek to encounter Jesus and the new life he is constantly inviting us to.

Join us for the most important journey of our lives, a journey of grace, hope, repentance, and transformation. Do not delay, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel. Mk 1:15" Our journey

Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth

begins Thursday, January 21st @7pm via Zoom and continues weekly through Thursday, March 25th.

Please click here to learn more and register!

Thanks! God bless, Sarah Salow

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 John 1:35-42

In the first reading Samuel experiences a personal call from God. Samuel is called to serve God in all things. At first Samuel does not respond to the Lord's call, but God does not give up. Eli helps Samuel understand that he must listen for the voice of God. The call of Samuel shows the importance of obedient listening. Samuel listens and responds to God's call to be a prophet.



This gospel also deals with the call of the Lord. The disciples respond to God's call to follow Jesus. Jesus challenges his followers by asking the question "What are you looking for?" Jesus wants his disciples to listen and respond to God's call thoughtfully. The disciples are invited to come and see who Jesus is.

The call of the first disciples in this gospel reminds us that we too are called by name to get to know Jesus personally and to live as his followers.

- When are you invited to come to a friend's house?
- Why does Jesus invite the disciples to come and stay with him?
- How can you listen and respond to God's call in your daily life?



Vocation

Listening and following God's call is an ongoing process for all believers. The word vocation comes from the Latin word "vocatus" which means "a calling." All people are created by God to know and love him. We are born with a desire for God. Listening for the voice of God in our lives helps us to live our vocation.

God invites all people to share in the divine life and to be a member of God's kingdom. The call to be a disciple of Jesus is central to the faith of all the Baptized. The sacrament of Baptism celebrates our call to follow Jesus and to live lives of holiness. An important part of living out our vocation is to share the Good News of our salvation with others.



Catholics believe that we live out our baptismal commitment in structured ways such as married life, single life, the priesthood, and the consecrated life as a member of a religious community. Whether one is married or single, a priest or a member of a religious order, all believers are called to be holy as Jesus taught us. The Church helps all believers to live lives of holiness.

Sacrament Connection

Baptism is the sacrament that celebrates our call to be a disciple of Jesus and it incorporates us into the life of the Risen Lord. We live out our baptismal commitment by responding to God's call to live holy lives.

The Gospel in Life

What is one thing that you can do this week to show others that you are living as a follower of Jesus?

Affording Catholic Education

The Diocese of Lansing awarded more than \$523,000 in scholarships to help families afford Catholic school for the 2020/21 school year.

Many families need and receive financial assistance for Catholic school tuition. Diocese of Lansing Catholic schools believe that a Catholic education should be available, Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth accessible and affordable to any family that wants to provide their children with an authentically Catholic, academically rigorous education.

Our Scholarship program is a need-based assistance program. Need is determined by an independent, third-party service, F.A.C.T.S., which makes its assessment based on income and tax information. However, the FACTS application does have a section that offers the family to list any changes in their financial situation, and these are taken into consideration by the individual schools.

Eligibility Criteria for All Scholarships

- Family must complete a <u>FACTS financial aid application online</u> on or before March 1, 2021.
- Student must show a financial need of at least \$750
- The Student must be Catholic, attend a Diocese of Lansing school, and belong to a parish in the Diocese of Lansing.

Scholarships for the 2021-22 School Year

Diocese of Lansing Grants

- Grades K-8: \$750 per student
- Grades 9-12: \$1000 per student

The Venerable Augustus Tolton Scholarship

• Grades K-12: \$500

The Venerable Augustus Tolton Scholarship is aimed at increasing the number of Catholic African American students in the Diocese of Lansing's Catholic schools. It will operate under the patronage of Venerable Augustus Tolton (1854–97), a former slave who became the first African American priest in the United States. This grant is \$500 per student. In addition to the Grant Criteria for all grants, student must be African-American or Black and show a need of at least \$500.

Applying for Financial Aid

- The deadline for applications is March 1, 2021.
- By completing the FACTS application, you are applying for all grants available through the Diocese of Lansing. No need to complete an application for each grant.
- Applicants can complete the online form by clicking the FACTS link: <u>https://online.factsmgt.com/aid</u>

About the FACTS application: The link will be available December 1, 2020 and **will close March 1, 2021**. After March 1, 2021 please contact your school directly. There is a \$35.00 fee payable to FACTS through their online application process.

