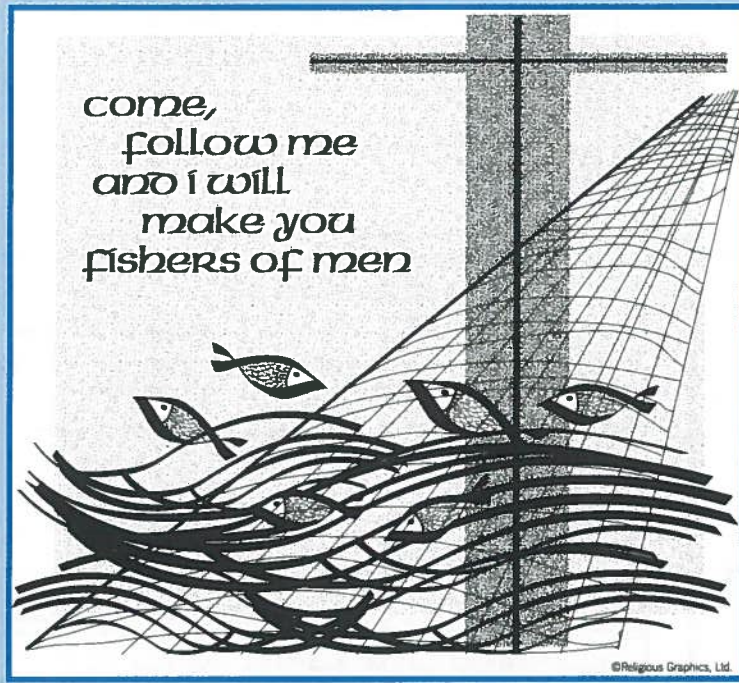


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 23-24, 2021



A Stewardship Moment Weekend of Jan. 23-24, 2021

The first disciples of Jesus in today's Gospel left their work and their daily routines to follow him. They abandoned their livelihoods, familiar surroundings and the lives to which they had become accustomed to be closer to him. The good steward finds ways to be removed from what may be a comfortable existence or daily routine in order to serve the Lord more faithfully. All too often, out of fear, insecurity or even selfishness, we refuse to leave the safety of the little world we have created for ourselves in order to hear the Lord's call and be challenged by his Gospel. Perhaps we should reflect on what comforts we need to sacrifice in order to be better stewards of God's mercy, compassion and hospitality he planted within us.

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 25 (SMM)

8:00 am +Gary Jensen (Bruce / Cathy Jensen)

Tuesday, January 26 (SH)

8:00 am +Carson Cross (Don/Barb St. Germaine)

Wednesday, January 27 (SJ)

8:00 am +Dolores Fitch (Tom Denault Family)

Friday, January 29 (SMM)

8:00 am +Tom Denault (Scott Frerichs)

Saturday, January 30 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, January 31

7:30 am +Dorine Schafer (Ruth McGinnis) (SH)

9:00 am +John Andrzejewski (Dallas/Joyce Ferris)

+Donald Smith (Bob/Zandra Cross) (SJ)

10:30am +Cindy Frerichs (Mark Berger)

+Joan Scanlon (Scott Frerichs) (SMM)

Holy Habits: New Year's Resolutions

- ◆ **Give a return on your gifts.** When using a gift, say a prayer for the giver. For instance, I say a Hail Mary for the person who gave me a geranium every time I water it. When using clothing or jewelry someone gave to you, say a pray for the giver.
- ◆ **Commit random acts of prayer.** Pick someone to pray for throughout your day. It could a politician you hear promoting abortion, or someone in a passing car, or a shopper in the grocery line. If someone cuts you off in traffic, pray for them, and your anger will subside — and you will both be blessed.

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "Following Jesus is simple, but not easy. Love until it hurts, and then love some more."
 -Mother Teresa

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 30-31, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Jan. 30 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 31 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Jan. 31 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Jan. 31 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Corey Eich	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rita Thiesen R.Leader—D. Ferris	Jeremy Wolles Larry Wolles Conner Settles
Lector	Dave Emling	Terri Weakley	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long

ALL PARISHES-

- ♦ St. James and St. Margaret Mary—If you did not pick up a Today's Missal book last week, please do so if you are interested. Remember you must take yours home and bring it back with you each week. Please do not leave them in your pew at the conclusion of mass.
- ♦ The Prayer Hour on Mondays has been canceled until further notice.
- ♦ **With rising Covid numbers, please follow the guidelines put forth by the Diocese and state.** All parishioners are reminded by the Bishop that:
 - the dispensation from the Sunday obligation remains in force indefinitely
 - if you are fearful or have reluctance to return to Sunday observance at this time, you should not do so
 - those most susceptible to contracting COVID-19 by virtue of age, medical condition or other vulnerability should not attend the in-person Mass

