

THE ORBITER

"Encourage one another & build each other up" – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Pope Francis, 88, passed away April 21, 2025. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Written by: Annie McGrail
St. Mary's Catholic School had a busy April! This month we've been celebrating Lent and the Easter season! 8th grade went to St. Louis, Track and Field is in full swing, and the Middle School students participated in the Catholic Math League Competition. Our students showed their creativity with various art projects and writing poetry. The students participated and viewed the Living Stations of the Cross and celebrated Holy Week. We mourned the loss of Pope Francis and turned it into a learning experience. A few of our 8th graders went to the 8th grade dance and the faculty and staff have been busy preparing for the end of the school year and for all the exciting things we have coming up in May!

Rockets of the Month

Congratulations to the April Rockets of the month, Waylon Savage and Lucy Mann!

Upcoming Important Dates

- **May 6th** - SMS Art Show
- **May 6th** - SMS Spring Concert
- **May 7th** - Student Council
- **May 8th** - May Crowning
- **May 8th** - Preschool Morning with Mom
- **May 15th** - 8th Grade Graduation
- **May 16th** - Early Dismissal (1pm)
- **May 16th** - Middle School Dance
- **May 20th** - SMS Art Club
- **May 20th** - Pre-K Graduation
- **May 21st** - Park Day
- **May 21st** - Preschool/PreK Last Day (11am Dismissal)
- **May 22nd** - Field Day
- **May 23rd** - Moving Up Mass
- **May 23rd** - Talent Show
- **May 23rd** - Last Day of School (1pm Dismissal)



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

**1st & 7th Grade was asked
what their favorite part of
April was!**

Mrs. Morris

I would say our 100 100's in AR party, I'm so proud to celebrate their hard work!

Thalia Deffendoll

I loved our A.R. Party!

Aurora Hinderliter

My favorite was our A.R. 100 100'S party!

Waylon Savage

I got to play with my friends!

Sadie Macke

The 100 100's party was so much fun!

Lukas Kramer

Having lunch with friends!

Dean Berberich

I got to see my friends and classmates!

Nolan Adams

I got to see my baby cousin Emma!

Mrs. Wissel

Warmer weather and the colors of Spring!

Liam Berberich

April Fool's Day!

Kole Castino

The Easter Bell!

Sophia Hamm

Fat bumble bees!

Alaina Ile

Horse show season started!

Georgia Jent

Spring Break!

Norah Meeks

Warmer weather!

Presley Stevens

Track season!

Isaac Trapp

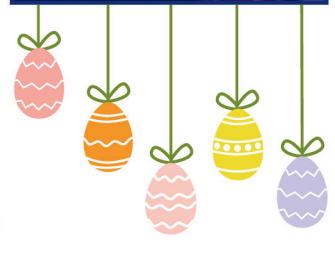
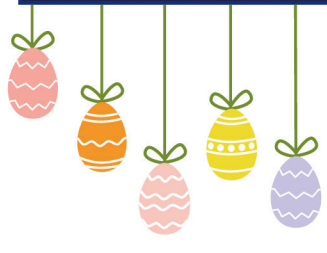
NBA playoffs!

Zane Castino

The approach of school's end!

EASTER

***We love seeing our families beautiful Easter photos!
We hope everyone had an amazing Easter!***



8th Grade Trip - St. Louis



Every year the 8th Grade class goes on a trip, this year it was to St. Louis! They had so much fun and went to so many fun places! They went to the Ryze adventure park, the Spaghetti Factory, the St. Louis Arch, and of course they went shopping!

