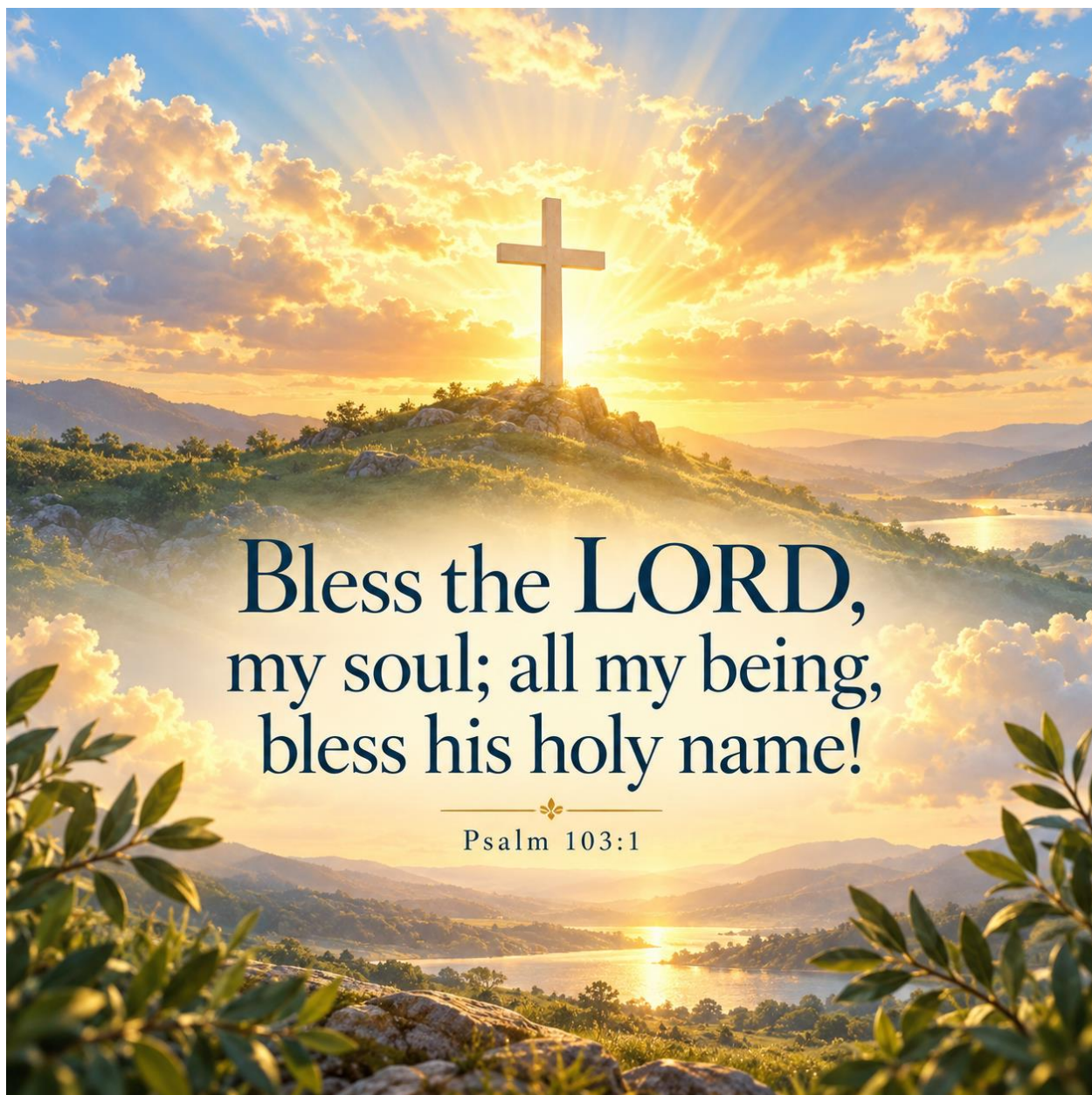


Week at a Glance



St. Patrick Catholic School

"Bless the Lord, my soul; all my being, bless His name." Ps 103:1



Bless the LORD,
my soul; all my being,
bless his holy name!

— ✦ —
Psalm 103:1

Each week we will be sharing a brief article on the Catholic Faith. Here is this week's article:

Why Is the Cross So Important to Catholics?

On September 14, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

That raises an interesting question: Why would Christians celebrate something as terrible as a cross?

In the ancient Roman world, crucifixion was an instrument of humiliation, suffering, and death. Yet Christianity transformed the meaning of the cross because of who died upon it.

