

## **Week of December 22: Mary as Mother of God—What It Means**

One of the oldest titles for Mary is “**Mother of God**”—but does that mean she existed before God? Not at all. It means she is the mother of **Jesus**, who is both fully human and fully divine.

In Luke 1:43, Elizabeth calls her “the mother of my Lord.” The Church declared at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD that Mary could rightly be called *Theotokos*, “God-bearer,” because the child she bore was truly God.

This title protects a vital truth: that Jesus is one Person with two natures—God and man. If Mary is not the Mother of God, then Jesus is not fully God. Honoring her protects our belief in who Jesus is.

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As we celebrate the joyful season of Christmas, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This sacred season invites us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the gift of Christ’s birth and the hope, peace, and love He brings into our lives.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, thank you for your continued support, trust, and collaboration throughout this year. Your partnership is a true blessing and plays an essential role in the faith formation, academic growth, and well-being of our students. Together, we are nurturing young hearts and minds grounded in faith, service, and excellence.

As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with gratitude for all that has been accomplished and with great anticipation for what lies ahead. We are excited to continue working alongside you to help our students grow spiritually, academically, and personally in the year to come.

May the words of Scripture remind us of the joy of this season:

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” (*Luke 2:11*)

May the peace and joy of the Christ Child fill your homes and hearts this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

With prayerful gratitude and warm wishes,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

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### **General Information**

1. School will be on Christmas Break from Saturday, December 20 through Sunday, January 4. The school office will reopen for business on Tuesday, January 6. Classes will resume on **Tuesday, January 6**.
2. SAVE THE DATE! St. Patrick Catholic School will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with our annual Community Helper Day—including Career Day and Touch-a-Truck—on **January 27, 2026, from 8:00 AM–12:00 PM**. Families are invited to participate by sharing a career, bringing a vehicle, or setting up a display to help make this event meaningful for our students. For more information, please see the attached flyer.

3. As part of our Catholic Schools Week traditions, we will be collecting boxes and bags of cereal to help Catholic Charities. Cereal can be dropped off in the school office anytime during the month of January.

4. If your child is in 2nd grade, and is planning to make his or her First Communion this year, or if your child is in 8th grade, and is planning to make his or her Confirmation this year, then you must sign up for Sacramental Prep classes through our parish's Religious Education program. Classes won't begin until the second semester (they are already on our school calendar), but registration is already open. To sign up for these prep classes, please go to <https://form.jotform.com/252178565200050>. For more information, contact our DRE Cathy Taylor at [ctaylor@spcsjax.org](mailto:ctaylor@spcsjax.org).

5. We are looking for assistance during our daily lunch periods. If you are interested in helping out (and earning service hours), please use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-58117443-cafeteria>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Allison at [ahayes@spcsjax.org](mailto:ahayes@spcsjax.org).

6. Our orchestra is currently looking for new members. If your child might be interested in learning a musical instrument, please see the attached flyer for more information.

### **Home School Association (HSA) Happenings**

1. Thank you to everyone who supported the Candy Cane Grams. Have a very Merry Christmas!

***The mission of St. Patrick Catholic School is to lay the foundation for success in students through Catholic traditions, rooted in the Eucharist and Gospel teachings of Christ, with high standards of education in a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment.***

Mr. Christopher Meyer, Principal

St. Patrick Catholic School

601 Airport Drive East

Jacksonville, FL 32218

[www.stpatrickjacksonville.org](http://www.stpatrickjacksonville.org)

Phone (904) 768-6323