

NEWSNOTES

November 18, 2026

Dear St. Mary's,

Psalm 100 encourages all of us to enter His gates with thanksgiving, to be thankful for all with which we have been blessed, and to praise the name of our Lord. Accordingly, this week, I would like to share some of the blessings I am most appreciate of and thankful for:

I am thankful for our HSA leadership team and those who chair, organize, and run community events for all of us to enjoy. Gatherings such as the Back to School Bash, Fall Fest, Trunk or Treat, and the Craft and Vendor Fair create opportunities for all of us to socialize, form and build relationships, and grow closer together.

I am thankful for our celebrations of faith and ways in which our school honors venerable members of our community. Specifically, our recent Grandparents Mass and our Veteran's Day Prayer Service are wonderful examples of what makes St. Mary's such a special place. We are a forward-facing community that takes intentional steps to not lose our tradition or identity.

I am thankful for festive feasts! Yesterday, our PK3 Team welcomed parents and guests to the Parish Center to join in a holiday celebration with our youngest students. Today, our PK4 Team will do the same. Next week, our Middle School will host their first annual Friendgiving, joining as one united group to enjoy lunch that will be prepared by Chef Tony and served by Mr. O and Mrs. Blask. Sharing meals together demonstrates a sense of belonging and strengthens our bonds to one another.

I am thankful for two successful days of Parent-Teacher Conferences. Open communication and strong partnership between the school and homes allows our students to do their absolute best.

I am thankful for St. Mary's continuing to be a vibrant, thriving school community that grows each day. Thank you for growing with us and helping SME flourish into what we're becoming.

I am thankful for all of our SME families - those from last year who returned for this year, and for all families who are new to St. Mary's. I appreciate your partnership, commitment to school and church, and infusion of ideas and energy into our community. Our school year has gotten off to a most successful beginning, and I am happy that your children are happy here at SME.

I am thankful for all of our parent volunteers. Without your time, volunteerism, care, or love, our school would not exist as it does. We are successful and always improving because all of us - students, teachers, parents, and community members - collaborate so that our students have every opportunity possible to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive environment. Thank you all for helping to make SME the wonderful, safe place it is for our students.

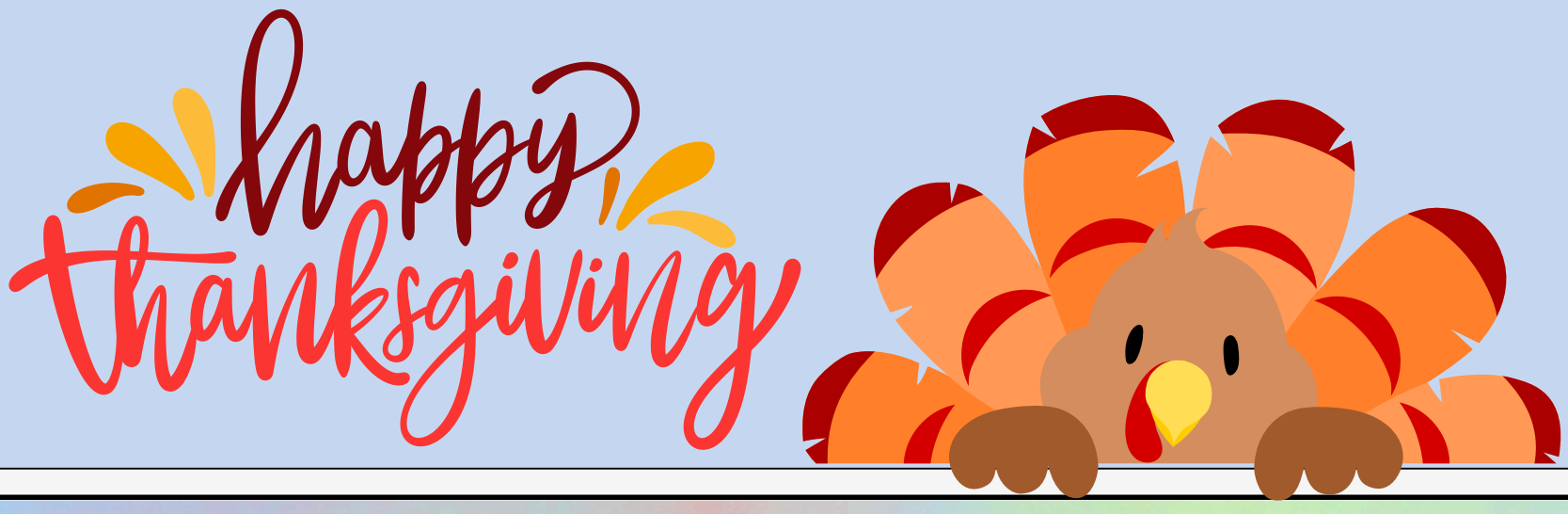
I am thankful for our amazing teachers. All of our educators prioritize the person and see our students for the people they are. We are blessed to have qualified and caring teachers who always go above and beyond the call of duty. They serve our school and community with love and compassion, and without their professionalism or expertise, we would not be able to offer the high-quality education or programming we do. Thank you, all.

