

ST. MARYS

THE ORBITER

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

St. Mary's Welcomes Seminarian Terry Marmion!

My name is Terry Marmion, and I'm one of the seminarists at the Diocese of Belleville. I was raised in North Carolina for most of my life and moved to Carbondale after graduating from college. In Carbondale, I work at the SIUC Newman Center, helping organize and lead the men's community on campus. Working in Carbondale for 4 years, I grew even more deeply in my faith and love for Southern Illinois and its people. During my last year in Carbondale, I was promoted to the development director for the Newman Center. During that year, I visited many diocese parishes and met many incredible people. Also, during that year, I felt a stronger daily push to discern my call to the priesthood. The final push came when I read a line in a book called Save a Thousand Souls that said, "God does not call the equipped; he equips the called." I realized that God was calling me to go to seminary, knowing he would help me grow into the priest he wanted and a shepherd the people need. I chose the Diocese of Belleville because it has become my home and a place where I find a great love for Christ, wherever I go in the Diocese. I have spent the last four school years at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, which has been a blessing. During our fourth year, we spend the spring semester at a parish in our diocese to see what the life of a priest really looks like and whether we are called to live it. I have been to your parishes before, and they are great communities. I really appreciate the prayers you offer for me during each Mass. Being able to discern my calling and grow closer to Christ has helped me become a better man and, one day, a better priest. I also went to Peru twice for mission trips and to Guatemala for eight weeks to learn Spanish. I'm looking forward to being in the Diocese of Belleville for the next couple of months and getting to know the community and St. Mary's and St. Sebastian better.

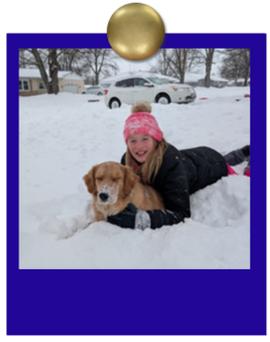
Upcoming Important Dates

- **March 18th** - Preschool, PreK, K Info Night
- **March 20th** - 40 Hours of Adoration
- **March 21st** - An Evening in Tuscany (City Lights)
- **March 25th** - Last Supper Service
- **March 26th** - 1pm Early Dismissal
- **March 27th - April 3rd** - No School (Spring Break)
- **April 4th** - Easter Vigil
- **April 8th** - Middle School Retreat
- **April 12th - 13th** - 8th Grade Trip
- **April 19th** - 1st Holy Communion



SNOW DAYS

We had 4 snow days in January! We asked the students to show us how they were spending their free days and in return we received the sweetest snow day pictures!



100th Day of School!

What an incredibly sweet treat grades k-4 had for the 100th day of school celebration! We were able to ask questions and listen to stories from the absolute sweetest ✨105✨ year old, Ms. Eloise!! The students had an amazing time with her, and we hope that she enjoyed it just as much as we did. Ms. Eloise recently turned 105 and is Mrs. Waterbury's sweet mother. We are so thankful she was able to come and speak to us today! She is a true treasure!



Catholic Schools Week



**St. Mary's
Catholic
School**
Mt. Carmel, IL

Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community



Catholic Schools Week

Silly Safari is always a huge hit!

“The owl was my favorite animal because when you say wings or spell it out it flaps its wings.”

“The owl was my favorite animal because they are intelligent”

“The owl was my favorite because when we said wings the owl would flap its wings and I think it was cool”



“The tarantula was my favorite animal because it is so cute”



“The dog was my favorite animal because it was so cute”



“The armadillo was my favorite animal because it was funny when it was trying to get out”

I LOVE SMS BECAUSE...

"It is magical"

"They love me"

"It's like a second home"

"We get to go to church and learn about God"

"They really care for us"

"Everyone is nice"

"We get to see Father Robert"

"We have amazing cooks"

"Having recess with other classes"

"I like going to Mass and learning about God"

"I love wearing uniforms"

"Field trips and going places"

"I love the church"

"All of the kids are so sweet"

"I love playing with my friends"

"We get to learn more about our faith"

"I love art club"

"I love my teacher"

"School is fun"

"We have small classes and we are able to ask more questions"

"We go to church"



I LOVE SMS BECAUSE...

"Student Council makes school a lot of fun"

"We are able to make personal connections with our teachers which makes school easier"

"I learn about Jesus"

"They teach me about virtue"

"I learn prayers"

"The small classes make it feel like family"

"Everything is fun here"

"Of the opportunities given to me here"

"They make classes so much fun"

"Mrs. Kristi makes amazing food"

"The teachers and staff are so kind"

"Fun field trips"

"Our teachers are the best"

"I love that my mommy comes to our parties"

"The friends I've made"

"My best friends are here"

"It is the best school ever"

"We have good food"

"We get to read a lot"

"We have nice teachers"

"Having our buddy class"

"Teachers are very caring and nice"

Sports



Congratulations to our 8th Grade Basketball players Presley Stevens, Abby Majors, and Isaac Trapp!



Basketball finished up their season!

