



— November 21, 2025 —

# Irish Messenger

Issue 8

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 24-25 - No Preschool,  
Preschool Conferences

Nov 25 - 2PM dismissal for  
Thanksgiving Break, No  
Aftercare

Nov 26-28 - No School,  
Thanksgiving Break

Dec 5 - No All School Mass, St.  
Nicholas Day Celebrations

Dec 8 - All School Mass  
8:15am, Solemnity

Dec 9 - Christmas Program at  
Five Points 6:00PM

Dec 10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Early  
Dismissal at 2:00PM

Dec 11 - Sister Magdalena's  
Christmas Nativity with K  
and 4<sup>th</sup> grade 9:00AM

Dec 12 - All School Spanish  
Mass for Our Lady of  
Guadalupe

## Message from the Principal

**Dear Parents and Families,**  
**As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I give thanks for each of you, for your faith, support, and the many ways you enrich our school community. May this season remind us of God's abundant blessings and the joy found in gratitude and togetherness.**

**A Prayer of Thanksgiving**  
**Loving God,**  
**We thank You for the gifts of family, faith, and friendship.**  
**Bless our homes with peace and fill our hearts with gratitude.**  
**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!**

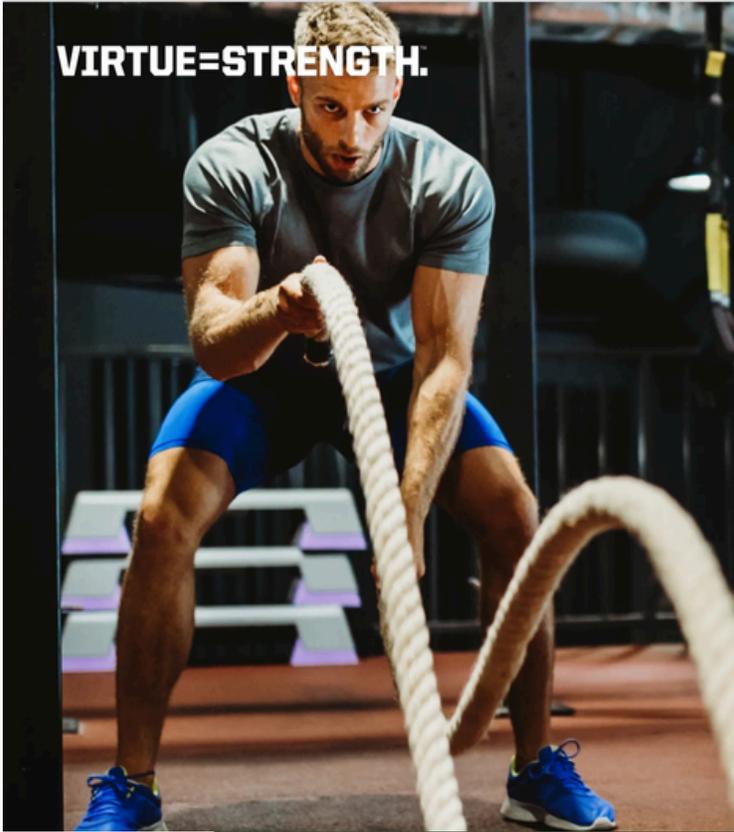


# VIRTUE=STRENGTH.

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. STRENGTHEN.

*This Week*

VIRTUE=STRENGTH.



## WHAT IS TEMPERANCE?

The virtue of Temperance, or Moderation, is the strength that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods.

Practicing temperance leads to self-discipline, respect for others, and a more balanced life. It helps us live according to God's will rather than being ruled by impulses.

### Phrases to Remind Us to Practice Temperance:

1. "Balance is key in all things."
2. "Less is more; quality over quantity."
3. "Think before you act."
4. "True happiness comes from moderation, not excess."
5. "Self-control today leads to strength tomorrow."

VIRTUE=STRENGTH.



## WHAT IS CLEMENCY?

The strength to show mercy and understanding towards others, particularly in the context of their failings or mistakes.

