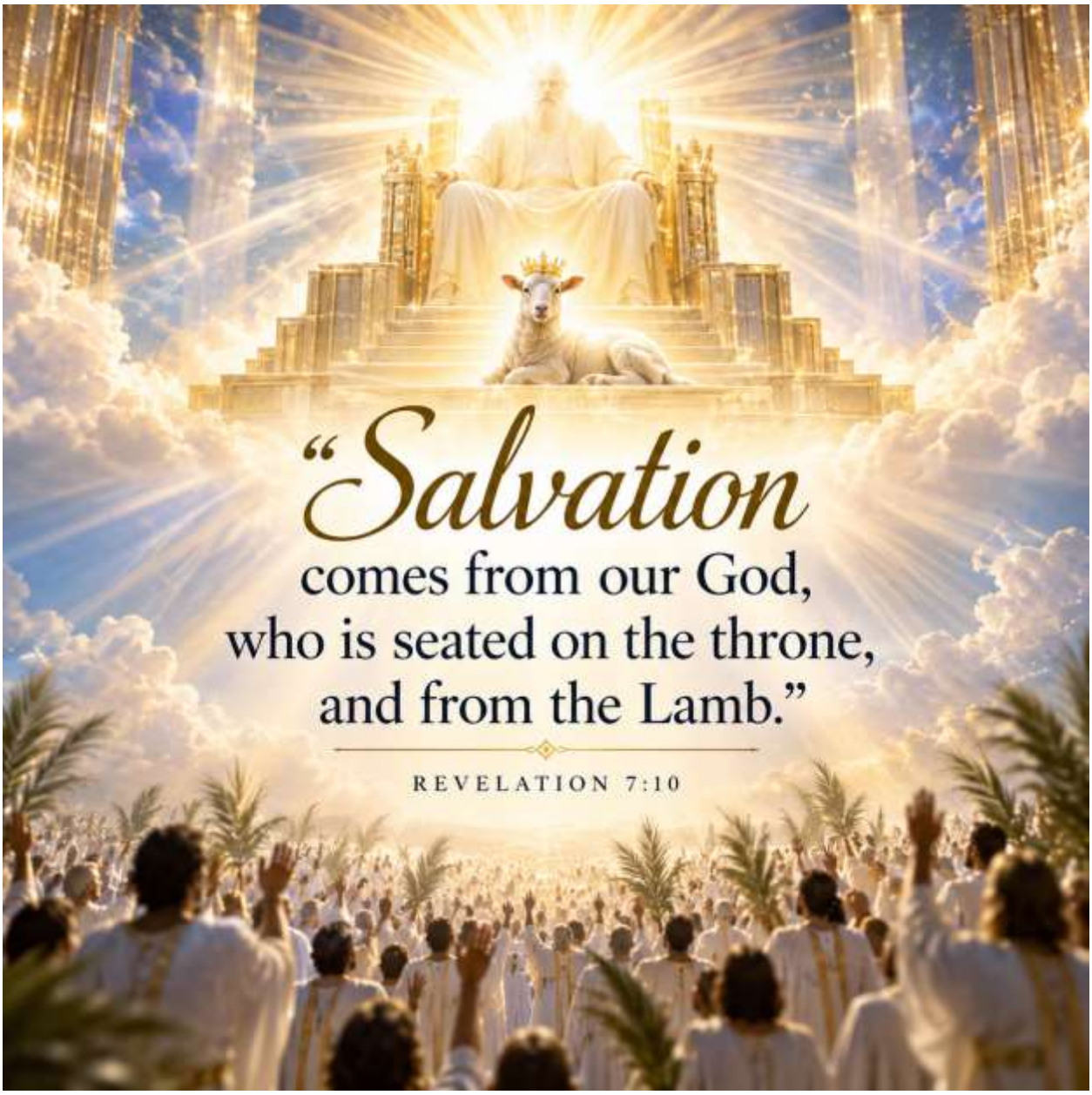


“Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.” Rev. 7:10



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

Why Do Catholics Pray for the Dead?

November begins with two important celebrations. On November 1, we celebrate All Saints Day, honoring those who are already with God in Heaven. On November 2, All Souls Day, we pray especially for those who have died.

But why pray for someone after death?

Catholics believe that our relationship with one another in Christ does not simply end when someone dies. St. Paul tells us that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:38–39).

Scripture also gives us an example of prayer for the dead. In 2 Maccabees, prayers and sacrifices are offered on behalf of fallen soldiers so that they might be freed from their sins (2 Maccabees 12:43–46).

From its earliest centuries, the Church continued this practice.

But someone might ask…

“If someone has already died, isn't it too late to pray for them?”

Not from God's perspective.

We experience time moment by moment, but God is eternal. When we pray for someone who has died, we entrust that person to the mercy of a God who sees the whole of his or her life—and our prayers—perfectly.

Catholics therefore don't look upon death as the destruction of the Christian family.

We remain united in what we call the Communion of Saints: Christians on earth, souls being purified for Heaven, and saints already rejoicing with God.

That is why praying for the dead is ultimately an act of hope and love.