Basketball



The Lady Rockets went to Regionals! We had a pep assembly cheering them on! We are so proud of all the hard work they put in on and off the court.

We had a small competition on who could cheer the loudest. Our elementary winner was First Grade!

Sports



Volleyball

Volleyball recently participated in the WEA conference tournament beating Geff in round one and advancing to round two where they fell to Cisne. It was so exciting for the girls to win round one and advance to round two! We are so proud of them!



Golf

We are excited to announce that SMS will have its first ever golf team! This is so exciting for our students! It will consist of 15 athletes, 3 girls and 12 boys in 5-8th grade. The first golf match will be April 9th at West Berwick Golf Course! We are blessed to be able to offer this to our students and look forward to the season!

ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Mary's Catholic School is going to have our very own golf team! There will be both boys and girls and it will be for 5th -8th graders!

Anyone wanting to participate will have to have a sports physical on file by March 15th, 2026. Watch our Facebook page for info about an upcoming golf parent meeting!

If you have any questions, please call/text Athletic Director Jenna Swanson at 618-599-9170.

Rockets of the Month



January: Congrats to Kasen Cooper, Kindergarten and Jason Trapp, 5th Grade!

February: Congratulations to Mr. Dwain Kieffer and Miss Carolyn Burdin for being our February Rockets of the month! These two give their time to watch the doors during Mass. This quiet act of service shows care for our school community and reflects the virtue of charity by looking out for the wellbeing of others. We are grateful for their dedication to our students, teachers, staff and community members.



DAR Essay

Congratulations to Jack Mann for being named the DAR Essay Winner for sixth grade! Jack read his essay at the chapter meeting and was presented with his certificate and medal. We are so proud of your accomplishment, Jack!



National Children's Dental Health Month

Thank you to Karmen Macke and Haley Hockgeiger from The Smile Center who came in to teach Pre-K about keeping their teeth clean and healthy. They also brought lots of fun props for the littles to experience.



Thank you to Dental Hygienist, Kenzie Macke, for coming in to teach our Preschool and K-2nd grade all of the ways to keep their smile bright and their mouths healthy! The students loved the fun, hands-on activities showing the importance of brushing and flossing.



Fundraising

SMS collected \$1,202.43 during the school wide Penny War! This is a testament to our generous students, families, and friends—thank you so much for your donations to The Lunch Wagon and The Wabash Co. Animal Shelter! Also, a HUGE shout out to our student council and friends for calculating the points (this was very tedious work, and they did it with a smile!)

The February Spirit Sticks go to:

1st grade = 12,710 Penny War Points

6th grade = 16,080 Penny War Points



SMS Student Council was honored to present Melissa Smith, of The Lunch Wagon, a check for \$600. Students, families and friends filled the coin buckets full last week during our CSW school wide Penny War. We pray many blessings on this amazing community organization!

SMS Student Council presented Cheryl Bassett, and her pup, Poppy, of The Wabash County Animal Shelter, a check for \$600. SMS hosted a Penny War during Catholic Schools Week and our students, families, and friends gave so generously!



Parishioner Jim Tennis presented a check from the Knights of Columbus to the Principal, Lori Wissel. Also pictured are Father Robert Zwilling and Seminarian Terry Marmion. This money was raised from the Annual Bingo Benefit Drawing for the School!

Lenten Season Begins



We had a prayer service and celebrated Fat Tuesday by burying the Alleluia in preparation for Lent!



Ash Wednesday service!



Students and staff were lead by Father Robert through the 14 Stations of The Cross. Participating in The Stations of the Cross involves moving between 14 designated images, meditating on each, and offering prayers to reflect on Jesus's sacrifice.

40 Days - 40 Ways to grow in virtue

3rd Grade Edition

Kindness

- Opening the door for someone
- Sharing your things
- Keeping our hands to ourselves
- When asked to do something don't complain
- Giving someone a hug when they are sad
- Helping someone up when they fall
- Comfort someone
- Helping around the house
- Pick things up for others
- Give something to someone

Patience

- Sitting in your seat
- Waiting in line
- Waiting your turn
- Not begging
- Staying calm
- Listen to others
- Be kind to others
- Slow down
- Wait to be told what to do
- Don't complain

Self-Control

- Not talking when others are
- No interruptions
- Don't beg for free time
- Stay in our seats
- Not complaining
- Being patient
- Don't beg our parents
- Manage our emotions
- No overreacting
- Using inside voices instead of yelling

Love

- Being nice to your siblings
- Doing things together
- Giving hugs
- Sharing with others
- Spending time with someone
- Giving chocolate
- Giving your parents a kiss
- Praying for people
- Going to church together
- Taking care of others



Virtue - Generosity



In Catholic teaching, generosity is a calling and "love in action" rooted in the understanding that all resources - time, talent, and treasure - are gifts from God to be shared, not selfishly hoarded.

We are so blessed to have the parishioners and community that we do here at St. Mary's Catholic School and their generosity. A recent example of this is how Jully Thread made hats for ALL of our students. We are so thankful and the kids love them!



