

## **Week of January 26: Why So Many Rules? The Role of Church Teaching**

Sometimes the Church can seem full of “rules”—but each teaching flows from one source: **God’s love for us**. The Church doesn’t teach rules to control us—it teaches truth to set us free (John 8:32).

Just like a good parent sets boundaries for their child’s safety and growth, the Church guides her members toward holiness and happiness. Whether it’s on marriage, morality, or worship, the Church’s teachings are meant to **protect human dignity** and lead us to eternal life.

Far from being a burden, these teachings are a **pathway to freedom**—showing us how to love God and one another fully and faithfully.

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Happy Catholic Schools Week! As we celebrate this special week, I want to thank you for your continued partnership, support, and trust in St. Patrick Catholic School.

Because of your commitment to Catholic education, our students are able to grow in faith, learning, and community each day. We are truly grateful to walk alongside you in forming the hearts and minds of your children.

Thank you for being an important part of our St. Patrick family. May God bless you and your family during Catholic Schools Week and always.

God Bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

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### **General Information**

1. 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.

2. **Baked Good Donations Needed! (Service Hours):** To thank our **Community Helpers and Career Day volunteers**, we prepare **goody boxes** for them! With many new guests joining us this year, we would greatly appreciate help with **baked good donations**. Homemade items such as **cookies, brownies, muffins, cupcakes, scones, cake pops, lemon bars**, or similar treats are wonderful. **Store-bought baked goods are also welcome** (donuts, muffins, cookies, cupcakes, etc.). (Please **No individually wrapped or pre-packaged items** like Oreos, crackers or granola bars.) Sign up using the link below and please note **what you will donate and the quantity** in the comments. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AA9A72AA3FD0-61632416-baked> \*\*\* Please drop-off your donations in the **car line on the morning of January 27th.** \*\*\* **K-8th grade families may receive up to 2 service hours.** Thank you for your generosity and support!

3. Applications for the Private School and Unique Abilities Scholarships for the 2026–27 school year open on **February 1**. Families are encouraged to gather required documents now and renew/apply as soon as the window opens. There is an important update to this year’s

requirements—Proof of Residency now requires TWO different document types (from the primary or secondary guardian). A required documents checklist is attached to this email.

4. St. Patrick's has a new Facebook Page! Please consider friending our page to keep up with the latest news from our school. A QR Code is included in the attachments for this newsletter, or you can go to <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583659284451>.

5. Special thank you to Mrs. Fox for organizing today's All-School Science Day and for the team from MOSH for helping our students with hands-on science, including a portable planetarium!

6. Duval County Public Schools has asked our families to complete an anonymous, online survey for Title I funding for 2026-2027. The information in this survey is used to determine our school's allotment from the federal grant which pays for our students to have Title I (math and reading) services. Please use the QR Code attached to this email, or the following link: <https://dcps.questionpro.com/IncomeDeterminationSurvey2025> to access the survey. The deadline for completing the survey is **February 13, 2026**.

7. One of our Catholic Schools Week traditions is for parents to watch our classes while teachers are treated to a lunch. The lunch will take place on **Friday, January 30**. If you are available to cover a homeroom class from 10:45-12:15, please use the following link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-61721413-catholic>.

8. Another of our Catholic Schools Week traditions is our family picnic day. This will take place on **Thursday, January 29**. If you would like to sign up to attend the family picnic day, please use the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-61721496-catholic> Please see the attachment to this newsletter for a list of all the Catholic Schools Week activities.

9. 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).

10. Please remember that it is each family's responsibility to enter their service hours into their FACTS account. If you are not sure how to do this, please reach out to Ms. Allison in the main office for assistance. The deadline for entering service hours is **Thursday, April 30, 2026**.

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

We have two BIG events coming up and we need your help to make them absolutely fantastic for the children! These are great volunteer opportunities so please consider helping us out by following the links below.

Community Helper Day

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545AFAC2CA7FEC34-61758608-community>

Enchantment Under the Sea

Our annual Father/Daughter Dance - See attached flyer

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545AFAC2CA7FEC34-61725103-father>

**Monday, January 26 (Celebrate Our Nation)**

- Students can wear red, white and blue headbands and socks with their uniforms
- Registration is open to returning families
- Volleyball vs. Resurrection (A)

**Tuesday, January 27 (Celebrate Our Community and 100th Day of School)**

- Students can either dress for their future job, **or** they can wear uniform bottoms with a shirt that represents 100 (100 buttons, pom poms, stickers, etc.)
- Community Helper Day
- Registration is open to returning families
- First Reconciliation Class (2nd graders) 6:00-7:30pm
- Soccer vs. Elizabeth Ann Seton (A)
- Art with Heart Class with Ms. AJ
- Orchestra Rehearsal

**Wednesday, January 28 (Celebrate Vocations)**

- Registration is open to returning families
- Run Club Practice 3:00-4:00

**Thursday, January 29 (Celebrate Our Families)**

- Morning Prayer Service with Honor Roll Awards
- Students can dress like their Mom, Dad, Grandparent, etc.
- Family Picnic and Art Show
- Registration is open to returning families
- Orchestra Rehearsal

**Friday, January 30 (Celebrate our Students and Teachers)**

- \$2 Dress Down Day

- Special Treat at Lunch for all students
- Registration is open to returning families



***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

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