



August 28, 2026

Irish Messenger

Issue 1

Upcoming Events

September 1
MAP Language
Assessment

September 3
MAP Testing Make-Ups,
Vision and Hearing
Screening

September 7
Labor Day - No School

September 8
Regular 3 PM Dismissal
for K-8

September 9
2nd Wed Early Out - 2 PM
dismissal - No Aftercare

September 16
Vision and Hearing
Screening Make-ups
Confirmation 7th Grade
Parent Meeting 6:30 PM

September 24
Beatification - No School

September 25
Late Start at 9 AM - No
School Mass

Message from the Principal

We are off to a wonderful start! Our hallways are filled with smiles, busy classrooms, and students excited to learn. Thank you, families, for helping make the start of the year so positive!

Our theme this year is “Keep Your Lamps Burning” (Luke 12:35). We encourage our students to let their light shine through faith, kindness, responsibility, and a love of learning each day.

A few quick reminders as we settle into routines:

 **Be On Time:** School begins at 8:00 a.m., so students should be in their classrooms and ready to learn at 8:00.

 **Dress for Success:** Please check the dress code each morning. Uniform? Check! PE Shoes? Check! Ready to shine? Check! 😊

 **Pack Lunch &  Be Prepared:** Don't forget lunches, homework, folders, Chromebooks, and water bottles. A little preparation the night before makes mornings much easier!

We are looking forward to a year filled with faith, learning, friendship, and fun! Let's keep our lamps burning, St. Patrick School! 🍀



VIRTUE=STRENGTH.

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. STRENGTHEN.

WHAT IS MATURITY?

Maturity is the strength to act in a way that is appropriate for the situation.

Maturity means knowing how to act depending on where you are and who you are with.

It means choosing behavior that fits the moment, even when it is not what you feel like doing.

How to live it:

- Act respectfully in class, church, and at home
- Stay calm and appropriate in serious situations
- Adjust your behavior depending on the situation

August 28th
MATURITY

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.

September 4th
FAITH

WELCOME



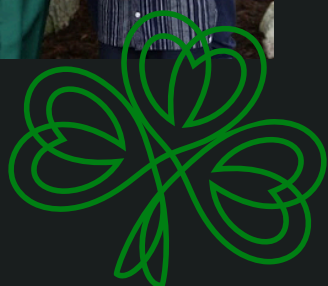
Ms. Violet Pollock
Aftercare Teacher

Ms. Violet is excited to be a part of the St. Pat's family this year. Her daughter, Violet, started in our preschool this year. She graduated from Ashworth College with an associate's in Child Development and plans on continuing her education. She loves helping students discover their strengths, ask questions, and express their creativity. Outside of school, she enjoys music, crafting, and spending time with family and friends. She is looking forward to a wonderful school year!



Mrs. Alyssa Morales
Preschool Aide

Mrs. Morales and her husband, Fernando (also a St. Pat's golf coach), have been a part of the St. Pat's family since 2018. They have three children: Gabriel (9th), Isabella (6th), and Elias (4th). Alyssa has been one of our school librarians and our Parent Ministry treasurer for the last 5 years. She is very excited to join the preschool team!



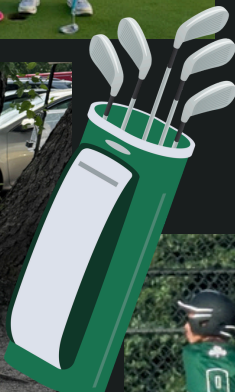


WELCOME BACK



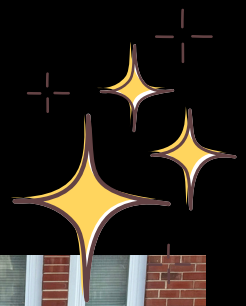
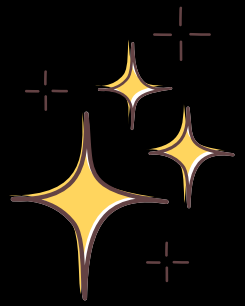
LET'S GO *Irish*

Irish athletics are underway!
Golf, Boys Baseball, Cross Country...and even
Girls Basketball started open gyms.
Check our sports' schedules on our website!





