



— February 20, 2026 —

# Irish Messenger

Issue 14

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1  
*Shorts Allowed*

March 2  
*Read-A-Thon*

March 6  
*End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
No School - Teacher  
Institute*

March 11  
*Early Dismissal 2pm*

March 13  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report  
Cards Published*

March 17  
*St. Patrick's Day  
No School*

March 30-April 6  
*Easter Break  
No School*

## Message from the Principal

As we begin the holy season of Lent, we are reminded that this is a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare our hearts for Easter. Lent invites us to grow closer to Christ through small sacrifices and intentional acts of love.

Each Friday during Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross following our after-school Mass. This special devotion helps our students reflect on Jesus' great love and sacrifice.

May this season be one of grace and spiritual growth for your family.



# VIRTUE=STRENGTH.

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. STRENGTHEN.

## February 20th

VIRTUE=STRENGTH.



### WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY?

Accountability is the strength to hold oneself responsible for one's actions and their consequences.

If you accidentally break something, being accountable means you tell the truth and help fix it, pay for a new one or find a solution.

It shows that you care about your choices and are willing to learn from mistakes, helping you grow and become a better person!

#### Examples of Accountability:

1. Doing chores without being reminded.
2. Being honest about mistakes.
3. Obeying the family rules about screens before homework.
4. Coming home on time when given a curfew.

VIRTUE=STRENGTH.



### WHAT IS FAITH?

The virtue of faith is a gift from God, placed or infused in our souls at Baptism, that gives us the strength to believe in God and everything that His Holy Catholic Church teaches us.

Faith is the strength to believe in God and trust in His promises, even when we do not see or fully understand.

It's like believing in the wind—though we can't see it, we can feel it blowing and know it's there.

#### Examples of Faith:

1. Ava prays every night, even when she feels like God isn't answering right away.
2. Jonathan stands up for what he believes in, even when his friends make fun of him.
3. Sophia goes to Mass with her family, even when she doesn't feel like it, because she knows it's important.

Feb 27th  
Faith

# SCHOLASTIC BOWL

## Upcoming Dates

February 24  
at D50 @ 3:45

March 3  
vs Riverview @ 4:30

March 5  
at EP @ 4:00

March 10  
at Central @ 3:45

March 12  
at St. Vincent @ 3:45



Our Scholastic Bowl team is off to a great start this season! Their hard work, teamwork, and dedication are already paying off, and we're so proud of their early success.

A big thank you to our amazing coaches – Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Hatton, and Mr. Toohill – for their leadership and support. We can't wait to see what the rest of the season brings!



# Good Disciples



During 8th grade Adoration at church, Grant Johnson noticed a fellow classmate had left her coat behind and kindly brought it with him so she wouldn't have to go back for it. She isn't a teammate or his closest friend, just a classmate he chose to look out for in that small but meaningful moment. A simple gesture, but a beautiful example of awareness, kindness, and what it truly means to be a Good Disciple.



Coach Stein truly goes out of his way to help in any way possible. Whether it's assisting with heavy lifting, stepping in to take on extra classes, or supporting school events, he is always willing to lend a hand. Most recently, he was seen at 8th Grade Night during the volleyball game, helping hand out lights to the crowd.

Thank you, Coach Stein, for your constant willingness to serve and for modeling what it means to be a positive example for our students and school community.

## Have a Good Disciple Suggestion?

We love highlighting the good deeds of our students, staff, and families. If you witness someone living out their faith through service, compassion, or helping others, please share it with us! Send your Good Disciple suggestions (and a picture, if possible—it always makes the story even better!) to:

Mrs. Smith or Tammy Barron, [barront@stpatswashington.com](mailto:barront@stpatswashington.com)



We are Hiring!  
Aftercare Monitor  
School Days 3:00-5:30

[Apply Here](#)

or

contact Mrs. Smith  
[csmith@stpatswashington.org](mailto:csmith@stpatswashington.org)

Must be 21 or older with a high school diploma.