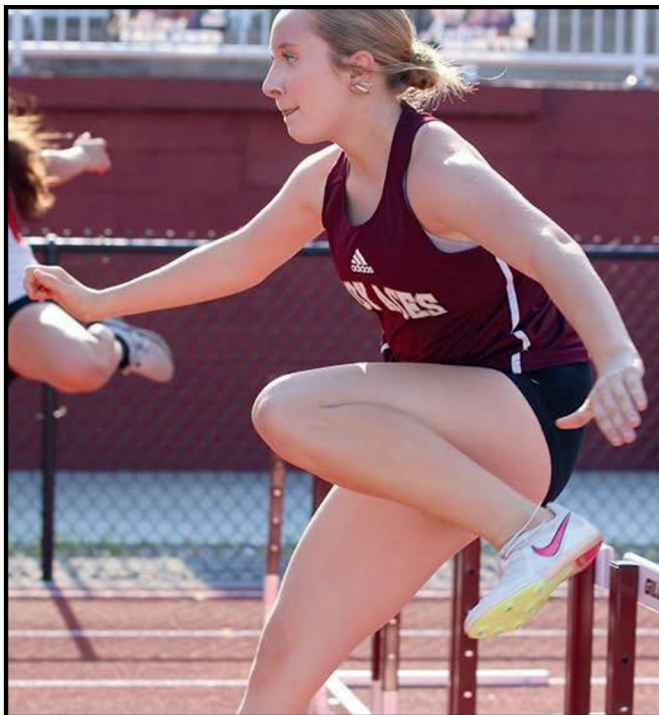




Sports



Track and Field had regionals on April 28th. Ryland qualified for state in the 100m and long jump! Cate qualified for state in the shot put! We also had 3rd place finish by Presley in long jump, 4th place by Norah in hurdles, 5th place in high jump by Jaxon, 5th place in discus by Rylan, and 6th in high jump by Hunter! Great job everyone!



Going to State!



Track & Field



Alumni, Addison Tennis, broke another personal record in the 300m hurdles! Keep up the hard work Addison!

Catholic Math League Competition



This year the students participated in the Catholic Math League Competition. Below are the results after four separate testings in their grade levels.



6th Grade:

- 1st - Kannon Castino
- 2nd - Saul Bearden
- 3rd - Amelia Hamm & Marisa Stevens

Overall, our 6th grade team placed 68th out of 110 participating schools with 6th grade teams. Kannon placed 62nd out of 1,778 participating 6th grade students!

7th Grade:

- 1st - Kole Castino
- 2nd - Presley Stevens
- 3rd - Zane Castino

Overall, our 7th grade team placed 23rd out of 75 participating schools with 7th grade teams. Kole placed 58th out of 1,115 participating 7th grade students!



8th Grade:

- 1st - Cate Pyatt
- 2nd - Lucy Mann
- 3rd - Amelia Crummley



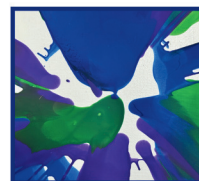
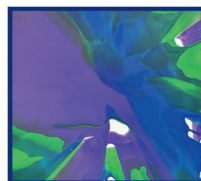
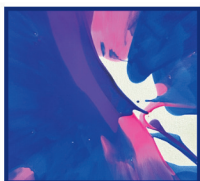
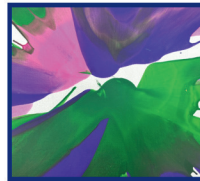
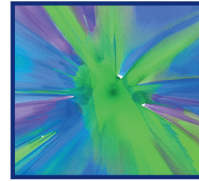
Overall, our 8th grade team placed 61st out of 84 participating schools with 8th grade teams. Cate placed 194th out of 1,145 participating 8th grade students!

Congratulations!

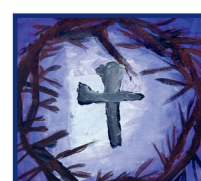
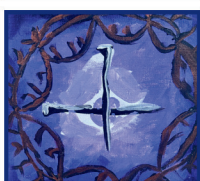
Art

Our students are so talented and have loved participating in Art Club! Mrs. Vickie does such an amazing job at coming up with fun ways for our students to show their creativity! Here are just a few April projects they did!

They did spin painting! They were given an 8x10 canvas, they picked their colors and then a drill was used to spread the paint create an abstract design!