PRAYER partners

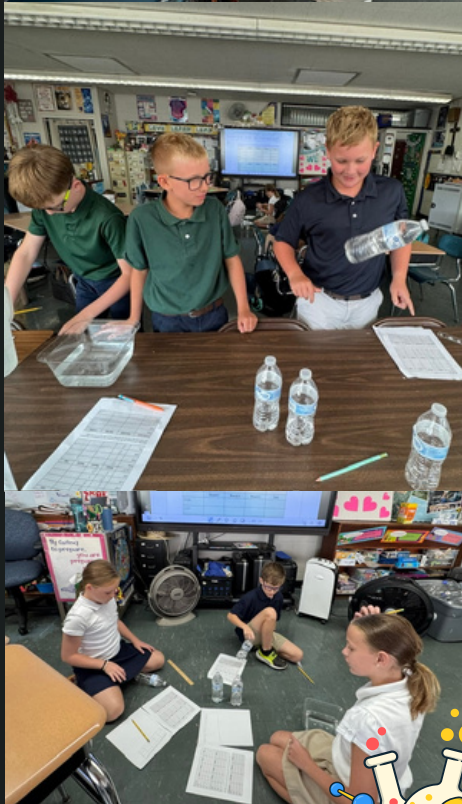
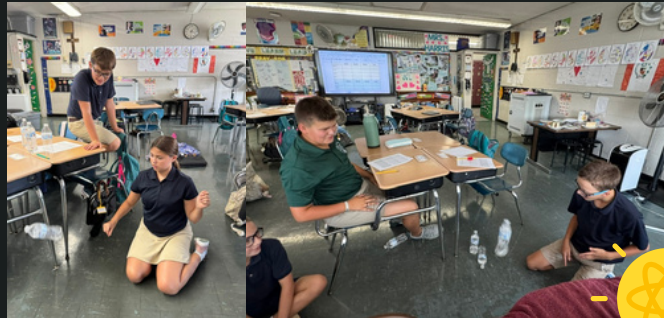
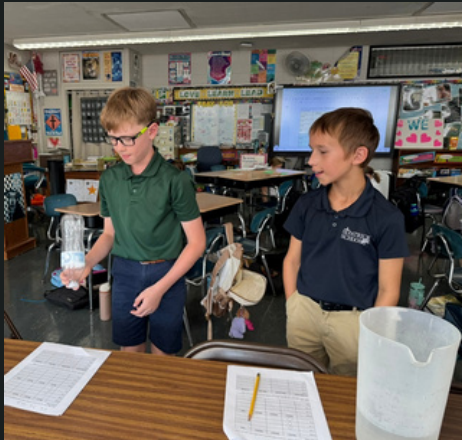


Prayer Partners met for the first time this week! Each preschool student is paired with an older student who will pray with them, sit with them at Mass, and help them grow in faith throughout the school year.

This is a beautiful opportunity for our older students to be role models while helping our youngest students feel connected to our school family.

“Let your light shine before others.” — Matthew 5:16

SCIENCE

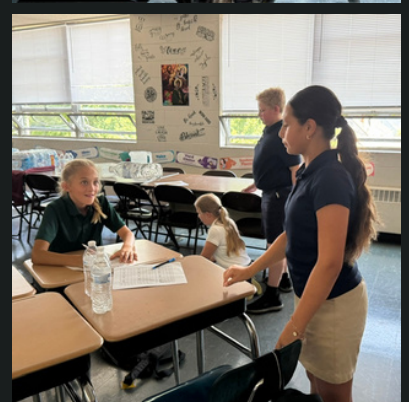
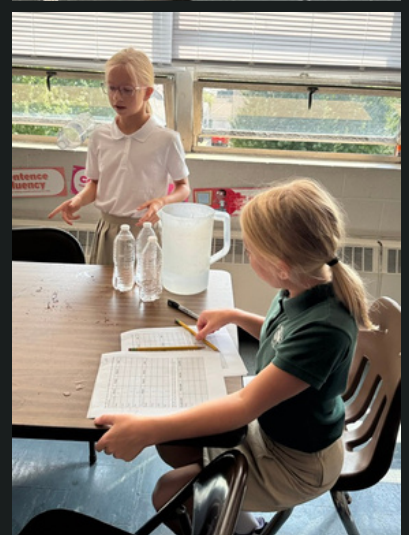