Once the FACTS online form has been completed, the following information will need to be submitted to FACTS:

- Copies of your most recent Federal tax forms including all supporting tax schedules and W2's.
- Copies of supporting documentation for Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and TANF.

All supporting documentation must be uploaded online through the FACTS online form. You will receive a determination letter by May 30th. If you received a grant, your school will be notified and the grant will be sent directly to your school in October of 2021.

If you have questions about the financial assistance process through FACTS, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-441-4637 or Diocese of Lansing, Financial Aid Advisor, Renee Fischman at 517-267-2107 or by email: <u>renee.fischman@lansingcatholic.org</u>.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Financial Aid Process

- What if my application is submitted after March 1 2021, am I eligible for financial aid?
- You must have your application completed by March 1st and *all required documents* to FACTS by April 1, 2021. Applications received after that date are not eligible for the

Diocese of Lansing grants, but you may still be eligible for financial assistance from your school. Contact your school directly for more information.

- Do I have to complete separate applications for my children if they attend different schools?
- No, you submit one application per family. You list each student and the school they attend on one application. The Diocese of Lansing and each school will receive your determination.
- Do I have to complete separate applications for each grant available?
- You do not have to complete separate applications for each grant for the Diocese of Lansing. Please contact your school directly for information on their financial assistance available.
- What if I do not have access to a computer, and cannot complete the form online?
- Many schools will let you use a computer in their library; please contact your school directly for more information.
- I can complete the form online but I cannot upload or scan the documents, what do I do?
- Many schools can help you upload the document. Contact your school office for more information.
- When will I know if I qualified for any financial assistance?
- You will receive letters by May 30 from the Diocese of Lansing, notifying you of your determination and amount of financial assistance. If you qualified for a grant, your school will also be notified of the grant and the amount.
- I did not qualify for any financial assistance from the Diocese of Lansing, is there anything I can do to receive financial assistance.
- If it was determined that you did not show a financial need, and you still require financial assistance. You can contact your school directly for assistance. *There is no appeal process for the Diocese of Lansing grants.*
- I have other questions regarding tuition and financial aid, who do I contact? If you have questions about the Diocese of Lansing grants, please contact:

Kathy Ruddock

Diocese of Lansing Financial aid Advisor <u>kruddock@dioceseoflansing.org</u> (517) 342-2482 If you have, questions on the FACTS application please contact FACTS customer care at 1-866-441-4637. If you have questions regarding tuition and financial aid from your school, please contact them directly.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

St. Mary's Catholic Parish Pinckney

St. Mary's Men's Club

is proudly sponsoring its Annual Lenten Fish Dinners

Friday's during Lent!



TAKE-OUT ONLY: 4pm-7pm

Friday's: February 19 — March 26, 2021

COST: \$10 with the following two menu options:

1. BAKED FISH, AU GRATIN POTATOES, MAC & CHEESE, COLESLAW, DESSERT

2. FRIED FISH, FRENCH FRIES, MAC & CHEESE, COLESLAW, DESSERT





Proceeds to St. Mary Catholic School

PTC Meeting Minutes Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth

1/12/21 7 PM via Zoom, 35 Minutes

21 Meeting Attendees (name shown on Zoom)

Kim Hogan- President	Mary Fill- Vice President
Veronica Kinsey- Principal	Pam Meisner- Treasurer
Carissa Poroko- PR	Donna Aulette- Volunteer Coor.
Annette Staley	Cristina Burkett
Jamie Brock	Kim Asaro
Jolene O'Donohue	Ashley Cooke
Andrea Connelly	Laura Elgas

Rachael Morley – Secretary Andrea Kacher- Elem Rep Catherine Galdes Alyse Liddick Erin Rolling Lindsay Green Logan

PTC email address: ptcnews@stmarypinckney.org for any questions, ideas or concerns Future meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 PM via Zoom (links sent prior to meeting)

Carissa Poroko Update:

"All Roads Lead to Bethlehem" Drive Thru Live Nativity Scene – A big thank you to everyone who helped pull together this event and make it a success! The event raised almost \$2,200 and was a great event for both the school and community. Decorations are currently being sorted/put away - those that requested they be returned by labeling them should have them back soon. Also, as you put away your outdoor decorations this year, if you would like to donate any to future events, please drop them off at the school and they will be put to great use.