Dear St. Patrick Families,

What a wonderful week it has been at St. Patrick Catholic School! Yesterday's Trunk or Treat was a tremendous success, and it was such a joy to see our students enjoying the festivities, creative costumes, and time together as a school family. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Blanchard, our parent volunteers, faculty, staff, and everyone who decorated trunks, donated treats, or helped make the event so special. Your generosity and enthusiasm continue to make St. Patrick such a wonderful community!

We also have some exciting news to celebrate! Congratulations to our Girls' Basketball Team, the League Tournament Champions! Our girls earned the championship with a thrilling 32–31 victory over St. Michael's Academy! What an incredible accomplishment! We are so proud of these young ladies for their determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season. A special thank you to their coaches and families for their dedication and support. We also wish our Cross Country runners the very best as they compete in the State Cross Country Championship this weekend. We know they will represent the Irish with pride!

As we celebrate these wonderful moments, we are also reminded of two very special days in the life of our Church. This Sunday, November 1, we celebrate All Saints Day, a day honoring all the saints in Heaven, both known and unknown, who inspire us through their lives of faith and holiness. On Monday, November 2, we observe All Souls Day, when we remember and pray for all the faithful departed, especially our loved ones who have gone before us. These two days remind us that we are all part of one family in Christ, united in faith, prayer, and the hope

of eternal life. I encourage our families to take a few moments together this weekend to reflect on the example of the saints and to offer a special prayer for those who have passed away.

As always, thank you for the many ways you support our school and one another. Whether we are celebrating on the basketball court, cheering on our runners, enjoying time together at Trunk or Treat, or growing together in faith, we are reminded of what makes St. Patrick Catholic School so special: Faith, Family, and Academic Excellence**.**

May God bless you and your families, and may the saints continue to guide and inspire us all!

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. 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.

3. 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

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. As the holidays approach, we invite you to keep our Santa for Seniors project in mind. Many seniors in nursing homes may not have family nearby during the holidays, but with a small act of kindness, we can bring warmth and joy to their season. We are collecting donations for the seniors at the Janice Ancrum Senior Life Center. Please consider bringing your unwrapped donations to school by December 1, 2026. See the attached flyer for suggestions. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for some very special people!

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. Congratulations to our alumni for achieving second honors at Bishop Snyder High School for the first quarter: Brian Ferm, Madalyn Grumbly, Uriel Kuegah, Nate Lewis, Rebecca Lin, Kyla Paysinger, Isabella Rivera, Alessandra Ruiz, Ryiah Stamper, Abigail Van Blaricum. We are so proud of you!

12. **This weekend: 30% off polos & quarter zips!** From Friday, Oct 30th through Sunday, Nov 1st, families can save 30% off polos and quarter zips in our spirit store. **Next week: Black Friday All November Long Sale Starts Monday, November 2nd**. Your St. Patrick Catholic Spirit Wear Store will be 20% off sitewide all month long. On top of that, we'll run weekly flash sales with deeper discounts of up to 35% off. It's perfect timing for holiday shopping, and everything ships right to families' homes.**: https://1stplace.sale/19906**

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, November 2 (All Souls Day)

- Lunch Vendor: Firehouse Subs

Tuesday, November 3

- Lunch Vendor: Panera Bread

- Jacksonville Icemen Game (grades 4-8)--students should wear their spirit shirt with jeans (no rips or tears), school shoes and are encouraged to bring a sweatshirt or jacket. Hats are also acceptable. Lunch is provided. **VyStar Arena is a cashless venue.**
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00
- School Choir Practice 3:15-4:15
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ
- Soccer Shots

Wednesday, November 4

- Lunch Vendor: Tijuana Flats
- Art in the Heart with Ms. AJ

Thursday, November 5

- Lunch Vendor: Zaxby's
- Red, White and Blue Dress Down Day--please follow the NUT Guidelines found in the school handbook.
- Veterans' Day Prayer Service, 8:30am in the Parish Hall
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00

Friday, November 6

- Lunch Vendor: Pizza Hut
- All-School Mass, 8:00am


Happy Halloween!
We hope all of our students have a fun, happy, and safe Halloween!


CONGRATULATIONS!
St. Patrick
GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM
DOSA LEAGUE
TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONS
ST. PATRICK
ST. MICHAEL'S ACADEMY
32 - 31
What a stunning 32-31 victory!
We are so proud of our girls for their determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season!

ST PATRICK HSA 2026

1ST ANNUAL FALL FAMILY NIGHT

NOVEMBER 7TH

PARISH HALL
5:00PM – 8:00PM

Join us for an evening of fun, food, and festivities as we celebrate the bounty of the season!

FREE ENTRY

ACTIVITIES:

- **FALL GAMES & ACTIVITIES**
- **FAMILY PUMPKIN COMPETITION**
- **LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT**
- **TREAT WALK**

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP GENIUS:

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC

OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE



BLACK FRIDAY

ALL NOVEMBER LONG

20% OFF SITEWIDE

SPIRIT WEAR YOU WANT TO WEAR

SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/19906

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GET THE BEST DEALS

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- POLOS
- HEADWEAR
- BACKPACKS
- DRINKWARE
- AND MORE...

SCAN HERE TO ORDER

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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Jacksonville, FL 32218

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Phone (904) 768-6323

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