 **Science in Action!**
Our fifth and sixth graders jumped right into hands-on learning as they explored the scientific method through a fun investigation:

 **What amount of water works best for flipping a water bottle?**
Students made predictions, tested different amounts of water, recorded their results, and used their observations to draw conclusions. Along the way, they practiced the skills real scientists use every day—asking questions, making predictions, collecting data, and learning from the results!

It was a fun way to kick off the school year and get our students thinking, testing, and discovering!

Check out the pictures to see our young scientists in action!  





READ LEAD SUCCEED

 Reading Is Fun in Kindergarten!

Our kindergarteners had a great time participating in reading centers!

Through hands-on activities and engaging practice, students are building their early reading skills while discovering that reading is fun!  

We love watching our young readers learn, grow, and build a love for reading!

AFTERCARE

Highlights



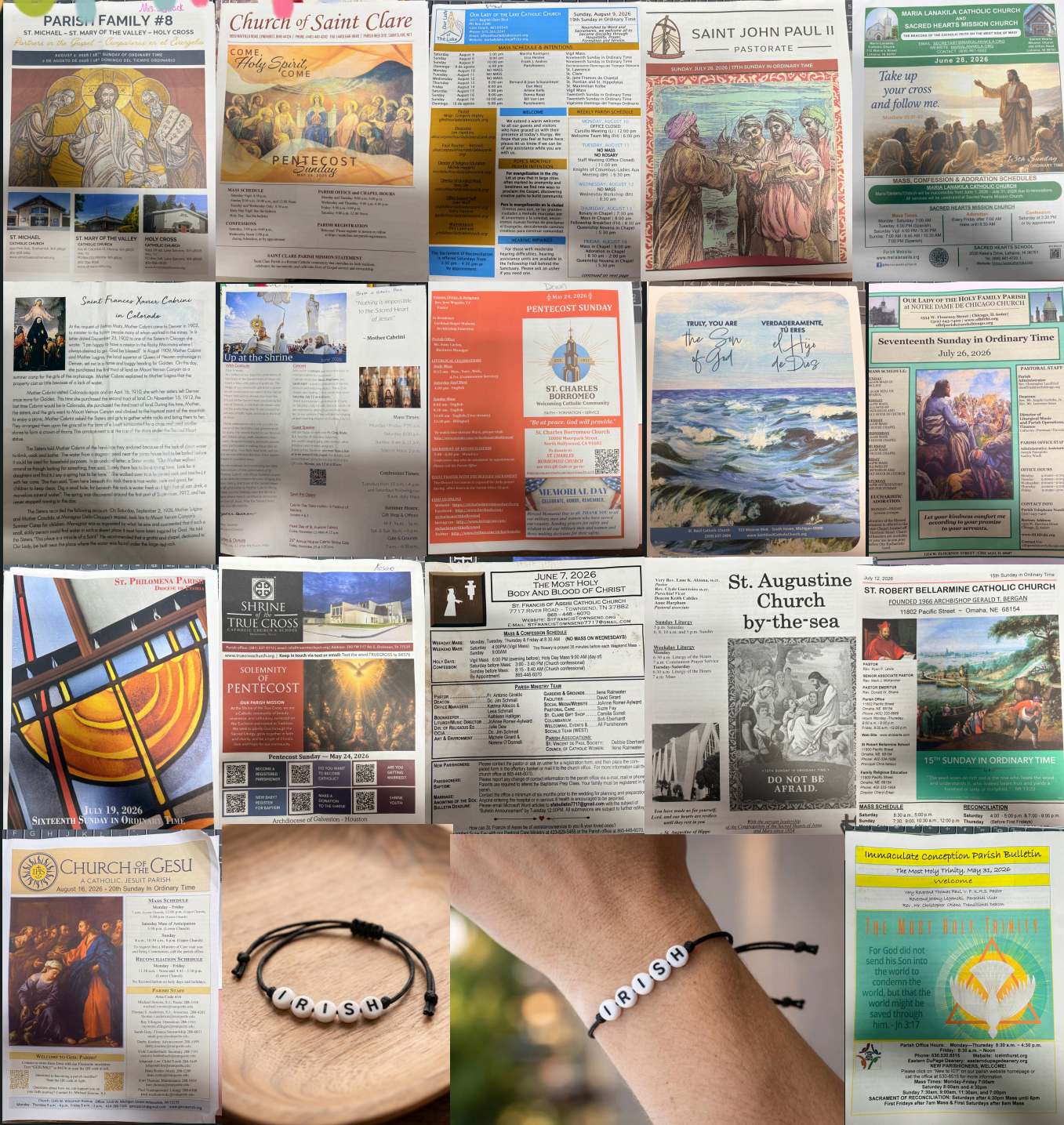
Not only are we excited to welcome our new aftercare teacher! We've also given our aftercare room a fresh new look, thanks to the generosity of the Class of 2026!

