



— April 10, 2026 —

Irish Messenger

Issue 17

Upcoming Events

April 14 - Second Grade
Painting Chalice 9-
10am, Yearbook Group
Photos in Gym 8am-
10am

April 20 - 5th/6th
Clean Water
Celebration at Civic
Center

April 23 - CDOP Region
1 Spelling Bee at St.
Joe's

April 24 - 7th Grade
Deliver Baby Food
9:00am-11:00am

April 28 - 5-8 Peoria
Riverfront Museum 9-11

April 29 - K-4 Peoria
Riverfront Museum 9-11

Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome back! Happy Easter!

I hope you had a restful and joyful Spring Break filled with time to recharge and make special memories.

As we return, we are filled with excitement for the final stretch of the school year. This is always a meaningful and busy time, with many opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate together as a school family. From special events and performances to end-of-year traditions and milestones, there is so much to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

We are incredibly proud of our students and all they have accomplished so far, and we look forward to finishing the year strong together.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and commitment to our school community.

Let's make these final months memorable!



VIRTUE=STRENGTH.

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. STRENGTHEN.

WHAT IS PIETY?

Piety is the strength to show deep respect and reverence for God, His commandments, and all that is holy.

It is about having a deep respect and love for God and the things that help us connect with Him.

When we practice piety, we enjoy participating in prayers, going to Mass, and celebrating special days in our faith. It helps us remember how important God is in our lives.

Examples of Piety:

1. Regular Prayer
2. Respect for Sacred Spaces
3. Acts of Charity
4. Participation in Sacraments
5. Studying Scripture and Church Teachings

April 13th
PIETY

WHAT IS COMPUNCTION?

The strength of a deep sense of guilt, leading to repentance and a desire to seek forgiveness.

It is the strength to feel sorry for your sins and feel bad about doing wrong. Compunction helps us be truly sorry for hurting God or others, and it encourages us to want to change.

Examples of Compunction:

- 1. Examination of Conscience:** Regularly reflecting on one's thoughts, words, and actions to identify areas where one has strayed from God's teachings.
- 2. Sincere Apology and Reconciliation:** Demonstrating genuine remorse by apologizing to God through prayer and seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).
- 3. Acts of Contrition:** Praying the Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for sins and a firm intention to amend one's life. This can help reinforce the commitment to avoid future sin.

April 20th
COMPUNCTION

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS PERFORMED BY OUR 6TH GRADE CLASS



Our 6th graders brought the Stations to life before Spring Break with their beautiful “Living Stations of the Cross.” Each station was prayerfully prepared and reverently performed, helping us all reflect more deeply on Jesus’ journey and sacrifice. We are so proud of our students for their dedication, creativity, and faith-filled presentations. Thank you Mr. Kurt Draeger for helping to make this meaningful Lenten experience possible.



Mark Your CALENDAR



SCHOLASTIC BOWL
April 14
vs. Roanoke Benson 4:00PM

April 16
at Holy Family 4:00PM

April 21
at Central 3:45PM



TRACK

April 11
Blessed Sacrament Meet
at Morton High School
9AM

April 13
County Meet at WCHS
4:30PM

April 15
5th/6th Grade Relay at Notre Dame
4:15PM

April 25
Blessed Sacrament Open
at Metamora High School
9:30AM

Congratulations!

I ♥ BOOKS



Classic Reader

Way to go Max on earning your classical reading poster!

Students who read books and take AR tests can receive a reading poster to celebrate their love of reading.

See certification requirements [here](#).



Declamations

Congratulations to all of our students who competed in the Declamations Contest!

We are so proud of your hard work, dedication, and all the time you spent practicing. Your confidence and effort truly shined!