In honor of the Lenten season, they created these beautiful pieces that include the Crown of Thorns and nails that represent the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

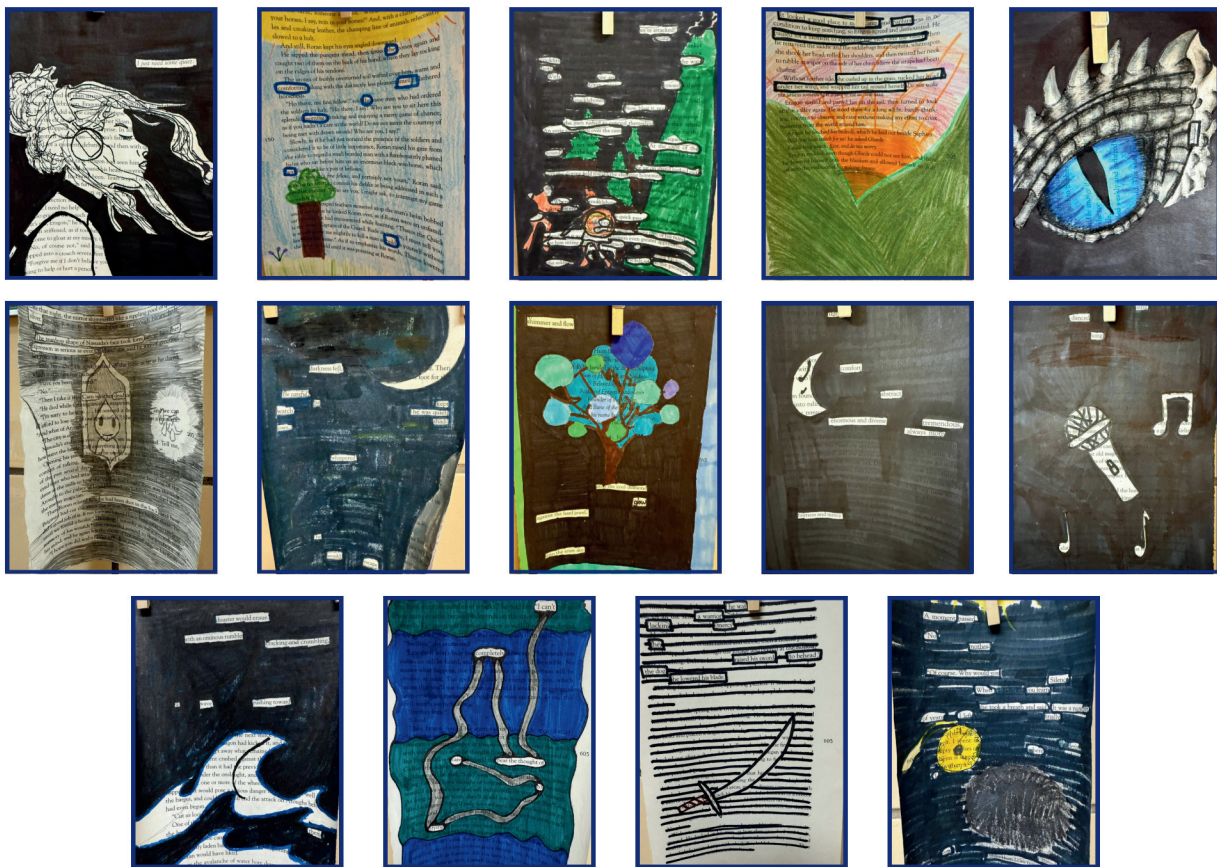


Poetry

6th Grade created concrete poetry. This is where the words of the poem create a picture of what the poem is about!



Grades 7 and 8 created blackout poetry images. This is where they took a page of a book and blackened out part of it to reveal a new poem creating an image from what's colored!



Sweet Treats Poetry Cafe

2nd grade has been working on a poetry unit, and they held a poetry café for their parents and grandparents. "Sweet Treats Poetry Café", named by the class, was full of yummy treats, coffee, and some of the most creative poems around! We are so thankful to all who helped make our café successful.



