



We will soon celebrate Thanksgiving, a time to reflect on our blessings. I'd like to share some things we are thankful for at SMS: **Students** - for their open minds, ability to make us laugh and smile, and playful hearts. **Parents** - for trusting us with their children and partnering with us to raise responsible, respectful, and safe children of God. **Staff** - for their relentless efforts to help students grow academically and spiritually. **Volunteers** - who enthusiastically contribute their time to be positive role models in our school.

Please continue to pray for our school, its staff, students, families, and our clergy as we strive to provide an education that is faith-based, family-centered, caring to others, and respectful to all.

"THANK YOU" is the best PRAYER anyone can say...

-Alice Walker

"God made the sun. God made the sea. God made the fishes, and God made me.

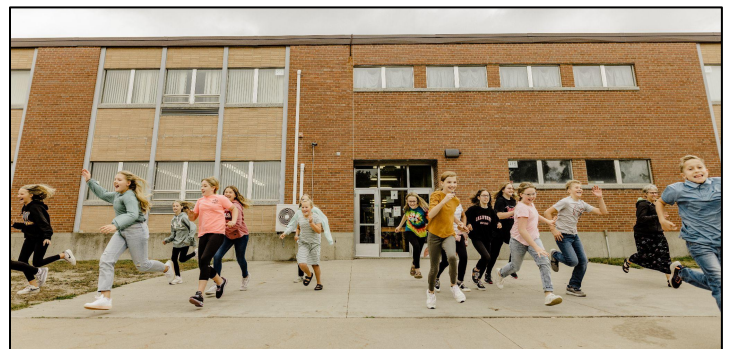
Thank you for the sun, thank you for the sea, thank you for the fishes, and thank you for me. Amen."

Gratitude is not a feeling; it is a behavior we can practice every day of the year. As we enter the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, let's practice the 3 S's of thankfulness:

- **Say it:** Be generous with your genuine words of appreciation, you'll be surprised by how good it makes you feel and how well it is received.
- **Show it:** Look around at all those who serve you in various ways – you'll have plenty of people to thank! Express your appreciation for an everyday task that someone does to make your life better or easier.
- **Serve it:** There is no shortage of those in need, so put the gratitude you feel for your blessed life into action by serving someone less fortunate. If you see others who struggle with life issues, your feelings of thankfulness will rise significantly by reaching out to serve them in some way.

SMS students are great at noticing and calling out the blessings God has given us this school year - the gifts of friendship and family, schoolwork and play, faith and community. Classrooms at SMS adopt an "Attitude of Gratitude" in their religion classes and everyday learning. Here are some of the "THANK YOU" prayers we've said this school year...

- family and friends
- good weather
- my health
- my baby sister
- simple things like water bottles and chairs
- grandparents
- healing and recovery from surgery
- safety while hunting
- builders being safe
- sports teams doing their best
- our military
- our school
- food
- pets
- clean water
- animals
- music
- lakes
- snow
- my teacher :)





We LOVE our GRANDPARENTS!

It may not come with an mountain of presents like Christmas, or a turkey and pumpkin pie like Thanksgiving, but **Grandparents Day** is pretty special nonetheless. After all, this is a holiday dedicated to some of the most important people in our lives, the ones who have always spoiled us silly and, to this day, love and adore us no matter what.

SMS celebrated our very special grandparents on Tuesday, October 17th, with a mass, program, and lunch. The grandparents were able to visit the students' classrooms as well; the kids loved showing off their work and projects for their grandparents. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for and participated in this fun event!



- ♥ Thank you to our families, friends, and community members for pledging over \$25,000.00 and 525 prayers for our Marathon/Prayer-a-thon!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who purchased pizza from an SMS family; we sold 3,710 pizzas!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall-o-ween Jesus event; it was spooky fun!



- Advent Prayer Services: December 4, 11, and 18 at 2:15 pm in the school gym
- Staff Retreat: December 1st
- Christmas Program: December 13th, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm at the Marit Elliott Auditorium
- Christmas Break: December 22-January 1
- SMS Auction4Education: **"Down on the Farm"** Mark your calendars for March 2, 2024! The auction committee is hard at work planning a fun, unique event; watch for more info soon.



In the season of giving, we invite you to share the Gift of Education with families in the St. Mary's Catholic School community by making a financial gift to The St. Mary's Education Endowment Fund. Please consider making a Year-End Charitable Donation to The St. Mary's Education Endowment Fund in one of these ways: donate by check, donate through life insurance, make an IRA rollover gift, or make a charitable gift of securities. Contact your financial planner or tax consultant for more information.

