

"I love you Lord, my strength." Ps 18:2



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

Why Do Catholics Use Statues and Religious Images?

Walk into many Catholic churches and you will see a crucifix, stained-glass windows, statues of saints, Stations of the Cross, and images of Mary.

As we approach All Saints Day, it is a good time to ask: Why do Catholics use these images?

Religious art helps us remember.

A photograph of someone you love isn't the person himself or herself. Yet the photograph can remind you of that person and your relationship with them.

Catholic religious images work similarly.

A statue of St. Joseph isn't St. Joseph. A statue of Mary isn't Mary. Catholics don't believe stone, plaster, wood, or paint has divine power.

Instead, these images remind us of members of our Christian family and the God whom they served.

But someone might ask…

“Doesn't the Bible forbid making images?”

Scripture forbids making idols and worshiping created things as gods. Catholics completely agree.

But God did not prohibit every religious image.

In the Old Testament, God Himself commanded that images of cherubim be placed upon the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:18–20). He also instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent (Numbers 21:8–9).

The problem is therefore not religious artwork itself. The problem is worshiping an image as though it were God.

Catholics worship God alone.

Our statues, stained glass, icons, and crucifixes are visual reminders of the great story of salvation and of the men and women who followed Christ before us.

They are, in a sense, family photographs of the Church.

Dear St. Patrick Families,

What an exciting week it has been at St. Patrick Catholic School! Our sixth and seventh graders participated in their *Called to Greatness* retreats, taking time to reflect on their faith, the choices they make, and the people God calls them to become. We also enjoyed a wonderful prayer service led by our sixth graders, helping us prepare our hearts and minds for Red Ribbon Week.

Our Irish athletes have given us plenty to celebrate! Congratulations to our girls basketball team on their quarter-final tournament victory! We wish them the best as they head into the semi-finals and, hopefully, the championship game! Our cross country team also finished its season strong, with several outstanding finishes. We are especially proud of the five runners who will represent St. Patrick at the State Cross Country Meet this week!

Looking ahead, we will celebrate Red Ribbon Week with the theme *“Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free.”* Throughout the week, our students will be reminded that making good choices, standing up for others, and living our faith are all ways we can be everyday heroes. We will also enjoy one of our favorite fall traditions, Trunk or Treat, this Thursday!

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. May we continue to Shine Like the Stars in all that we do!

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. 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.

3. We're excited to celebrate Trunk or Treat on **Thursday, October 29!** Students will have the opportunity to dress up for this fun fall tradition while keeping their attire appropriate for our Catholic school environment. **PreK-3 through 5th Grade:** Students may dress as their favorite storybook or literary character and remain in costume throughout the school day. Costumes must be modest, school-appropriate, and allow students to participate in regular classroom activities. No scary, gory, violent, or evil characters (including witches, demons, and wizards), masks, makeup, or dangerous props are permitted. **Middle School (Grades 6–8):** Students may wear jeans (no rips or tears) or school PE shorts with a Halloween-themed shirt or a shirt in Halloween colors (black, orange, white, or purple). Shirts must be school-appropriate, with nothing overly scary, gory, violent, or contrary to our Catholic faith. **All students must wear their regular school shoes**, regardless of their costume or outfit. Students are expected to follow all school behavior and dress code expectations throughout the day. We look forward to a fun, festive, and faith-filled celebration with our Irish family!

4.St. Patrick Catholic School is excited to celebrate Red Ribbon Week, **October 26–30!** Throughout the week, students will participate in fun themed dress days while learning the importance of making healthy choices, standing up for what is right, and being positive role models for others. As a Catholic school community, we are reminded that God calls each of us to respect ourselves and others and to use our gifts to make a difference! Here's how we'll celebrate each day:

- **Monday, October 26 – "Wear Red Day"** Students may wear a red shirt with their regular school uniform bottoms.
- **Tuesday, October 27 – "Put a Cap on Drugs Day"** Students may wear their favorite hat with their regular school uniform.
- **Wednesday, October 28 – "Put a Sock on Drugs Day"** Students may wear their craziest, most colorful socks with their regular school uniform.
- **Thursday, October 29 – Trunk or Treat!**
  PreK–5th Grade: Students may dress as their favorite storybook character.
  Middle School (Grades 6–8): Students may wear jeans (no rips or tears) with a Halloween-themed or Halloween-colored shirt.
- **Friday, October 30 – "Shade Out Drugs Day"** Students may wear sunglasses with their regular school uniform.

5. Congratulations to our St. Patrick Cross Country Team on an outstanding finish to their season! Our Irish runners represented our school with determination, perseverance, and incredible sportsmanship. We are especially proud of this week's top finishers: Tessa Alcantara – 22nd Place, 1K Girls; Levi Beasley – 4th Place, 1K Boys; Wyatt Beasley – 16th Place, 2K Boys; Jewlie Beach – 3rd Place, 3K Girls; Austin Williams – 2nd Place, 3K Boys. We are also excited that five of our Irish runners will compete in the State Cross Country Meet this coming week**!** We wish them the very best as they represent St. Patrick on the state stage. Congratulations to all our runners and coaches for a fantastic season!