I am thankful for all staff members who comprise a support team that is truly second to none. Every day, our staff members perform countless thankless acts of charity, as they perform innumerable duties to help our school operate at the highest level. Thank you!

It is our mission to continue to represent our community with social responsibility, as we grow spiritually and strive for academic excellence, always. When I reflect back on our recent past and consider the boundless possibilities of our future, I do so with pride, fulfilment, and gratitude.

For all of these reasons, I am thankful.

God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving,
Mr. Olejniczak





NEWSNOTES

November 18, 2026

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

11.18.26 MEETING

There will be **no** HSA meeting tonight, 11.18.26.

Sorry for the inconvenience

FALL FEST DRESS DOWN PASSES

All dress down passes have been distributed.

If your child has not gotten their passes and they were supposed to, please reach out to HSA@smeschool.com, so we can get them to you.

Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

11.28.26

Breakfast with Santa

12.02.26 & 12.03.26

Merry Moose Shop (Volunteers needed)

MERRY MOOSE

Believe it or not, it's already time to start preparing for this year's **Merry Moose Shop!**

We will be sending home the planning envelopes next week to help the students plan for who they want to shop for.

We are so excited to be able to offer the students a chance to come and shop for their loved ones for Christmas, but we need your help.

The Merry Moose Shop will take place on Thursday 12.3. We will also be having special evening hours for our PreK, middle school, and any other friends that may have missed the shop during the day from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday 12.3.

Below is a link to sign up to help with shopping and gift wrapping for our students. If you are able to help, even if just for a short time, please sign up below.

This is always such a fun event for the kids, and it is not possible without your help!

To make things easy for our student shoppers, we use **gift bags** instead of wrapping paper for their holiday finds.

If you have any **new or gently used gift bags, tissue paper, or gift tags**, please send them to the **main office (Attn: HSA)**.

We'll store them until December when the shop opens. Every donation helps make the event merry and bright—thank you for spreading the Christmas cheer!

Sign Up Here

NJHS CANDY CANE GRAM

The St. Mary's Elementary National Junior Honor Society is spreading some Christmas cheer!

Candy Cane Grams are available for purchase for just **$1 each**!

Send a little holiday sweetness to family members, classmates, friends, teachers, or anyone special.

Each gram includes a candy cane with a Christmas gift tag personalized with the recipient's name and the sender's name.

Please complete the order form and return it by **Monday, December 7th**. Candy Cane Grams will be delivered to students on **Thursday, December 17th.**

Please see order form attached

RAISERIGHT

Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 - 12:00
Thursday: 11:30 - 2:00

All online, school orders, and orders dropped off in the raiseright mailbox, will be filled within 5 days, and you will be called.



PAYMENTS

To ensure your most accurate and up-to-date statement balance, please make sure all payments are submitted by the designated due date.

Payments received after the due date may not appear on your newest statement right away. Thank you for your attention and cooperation!



END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

Families needing an end-of-year statement for Pre-K or After-School Care payments are asked to submit their request via email to **finances@smeschool.com**.

Please allow one week for processing. Once your request is received, we will prepare and send your statement. Thank you!



NEWSNOTES

November 18, 2026

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

COOKIE DONATION

It’s hard to believe that Breakfast with Santa is only 2 weeks away.

To help keep the kids entertained, we like to do a cookie decorating station.

We are looking for donations of prepackaged sugar cookies, frosting and sprinkles.

If you are able to donate any of these items, please use the sign up below to let us know.

We are asking for all donations to be dropped off at the main office by Tuesday November 24, before the Thanksgiving break, so if we need to purchase anything we can ahead of time.

Thank you in advance for your donation.

Sign Up Here

TICKET INFORMATION

Our annual Breakfast with Santa event will take place on Saturday, November 28th in the Parish Center.

Doors will open at 8:30 am, and we’ll be serving breakfast until 11:00 am.
Please select a ticket time for either seating:
 # 1
8:30-10:00

#2
10:00-11:30am.

Our pancake breakfast comes with breakfast sausages and beverage - coffee, juice, or milk.

Guests will have the opportunity to decorate cookies and make an ornament.

Of course, Santa will be joining us for picture opportunities and to visit with kiddos, as they share their wish lists with him.



Tickets are **$12 per adult** and **$6 for children 3-13**.

There is no charge for children under 3 years old.