Clemency is about giving second chances, just like God is gentle and merciful with us.

### Examples of Clemency:

1. Pope St. Leo I (Leo the Great, 440-461): Pope Leo I is known for his diplomacy and clemency, particularly in his dealings with the Huns. In 452, he met with Attila the Hun and successfully persuaded him not to invade Rome. Leo's approach combined firmness with mercy, aiming to preserve peace without violence.
2. Pope St. John Paul II (1978-2005): Pope John Paul II visited his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Ağca, in 1983, where he forgave him for the assassination attempt. His commitment to peace and reconciliation was a hallmark of his papacy, emphasizing the need for mercy in the face of violence and conflict.

**NEXT  
WEEK**

Volunteers are needed for the Snackpac  
**December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.**  
**at Faith Lutheran Church in Sunnyland.**

Park behind the church and enter through the back basement door. Thirty volunteers (Ages 10 & up) are needed. Volunteers are assigned to work a station on an assembly line, packing food items into a bag. The packing goes really fast - should be finished in roughly 75 minutes! Perfect opportunity for 7th & 8th graders still needing to volunteer for Confirmation.

Please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0448A9AD2DA7FC1-59846610-volunteer>

or call Jackie Mason  
(309)-696-4709.



COME MEET

*Santa Claus!*

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH FACE-PAINTING,  
BALLOON ANIMALS, ARTS AND CRAFTS, GREAT  
FOOD, AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH FROM 9-11 AM

ADULTS - \$6 | KIDS -\$4 | FAMILY - \$20



# Lady Irish



## Upcoming Dates

7<sup>th</sup> grade Regionals  
begins Nov 22nd  
vs Spring Bay  
at 11:15 a.m.

Epiphany Catholic -  
Normal

8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Regionals begins  
Dec 1st  
TBD

Good luck  
IRISH!



6th Grade took 2nd place  
at St. Phil's Tournament  
on November 8th.



Jillian P. was  
on fire at  
Saturday  
morning's  
game, scoring  
21 points!



# 8<sup>th</sup> grade

# NIGHT



# BASKETBALL

## Upcoming Dates

Nov 24 - @ Home vs Blessed Sacrament  
5:30pm

Dec 2 - @ Dee Mack

Dec 4 - @ Monroe

Dec 8 - @ Home vs Hollis  
5:30pm

Dec 11 - @ Home vs. St. Mary's Kickapoo  
5:30pm

Dec 12/13 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Tournament @ St. Jude



# CHEER



Thank You for a  
Fantastic Cheer  
Clinic!

A huge thank-you to  
everyone who  
participated in our  
Cheer Clinic! Our  
cheerleaders loved  
working with our  
younger Irish and  
sharing their school  
spirit. It was  
wonderful to see all  
that energy and  
enthusiasm shine  
during the boys'  
basketball game  
performance.



Go Irish! 🍀



# SPIRIT WEEK

## Underground Spirit Week

Our faculty and staff dressed up for a different theme each day: Decades, Twins, Vacation, Movies, and Irish Spirit. The halls were filled with laughter and surprises as teachers showed off their costumes and proved that fun isn't just for students! Students joined in on the excitement by trying to guess each day's theme and eagerly anticipating what the next day would bring. Their reactions, curiosity, and daily predictions added an extra layer of joy to the week.



# St. Patrick School Students Join Live Message from Pope Leo

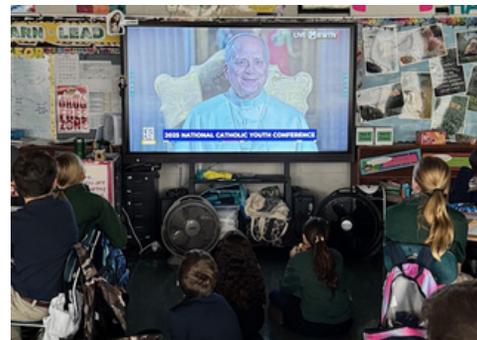
Our 5th–8th grade students at St. Patrick School participated in a special moment of faith and unity as they watched the live stream of Pope Leo XIV addressing young people during the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

NCYC is a powerful, biennial gathering that brings together tens of thousands of Catholic teens from across the United States for prayer, worship, catechesis, and community.

