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

What Is Purgatory?

Purgatory is one of the most misunderstood Catholic teachings. Sometimes people imagine it as a “second chance” after death or a place halfway between Heaven and Hell. Neither description is correct.

Purgatory is the final purification of those who die in God's friendship but still need to be made completely ready for Heaven. Scripture tells us that nothing unclean will enter Heaven (Revelation 21:27). Jesus also commands us to “be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Most of us recognize that even people who genuinely love God still struggle with selfishness, anger, pride, unhealthy attachments, and the effects of sin. God's grace must finish transforming us.

But someone might ask, “Didn't Jesus already pay for our sins?”

Yes! Purgatory does not mean Jesus' sacrifice was insufficient. Our salvation is possible entirely because of Jesus Christ. Purgatory is actually an expression of the power of His grace.

Imagine someone who has been forgiven but still needs healing. Forgiveness and healing are related, but they are not identical.God doesn't merely want to declare us forgiven. He wants to make us holy.

Purgatory is that final purification—the completion of God's work in a person who is ultimately destined for Heaven.

Dear St. Patrick Families,

What a wonderful week it has been at St. Patrick Catholic School! As we continue through the month of November, we are reminded of the many blessings that surround us and the importance of living our faith through gratitude, service, and love for others.

On Thursday, our school community gathered for a beautiful Veterans Day Prayer Service, thoughtfully prepared and led by our fifth-grade students. It was a meaningful opportunity to honor the brave men and women who have served our country and to reflect on the sacrifices they and their families have made to protect the freedoms we enjoy. We are especially grateful to the veterans within our St. Patrick community and thank our fifth graders and Mrs. Schwartz for helping us recognize these remarkable individuals.

This morning, we were blessed to celebrate Mass with Bishop Pohlmeier and Deacon Conway. What a wonderful opportunity for our students and faculty to gather in prayer and celebrate the Eucharist together! We are grateful to Bishop Pohlmeier and Deacon Conway for sharing their time with us and reminding our students of the importance of growing in faith and living as disciples of Christ.

We also want to extend a special congratulations to Levi Beasley, who represented St. Patrick Catholic School at the State Cross Country Championships and finished an impressive 12th place in his race! We are incredibly proud of Levi's hard work, determination, and dedication. He

is a wonderful example of our school year's theme, *"Shine Like the Stars,"* demonstrating how perseverance and commitment allow our God-given gifts to shine brightly.

Looking ahead, please remember that school will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11,** in observance of Veterans Day. We encourage our families to take a moment that day to offer a prayer of gratitude for those who have served our nation.

We are also excited that our Fall Book Fair, "Set Sail for a Good Book!", begins on Thursday! This is always a wonderful opportunity to encourage our students' love of reading and help them discover new adventures through books. Finally, progress reports will be sent home on Friday, providing families with an opportunity to celebrate their children's accomplishments and identify areas where continued growth and encouragement may be needed.

As we move further into November, our Virtue of the Month, Gratitude, reminds us to recognize God's blessings and express our appreciation through both words and actions. May we continue to build a school community where faith is celebrated, kindness is shared, and every child is encouraged to shine.

Thank you for your continued prayers, partnership, and support of St. Patrick Catholic School. May God bless you and your families in the week ahead!

God Bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

General Information

1. Please remember that school will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11**, in observance of Veterans Day. School will resume on **Thursday, November 12**.

2. Special thanks to our 5th grade, our NEHS and our NJHS chapters for sponsoring the Field of Flags fundraiser to benefit DAV, an organization that helps disabled veterans. Thanks to everyone who donated, the school was able to raise $560 for this amazing organization.

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. SAVE THE DATE! Grandparents Day will be celebrated on **Friday, November 20** from 9:00-10:45. To RSVP, please go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-67409144-grandparents. We are also looking for donations of breakfast items and juice boxes for the event. If you would like to donate, please use the link above. 1 item=1 service hour (maximum of 5 per family for this event).

5. 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.

6. 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!

7. 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. St. Patrick Catholic families! Our Black Friday sale is officially LIVE! Save 20% off all St. Patrick Catholic spirit wear all November long, plus free shipping on orders over $85. Grab something for your student, the whole family, or get a head start on holiday gifts. Everything ships right to your door! Thank you for showing your St. Patrick Catholic pride! **SHOP HERE: 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 9

- Lunch Vendor: Culver's

Tuesday, November 10

- 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, November 11 (No School)

- No School--Veterans Day

Thursday, November 12

- Lunch Vendor: Zaxby's
- Book Fair opens 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Orchestra Rehearsal 3:00-5:00

Friday, November 13

- Lunch Vendor: Stoner's Pizza
- Book Fair 8:00am-4:00pm

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

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SCAN HERE TO ORDER


Veterans Day
Honoring All Who Have Served
THANK YOU VETERANS!
"Greater love has no one than this,
that he lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:13
From
St. Patrick Catholic School

Set Sail for a Good Book!

FALL BOOK FAIR

November 12–20, 2026
St. Patrick Catholic School

BOOK FAIR HOURS

Thursday, 11/12	1:00–4:00 p.m.
Friday, 11/13	8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Monday, 11/16	8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 11/17	8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 11/18	8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Thursday, 11/19	8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Friday, 11/20	8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.



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

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