See link for a news article highlighting our event- additional articles will be coming out soon <u>https://welovedexter.com/2021/01/10/people-need-this-st-mary-students-parishioners-shine-lights-in-the-darkness/</u>

Mrs. Kinsey Update:

Tuition Management Software- St. Mary will be moving from SMART tuition to the FACTS software for the 21-22 school year. This decision is due to administrative benefits, ease of use of FACTS and the fact we will have an assigned representative from FACTS for our school. As an end user, it will function the same as SMART, but the school will have more control of fees for late tuition payments. This change will be made soon and families will need to pay their \$100 enrollment fee/tuition deposit. The events fee (formerly called auction fee) and supervision fees will be posted later this spring.

Potential Post-Holiday Break Virtual Learning- A decision about a post Easter break virtual week will be made closer to that timeframe based on the current COVID-19 climate. The virtual weeks post Thanksgiving and Christmas break did serve their purpose in reducing potential COVID exposure in the school.

PTC Updates:

St. Mary School is partnering with the Men's Club on the 2021 *Carryout Lenten Fish Dinners* (6 Fridays from February 19 to March 26 from 4-7 PM)- We would need a lot of volunteer/parent support to help

Take it to Christ Encourage in Faith Speak the Truth

make this a success. Angela Darling and Pam Meiser are primary contacts on the school side. A sign up genius will be sent out in the next 2 weeks with volunteer opportunities. Each Friday help will be needed from 1-9 PM in various roles (runners, traffic, food packaging) and time slots. This is a great way for both middle school and high schoolers to earn volunteer hours or for families to work together to give back! We are anticipating the sale of about 500 dinners each Friday so we really need all hands on deck. *Big Spring Fundraising Event* –Save the date for Saturday, May 15 at Whispering Pines in Pinckney. Will be creating a committee to help plan event soon, will need many volunteers. Planning for this event will start soon.

Donna Aulette Volunteer Update:

Classroom Coordinators- A classroom coordinator has been identified for all grades PK-8 (list shown below) to help distribute PTC information to classrooms and organize PTC related items and fundraisers (like fish fry dinners, spring event and teacher appreciation) on a classroom basis. Coordinators will work with Donna Aulette, the PTC Volunteer Coordinator. Introduction emails from your children's classroom coordinators should be coming soon after a delay earlier this school year.

Pre-K. Communication primarily through Mrs. Stodart but Christy Klein as needed

- K. Alyse Liddick
- 1. Jolene O'Donohue
- 2. Pam Holtz
- 3. Erin Rolling
- 4. Amy Berry
- 5. Emily Ryan
- 6. Catherine Galdes
- 7. Lindsay Green
- 8. Laura Elgas

Pam Meisner Treasurer Update:

2020-2021 School Year PTC Fundraising Profit:

As shown in the snapshot below, we are currently at ~\$13,00 for this school year, which is great considering that already includes a \$15,000 scholarship fund payment associated with the spring event. Coming up with have the fish fry dinners and spring event to work toward meeting our fundraising goals for the school year.

Fundraising Details										
		2020-2021								
	Income		Expenses		Total					
Auction/Dinner			\$	2,210.43	\$	(2,210.43)	3 trips need to be sold/auction/raffled			
Scholarship			\$	15,000.00	\$	(15,000.00)	0) 15K scholarship associated with Auction/Dinner			
Raise the Paddle					\$	-				
Raffle	\$ 4	4,088.00	\$	13,371.00	\$	30,717.00				
Scholarship			\$	5,000.00	\$	(5,000.00)				
Swag	\$	1,101.00			\$	1,101.00				
Movie Night	\$	1,711.05	\$	890.86	\$	820.19				
Comedy Night	\$	420.00	\$	-	\$	420.00	For Teachers classrooms \$560 - \$140 in refunds			
Aubree Night	\$	223.50			\$	223.50				
Nativity	\$	2,196.19			\$	2,196.19	estimate			
Fish Fry					\$	-	Expecting to make about \$15K			
Amazon Smile							\$12 raised, should receive in 2021			
PTC Fundraising	\$ 4	9,739.74	\$	36,472.29	\$	13,267.45				