Purchase Here



St. Mary’s Campus

Email:
secretary@smeschool.com

Phone: 716.683.2112
Fax: 716.683.2134

2 St. Mary’s Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

Pompeii Campus

Email:
mssecretary@smeschool.com

Phone: 716.683.6522
Fax: 716.683.2134

129 Laverack Ave
Lancaster, NY 14086

SME Campus

NOVEMBER calendar

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 STREAM/EXCEL Walkathon **8:30 - 10:00**	3	4 Pre-K Town Hall Meeting **5:30**	5	6 Christian Witness Award Mass & Grandparents Day Mass **8:30**	7
8	9	10 Veterans Day Prayer Service **8:30** Early Dismissal **10:45** Parent Teacher Conferences **12:00 - 6:00**	11 **NO SCHOOL**	12 Day of Service	13 **NO SCHOOL** Parent Teacher Conferences **9:00-3:00**	14 HSA Craft Show **9:00-3:00**
15	16	17 Pre-K 3 Thanksgiving Feast **1:00**	18 Pre-K 4 Thanksgiving Feast **1:00** HSA Meeting **6:00**	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26 **NO SCHOOL**	27 **NO SCHOOL**	28 Breakfast with Santa **9:00**
29	30 Early Dismissal **1:00** ****No After School****					

Events at SME Campus

STREAM/EXCEL Walkathon
Pre-K Town Hall Meeting
Christian Witness / Grandparents Mass
Veterans Day Prayer Service
Parent Teacher Conferences Pre-K - 5th
HSA Craft Show
Pre-K 3 & 4 Thanksgiving Feasts in PC
Breakfast with Santa
HSA Meeting

Contact Information

2 Saint Marys Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086
P: 716-683-2112 F: 716-683-2134
secretary@smeschool.com

SME Campus

DECEMBER calendar

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Merry Moose Shop **K-5 During the Day** Pre-K **2:00-6:00**	4 Christian Witness Award Mass **8:30** Report Card 1 Grades Close ****No After School****	5
6	7	8 Immaculate Conception	9 Pre-K 4 Christmas Sing-A-Long **1:00**	10 Pre-K 3 Christmas Sing-A-Long **1:00**	11 Report Card 1 Distribution Living Nativity **6:30**	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 **NO SCHOOL**	22 **NO SCHOOL**	23 **NO SCHOOL**	24 **NO SCHOOL**	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26
27	28 **NO SCHOOL**	29 **NO SCHOOL**	30 **NO SCHOOL**	31 **NO SCHOOL**		

Events at SME Campus

Merry Moose Shop
Christian Witness Award Mass
Pre-K 3 & 4 Sing-A-Long in PC
Living Nativity

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secretary@smeschool.com

Pompeii Campus



NOVEMBER calendar



2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 STREAM/EXCEL Walkathon **8:30 - 10:00**	3	4	5	6 Christian Witness Award Mass & Grandparents Day Mass **8:30**	7
8	9	10 Veterans Day Prayer Service **8:30** Early Dismissal **10:45** Parent Teacher Conferences at SME **12:00 - 6:00**	11 **NO SCHOOL**	12 Day of Service	13 **NO SCHOOL** Parent Teacher Conferences **9:00-3:00**	14 HSA Craft Show **9:00-3:00**
15	16	17	18 HSA Meeting **6:00**	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26 **NO SCHOOL**	27 **NO SCHOOL**	28 Breakfast with Santa **9:00**
29	30 Early Dismissal **1:00** ****No After School****					

Events at Pompeii Campus

Parent Teacher Conferences (November 13th)

Contact Information

129 Laverack Ave
Lancaster, NY 14086
P: 716-683-6522 ext. 112 F: 716-683-2134
mssecretary@smeschool.com

Pompeii Campus

DECEMBER calendar

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Merry Moose Shop **During the Day**	4 Christian Witness Award Mass **8:30** Report Card 1 Grades Close ****No After School****	5
6	7	8 Immaculate Conception	9	10	11 Report Card 1 Distribution Christmas Pageant	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 **NO SCHOOL**	22 **NO SCHOOL**	23 **NO SCHOOL**	24 **NO SCHOOL**	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26
27	28 **NO SCHOOL**	29 **NO SCHOOL**	30 **NO SCHOOL**	31 **NO SCHOOL**		

Events at Pompeii Campus

Contact Information

129 Laverack Ave
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P: 716-683-6522 ext. 112
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mssecretary@smeschool.com

Christmas Candy Cane Grams

The St. Mary's Elementary National Junior Honor Society invites parents and students to purchase candy canes to give to their family members, classmates, and friends for Christmas. Candy cane grams are $1 each, and will include a candy cane with a Christmas gift tag.

