

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 7, 2021**

### Week –At – A - Glance

Friday, January 8, 2021	❖ <b>Last Day for Online Learning</b>
Monday, January 11, 2021	❖ Morning Prayer; Mrs. Kinsey ❖ <b>NWEA BEGING GRS. 3-8</b> ❖ Drill day
Tuesday, January 12, 2021	❖ <b>Spirit Wear Day</b> ❖ NWEA Testing Continues grs. 3-8 ❖ 7:00 PTC MEETING via Zoom
Wednesday, January 13, 2021	❖ 8:30 Mass canceled ❖
Thursday, January 14, 2021	❖
Friday, January 15, 2021	❖ 8:30 Mass canceled ❖ End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period ❖ ½ Day of School; Noon Dismissal ❖ Popcorn Day \$.50/bag limit 2 ❖ First Friday Food Drive

### LUNCH INFORMATION

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

**Grades 3-5 Lunch 12:05**

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## Grades K-2 Lunch 12:25

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

## 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.



**Raffle Drawing:** Congratulations to our winners in the raffle that took place on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. They were as follows: 6<sup>th</sup> place \$1000.00 Virginia Bensinger, 5<sup>th</sup> place \$1000.00 Scott Berry, 4<sup>th</sup> place \$1500.00 Jeff Buerman, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$1500.00 Sieniarecki family, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Kim Asaro, and 1<sup>st</sup> place \$5000.00 Jean Walbrink. Thank you to all of you for selling or purchasing tickets for this raffle. \$5000 of the profits will be set aside for tuition assistance.

**A COVID CHRISTMAS:** This is the title of the Christmas program for this year; it is definitely fitting for sure! This music program was actually written by Isabella Wittrup with some help from Norah Stuk. It started out as a conversation in class and grew from there. Unfortunately, we do not have time this December to put this altogether to give it the true credit it deserves. However, Christmas does not end on December 25 but begins the season of Christmas. We will continue to work on this play in class and put together a video to send out to all of you around January 15<sup>th</sup> or so.



**“All Roads Lead to Bethlehem”** was a huge success in thanks to everyone who helped or participated in any way! An update on the actual money raised for this two night event will be announced at the PTC meeting next week on Tuesday at 7:00pm. (This will be a zoom meeting.) I think it is safe to say that between the two nights more than 200 cars came through. This was a great community outreach to our surrounding neighbors. There were many “Thank you for doing this, it was so great” from those in cars exiting the parking lot. I know that there were cars lined up on both sides of Dexter-Pinckney Rd and people waited patiently for their turn. Thank you again to our visionaries Carissa Poroko, April Priebe, Christy Klein, and Kristen Tury!

**ONLINE LEARNING:** Students need to be diligent in turning work in on Google Classroom or whatever means their teacher has asked. Neatness counts, full answers count, effort counts. *Please Lord keep our children and families safe so that we can continue the rest of the school year with face-to-face learning. We know this is the best way for students to learn and the best way for teachers to teach their students. Help our students to remain diligent in their studies and our teachers to remain steadfast in their goals of what they are teaching their students. Come Holy Spirit Come! Amen.*



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[Diocesan Scholarship Application](#) is now available. Please see the information at the end of the Messenger for greater detail!

**Cold Weather:** I think the delay in the cold weather arriving has come to an end. **ALL** students will be outside each day for lunch recess UNLESS the temperature with wind chill is 0\* or below. Please remind your students to have hats, coats, mittens, boots and snow pants as needed.



**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.)

## **CLASSROOM NEWS**



# MRS. HABERL'S FIFTH GRADE

Happy 2021! The fifth grade is off and running as we begin the New Year together. Our new Religion chapter teaches us that God's Word Feeds Us. God reveals the truth to us through sacred scripture and the sacred tradition of the church. We also shared the many ways in which students have sensed God's presence in their lives.



Our latest writing activity taught us many amazing things about the Blue Ringed Octopus. We used our chrome books to research, take notes, edit and print our final papers.



We continue our study of fractions in Math and will be ready to use what we have learned when we take our NWEA tests this coming week. We are looking at the industries of fishing, whaling, trading, and shipbuilding in the New England economy for Social Studies. In Science, students did an excellent job creating a poster about a particular metal, non-metal or metalloid.

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A photograph of a laptop screen displaying a Zoom video conference. The screen shows a grid of 12 participants in various video feeds. The background of the room is visible through the laptop screen, showing a classroom setting with an American flag, a clock, and a bulletin board. The laptop keyboard is visible at the bottom of the frame.

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# FYI

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>.



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!



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

“I did not know what it was (the Lord) wanted, 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.

