

Do Catholics Worship Mary?

This is one of the most common misunderstandings about Catholicism, so it deserves a very clear answer:

No. Catholics do not worship Mary.

Worship belongs to God alone—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Catholics do, however, give Mary a special place of honor because God gave her a unique role in salvation history: she is the mother of Jesus Christ.

At the Annunciation, Mary freely said yes to God's plan. At Bethlehem, she gave birth to Jesus. At Cana, she directed others toward Him. At Calvary, she remained near Him at the cross.

Mary's entire life points toward her Son.

Her words at the Wedding Feast at Cana could summarize authentic Marian devotion:

“Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5)

But someone might ask...

“Why give Mary so much attention when we could go directly to Jesus?”

Because loving someone Jesus loves does not take anything away from Jesus.

Jesus honored His mother, and Scripture tells us that “all ages will call me blessed” (Luke 1:48).

Catholics don't see Mary as an obstacle standing between us and Jesus. We see her as a disciple who continually points us toward Him.

That is why authentic Marian devotion is always Christ-centered.

If devotion to Mary did not lead us toward Jesus, something would be wrong with that devotion.

Dear St. Patrick Families,

“The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.” These words from Psalm 23 remind us that God lovingly guides us and provides for us. As a school community, we strive to reflect that care by helping each child feel welcomed, supported, and ready to learn.

Today, our faculty and staff participated in a professional development workshop designed and led by ADAC, focusing on Universal Design for Learning. Through this approach, teachers plan lessons with different learners in mind, identify barriers to learning, and create more ways for students to engage, understand, and demonstrate what they know. We look forward to putting today's learning into practice for the benefit of our students.

Our HSA Readathon is going very well, and we are heading into the final week! There is still time to participate before it ends on October 16. Keep reading and sharing your pages—and remember, if 70% of our school participates, a **BIG surprise from me** is coming for our school community!

We also have more to look forward to as October continues. Red Ribbon Week and Trunk or Treat will take place during the last week of the month, bringing opportunities to celebrate healthy choices, enjoy time together, and strengthen our school family. Watch for more information in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership. May the Good Shepherd guide your family and bless you with a peaceful weekend.

God bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

General Information

1. Our NEHS and NJHS Chapters, along with fifth grade, are working to raise at least **\$250** to receive **250 American flags** for our Veterans Day remembrance. Proceeds benefit DAV, an organization that supports disabled veterans; donate at support.dav.org/participants/30854. For more information, contact Mrs. Schwartz at eschwartz@spcsjax.org.
2. Grades closed for first quarter report cards on **Thursday, October 8**. Report cards will be finalized and ready for distribution on **Friday, October 23**.
3. Bring your smile for School Photo Day on **Monday, October 19**! All students must wear their school uniforms; **PE uniforms, Birthday Dress Down, and NUT Day Passes are not permitted** that day. Students will receive order forms through the school office, and a digital copy will be attached to the newsletter.
4. Our Called to Greatness: Mind, Body and Spirit Retreats program will begin on **Thursday, October 15th** with our 8th grade retreat. 8th graders may wear their spirit shirt with jeans (no rips or tears) or PE shirts and shorts and their school shoes. Regular lunch will take place. Please note: our 6th grade retreat will take place on **Wednesday, October 21**, and our 6th grade retreat will take place on **Thursday, October 22**.
5. Please remember that we WILL NOT have school on **Monday, October 12**. Have a GREAT Long Weekend!
6. Join us for **Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 29, from 12:30–2:15 p.m. in the St. Patrick parking lot**! We need LOTS of candy—please send donations by **October 28**, with your family name written on each bag. Families will receive **one service hour per bag, up to five bags**. If you would like to participate in the event, please use this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044BADA82EA0F49-66509764-stpatrick>.
7. Our next Morning Prayer Service will be held on **Thursday, October 22, at 8:30am**. This will include our honor roll assembly. Parents are invited to attend.
8. Our next early dismissal day will be on **Friday, October 23**. PreK and VPK classes will dismiss at 10:45am, and K-8 classes will dismiss at 11:45am. K-8 Teachers will be holding parent/teacher conferences that afternoon. More information will be sent out via your child's classroom teacher.

9. 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.

10. Please remember that students purchasing the special "Fight for the Cure" t-shirt through our spirit store may wear the shirt in lieu of their uniform or PE shirt **each Thursday during the month of October.** (regular uniform or PE bottoms must be worn, unless the student is on retreat). Shirts can be purchased at [1st Place Spiritwear](#).

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. Join Bishop Erik Pohlmeier for a fun night of hockey as the Jacksonville Icemen take on the Savannah Ghost Pirates on **Saturday, Nov. 14**, at 7 p.m. at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the Icemen's 10th anniversary season! Tickets are \$15 or \$30, plus service fees. Space is limited, so reserve your seats early. [Get tickets](#) or see the event flyer for details.