6. Congratulations to our St. Patrick Girls Basketball Team on their exciting victory over Sacred Heart in the quarter-finals of the league tournament! Our Lady Irish are moving on to the tournament semi-finals, where they will face St. Matthew's on **Monday, October 26, at 5:30 p.m.** at the Peck Center in Fernandina Beach. With a victory, our girls will advance to the League Championship Game on **Thursday, October 29, at 4:30 p.m.** at Bishop Kenny High School! We are incredibly proud of our players and coaches for their hard work, determination, and teamwork throughout the season. Let's pack the stands, cheer on our Lady Irish, and help them bring home a championship! LET'S GO IRISH!

7. We will commemorate Veterans Day on **Thursday, November 5,** with our annual Veterans Day prayer service and Red, White and Blue dress down day. If you would like a picture of your active duty or retired military member included in our prayer service slide show, please send it to Mr. Meyer no later than **Friday, October 30**. You can send the picture to cmeyer@spcsjax.org. Parents are welcome to attend the prayer service, which begins at 8:30am.

8. Our Fall Book Fair is right around the corner! This year's theme is "Set Sail for a Good Book!". The fair will take place from **November 12** through **November 20**. If you would like to volunteer, please use the following Sign-Up Genius link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-66819675-i55

9. Bishop Pohlmeier will be on campus to celebrate First Friday Mass with us on **Friday, November 6**, at 8:00am. All parents are welcome.

10. Please remember that we WILL NOT have school on **Wednesday, November 11**, in observance of Veterans Day.

11. SAVE THE DATE! Grandparents Day will be celebrated on **Friday, November 20**. More details about our celebration will be sent home as they become available.

12. SAVE THE DATE! On **Friday, November 20**, we will have an early dismissal day WITHOUT aftercare. PreK and VPK will dismiss at 10:45am and K-8 will dismiss at 11:45am prior to the start of our Thanksgiving Break.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

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 or david1625@yahoo.com

16. 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.

17. **St. Patrick Catholic Families—This weekend, save $5 off all tees** and grab some new gear for the school year. **SHOP HERE: https://1stplace.sale/19906**

18. The yearbook committee needs your help! If you have any great pictures from the first few months of school (first day pictures, sports pictures, field trip photos, etc.) that you would like to share with the yearbook committee, please email them to Mr. Meyer at cmeyer@spcsjax.org.

Home School Association (HSA) Happenings

1. 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. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Week at a Glance

Monday, October 26

- Lunch Vendor: Culver's
- Red Ribbon Week: "Wear Red Day" (wear a red shirt with your school uniform--or PE if you have PE class--bottoms and school shoes)
- Girls Basketball in League Tournament 5:30pm vs. St. Matthew's @ Peck Center (Fernadina Beach)

Tuesday, October 27

- Lunch Vendor: Panera Bread
- Red Ribbon Week: "Put a Cap on Drugs Day" (wear your favorite hat with your school--or PE if you have PE class--uniform)
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00
- School Choir Practice 3:15-4:15
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ
- Soccer Shots

Wednesday, October 28

- Lunch Vendor: Moe's
- Red Ribbon Week: "Put A Sock on Drugs" (wear your favorite crazy socks with your school--or PE if you have PE class--uniform)
- Final day to donate candy for Trunk or Treat
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ

Thursday, October 29

- Lunch Vendor: Zaxby's
- Trunk or Treat Day (please follow the dress guidelines listed above)
- Girls Basketball League Tournament Championship, 4:30pm at Bishop Kenny High School
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00

Friday, October 30

- Lunch Vendor: Stoner's Pizza
- Red Ribbon Week: Shade Out Drugs Day" (wear sunglasses with your school--or PE if you have PE class--uniform)
- Final day to submit photos for the Veterans Day prayer service


CONGRATULATIONS
ST. PATRICK
Girls Basketball
ON ADVANCING TO THE
SEMI-FINALS!
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LADY IRISH
ON THEIR QUARTER-FINAL VICTORY
OVER SACRED HEART!
IRISH
1
SEMI-FINALS
Monday, October 26
4:30 p.m.
vs. St. Matthew's
Peck Center • Fernandina Beach
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
Thursday, October 29
4:30 p.m.
Bishop Kenny High School
GOOD LUCK, LADY IRISH!


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC IRISH
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE
FALL FAN FAVORITES
SAME SCHOOL SPIRIT.
A BRIGHTER SEASON.
$5 OFF
ALL TEES
SHOP NOW
GEAR UP FOR
WHAT'S NEXT.
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC
Irish
1ST PLACE
Spiritwear
SHOP AT: 1stplace.sale/19906


CONGRATULATIONS
CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS!
HARD WORK ☘ DEDICATION ☘ GREAT RESULTS!
1K GIRLS
TESSA ALCANTARA
22ND PLACE
1K BOYS
LEVI BEASLEY
4TH PLACE
2K BOYS
WYATT BEASLEY
16TH PLACE
3K GIRLS
JEWLIE BEACH
3RD PLACE
3K BOYS
AUSTIN WILLIAMS
2ND PLACE
WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!



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

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.