This year, students witnessed a historic moment as Pope Leo XIV offers a message of encouragement, hope, and faith directly to young people participating in the conference.

Pope Leo said:  
“You are not only the future of our church, but you are the present.”

We are grateful for this opportunity for our students to feel connected to the wider Catholic Church and inspired in their faith journey.





# Advent



## Advent Begins November 30!

The beautiful season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30, 2025, marking the start of our new Church year. During these four special weeks, we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' birth and remind ourselves to stay ready for Christ's coming at the end of time.

Advent is a season filled with hope, prayer, and joyful waiting, and there are many simple traditions families can enjoy together at home. Some favorites include lighting an Advent wreath, creating a Jesse Tree, opening daily Advent calendars, and praying the St. Andrew Christmas Novena. These practices help children experience the true meaning of the season in a hands-on and memorable way.

To support your family's Advent journey, NCEA has gathered a variety of helpful resources for teachers and parents. You can find these materials at the following link: [Advent Resources](#). May this Advent season bring peace, joy, and a renewed sense of wonder to all our families!





ST PATRICK  
SCHOOL  
Love • Learn • Lead

**WE ARE HIRING!**

**OPEN POSITION  
AFTERCARE SUPERVISOR  
3-5:30 ON SCHOOL DAYS**

**APPLY NOW**

**MUST BE 21 AND A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**

**CONTACT MRS. SMITH  
CSMITH@STPATSWASHINGTON.ORG**



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

# *Christmas Program*

BAND AND CHOIR PERFORMANCES  
FOLLOWED BY  
K - 8 PERFORMANCES

TUESDAY | **09** | DECEMBER  
6:00 PM | 2025

FIVE POINTS  
WASHINGTON

**"O COME, LET US ADORE  
HIM—CHRIST THE LORD."**



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!



# Washington District Library

# SCHOOL AGE EVENTS

## November 2025

**Don't forget to grab a Take Home Craft!**  
(While Supplies Last)

### November Kits:

Children's: Popsicle Stick Hot Chocolate  
Teen: DIY Mushroom Magnet



### CrafTEEN: Fairy Houses

Tuesday, November 25 @ 6:30 PM

Main Library Meeting Room

Sign up to make a different craft every month!

Registration Required

### Lego Club

Tuesday, November 25 @ 4:00 PM

Main Library Meeting Room

Use library-supplied Legos to build original creations that will be displayed for the month!

### Screen Free(er) January

Commit your family to less screen time during the month of January. Pledges & a calendar of events will be available starting in December. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a small prize and be entered to win one of five gift cards to local experiences.



### Gingerbread House Decorating

Saturday, December 6

10 AM & 12 PM – Main Library

11 AM – Sunnyland Branch



Decorate a gingerbread house!  
Ages 3+; Registration Required

Sign-up by: December 3

#### Main Library

380 N. Wilmor Rd.  
309.444.2241

M: 9AM-6PM  
T, W, TH: 9AM-8PM  
F: 9AM-5PM  
SA: 9AM-1PM  
SU: 1PM-5PM

#### Sunnyland Branch

16 Washington Plaza  
309.745.3023

M, W: 9AM-6PM  
TU: 1PM-8PM  
TH: 1PM-6PM  
F: 9AM-5PM  
SA: 9AM-1PM  
SU: CLOSED

washingtndl.org

Closed: November 27 & 28

Delayed Open (10 AM): November 21

Mary, Mother of God Parish  
at St. Patrick Church presents:



PREPARING FOR THE  
COMING OF JESUS

with

**Michael Gormley**

MONDAY & TUESDAY

DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup>

6:00PM

**at St. Patrick Church**



# 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)