



St. Lawrence

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We are a Catholic School family dedicated to nurturing and celebrating a love for Jesus Christ and educating the whole child with academic excellence.


[StL Website](#)
[FACTS Portal](#)
[Cafe Menu](#)
[Athletics](#)
[Calendar](#)

What's inside:

PRINCIPAL'S
CORNER

ASSISTANT'S
PRINCIPLES

DATES &
DEADLINES

SPIRITUAL
CORNER

PARISH NEWS

TEACHER
SPOTLIGHT

SCHOOL NEWS

Principal's Corner

Dear parents,

Welcome back from Thanksgiving break and thank you for your participation in a successful parent/teacher conference week.

Going into December, we have many wonderful activities leading up to Christmas:

- Dec. 1 - Christmas Shoppe
- Dec. 2 & 9 - Salvation Army Bell Ringing volunteer opportunity (see School News section)
- Dec. 5 - Reconciliation for 3rd-8th graders
- Dec. 6 - Parish Tree Trimming and K-2 Christmas Concert
- Dec. 7 - 3rd-5th & 8th grade choir Christmas Concert

Now that we're entering December and starting to experience winter weather, please remember to dress your children warm in the upcoming months. Girls can wear pajama bottoms under their skirt for recess if they don't wear pants. Students will go outside for recess unless it is 20 degrees or less including wind chill.

We are also heavy into the flu season. If your child is sick, do not send them to school medicated with the hopes they will feel better. Please be respectful of other students and keep sick kids home.

I also want to address boys' uniform shoes. I understand the boys' shoes from DSW are not durable. There are many options on Amazon, and shoes can also be purchased from Shoe Strings shoe store in Shelby Township. Boys' shoes can be any black dress oxford shoe with white soles.

Be sure to check out this month's Teacher's Spotlight and meet our new 7th grade teacher Mrs. Moore. Congratulations to our November Student of the Month recipients.

Lastly, it is easy to get excited about the many activities we have planned and the upcoming 2-week Christmas break, but let us also prepare our hearts for the birth of

our Savior Jesus Christ. There is a special Christmas list that we should all try to fulfill this Advent season. Please read about it in our Spiritual Corner.

Have a blessed week and Happy Advent season!
Mrs. DiMercurio

ASSISTANT'S PRINCIPLES

It has been a busy month here at St. Lawrence! The first quarter flew by, and the second quarter is in full swing. Here are some of the highlights:

- We had a wonderful Veterans Day celebration to honor our heroes.
- Report cards were issued. I'm so proud of all the students for their hard work and progress!
- We had parent-teacher conferences. It's nice to see parents and teachers working together to ensure student success!
- The middle school building got a fresh coat of paint. The stark white walls are now a warm gray, and the doors are a rich navy blue.
- We practiced lockdowns so our students are better prepared for an emergency.
- We added physical security measures to our classroom doors to enhance safety.

Speaking of safety, we all know that social media presents unique challenges for children. One of the social media platforms that has been rising in popularity among St. Lawrence students is Tik Tok. If you are a parent of a child who uses Tik Tok, you might want to monitor their social media activity. Tik Tok is a popular app where people can create and share short videos, but it also has some risks. Bullying, harassment, and inappropriate content are some of the issues that can affect your child's well-being. As an educator, I have seen how Tik Tok can influence your child's mood, behavior, and academic performance. That's why I recommend that you talk to your child about their Tik Tok usage, set some boundaries, and check their posts and messages regularly. You can also use parental control features to limit their screen time and filter out harmful content. By monitoring your child's social media, you can help them enjoy Tik Tok and other social media platforms safely and responsibly.

Another aspect of keeping our students safe is ensuring they have a safe learning environment. One of the challenges that teachers face in this area is how to manage the behavior of students in the classroom. Some students may have difficulties following rules, staying on task, or respecting others. These students need support from home to help them develop positive habits and attitudes. Parents can play a vital role in reinforcing the expectations and goals that teachers set for their students. Here are some ways that parents can support their children's behavior in the classroom:

- Communicate regularly with the teacher and ask for feedback on how your child is doing.
- Praise your child for their achievements and efforts and encourage them to keep trying.
- Help your child with their homework and assignments and check that they have everything they need for school.
- Set clear and consistent rules and routines at home and follow through with consequences if they are broken.
- Model respectful and responsible behavior and teach your child how to cope with emotions and conflicts.

On a more lighthearted note, I learned quite a bit about nails this month. Who knew there was such a thing as "coffin shaped" nails? Needless to say, this style of nail is too long and too sharp for school. Between nails and makeup, skirt length, and boys' shirts being tucked in, let me just provide this gentle reminder: please make sure you follow the uniform policy. If something is not clear, please feel free to bring it to our attention. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Let me close by saying that I'm so proud of every member of the St. Lawrence family for your hard work and dedication. I hope you had a wonderful holiday with your family and friends and gave thanks to God for all the blessings in your life.

