

Week of May 4: Why Do Catholics Honor Mary?

During the Easter season, we also celebrate Mary, the Mother of the Risen Lord. But why do Catholics give her such honor?

We don't worship Mary—we honor her because God honored her first. When the angel Gabriel greeted her, he said, "Hail, full of grace" (Luke 1:28). She freely said "yes" to God's plan, and through her, Jesus entered the world.

At the foot of the Cross, Jesus gave Mary to all of us: "Behold your mother" (John 19:27). Catholics ask for her prayers not because she replaces Jesus, but because she leads us closer to Him, just as she did at Cana when she said, "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5).

Dear St. Patrick Catholic School Families,

As we begin the beautiful month of May, we are reminded that this is a special time in the Church dedicated to honoring Mary, our Blessed Mother. Throughout the month, we encourage our students and families to grow closer to her through prayer and reflection, asking for her guidance and intercession in our daily lives.

Today, we also celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, a powerful reminder of the dignity of work and the example of faith, humility, and dedication that St. Joseph provides for all of us. His quiet strength and commitment to his vocation serve as an inspiration to our entire school community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week here at St. Patrick Catholic School next week. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank the dedicated individuals who give so much of themselves each day to support, guide, and nurture our students in both faith and academics.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful start to May!

In Christ's peace,
Mr. Meyer, School Principal

General Information

1. Service Hours were due into FACTS on April 30. Unfortunately, FACTS encountered several issues this week, and many families were not able to add their hours into the system. If this happened to you, please email Mr. Meyer with your list of hours. His email is cmeyer@spcsjax.org.
2. If you have not purchased your yearbook, any remaining copies must be purchased through the school office. The cost of a yearbook is \$35.
3. Color Run is coming up on **May 8!** The day will include health and fitness activities, as well as the color run. Attached to this Week at a Glance are instructions for you to register your child for the run. An information sheet is also attached to this email, which including the prizes for top individual and class. If you would like to share the school link for the event, the website is: <https://give.mybooster.com/st-patricks-catholic-school-2> All of the funds raised during this color run will go towards technology upgrades for the school.
4. First Communion classes for 2nd grade students who have signed up to receive the sacrament this spring will continue this week on **Tuesday, June 5**, at 6:00pm.
5. There will be a retreat for the 2nd grade students who have completed their First Communion Classes on **Saturday, May 9**, from 9:00-2:30pm. For more information, please contact Mrs. Cathy Taylor, our DRE, at ctaylor@spcsjax.org.
6. Join us for an exciting evening of indoor football while supporting a great cause! On **Saturday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.**, the Jacksonville Sharks will take the field at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, and our parishioners

are invited to be part of this special fundraising event benefiting the Diocese of St. Augustine. As a bonus, all attendees are invited onto the field after the game to meet Sharks players for photos and autographs—a fun and memorable experience for families, youth groups, and fans of all ages! We are also honored to welcome Bishop Erik Pohlmeier as a special guest for the evening. Get your tickets today! Visit bit.ly/4kQCseQ or call (904) 621-0700 ext. 717 Don't miss this action-packed night of fun, fellowship, and community support!

7. Next week is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week! The HSA will be sponsoring different themes each day to celebrate the teachers and staff for all their hard work this year. Please be on the lookout for information regarding opportunities to donate items. Also, if you would like to assist with supervising classes on Friday, May 8, so that the teachers can eat lunch together, please use the following link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-63893539-teacher> These donations and hours WILL count for 2025-2026.

8. We will be celebrating International Peace Day on **Friday, May 15**. The day will include learning about different cultures, as well as a special assembly during which various classes will perform songs and dances from around the world.

8. The Diocese of St. Augustine will host events for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from **May 22–25** beginning at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine. Families are invited to participate in Masses, Eucharistic adoration, prayer devotions, concerts, service projects, and a Eucharistic Procession through historic St. Augustine. A full schedule of events is available, join us for one event or several throughout the weekend.

9. There are a few upcoming calendar changes we would like to share:

- The middle school Mind, Body and Spirit Retreats will be moving to **May 6** (7th grade) and **May 14** (8th grade)
- The HSA Mother/Son event, which was on the calendar for April 25, will actually be on **May 3** (Sunday).

10. 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/5080945AFA829A4F85-62037729-cafeteria> . If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Allison at ahayes@spcsjax.org.

11. For those families planning ahead, here are some dates for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Back to School Bonanza--Aug. 6
- First Day of School (Early Dismissal) NO AFTERCARE--Aug. 11
- Labor Day (No School)--Sept. 7
- Early Dismissal Day--Sept. 25
- Professional Development Day (No School)--Oct. 9
- Columbus Day (No School)--Oct. 12
- Early Dismissal Day--Oct. 23
- Veterans' Day--Nov. 11
- Early Dismissal Day (Grandparents Day) NO AFTERCARE--Nov. 20
- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 23-27
- Middle School Exams Dec. 17-22
- Early Dismissal Day NO AFTERCARE--Dec. 22
- Christmas Break--Dec. 23-Jan. 1

- Professional Development Day (No School)--Jan. 4
- Early Dismissal Day--Jan. 15
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)--Jan. 18
- Early Dismissal Day--Feb. 12
- Presidents Day (No School)--Feb. 15
- Professional Development Day (No School)--Mar. 12
- Early Dismissal Day/Field Day NO AFTERCARE--Mar. 24
- Easter Break--Mar. 25-April 2
- Early Dismissal Day--April 29
- Discretionary Day (No School)--April 30
- 8th Grade Final Exams--May 20-24
- 8th Grade Graduation--May 25
- 6th-7th Grade Final Exams--May 25-28
- Last Day of School (Early Dismissal) NO AFTERCARE--May 28

Home School Association (HSA) Happenings

1. The HSA will be hosting its Mother/Son event on **Sunday, May 3 from 2:00-4:00pm** at Top Golf. Please see the attached document for more information.

Week at a Glance

Saturday, May 2

- DOSA Night at the Jacksonville Sharks 7pm <http://bit.ly/4kQCseQ>

Sunday, May 3

- HSA Mother/Son Event at Top Golf 2:00-4:00pm

Monday, May 4

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- PreK and VPK Assessment #3
- Softball TBA

Tuesday, May 5

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- PreK and VPK Assessment #3
- First Communion Class (2nd Grade) 6:00-7:30pm
- Softball TBA
- Soccer Shots
- Orchestra Rehearsal

- Art Class with Ms. AJ

Wednesday, May 6

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- PreK and VPK Assessment #3
- Seventh Grade Mind, Body and Spirit Retreat
- Softball TBA

Thursday, May 7

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- PreK and VPK Assessment #3
- Eighth Grade Trip to Universal Studios
- Orchestra Rehearsal
- Softball TBA

Friday, May 8

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- PreK and VPK Assessment #3
- Color Run and Fitness Day

Saturday, May 9

- First Communion Retreat (2nd Grade) 9:00-2:30pm



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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