Jesus willingly offered His life for us.

As St. Paul writes, “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

The cross therefore reminds us of the enormous depth of God's love. When Catholics look at a crucifix, we aren't celebrating suffering for its own sake. We are remembering that God loved humanity enough to enter into our suffering and give His life for us.

But someone might ask...

“Jesus rose from the dead, so why do Catholics still use crucifixes showing Jesus on the cross?”

Because we proclaim both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

The empty cross reminds us that Jesus conquered death. The crucifix reminds us of the sacrifice through which that victory came.

St. Paul wrote, “We proclaim Christ crucified” (1 Corinthians 1:23).

Good Friday and Easter Sunday belong together. The cross is not the end of the story—but there can be no Easter Sunday without Good Friday.

Dear SPCS Family,

As we begin this week's newsletter, we pause to remember the significance of September 11—Heroes Day in Florida. We prayerfully honor the lives lost 25 years ago and express our gratitude for the courage and sacrifice of our first responders, military personnel, and all who serve others in times of need. May God continue to bring comfort, peace, and healing to our nation.

Progress reports will be sent home electronically this afternoon. Please take time to review your child's progress and celebrate the growth they have made during these first weeks of school. Thank you for your continued partnership as we help each student shine through faith, perseverance, and academic excellence.

God bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

General Information

1. Flu Shots through Health Heroes will take place on **Monday, September 14** for those students whose parents returned the permission form **ONLY**.

2. In order to volunteer for activities, such as field trips, all adults must be background screened and complete the diocesan Protecting God's Children (PGC) class. St. Patrick's will host a PGC class on **Saturday, October 3**. To register for one of the classes, please go to virtus.org, click on the button for "First Time Registrant" and follow the prompts to sign up for the class.

3. Please remember that the diocese does not permit religious exemptions from immunizations in its schools. To be eligible to be at St. Patrick's, students must have received all of the required immunizations for their age. If a child needs a medical exemption from an immunization, this can ONLY be obtained through the Superintendent's office. If this is the case, please contact the school and we will walk you through the appropriate steps to request the medical exemption.
4. Our next Morning Prayer Service will be held on **Thursday, September 24, at 8:30am**. Parents are invited to attend.
5. Our next early dismissal day will be on **Friday, September 25**. PreK and VPK classes will dismiss at 10:45am, and K-8 classes will dismiss at 11:45am.
6. On **Friday, September 25**, our PreK and VPK teachers will be holding parent/teacher conferences. More information and sign-up links will be sent home by each teacher.
7. Our orchestra is looking for new members! The orchestra rehearses on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 5pm. If you are interested in having your child participate, please see the attached flyer, or contact Mr. Carlos Cifuentes at cifuentesviolin@gmail.com.
8. Our school choir is also looking for new members! The choir practices on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:15pm. If you are interested in having your child participate, permission forms are available in the school office. For more information, please contact Mr. Fair at jfair@spsjax.org.
9. Hi St. Patrick Catholic families! Take advantage of our extended Back-to-School Sale! This weekend we will have T-shirts as low as \$17.99. Sale ends Sunday! Save now and support our school! **Click here to get your gear:** <https://1stplace.sale/19906>
10. Congratulations to our cross country runners for a great first meet this week. Special shout-out to Levi B (4th in the boys 1k), Tessa A (13th in the girls 1k), Jewlie B (2nd in the girls 3k) and Austin W (2nd in the boys 3k). Go Irish!
11. SAVE THE DATE: Our annual 4th-8th grade outing to see the Jacksonville Icemen play will take place on **Tuesday, November 3**, at 10am. More information, permission forms and chaperone information will be sent home in the next few weeks.
12. SAVE THE DATE: Our first Shamrocks and Shenanigans dinner dance will be held on **Saturday, November 7**. More information regarding tickets, as well as volunteer opportunities will be coming in the next few weeks.

Home School Association (HSA) Happenings

1. If you are interested in joining the HSA Board for 2026-2027, please fill out the application found on the school website and send it into the school office. The website address is: <https://www.stpatrickjacksonville.org/school/hsa-board/>
2. SAVE THE DATE: Our first HSA restaurant fundraiser night will be held on **Thursday, September 24**. More information will be sent home soon!