MUSIC

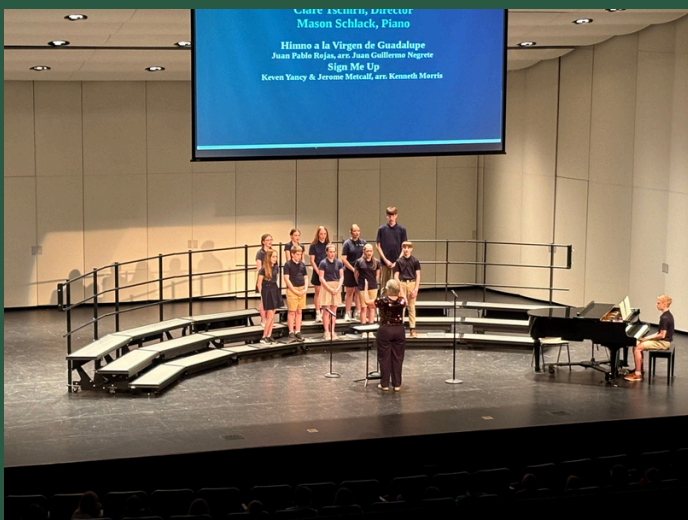
City Band Festival

Our advanced band students had the honor of performing in the City Band Festival! It was a wonderful event featuring performances from local middle schools, and we are so proud of how our students represented our program.



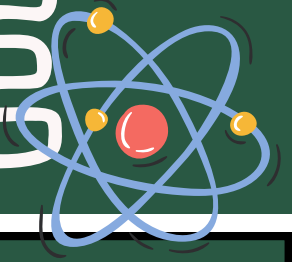
Festival of Choirs

Our choir proudly represented our school at the City of Washington's Festival of Choirs! They joined voices with fellow middle schools and the WCHS choirs for an evening filled with beautiful music and community spirit.

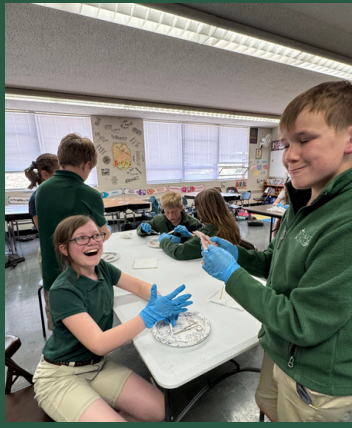
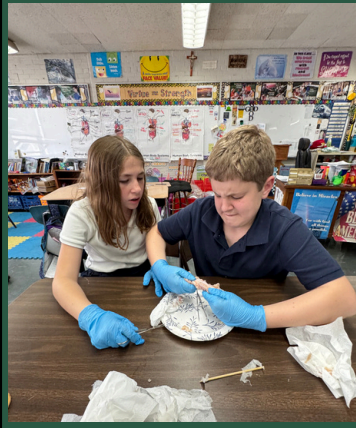




SCIENCE



Sixth Grade Chicken Wing Science



PreK 3 Volcano Eruptions for the letter V Week

7th grade recently completed a unit on genetics and heredity. Students used Punnett Squares to give traits to their "parent" monsters, then recorded dominant and recessive genes and passed them on to "baby" monsters.



K and 1st Moon Science





Thank you Parent Ministry for helping us celebrate the Easter Octave with delicious cake!



Good Disciples



We are thankful for the Engstrom family, Mrs. Cagle and parishioner, Dave Graham, who gave their time over spring break to beautify our school grounds. Their service is a wonderful example of discipleship in action, and their efforts have made a lasting impact on our community. We sincerely appreciate their kindness and dedication!



Thank you to Tammy, Alyssa, and Katie for volunteering to run our book fair! Your time and dedication helped make it a great success, and we are so grateful for your support.



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



World Languages

This week in World Languages, students explored the story of our patron saint, St. Louis IX, and his devotion to the Crown of Thorns. They learned how he acquired this sacred relic and built the magnificent Sainte-Chapelle in Paris to house it, along with other relics of Christ's Passion.

Our younger students brought this history to life by creating their own clay models of the Crown of Thorns, while our middle school students entered more deeply into prayer - offering a decade of the Rosary in Latin as they meditated on the Third Sorrowful Mystery.

In World Languages, we strive to show students that language is more than vocabulary - it is a gateway to culture, history, and at St. Patrick School, our shared faith.