A Look Ahead

Jan. 23-24—2nd collection for Africa and Latin America
Sunday, Jan. 24—In person Religious Ed classes resume at SMM
Mon., Jan. 25—Knights of Columbus meeting 7pm at SJ
Fri., Feb. 5—First Friday Adoration & Benediction at SJ

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550
 Deacon – Ron Gagnon—rjgckg@gmail.com
 Home—815-933-4077
 Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com
 TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org
 Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities
 Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550
 Julie Bisailon 426-2550
 Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550
 debjen04@gmail.com
 RE Coordinators –
 St. Margaret Mary – Stacie Powers – 426-2550
 St. James – Alicia Miller – 933-5443
 Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015
 Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048
 Prayer Line– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773
 SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com
 St. James— Mary Offerman–602-670-8888 (call or text)



There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting on Monday, January 25 at St. James at 7 pm.

God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through you authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed. Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude the President and other government leaders. May they always seek the ways of righteousness, justice and mercy. Grant that they may be enabled by your powerful protection to lead our country with honesty and integrity. We ask this through Christ the Lord. AMEN

adapted from <http://www.catholic.org>

Blessed Margaret of Castello

Chapter 1

Massa Trabaria lies in the Apennine Mountains near Florence. In ages past the Romans obtained much of their timber from this area floating it down the Tiber River to Rome. Due to the wild and rough terrain, few rivers, and primitive roads, this area is sparsely populated.

Just outside the town of Saint Angelo are two valleys with a nearby mountain. Perched on the crest of the mountain was a strong fortress, the Castle Metola. No one knew when this castle was built nor by whom. It had been there at least since the start of the 13th Century. The State Council of Trabaria selected a man named Parisio as their leader. The new leader was a fearless, capable soldier. One of his first acts was to lead his army up the heights of Metola and lay siege to the fortress. Parisio was seen as a national hero. It was to the fortress in Metola that Parisio brought his young bride, Emilia.

Besides being politically important, Parisio was also a wealthy man. While financially wealthy, he was impoverished in virtues. Parisio was proud, unscrupulous, and indifferent to the sufferings of others. He was merciless toward anyone who stood in his way. He was nice only to those who might be of some value to him. In addition he was not a man of faith. Little is known of his wife, Emilia. She was lacking in character. The only praiseworthy things in her life were having her child baptized and on occasion visit her. In the year 1287 it became known that Emilia was with child.

Hoping for a son to carry on his name, Parisio was overjoyed. He wanted to hold a banquet in honor of his first born. In fact it was decided there would be two banquets: one in the castle and the other at their house in Mercatello. It would be at Mercatello that Emilia planned to have the child baptized. To prepare for the banquets the best wines and meats were purchased. The feast would be worthy of the first born son.

Finally the day came when the child was born. The castle bell remained silent, no flag flying in the high tower, no herald on a horse rushing through the town announcing the birth. There was no banquet, nor music or entertainment. That night, instead of the castle well lit and echoing the festivities, all was dark and silent. Horror filled the hearts of Parisio and Emilia. The child was a girl and she was dreadfully deformed.

Sunday, Jan 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrate, study, share

The timing seemed right. In September 2019, on the 1,600th anniversary of scripture scholar Saint Jerome's death, Pope Francis launched a new observance on the church calendar. Today's "Sunday of the Word of God" is deliberately placed within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All who follow Jesus are invited to unite around the happy gift of our sacred story contained in the Bible's pages. On this occasion, we celebrate, study, and spread these good words we never possess merely for ourselves. Enthroned the Bible in your home—and heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 (68). *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel."*

Monday, Jan 25, 2021

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

Turn things around

It is arguably the biggest about-face in history: Paul goes from passionately persecuting Christians to converting to Christianity and becoming one of its most important champions. And it's a hard-to-beat conversion story: falling off a horse and encountering the risen Lord. But it's a story that happens in the hearts of Christians all the time: Life knocks you down while going the wrong way, and you're not ready, willing, or able to see the truth—and then somehow Jesus changes everything. By the grace of God, it happens to you again and again. Paul is proof that it's never too late, that you've never made too many mistakes, that you're never too far gone to keep turning yourself around.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519). *"Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Tuesday, Jan 26, 2021