If you would like to purchase a candy cane gram, please fill out the form below to indicate how you would like the gift tag(s) to be made out.

Please return by Monday December 7th. Candy cane grams will be given to students on Thursday December 17th.

Student: _____ Homeroom: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

To: _____ From: _____

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- *"...visible examples of Gospel living."*

Nov. 2026

2023

St Mary's Elementary is now participating in the Universal Breakfast/Lunch Program. All Breakfasts/Lunches are free for students and adult lunches are $5.50. Breakfast is comprised of three components; a whole grain, a fruit and milk. Lunch is comprised of five components; a protein, a whole grain, vegetables, fruit & milk. In addition to the main entrée, there are three alternate choices offered daily; Turkey Sandwich, Yogurt Parfait, or Sun Butter & Jelly Sandwich. Milk is **$0.50**, and may be prepaid if your student buys milk regularly. **Snack will now be served to all grades during lunchtime. No snack is ever purchased on account. Snack money must be presented at point of sale. Snacks are $0.50-$1.50.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at heerdt@smeschool.com. We appreciate your support. Liz Heerdt (menu subject to change) * THERE IS NO OPTION B(TURKEY SANDWICH) ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Cereal Bar Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Pancakes w/Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	3 Granola Bar Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Chicken Tenders Veggies, Fruit & Milk	4 Breakfast Break Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Hot Dogs Veggies, Fruit & Milk	5 Pop Tart Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk French Bread Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk	6 Muffins Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Cheesy Breaded Chicken Sammy w/Bacon Veggies, Fruit & Milk
9 Donuts Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Popcorn Chicken Veggies, Fruit & Milk	10 Cereal Bar Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Early Dismissal No Lunch Service	11 No School Veteran's Day	5 Breakfast Breaks Fruit Juice, Fruit & Milk Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk	6 No School Parent/Teacher Conference
16 Pop Tarts Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Chicken & Waffles Veggies, Fruit & Milk	17 Breakfast Break Fruit Juice, Fruit & Milk Cheeseburger Veggies, fruit & Milk	18 Muffins Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk	19 Granola Bar Fruit Juice, Fruit & Milk Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk	20 Cereal Bar Fruit, Fruit Juice & Milk Mac n Cheese Veggies, Fruit & Milk
23 Granola Bar Fruit Juice, Fruit & Milk French Toast Sticks Veggies, Fruit & Milk	24 Breakfast Break Fruit Juice, Fruit & Milk Chicken Nuggets Veggies, Fruit & Milk	25 NO School	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	27 No School
30 Muffin Fruit Juice, Fruit & Milk Taco in a Bag Veggies, Fruit & Milk				

CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLUB

DO YOU NEED SOME TIME TO YOURSELF? DO YOU WANT TO GET DINNER OR GET SOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE? BRING YOUR CHILD TO CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLUB!

YOUR CHILD WILL SPEND TWO HOURS MAKING SENTIMENTAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. WRAPPED AND READY TO GO!

DECEMBER 2ND, 9TH AND 16TH

5PM-7PM

$25 PER SESSION

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO EMAIL AFTERSCHOOL@SMESCHOOL.COM



ST. MARY
OF THE
ASSUMPTION

Children's Christmas

CHOIR & NATIVITY PLAY

Join us this **Christmas Eve** as we celebrate the birth of Jesus through joyful songs and a special Christmas play on at **3:30 PM**! All children are welcome to participate!

Practice Schedule
(**In the Chapel**)
Thursdays,
Nov 12, 19, 6-7 PM
Dec 3, 10, 17 6-7 PM

Dress Rehearsal:
Tuesday, Dec 22,
Noon-3 pm
(**Lunch Provided**)

Any questions, contact Andrea at (716)330-9182

Parents

Fight the Flu

at Home and School

Influenza (flu) spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it completely.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for young children, older adults, and people of all ages with certain health conditions. The flu can make asthma, diabetes, heart, and lung conditions worse.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems for children or teenagers who have the flu.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms, call their health care provider and ask if antiviral treatment is right for them.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

health.ny.gov/flu

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

Night *in the* Village

Spend a night in the Village with fellow Lancers and enjoy special discounts at local shops, restaurants, and more.

Wednesday, December 9
5 to 8 p.m.

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL · LANCASTER, NEW YORK

High School Placement Test

Register for the exam and our review classes.

THE EXAM

HSPT at St. Mary's

The HSPT will be held at St. Mary's High School on November 21st.

DATE	TIME	FEE
Nov. 21	**8–11 am**	**$25**

PREPARE

HSPT review classes

Classes cover all essential elements of the exam. Practice tests and review books are provided.

DATES	TIME	FEE
Nov. 4–6	**4–6 pm**	**$100**

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR BOTH

St. Mary's High School · 142 Laverack Avenue · Lancaster, NY 14086