World Languages

Joyeuses Pâques!

(Happy Easter in French)



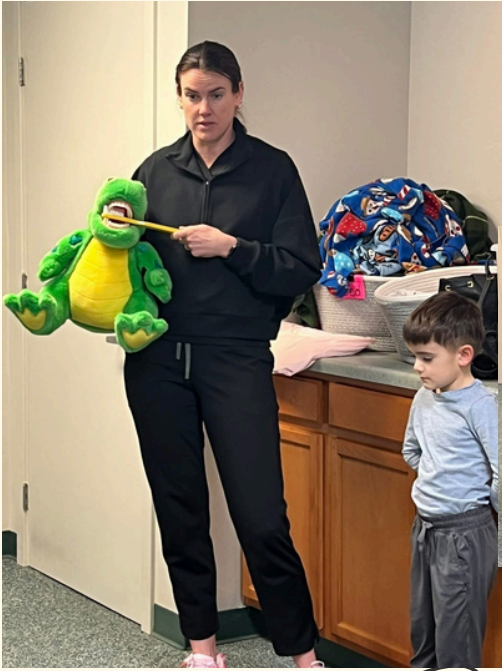
As we studied the Crown of Thorns and the beautiful Sainte-Chapelle built by St. Louis IX to house it, our students created artwork of their own - reflecting on sacrifice, beauty, and faith.

Now, as we celebrate Easter, these pieces feel even more meaningful...a reminder that from suffering comes new life and radiant joy.





The Pre-K classes had some special visitors recently when discussing letters T and V. A Parishioner, Dr. Meghan Jennings, talked to us about taking care of our teeth during letter T week.



Our church violinists, Mrs. Shawn Berberich and Mrs. Theresa Rademacher brought in their violins during letter V week. They played some favorite songs for us and then let us try the violin.



Once upon a Time

APRIL 18TH



6:00-8:00PM

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

PRE-K - 8TH GRADES

DRINKS AND DESSERT PROVIDED

\$25 PER COUPLE / \$5 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD

FAMILY OR FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO ESCORT TO THE DANCE

RSVP TO EZZY OZELLA BY APRIL 13TH

OZEE75@HOTMAIL.COM





BISHOP MCNAMARA

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Patrick School
705 E. Jefferson Street
Washington, IL 61571

March 25, 2026

Dear St. Patrick School Students, Faculty, and Families,

On behalf of the entire Bishop McNamara Catholic School community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and compassion in supporting our school following the recent storm damage to our building.

Your kindness is a beautiful reflection of our shared Catholic faith and the strength of the Catholic school community. During a time that has been both challenging and emotional for our students, staff, and families, your willingness to stand with us and offer support has meant more than words can express. It is truly inspiring to see faith in action and to be reminded that we are never alone in times of need.

The funds you so thoughtfully provided will directly help us as we repair damage and restore safe, welcoming spaces for our students to learn and grow. Just as importantly, your prayers, encouragement, and generosity have lifted our spirits and reminded us of the power of community and compassion.

Please know how deeply grateful we are for your support. We will continue to keep your school community in our prayers, just as you have supported us during this difficult time.

With sincere gratitude and blessings,

Kaelyn Bess
President, Kankakee Site Principal
Bishop McNamara Catholic School

John Lancaster Spalding **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

\$700,000 in scholarship funds were allocated to students across the Diocese of Peoria for the 2025-2026 school year!

PROTOCOLS

- ✔ K-12 student enrolled in a school within Diocese of Peoria
- ✔ Awards are for one school year only
- ✔ Need-Based Scholarship
- ✔ Active member of the parish, in good standing

APRIL 24, 2026



 Contact your school for more information!

 <https://www.cdop.org/john-lancaster-spalding-scholarship>



Save
the
Date



BEATIFICATION OF
ARCHBISHOP

FULTON J.
SHEEN

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

CelebrateSheen.com



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

[Apply Here](#)

or

contact Mrs. Smith
csmith@stpatswashington.org

Must be 21 or older with a high school diploma.

Starting at \$15

15th



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