God Bless,
Mrs. Tsatsos

DATES & DEADLINES

DECEMBER

1 Christmas Shoppe for Students – All day

6 Parish Christmas Tree Trimming 6:30 PM (Church); KN, 1st, 2nd Grades: Christmas Concert 6:30 PM (Church)


7 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades & 8th Grade Mustang Choir: Christmas Concert at 6:30 PM (Church)

- 15 STL Youth Ministry – Christmas Carnival (walk stations for games, crafts and service)
- 17 Parish Christmas Concert at 6:30 PM (Church)
- 21 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
- 22 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
- 27 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
- 28 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
- 29 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

JANUARY

- 1 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
- 2 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
- 3 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
- 4 Classes resume

SPIRITUAL CORNER



DIVINE NEWSLINE

DECEMBER 2023

OUR MISSION

We are a Catholic School family dedicated to nurturing and celebrating a love for Jesus Christ and educating the whole child with academic excellence.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On December 8th, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation.

1. Who does the Immaculate Conception refer to? There's a popular idea that it refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary. It doesn't. Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived.

2. What is the Immaculate Conception? The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way: To become the Mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace. Through the centuries, the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

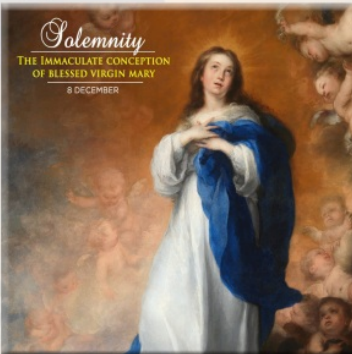
3. Does this mean Mary never sinned? Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin.

4. Does this mean Mary didn't need Jesus to die on the Cross for her? No. Mary was immaculately conceived as part of her being "full of grace" and thus "redeemed from the moment of her conception" by "a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race."

5. How does this make Mary a parallel of Eve? Adam and Eve were both created immaculate, without original sin or its stain. They fell from grace, and through them mankind was bound to sin. Christ and Mary were also conceived immaculate. They remained faithful, and through them mankind was redeemed from sin.

6. How do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception today? In the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. In the United States and in a number of other countries, it is a holy day of obligation.

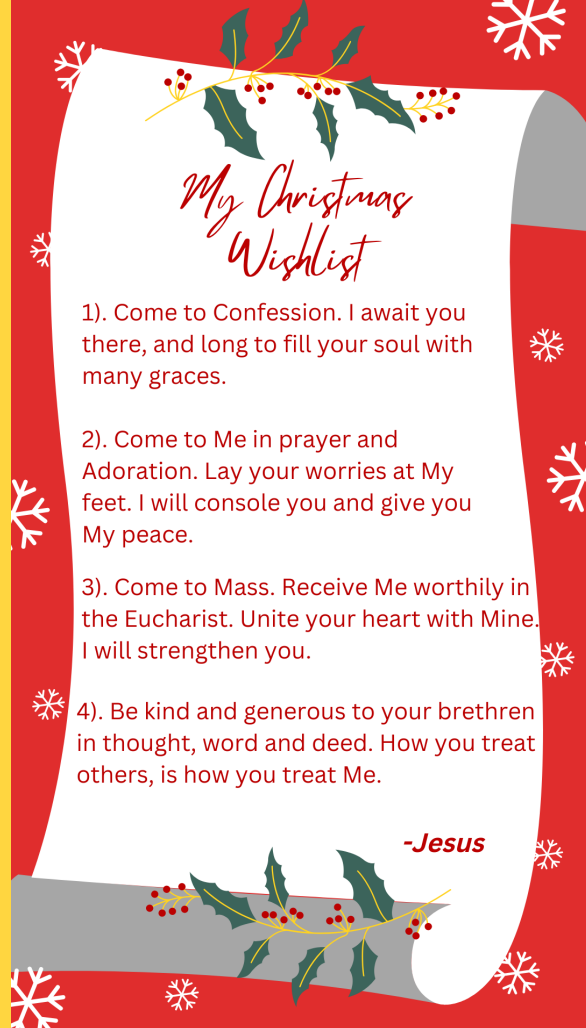
O Most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God. O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.




Our December 1 rosary has been

cancelled due to a funeral.

Our next First Friday rosary will be held on Friday, Jan. 5. Parents and families are invited to pray the rosary with Fr. Roman the first Friday of each month at 9:05 a.m. in the front pews of the Church and pray for our students and St. Lawrence school family.