14. Registration is now open for eligible 2nd grade students preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and 8th grade students preparing for Confirmation. The registration deadline is **December 31, 2026**. Families can review the requirements and register here: <https://form.jotform.com/252178565200050> . For questions or more information, please contact **Cathy Taylor, Director of Religious Education**, at ctaylor@spcsjax.org . If you or your child are missing sacraments, or if you are simply curious about becoming Catholic, Deacon David would be happy to answer your questions and talk with you about what that might look like. Contact Deacon David Belanger at [904-763-3340](tel:904-763-3340) or david1625@yahoo.com

15. **HOODIE SEASON IS HERE!** Get **30% OFF St. Patrick Catholic Hoodies & Quarter Zips** from our school Spirit Wear Store! **30% OFF Hoodies & Quarter Zips!** Hoodies starting at \$32.89 Sale Ends Sunday! **SHOP HERE:** <https://1stplace.sale/19906>

Home School Association (HSA) Happenings

1. Our HSA Readathon continues through October 16—there's still time to sign up, read, and share your page! If 70% of our school participates, a **BIG surprise from Mr. Meyer** awaits our school community. Visit www.read-a-thon.com/readers and enter school code **3427184** to join!

2. Save the date for **HSA Fall Fun Night on November 7**, which will replace this year's Shamrocks and Shenanigans dinner dance! The dinner dance is being boxed up for now and

will be organized and scheduled for next year. More information about Fall Fun Night is coming soon!

Week at a Glance

Monday, October 12

- No School--Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 13

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

Wednesday, October 14

- Lunch Vendor: Moe's
- HSA Readathon
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ
- Basketball Practice (TBD)
- Cross Country League Championships @Ed Austin Park 3:45pm

Thursday, October 15

- Lunch Vendor: Zaxby's
- Grade 8 Called to Greatness Retreat (students may wear PE uniforms, or spirit shirt with jeans (no rips or tears) with school shoes)
- HSA Readathon
- Basketball vs. Guardian Away (Girls 5:30, Boys 6:30)
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00

Friday, October 16

- Lunch Vendor: Pizza Hut
- Last day of the HSA Readathon
- Basketball vs. St. Michael's @ Peck (Girls 5:30, Boys 6:30)
- Cross Country Practice (TBD)

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC IRISH

OFFICIAL SPRIT WEAR STORE

FALL WARM-UP

SAME SCHOOL SPIRIT.
A BRIGHTER SEASON.

30% OFF

**HOODIES &
QUARTER ZIPS**

SHOP NOW

GEAR UP FOR
WHAT'S NEXT.



SHOP AT: 1stplace.sale/19906



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A CHANGE IN PLANS!



The illustration shows four leprechauns in green outfits and yellow hard hats. One is holding a sign that says "Shamrocks and Shenanigans". Another is using a tape dispenser. A third is holding a green cloth over a sign that says "HSA FALL FUN NIGHT NOVEMBER 7". A fourth is holding a green cloth over a sign that says "DINNER DANCE COMING NEXT YEAR". The background is a construction site with a sign that says "EVENTS IDEAS FOR NEXT YEAR".

Shamrocks and Shenanigans

DINNER DANCE COMING NEXT YEAR

HSA FALL FUN NIGHT NOVEMBER 7

More information coming soon!

HSA Fall Fun Night will replace this year's November 7 dinner dance.

The **Shamrocks and Shenanigans** dinner dance will be organized and scheduled for next year.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Monday, October 19

ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Not permitted on Photo Day:

- NO PE Uniforms
- NO Birthday Dress Down
- NO NUT Day Passes

ORDER FORMS

Students will receive order forms through the school office. A digital copy will also be attached to the newsletter.

Bring your smile!



The illustration shows a leprechaun in a green outfit and hat, holding a camera and taking a photo. There are two small photos of leprechauns in the bottom left corner.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

★ FIELD OF FLAGS ★

Honor Our Veterans. Support Those Who Served.

Hosted by our NEHS & NJHS Chapters and Fifth Grade

\$250 GOAL ★ 250 AMERICAN FLAGS

Help us raise at least \$250 to receive 250 American flags for our Veterans Day remembrance.

Proceeds benefit DAV (Disabled American Veterans), supporting disabled veterans.

★ **DONATE TODAY** ★
support.dav.org/participants/30854

Questions? Contact Mrs. Schwartz
eschwartz@spcsjax.org

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

LAST WEEK TO JOIN!

HSA READATHON

Read through
October 16!

**70% PARTICIPATION =
A BIG SURPRISE!**

If 70% of our school participates,
Mr. Meyer has a BIG surprise for
our school community!

Sign up. Read. Share your page.

 www.read-a-thon.com/readers
 School Code: **3427184**



Scan to sign up!



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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