 A Special Visitor!

We also had a very unique visitor stop by during pick-up! One of our families brought their pet lizard in for a visit. Needless to say, it was a pretty exciting way to end the day! 😊 And everyone washed their hands afterward!



SUMMER Mass Challenge



Our Summer Mass Challenge was a HUGE success! We loved seeing our students make attending Mass a part of their summer adventures. Just look at all the churches our students visited this summer! 🙏💚

And they really went the distance! 🌐 Our farthest visits were in Paris and Hawaii! 🇫🇷🌺

Thank you to all of our students and families who participated and shared their summer Mass experiences with us.

Students received their IRISH bracelets for sharing their visits!



STANDARD RESPONSE[®] PROTOCOL

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol. The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers, and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

"In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- *Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced*
- *Do business as usual*

Adults and staff are trained to:

- *Close and lock the door*
- *Account for students and adults*
- *Do business as usual*



SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

Students are trained to:

- *Return to inside of building*
- *Do business as usual*

Adults and staff are trained to:

- *Bring everyone indoors*
- *Lock the outside doors*
- *Increase situational awareness*
- *Account for students and adults*
- *Do business as usual*



St. Patrick School has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- *Do not open the door*
- *Move away from sight*
- *Maintain silence*

Adults and staff are trained to:

- *Recover students from hallway if possible*
- *Lock the classroom door*
- *Turn out the lights*
- *Move away from sight*
- *Maintain silence*
- *Do not open the door*
- *Prepare to evade or defend*



EVACUATE

"To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- *Leave stuff behind if required to*
- *If possible, bring their phone*
- *Follow instructions*

Adults and staff are trained to:

- *Bring roll sheet*
- *Lead students to Evacuation location*
- *Account for students and adults*
- *Report injuries*



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- *Tornado*
- *Hazmat*
- *Earthquake*
- *Tsunami*

Safety Strategies might include:

- *Evacuate to shelter area*
- *Seal the room*
- *Drop, cover and hold*
- *Get to high ground*

Students are trained in:

- *Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies*
- *Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies*

Adults and staff are trained in:

- *Accounting for students and adults*
- *Report injuries*





Faithful Readers Program - Accelerated Reader Incentives

At St. Patrick School, we believe reading is a gift from God that helps us grow in wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Students who meet their quarterly reading goal will become Faithful Readers and earn an invitation to a special quarterly celebration.