Virtue



The faculty and staff were asked to tell me about a time during the month of April when they witnessed a student or fellow staff member do something virtuous.

Hazel Drone



"I have recently seen Hazel show love and kindness to her friends in the classroom. She is always checking on her friends and making sure they are doing okay. If someone is ever having a rough day, she is the first to step up and offer hugs or a laugh."



Presley Stevens

"Last week Presley came up and gave me a big hug and asked me how my day was going. She made me smile and feel so happy."

"Presley often exercises patience and brings about a sense of piece when dealing with conflicts with classmates."

Lilly Earnest



"Lilly shows joy and care in many ways. She is happy for others and celebrates their achievements. She also shows care and wants to lift spirits when someone is upset, hurt, or sad."



Easton Ile

"Easton has been extremely helpful. Anytime we have young servers or new servers in Mass, Easton, from the choir area, is always sure to help them and remind them when to ring the bells. Easton was never asked to do this. He saw a needy friend and jumped in to help them out!"

Jaida Johnson & Harper Scott



"Jaida and Harper have both started to show a new joy for reading. They were struggling to find a book series that they liked and together found one they both enjoyed. They are both so immersed in their books that when given free time this week they choose to read instead."



Jack Mann

"Jack is the first to volunteer and even anticipates when I need help in PE. He is always willing to help out and sometimes does without me asking."

"Jack shows respect and friendliness to everyone!"

Mrs. Mann



"Mrs. Mann came into the lunch room a little early and realized that the lunch tables hadn't been put out yet. She jumped into action and started setting them up. Chuck was out that day, and I was busy cooking and hadn't noticed the tables weren't up yet. I appreciate her taking the time to help out."

*"The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God."
-St. Gregory of Nyssa-*



Virtue



Mrs. Spencer, Miss York, & Mrs. Lucas

"These three are always so helpful and jumping in when needed for serving and in some cases even cooking French Fries. We have such a helpful staff, and I appreciate them all so much!"



Amelia Hamm & Thayer Hocking

"Amelia and Thayer both took time from their Saturday evenings to help at Confirmation. Neither were asked to, both volunteered their time to help set up and serve."

Mrs. Waterbury



"Karen Waterbury is such a wonderful coworker. She always puts a smile on my face and brings joy to all!"

Presley Stevens, Isaac Trapp, Lucy Mann, Keirsten Malone, & Liam Berberich

These five were confirmed recently and they have been working toward strengthening their faith. They have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit and have ultimately promised to follow God and live a virtuous life. We are so proud of them!



Marisa Stevens

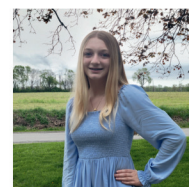
"Marisa has been spotted demonstrating the virtue of kindness! Yesterday we did an art project in class. When class was over, students left the table a mess - scraps of paper, markers, rulers, pencils. Marisa took it upon herself to clean up the area and put the things back where they belong. I was very thankful for her help!"

Mrs. Naas



"Kalie is so compassionate. She has a heart for everyone. She is always sure to check on anyone in need and makes sure they are taken care of in any way that she can. She has a heart of gold and is a prime example of how to live a virtuous life."

"Kalie always goes above and beyond what is asked of her. Always thinking outside the box of ways to help those around her, staff and definitely students. She does it all because she has a huge heart, not for recognition. We are lucky to have her as part of our school."

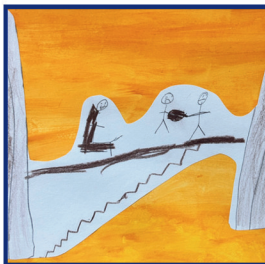
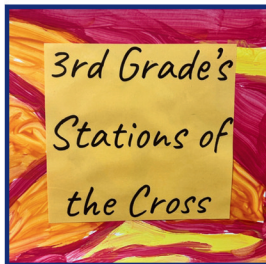


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Stations of the Cross

Every year the Middle Schoolers put on the Living Stations of the Cross for the younger grades to walk through and see. The Living Stations of the Cross is a prayer, not a performance. The Middle Schoolers portray the essential roles and tell the story of Jesus's passion and death on the cross. Seeing this played out helps the younger grades have a visual understanding of Jesus's journey to and on the cross.