MEMORIAL OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS

Seek good companions for the journey

We honor Timothy and Titus one day after the conversion of Saint Paul. For Paul, once converted, wasted no time in spreading the gospel and relied on many to help with his missionary work. Few of his companions were as key—or as beloved—as Timothy and Titus. Paul gave them the toughest assignments, and his letters to them are the only ones addressed to fellow missionaries that are included in the Bible. In those epistles, Paul refers to them as "my dear child" and "my true child in our common faith"—reminders that all become brothers and sisters through Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 1:1-8 OR Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35 (520; Gospel 318). *"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

Wednesday, Jan 27, 2021

Never forget

On this day in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, the United Nations established International Holocaust Remembrance Day. With firm resolve to educate future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust, this annual event is a clarion call never to forget the Nazi atrocities that claimed the lives of 6 million Jews and millions more others. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres warns that

it would be a "dangerous error to think of the Holocaust as simply the result of the insanity of a group of criminal Nazis." It happened because of the "millennia of hatred, scapegoating, and discrimination targeting the Jews." Pray today for grace to choose love rather than hate, to choose inclusion rather than discrimination.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:11-18; Psalm 110; Mark 4:1-20 (319). *"Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool."*

Thursday, Jan 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Let your light shine

How apt that the gospel on today's memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas encourages us to let our light shine. This saint's light was his powerful intellect, and it still shines brightly today. His theological writings, particularly *Summa Theologiae*, continue to have tremendous impact on the church. One of his lasting insights is that faith and reason both come from God, and Christian doctrine is not at odds with rational thought. In honor of this doctor of the church with his relentlessly probing mind, take time to sharpen your own understanding of a faith-related issue.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:19-25; Mark 4:21-25 (320). *"Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket . . . and not to be placed on a lampstand?"*

Friday, Jan 29, 2021

Make an offer

"Offer it up" is a phrase that seems baked into our Catholic tradition. Often it comes out at times when we are at a loss from the complexities and pain of suffering, which can leave us hopeless, scared, and lonely. After months of social distancing, mourning deaths, job and school closures, and holidays spent alone, we are all in a kind of personal and corporate space of suffering. We are invited to truly *offer*, that is, to *give* ourselves into the care of others and into the loving embrace of Jesus the Christ who also has known suffering intimately. What do you need to offer up and how can you lovingly embrace others' offerings of themselves?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34 (321). *"We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life."*

Saturday, Jan 30, 2021

All that I have is yours

Inheritance is a big deal in the Bible. Not so much legal inheritance, though that is mentioned, but theological inheritance, the gifts God bestows on the community of faith—the people of Israel—and later, in the New Testament, to the followers of Christ. We all share in that inheritance, that "holy ground" promised so long ago to Abraham and his descendants. How will you put your inheritance to use? Will you pass it on to others, or will it end with you? How you invest your time, talent, and treasure will determine the answer to that question.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41 (322). *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Collections Week of Jan. 16-17

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,597

St. James—\$1,193

Sacred Heart—\$1,745

Thank you for your generosity

DO YOU CARE FOR A LOVED ONE?
AN ILL SPOUSE, AGING PARENT OR CHILD WITH DISABILITIES?

Nourish For Caregivers
Empower. Advance.™

We invite you to connect with other caregivers.
Nourish for Caregivers supports the practical emotional and spiritual needs of all who offer care for others during this time of uncertainty and anxiety

 This online caregiver support ministry sponsored by
The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

Monthly meetings will be held via Zoom
at 1pm and again at 7pm on these dates:

DATES

Feb 22, 2021

Mar 22, 2021

Apr 19, 2021

May 17, 2021

Jun 21, 2021

Jul 19, 2021

Aug 16, 2021

SESSION TOPICS

The Thing About Compassion

One is Enough! Learning to Live One Day at a Time

Walking with Christ, Nourished by Grace

End of Life, Planning for and Making Decisions

Roles in Caregiving and the Decisions We Face

More in Music – Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

Speak Up! Overcoming the Challenges of Advocacy

For more information and to register, call or email:

Susan Amann at 708.790.8141 or samann@sscm-usa.org

Parish News:

Sacred Heart-

- ♦ Rectory Update— We are in the process of reassembling the rectory at Sacred Heart. Currently it is inhabitable, but it has passed inspection by the county. As it looks now, we are in need of some "gently" used furniture. I think we could use couches, chairs, end table, and lamps for two sitting rooms on the second floor and the living room on the first floor. If you have furniture that you would like to get rid of please call the office and we will see if we can use it.—Thanks, Fr.

St. James-

St. Margaret Mary-

Join us for this online presentation:

AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION on Anti-Racism



for the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
by the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC)
of Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

This is an interactive Anti-Racism workshop that includes White Privilege and Microaggressions as key components. Several breakout room experiences are incorporated; ZOOM is the platform for this online presentation.