PARISH NEWS



Exodus Youth Group News

Our next Junior High Youth Group Meeting will be December 1st. We will be wrapping gifts for the giving tree. This is a great time to come and see what Youth Group is like and to earn service hours. Please RSVP here: <https://band.us/n/a5ab9fddF2k23>

We are looking for your opinion on youth group meeting times and activities. Please help us buy filling out this survey: <https://stlyouthgroups.com/youth-groups>



CRE News

CRE Website

Children's Sacrament Preparation

1. RCIA classes for children/parents seeking Baptism are held Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm. Contact Mrs. Rajnicek to register CRE@stlawrenceparish.com
2. Advent Reconciliation – grades 3 thru 8 – Tuesday December 5, 2023 starts at 1:00pm
3. 2nd grade Family Retreat – Saturday January 6, 2024 9:30am-11:30am in church
4. 8th grade Confirmation Retreat – Saturday January 20, 2024 9:00am-1:00pm (sponsor or parent required to attend with candidate)
5. 8th grade Confirmation Mass – Thursday January 25, 2024 7:00pm (candidates and sponsors must be in Social Hall by 6:30pm)

Adult Faith Formation

Contact Mrs. Rajnicek to register

CRE@stlawrenceparish.com

1. L.I.F.E. Living in Faith Everyday – January 18, 2024 at 7:00pm in church
2. Bible Study – Fulfilled, Discovering the Scriptural Foundations of Catholicism; Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings

[Adult Faith Formation Website](#)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month we get to know our new seventh grade teacher Mrs. Moore. Welcome to our St. Lawrence family and thank you for sharing your love for learning with our students.

Mrs. Moore



Maria Moore teaches 7th grade English and reading at St. Lawrence School. She also helps coordinate the STL 5th - 8th grade Forensics Team. This is her fourth year teaching and her first at St. Lawrence. She is originally from Bay City, Michigan, where she was employed in an administrative and communications role at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) for nearly five years.

She and her husband Terrance moved to Sterling Heights early in 2021, and at that time she made the decision to return to her first career passion of teaching middle school. Mrs. Moore received her Bachelor's Degree in secondary English education and a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in higher education, both from SVSU.

Mrs. Moore and her husband recently took up a new favorite pastime: golf. She also loves to read, build Lego sets, and hang out with her two wonderful and perfect black labs, River and Morgan. Her number one favorite movie of all time is *Jurassic Park*. Favorite shows include *The Chosen*, *The Office*, and *Ted Lasso*.

She tries her best to live by one of her favorite Bible verses: "...do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8

Her favorite saint is St. John Paul II because of the emphasis he placed on the protection and education of children during his ministry.

SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

Salvation Army Red Kettle Volunteers

Give back this Christmas season by signing up with friends or family to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle. See details at the

Poster Raffle Winners

Chris Marrugi, Mariano Calagna, Anthony Nikkolaj, Mila Souweidane, Jaxon Ries, Jayden Lahdu, Edward Dababne, Simon Thomas, Lucas Shamaya, Matthew Rayrat, Madeleine Perrone, Giuliana Sabatini, Claire Rabine, Alena Sesi, Annabelle Hermiz, Ava Andrus, Sophia Kanno, Henry Szubielski, Vinzenz Ritter, Thomas Hesssell, Mila Hermez, Lillian Krull, Danica Bozinovski, Amelia Micakovic, Joseph Richard

Guessing Jar Winner

Thomas Roberts



November SOTM Recipients

Congratulations to our November Student of the Month recipients!

Students will receive a free jeans day and breakfast with Mrs. DiMercurio and Mrs. Tsatsos on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Parents of the recipients will receive an email with more information.

Kindergarten/Jr. K

Xavier Adam
Evelyn Barile
Nicholas Basilico
Adriana Marotta
Brooklyn Wiegand

First Grade

Monroe Barno
Hannah Darmatall
Liana Licavoli
Gabriel Skorupski

Second Grade

Joelle Alijelat
Isabella Holuk
Kaden Kassab
Oliver Skorupski

Third Grade

Aivy Bui
Mario Catalano
Christian Cerullo
Carmela Kennedy

Fourth Grade

Kensley Alvarado
Dylan Dickow
Christian Hermiz
Mia Jablonski

Fifth Grade

Nicholas Cichon
Thomas Hartline
Alexander Kukla
Joseph Newby

Sixth Grade

Aydan Albright
Demetrius Jundy
Andrew Szalach

Seventh Grade

Evelyn Lass
Tess Nida
Sophia Perrone

Eighth Grade

Alessandro DeRosa
Emma Kiefer
Benedetto Offer