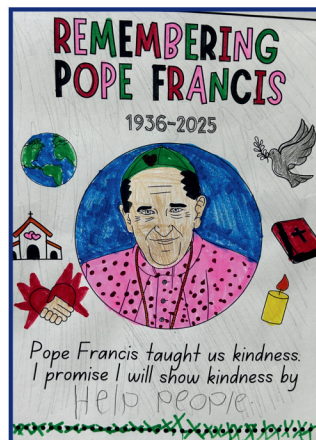
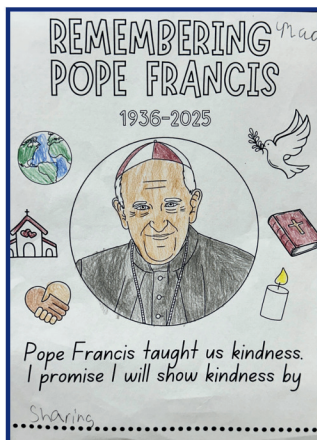
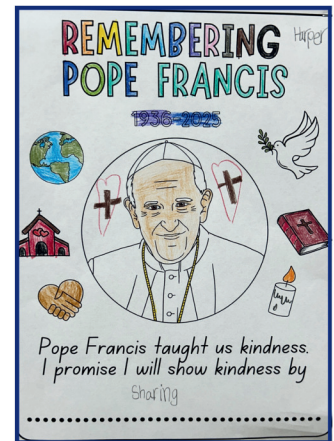
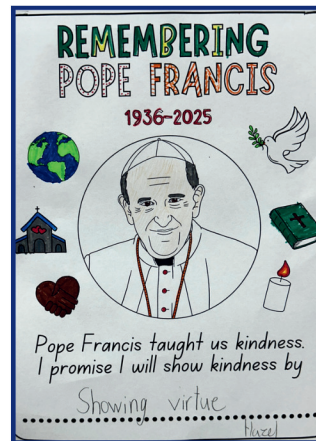
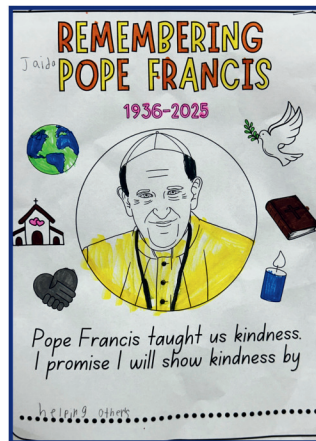
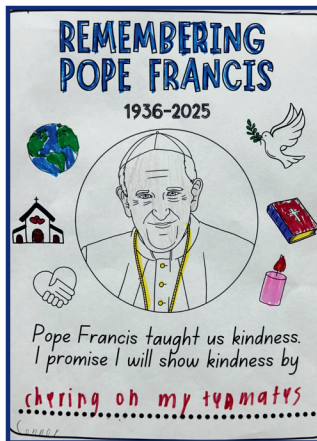
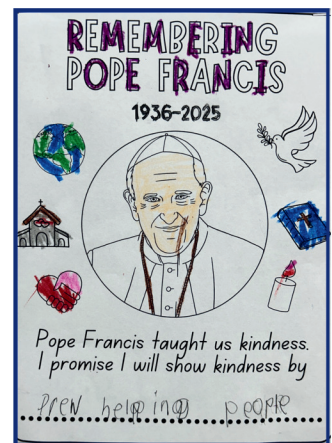
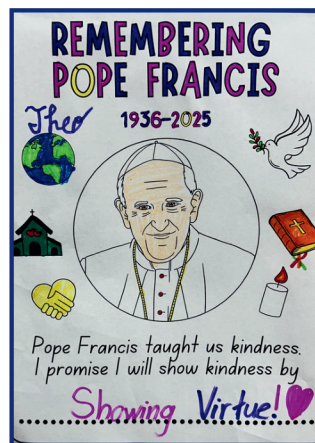
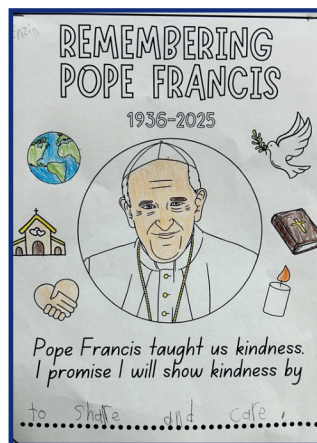
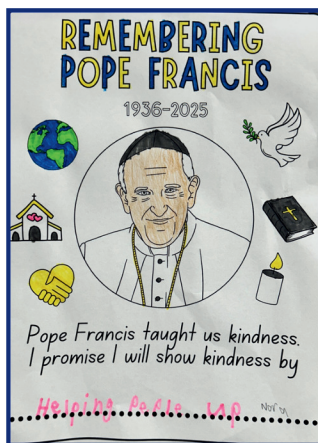
Remembering Pope Francis