Starting at \$15

# VOLLEYBALL



## Upcoming Dates

Feb 21st - 9:00 a.m.  
at St. Phil's

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> - TBD  
at Peoria Academy

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 p.m.  
at Riverview

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.  
7<sup>th</sup> grade Regionals  
at Blessed Sacrament

Mar 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> - TBD  
5/6 grade  
Diocese Tourney  
at St. Phil's

Mar 7<sup>th</sup> - TBD  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Regionals  
at Blessed Sacrament





# MARDI GRAS



From festive decorations to delicious King's Cake, our students had a wonderful time celebrating Mardi Gras while learning more about the French language and heritage.

We also reflected on how Mardi Gras marks the final day before the season of Lent begins.



A special thank you to Madame Johnson for taking French class to the next level with vibrant Mardi Gras décor and engaging activities that made learning come alive. Your creativity and enthusiasm truly made this celebration unforgettable! And thank you to our Parent Ministry for the King's Cakes!



# PERSONAL GOODS DRIVE

**FIRST  
SUNDAY IN  
MARCH**



PLEASE HELP OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY STOCK UP ON PAPER PRODUCTS AND PERSONAL CARE ITEMS: KLEENEX, PAPER TOWELS, TOILET PAPER, LOTION, SHAMPOO, HAND SOAP, DEODORANT, TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT. COLLECTION BINS FOR DONATIONS WILL BE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE AND THE SCHOOL HALLWAY. ON BEHALF OF OUR FRIENDS IN NEED, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GOD BLESS YOU!

SCHOOL FAMILIES CAN SEND IN ITEMS TO SCHOOL THE WEEK BEFORE AND WE WILL DELIVER THEM TO THE CHURCH!



**Dr. Johnson talks to 6th grade about transplants, blood types, and kidneys.**



**Fifth grade earned a pizza party for completing 6 seconds xtra math**





**Fifth grade tried to persuade the school to vote for the donut they designed.**





# GIVE UP WORRY FOR LENT!

A Unique, Life-Changing Catholic Experience!

## Give Up Worry for Lent

Feb. 25, 2026 • 6:00 - 7:30 PM

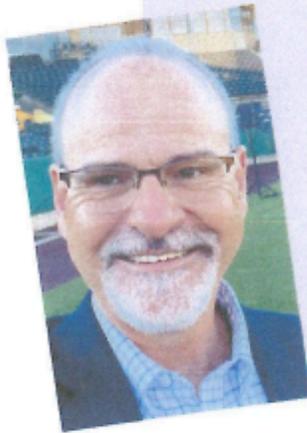
at St. Patrick Catholic Church  
Mary, Mother of God Parish  
705 E. Jefferson St. - Washington, IL

**ALL NEW  
FOR 2026!**

**FEATURING  
CATHOLIC SPEAKER,  
AUTHOR & RADIO HOST**

**GARY ZIMAK**

The leading Catholic speaker  
on overcoming anxiety,  
worry and stress!



Based on Gary's Book:  
**Give Up Worry for Lent!**  
*40 Days to Finding Peace in Christ*



### GARY'S BOOKS

*A Worrier's Guide to the Bible*  
*Listen to Your Blessed Mother*  
*From Fear to Faith*  
*Faith, Hope & Clarity*  
*Find a Real Friend in Jesus*  
*Stop Worrying & Start Living*  
*Let Go of Anger and Stress!*

*Give Up Worry for Lent!*  
*Give Up Worry for Good!*  
*Journey with God*  
*Let Go of Your Fear*  
*Find Peace in Advent*  
*When Your Days are Dark,*  
*God is Still Good*  
*Lord, Save Me!*

Gary has been featured on:



## LET'S DO THIS!

For more information, visit: [FollowingTheTruth.com](http://FollowingTheTruth.com)



Seventh grade enjoying a little playtime with their prayer partners. Fun was had by all!



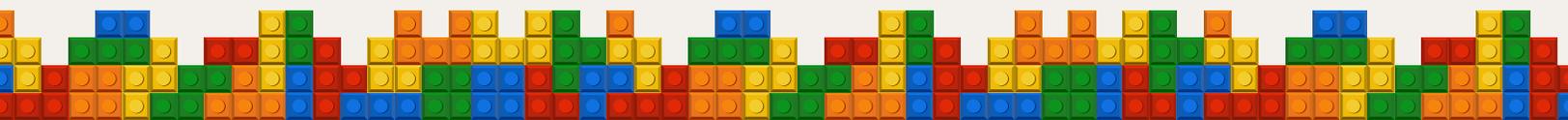
# LEGO LEAGUE



The FOR Loop Coders proudly represented St. Patrick's School at the FIRST LEGO League Challenge State Championship in Elgin on February 14, 2026.