**WHEN: Wednesday, February 3, 2021
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

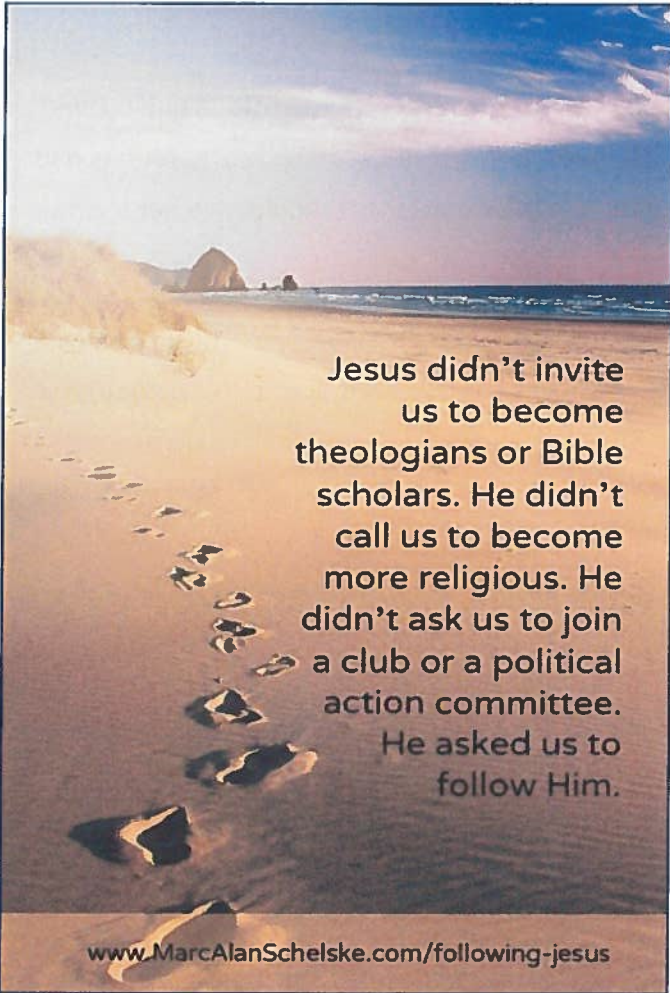
Sponsored By:
Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

To register, please visit our website:
<http://www.sscm-usa.org/online-programming.html>

For more information about our programming,
please contact Susan Amann,
samann@sscm-usa.org

Presenters:

Sr. Lois Prebil, *OSF*, and several other members of the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) of Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate will be presenting. For more information about ARC, visit their website [HERE](#)



Jesus didn't invite
us to become
theologians or Bible
scholars. He didn't
call us to become
more religious. He
didn't ask us to join
a club or a political
action committee.
He asked us to
follow Him.

www.MarcAlanSchelske.com/following-jesus



Saint of the week: Saints Timothy and Titus (Jan. 26) Timothy's father was a Greek gentile, his mother Eunice was Jewish. Converted to Christianity by Saint Paul the Apostle around the year 47, he became a partner, assistant and close friend of Paul. He was a missionary and head of the Church in Ephesus. Timothy was the recipient of two canonical letters from Saint Paul. He was martyred for opposing the worship of Dionysius.

Titus was a disciple of Saint Paul the Apostle. He was the recipient of a canonical letter from Saint Paul. He was the first bishop of the Church in Crete.



Obscure Saint of the week: St. Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero (Jan. 26) was the fourth of ten brothers. He was a priest in the diocese of Córdoba, Argentina, being ordained at age 26. He was known to travel long distances in Argentina on the back of a mule, dressed in sombrero and poncho, to serve the needs of Christians throughout his huge parish. He cared for the sick during the cholera epidemic of 1867. He contracted leprosy during his travels, and was blind toward the end.



Blessed Margaret

Last week in the bulletin I laid out the process that one must go through to receive the title "saint". Over the next 19 weeks I am going to share with you the life of Blessed Margaret of Castello. Margaret has had the title "blessed" since 1609. Wouldn't it be nice if we witnessed the miracle that would give her the title "saint"?

We Are Blessed to be Americans

FROM RESPECTLIFE1.ORG

We are blessed to be Americans! We are free because thousands of American soldiers went to war to keep us free. Sadly, a great many soldiers gave their lives and died on foreign soil to achieve this goal.

The expression 'War is Hell' is so true. Behind all the evil in the world is the devil who comes from Hell. He enters people's minds and souls and unless they have God in their lives, he is able to lead them down a sinful path.