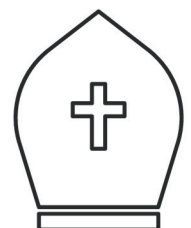
POPE FRANCIS 1936-2025

Eternal rest
grant unto Francis,
O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine
upon him. May his soul,
and the souls of all the
faithful departed,
through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.
Amen

In Religion class the students have been praying the Eternal Rest prayer for Pope Francis and learning about what happens after a Pope passes away, the process of Conclave, and how we can pray for our new Pope and the Church.



3rd Grade remembered Pope Francis for his kindness and made promises of how they will show kindness.





Saint Mary's
...the Spirit is in the School



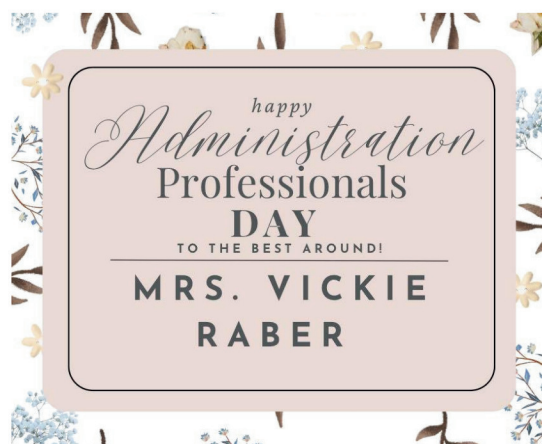
Mrs. Vickie Raber
Administrative Assistant/K-5th Art Teacher
Tell us about yourself, how long you've been here, and what you love about St. Mary's Church and School!

Hello, I am Victoria Raber. I am the mother to Bronson and Stormie Locke, and bonus mom of three Raber boys Derek, Zack and Riley. We have 18 grandchildren ranging in ages of 2 to 22. I am married to Leon Raber but most of the little kids know him as Mr. Vickie – hilarious! I am originally from St. Louis but have lived in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle. I have a Degree in Art, FX Makeup and Cosmetology.

I joined the team here at SMS in the summer of 2020. I am the Administrative Assistant and as of this year the Art Teacher. What I love about working here at SMS, where do I start? I love that we get to serve God 24/7. The staff and our children are just amazing. The virtue that fills our school is mind-blowing. I feel very lucky to be a part of St. Mary's Church and School.



Three of our 8th Graders attended the 8th Grade Dance! You all looked so beautiful!



We are so blessed to have Mrs. Vickie Raber as the glue that holds us all together! She does it all, keeps it organized, and has a smile on her face while doing it. Having a virtuous heart through it all with the best interest of others in the forefront is what you can expect from our Super Secretary! Thank you for all you do!

Monthly editions of "The Orbiter" will be posted on Facebook, St. Mary's School website, and copies will be available in the office.