

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

Why Do Catholics Have a Pope?

One of the most recognizable features of Catholicism is the Pope. But why does the Catholic Church have one?

The answer begins with Jesus and an Apostle named Simon.

Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter and told him:

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."— Matthew 16:18

Jesus then entrusted Peter with a special responsibility among the Apostles, giving him the "keys to the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19). After the Resurrection, Jesus instructed Peter three times to care for His flock: "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

Catholics believe Peter became the first Bishop of Rome and that his successors continue his ministry of helping preserve the unity of the Church.

But someone might ask...

"Do Catholics think the Pope is perfect?"

Absolutely not.

Popes are human beings. Like every human being, they need God's mercy and grace.

Catholic teaching about papal infallibility also does not mean that everything a pope says is automatically correct. Infallibility applies under very specific circumstances when the Pope formally teaches on matters of faith or morals for the whole Church.

The Pope's fundamental job isn't to invent Catholic teaching. It is to guard, teach, and faithfully hand on the faith received from the Apostles.

Dear SPCS Family,

As we begin another week together, we are reminded of the prophet Isaiah's invitation: "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). God is present in every prayer, every act of kindness, and every opportunity to learn and grow. May we intentionally seek Him this week and help one another recognize His loving presence in our school, homes, and community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for all you do to make St. Patrick a place of faith, family, and academic excellence. Have a blessed week!

God bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

General Information

1. Our next Morning Prayer Service will be held on **Thursday, September 24, at 8:30am**. Parents are invited to attend.
2. Our first Irish Spirit Day of the year will be on **Thursday, September 24**. Students can wear their school spirit shirt along with their uniform or PE bottoms (whatever they would normally wear on Thursday).
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Please remember that the diocese **does not** recognize 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.
7. Our spirit store's Back to School Sale ends **tonight at 11:59pm**. Although the store will remain open, saving up to 35% storewide will end tonight! If you are interested, please visit our school spirit store at <https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/FL/Jacksonville/St.+Patrick+Catholic+School>
8. CALENDAR UPDATE: Yearbook photos will be taken on **Monday, October 19**, not **Tuesday, October 20**, as we originally posted in our school calendars.
9. On **Tuesday, October 6**, we will be hosting ECG's for middle schoolers interested in participating in high school sports. This is a requirement in the state of Florida. "Who We Play For" will be on campus to provide the ECG's from 10:00am-1:00pm. The cost is \$20 and the student must have a signed permission form. For more information, reach out to Mrs. Blanchard at ablanchard@spcsjax.org.
10. Our 4th through 8th grade classes will be attending the Jacksonville Icemen School Day Game on **Tuesday, November 3** at 10am. Permission forms were sent home last week and need to be returned **NO LATER** than **Thursday, October 1**. The cost to attend the game is \$25, which includes the bus. Parents who want to chaperone the game **MUST** RSVP to Mr. Meyer **NOT LATER** than **Thursday, October 1**. The cost to chaperone is also \$25.
11. 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.
12. 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@spcsjax.org.

13. SAVE THE DATE: Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades K-8 will take place on **Friday, October 23**. More information and a Sign-Up Genius will be sent home via classroom teachers over the next few weeks.

14. 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. 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

Saturday, September 19

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

Monday, September 21

- Lunch Vendor: Culver's
- 8th Grade trip to Bishop Snyder
- Basketball vs. St. Michael (Girls 5:30pm, Boys 6:30pm)
- Cross Country Practice 3:15-4:15

Tuesday, September 22

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

Wednesday, September 23

- Lunch Vendor: Tijuana Flats

- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ
- Basketball vs. Sacred Heart (Girls 5:30pm, Boys 6:30pm)
- Cross Country Race @ Ed Austin Park

Thursday, September 24

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

Friday, September 25

- Early Dismissal (No Lunch Served) PreK and VPK 10:45, K-8 11:45am
- Basketball Practice
- Cross Country Practice



PINK OUT OCTOBER

 *Support the Fight. Show Your Irish Spirit.* 



Purchase a pink shirt for October!



Students who purchase a shirt may wear it every Thursday during the month of October in place of their regular school, PE, or spirit shirt.



**FAITH
FUELS
HOPE**



 **St. Patrick Catholic School** 

— FAITH • FAMILY • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE —



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.

God Bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

St. Patrick Catholic School