Week at a Glance

Monday, September 14

- Lunch Vendor: Firehouse Subs
- Flu Shots (for students who returned permission forms this week)
- Basketball Practice
- Cross Country Practice 3:15-4:15

Tuesday, September 15

- Lunch Vendor: Panda Express
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00
- School Choir Practice 3:15-4:15
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ
- Soccer Shots

Wednesday, September 16

- Lunch Vendor: Moe's
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ
- Basketball vs. Resurrection (Girls 5:30, Boys 6:30)
- Cross Country Practice (TBD)

Thursday, September 17

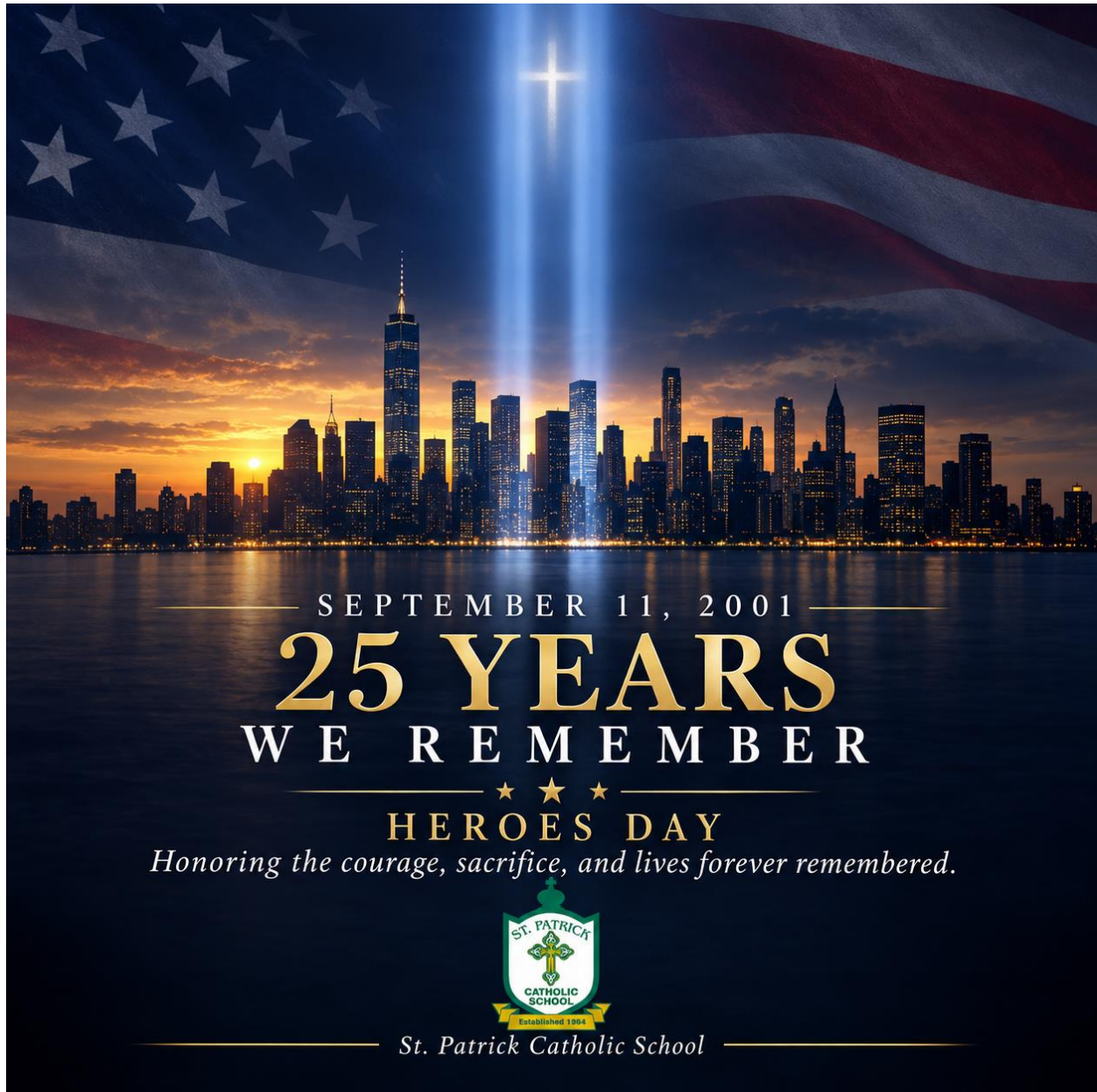
- Lunch Vendor: Zaxby's
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00

Friday, September 18

- Lunch Vendor: Pizza Hut
- Basketball Practice
- Cross Country Practice 3:15-4:15

Saturday, September 19

- Cross Country @ Katie Caples Invitational (Bishop Kenny HS)



STRONGER
TOGETHER



FAITH
FUELS
HOPE



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FOR A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

FIGHT
FOR A
CURE



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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

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