Competing against top teams from across Illinois, the team ranked in the top 10% statewide and finished 8th overall in the alliance LEGO robot run. They also presented their innovative project and robot design with confidence, answering judges' questions intelligently and respectfully.

Their outstanding performance showcased their dedication, teamwork, and passion for innovation.



# 15<sup>th</sup>



## **Diocese of Peoria**

PROCLAIMING CHRIST:  
YESTERDAY, TODAY,  
FOREVER

SEE HOW YOU AND YOUR  
FAMILY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE  
DIOCESE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY!  
MAKE SURE TO SHARE YOUR  
SERVICE HOURS TO HELP THE  
DIOCESE REACH 150 HOURS!

[WWW.CDOP150.ORG](http://WWW.CDOP150.ORG)

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



JOIN US ON MARCH 17TH TO  
REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL IN THE  
PARADE  
CAN'T JOIN BUT STILL WANT TO HELP,  
SIGN UP TO DONATE HERE!



*Mary, Mother of God Parish*

**FIRE & ICE**

*Pot O' Gold*

*March 21, 2026*

*Five Points Washington*

We cordially invite you to a *sizzling* good time! The Mary, Mother of God Parish Fire & Ice Pot O' Gold helps fund improvements to our churches and school and your support is greatly appreciated! We are excited to gather as a parish for an evening of fellowship and fun!



Saturday, March 21, 2026

5:30pm-11:30pm

Five Points Washington

360 N Wilmor Rd, Washington, IL 61571

Dress for an evening of fire, ice and glamour!

Dinner will begin at 6:00pm



Chef-carved slow-smoked BBQ Beef Brisket

Firecracker Chicken

Red Hot & Golden Embers Potatoes

Emerald Frost Green Beans

Sub-Zero Pasta Salad

Arctic Tundra Tossed Salad

Fresh-baked Hearth Rolls & Butter



**Tickets are \$70/each through 3/1/26**

**Save \$\$ by purchasing a table of 8 for \$540**

Starting 3/2/26 ticket prices increase to \$80/each

\*table of 8 increases to \$640



To purchase tickets or view the online auction,  
please visit:

<https://fireandicepotogold.maxgiving.bid/>

or scan the QR code





# PND Easter Bunny Breakfast

Saturday, March 28, 2026

9:00am-11:00am in the PND Commons

Adults: \$5 | Kids: \$3

Families: \$20





ST. PATRICK SCHOOL  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
we show our Irish pride!

# **SPIRIT WEAR TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**



**STUDENTS CAN WEAR SPIRIT  
WEAR TOPS (OR MRS. HARRIS  
TOPS ON THURSDAYS) WITH  
UNIFORM BOTTOMS.**

# APPROVED UNIFORMS

## St. Patrick Approved Uniforms

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://st-pats-washington.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

<b>BLANK Sport-Tek Youth Posicharge Polo</b>  3 Colors \$13.00	<b>EMBROIDERED Sport-Tek Youth Polo</b>  3 Colors \$21.00	<b>Port &amp; Company Youth Core Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt</b>  4 Colors \$23.00	<b>Port Authority Youth Value Fleece Jacket</b>  2 Colors \$33.00	<b>BLANK Sport-Tek Polo</b>  3 Colors \$14.00	<b>EMBROIDERED Sport-Tek Polo</b>  3 Colors \$21.00
<b>Port &amp; Company Essential Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt</b>  4 Colors \$21.00	<b>Port Authority Value Fleece Jacket</b>  2 Colors \$33.00	<b>Sport-Tek 1/4-Zip Sweatshirt</b>  4 Colors \$36.00	<b>Sport-Tek Sport-Wick Stretch 1/4-Zip Pullover</b>  3 Colors \$40.00		

powered by  ORDERMYGEAR

Questions?  
Dan Crowley  
3095307557  
[inkstainzscreenprinting@gmail.com](mailto:inkstainzscreenprinting@gmail.com)

# Uniform store is open throughout the school year!