The saddest and most heinous war of all time is going on right now. It is called Abortion. Since 1973, we have actually killed over 62 million little Americans, more than soldiers who died in all the wars put together. Granted, they are human babies still in the womb, but they are alive, they are our future.

How did this happen in America? Are we so blind to this atrocity? We must not lose this war! Our soldiers fought for each and every one of us, from the babies in the womb to the elderly, to have life until natural death. God gave us the Ten Commandments and a free will to choose right from wrong.

We will never have peace until our "Little Americans" have life.

We are a country of a lot of good people who save animals' lives. Now let's save our children, including the unborn!

*Ruth Weber
Davenport Iowa*



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 6, 2021

Families and Friends of Bishop McNamara Catholic School,

As we begin the second half of the 2020-21 academic year we set our sights on the annual and traditional celebration of National Catholic Schools Week. Beginning on Sunday, January 31st, we have an entire week of activities planned to celebrate our faculty, our staff, our students, our parents and the entire Bishop McNamara community.

This year's celebration will be amidst the ongoing pandemic. That being said, this pandemic gives us more reason to celebrate Catholic education. Even amongst the many challenges we face due to the pandemic, Bishop McNamara Catholic School students were in school receiving face-to-face instruction 88% of the scheduled school days in the first half of the year! This is due largely in part to the extraordinary dedication of our school families, pastors, administrators, and faculty and staff. Following their tremendous efforts, the Bishop McNamara community embarked on this school year with an inspiring commitment to the ministry of Catholic education, giving our students an unparalleled experience of academic excellence and formation in the Catholic faith.

This year's Catholic Schools Week theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, and Service." These characteristics set Catholic schools apart from other educational options. Our students are provided with intentional moments to experience Jesus Christ through our liturgical experiences, such as participating in mass, receiving the sacraments, and when and wherever possible performing acts of service. Our students grow in the understanding of our Church's teachings in all subject areas, including a renewed rigor in the understanding of Catholic theology. They are also empowered to witness God's truth, beauty, and goodness to the world. The three parts of this framework: experience, grow, and witness, are not intended to be steps in a sequence, but rather an integrated whole throughout our students' experience, rooted in the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that assist our students in leading a life of discipleship.

Although you may not be able to physically be present at one of our three sites as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, there are several ways to celebrate with us: first and foremost, we ask that you continue to pray for our continued success in providing a quality Catholic education within the greater Kankakee community. Secondly, consider in participating in the Tuition Tax Credit Scholarship Program, which is truly a win-win situation. You are not only assisting a family in sending their children to Bishop McNamara, but you the donor, are also receiving a seventy-five percent tax credit. Thank you for your continued support as we prepare our students to seek and fulfill God's plan for learning and for their own spiritual life. Feel free to visit our website at www.bishopmac.com or call 815-932-7413 to learn more about Bishop McNamara Catholic School.

Peace and good health,

Terry Granger
President
Bishop McNamara Catholic School





CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 6, 2021

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Sun, January 31: Celebrate Our Parishes

We encourage our families to attend Mass either in person by reserving your spot at your local parish or watching a live streaming. While attending Mass please say a prayer for Bishop McNamara and Catholic schools through the nation.

Mon, February 1: Celebrate Our Families

Students will show their appreciation by writing thank you notes to their parents for providing them with a Catholic education.

Tues, February 2: Celebrate Our Students

Our students will celebrate with a Class Color Day or Extreme Irish Spirit Wear.

Wed, February 3: Celebrate Our Nation

Students will wear Red, White and Blue to honor our country.

Thurs, February 4: Celebrate Our Vocations

Students will show their appreciation for the clergy by writing letters of appreciation to our local priests and sisters.

Fri, February 5: Celebrate Our Faculty and Staff

Faculty & Staff luncheon will be provided by MacPac. Thank you Teachers!

Sat, February 6: Celebrate Our Community

We encourage our students and their families to doing something nice for our Community.

OPEN HOUSE

BOURBONNAIS SITE PRK-5TH

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4ba8aa29a0fb6-catholic.1>



BRADLEY SITE PRK-5TH

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4ba8aa29a0fb6-catholic>



If you were unable to attend Open House tours at our Kankakee site (grades 6-12) in the fall, please reach out to Terry Granger at tgranger@bmcss.org to schedule a tour.

NEW FAMILY TOURS

Families interested in enrolling at BMCS will be invited to tour our school by appointment only.



BISHOP MCNAMARA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

JOIN US! Convenient time slots are available now! Sign up today!

February 2 from 3:30-6:30pm

February 4 from 3:30-6:30pm

February 6 from 9:00-11:00am