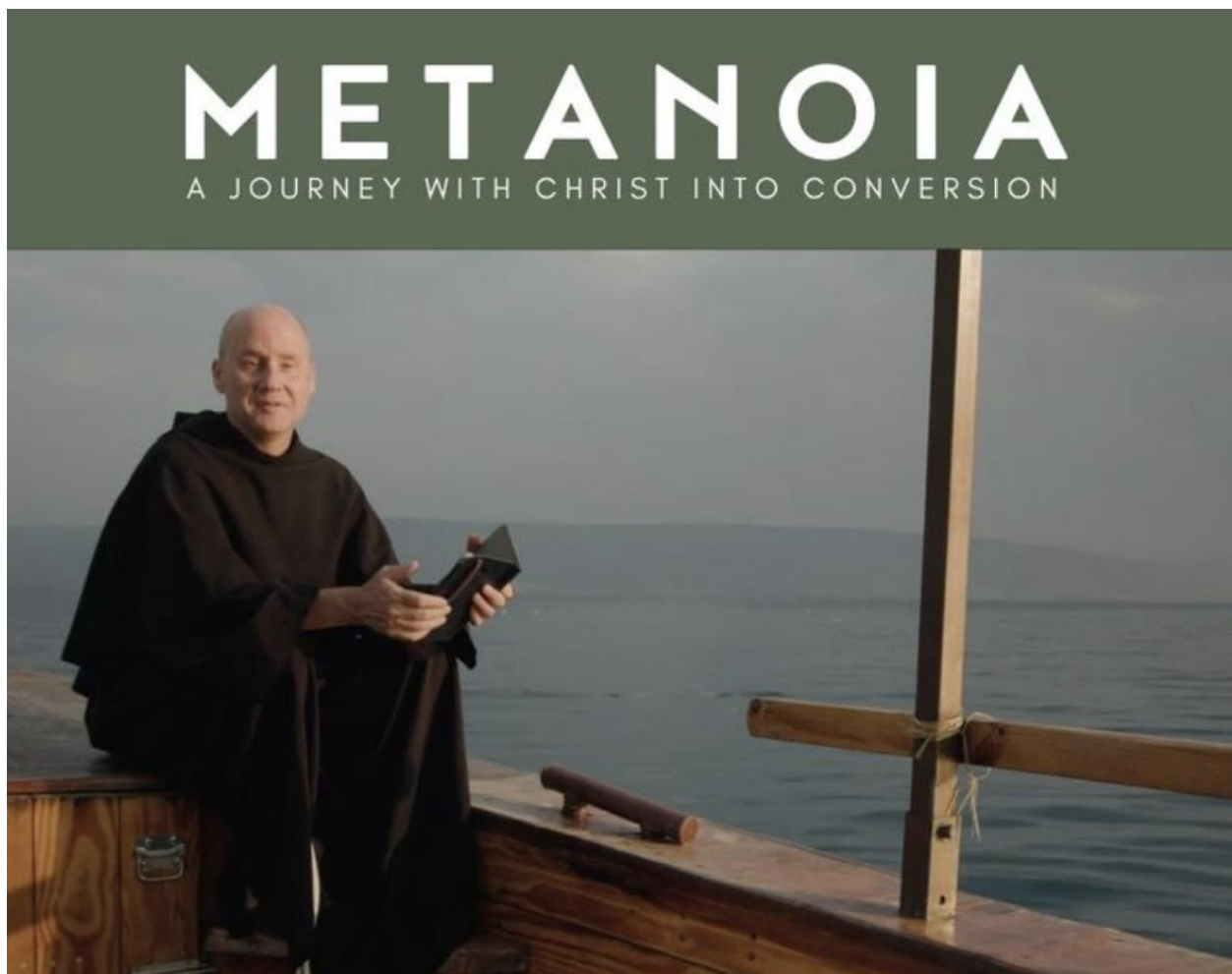
As a teenager, glimpsing the footprints in snow made by the bare feet of a monk ignited in Josemaria a desire to give to God whatever He wanted, to make his life a pleasing gift to the Lord. With this end in mind, he entered the seminary, was ordained a priest, and served in various ways—as pastor, confessor, 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.



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**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 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.**

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7      Mark 1:7-11

The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to an end. Jesus’ baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry.

The reading from Isaiah tells of a chosen one who will save God’s people. God’s Spirit-filled servant will bring justice upon the earth. God’s servant will remain faithful. This passage is one of the “Servant Songs.” The Christian tradition has found reference here to Jesus’ ministry and to his suffering and death.

At the baptism of Jesus in this gospel we find reference to the servant that God has promised. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus and God announces him to be “my chosen one.” Jesus is sent, by God, to bring healing and justice upon the earth. At his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as God’s beloved son.

- How does the Holy Spirit help Jesus to begin his ministry?
- What helps you to be faithful to God?
- How does our Baptism help us to follow Jesus?



## **The Holy Spirit**

The Spirit was powerfully visible at the baptism of Jesus. That same Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, comes to us at baptism.

We believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God came down from heaven and was born into the world. The Holy Spirit was sent to the Virgin Mary to bless her womb and fill it with life. Jesus Christ is truly God and truly human.

On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was poured out upon the apostles and the Church was born. By the power of the Spirit, God's love is made visible in the world through the Church. The Church continues the work that Jesus gave to the apostles. The Holy Spirit helps us to live our faith today.

## **Sacrament Connection**

The Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism. We are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In Baptism we are welcomed into the Church.





## **The Gospel in Life**

How can you call on the help of the Holy Spirit this week?

## **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, accessible and affordable to any family that wants to provide their children with an authentically Catholic, academically rigorous education.

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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.

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### Eligibility Criteria for All Scholarships

- Family must complete a [FACTS financial aid application online](#) 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.
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### 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.

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## 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: <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>

**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: [renee.fischman@lansingcatholic.org](mailto:renee.fischman@lansingcatholic.org).

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

[kruddock@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:kruddock@dioceseoflansing.org)

(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.