Quarter 1 – Read-In with the Principal

K–4 • Read aloud by the principal • Popcorn • Faithful Reader certificate	Grades 5–8 • Bring your favorite book • Popcorn • Time to read, relax, and visit with the principal
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Quarter 2 – Cozy Reading Celebration

K–4 • Wear pajamas • Read with a stuffed animal or blanket • Bookmark	Grades 5–8 • Hot chocolate or Cider • Quiet reading time • Book recommendation card
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Quarter 3 – Outdoor Reading Celebration

K–4 • Read outside • Sidewalk chalk after reading • Popsicle	Grades 5–8 • Outdoor reading time • Outside games • Popsicle
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Quarter 4 – Readers' Choice Party

K–4 Students vote for one: • Read a favorite picture book • Coloring while listening to a story • Bubble time outside	Grades 5–8 Students vote for one: • Quiet reading • Card games • Outdoor free time
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Principal's Faithful Readers Celebration

Students who meet all four quarterly reading goals will be invited to the Principal's Reading Celebration!

• 30-minute Extra Recess • Popsicle or ice cream treat • Faithful Reader Certificate and Group Photo in Bulletin and Social Media

"Readers grow in wisdom, faith, and kindness, one book at a time."

APPROVED UNIFORMS

St. Patrick Approved Uniforms

st-pats-washington.itemorder.com/

BLANK Sport-Tek
Youth Polo



3 Colors

\$13.50

EMBROIDERED Sport-
Youth Polo



3 Colors

\$22.00

Port & Company
Youth Core Fleece
Crewneck Sweatshirt



4 Colors

\$23.00

Port Authority Youth
Value Fleece Jacket



2 Colors

\$35.00

BLANK Sport-Tek Polo



3 Colors

\$15.50

EMBROIDERED Sport-
Tek Polo



3 Colors

\$22.00

Port & Company
Essential Fleece
Crewneck Sweatshirt



4 Colors

\$23.00

Port Authority Value
Fleece Jacket



2 Colors

\$35.00

Sport-Tek 1/4-Zip
Sweatshirt



4 Colors

\$38.00

Sport-Tek Sport-Wick
Stretch 1/4-Zip
Pullover



3 Colors

\$40.00



powered by  ORDERMYGEAR

Questions?
Dan Crowley
3095307557

inkstainzscreenprinting@gmail.com

Uniform store is open throughout the school year!

PRIESTS PEDALING FOR PRAYERS



**PRIESTS
PEDALING**



 **FOR
PRAYERS**

**SEPT 28TH-
OCT 1ST**

***HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS WITH
TESTIMONIES FROM OUR RIDERS:***

FR. NICK CONNER, FR. BEN SCHOONMAKER & FR. JOHNPAUL STEDWILL

SEPT. 28TH LA SALLE VICARIATE: ST. HYACINTH 7PM

SEPT. 29TH PEORIA VICARIATE: ST. MARKS 6:45PM

SEPT. 30TH BLOOMINGTON VICARIATE: ST. PATS OF MERNA 7PM

OCT. 1ST CHAMPAIGN VICARIATE: ST. MATTHEWS 5:30PM

ST. THERESE, PATRONESS OF VOCATIONS, PRAY FOR US!



#ADVENTUREON!



Upcoming Pack 168 Events

The Pack offers events for your scout year round. You can attend all of them or the events that work within your schedule. During the school year, dens (grade level specific) meet once a month for about an hour to work on advancements.

In addition to den meetings, the Pack offers an event every month that can last between one and three hours. All family members are welcome to attend either the den or pack meetings.

The calendar to the right is what our Pack has planned for the upcoming year.

Want to know more? SCAN ➡



2026-2027 Calendar

Sep 27: Raingutter Regatta
 Oct 10-11: Overnight camping
 Nov: Ornament Making
 Dec 11: Bowling
 Jan 24: Pinewood Derby
 Feb 21: Blue and Gold Banquet
 March 20: Dickson Mounds Museum
 April 16-18: Overnight camping-ISR
 May 21: Nature hike
 June - Aug: TBD

for more info
 visit pack168.org