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



Monthly Saints and Virtues - January

Saint John Bosco educated the whole person - body and soul united. He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do - work, study, and play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us.

“Serve the Lord joyfully.”

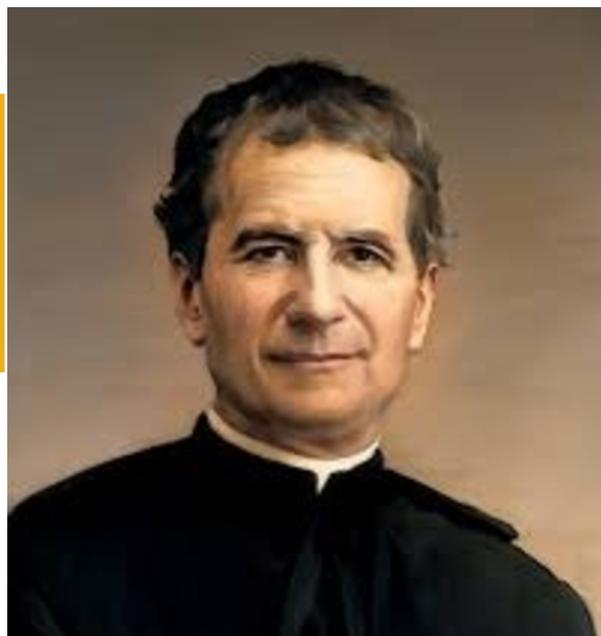
John realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that come with talent and ability, he trained his students in the trade crafts, too.



**“Do not try to excuse your faults;
try to correct them.”**

Virtue: Cheerfulness

Looking on the bright side. Helps us to be joyful, even when times are hard. God loves us and wants us to be truly happy.



**“Run, jump, shout,
but do not sin.”**



Monthly Saints and Virtues - February

Saint Brigid lived during the time of St. Patrick and was inspired by his preachings and she became a Christian. Her father wanted her to find a husband, but she decided that she would spend her life working for God by looking after poor, sick, and elderly people. She founded a double monastery for nuns and monks in Kildare. She also founded a school of art.



“I would like Jesus to be present.”

Saint Brigid of Kildare is one of Ireland’s three patron saints, revered as a pioneer of Irish monasticism, a champion of the poor, and a symbol of early spring.

“I would like cheerfulness to preside over all.”



“I would like an abundance of peace.”



Virtue: Compassion

Deep feeling of sympathy and sorrow for another’s suffering, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate that suffering.



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



40 HOURS OF
Eucharistic Adoration
FOR LENT

In This Season of Lent,
Let Us Draw Closer to Jesus
Through Prayer, Silence, and Reflection

Join Us as a Community
for **40 Hours** of Continuous Adoration
Before the Blessed Sacrament

Praying as One for Our Parish,
Our Families, and Our World

Beginning
FRIDAY, MARCH 20th, 2026
7:00 PM
Stations of the Cross
Adoration Continues Through the Night and Day
Until After
SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2026

Come Spend Time with the Lord
in Eucharistic Prayer and Meditation
All Are Welcome!

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL
DINNER + AUCTION

AN EVENING
IN
Tuscany

MARCH 21ST, 2026
@ The Anderson building
Mt. Carmel, IL

Dinner begins @ 5:15 Doors open @ 4pm

Ticket price - \$35/person
Ticket includes entry, dinner,
bid number for live, silent,
dessert auction
& Live Entertainment

Dinner provided by: Pleasant Valley Catering
Live Band: TBA B.Y.O. Beverage

Parish Mission
"Seven Capital Virtues: Overcoming the Seven Capital Sins"

Our parish mission will be **Sunday March 22nd through Thursday March 26th**. There will be Confession offered at 6pm each evening, followed by the presentation at 7pm. During a mission, the people of the parish gather each evening for a series of presentations on how our Christian lives can be transformed by the Virtues.

- **Humility & Meekness:** Overcoming Pride & Anger
- **Generosity & Temperance:** Overcoming Avarice & Gluttony
- **Chastity:** Overcoming Lust
- **Brotherly Love & Diligence:** Overcoming Envy & Sloth
- **The Holy Eucharist:** Fount of All Virtue

*Preached by Fr. Ben Cameron, C.P.M.
of Fathers of Mercy*

Parent Info Night
Wednesday, March 18, 2025
6pm

Little Blessings
Pre-School + Pre-K
+ Kindergarten
We are called

Information:

Do you have a 3-5 year old that is ready to start learning? Join us for an informational meeting and learn what St. Mary's has to offer!

Presentations will begin promptly at 6pm (doors open at 5:45pm).

We will have a night in August where children will be able to come meet the teacher and see the classroom.

Childcare will be available in the gym if needed. We can't wait to see you there!

Preschool: Should be 3 by the 1st day of school. Must be potty trained.

Pre-K: Should be 4 by September 1st

Kindergarten: Should be 5 by September 1st

Contact us if you have any questions at 618-263-3183.

Saint Mary's Catholic School

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