



# St. Mary's Catholic School

Rome, Georgia

Mr. Alex Porto, Principal  
Mrs. Christa Jackson, Assistant Principal  
February 10, 2011

## Weekly Calendar

Friday, February 11-	Kindergarten Field Trip to Fire Station
Saturday, February 12-	Middle School Social @ 6:30PM
Sunday, February 13-	Admissions Open House @ 3PM
Monday, February 14-	Chik-Fil-A Breakfast Valentines Parties @ 2 PM
Tuesday, February 15-	Breakfast with the Principal @ 8:15 AM Admissions Open House @ 9:30 AM
Thursday, February 17-	Catholic Day at the State Capitol
Friday, February 18-	Deadline for Financial Aid Applications
Saturday, February 19-	Annual Auction at The Forum @5PM

## *Faith Notes*

### *True Freedom: Being Released from the Bonds of Evil*

We all live in what we believe is a "free society". We have many options each day; from what to buy at the supermarket to what career we choose for our lives. It may seem that we are entitled to anything, and many of us fall into that "trap" of entitlement thinking. . . It truly is a trap, as all of our actions have consequences, and our decisions are always moral: they always impact ourselves and others in a positive or a negative way.

Jesus gives us a different concept of freedom: a healthy relationship with the people close to us. In other words, a right and healing relationship. The point is for each of us to make wise decisions, knowing that anything we do has consequences for others. True freedom is to be untied from the bonds of evil and selfishness; true freedom is to be at the service of life; it is the only thing that can heal us and bring salvation.

***Deacon Stuart Neslin***

## Principal's Corner

The Annual Auction is right around the corner, and it looks like its going to be a great one! If you haven't bought your tickets yet, make sure to buy them soon. There are tons of great live and silent auction items, and delicious food provided by Outback Steakhouse – a good time is guaranteed for all.



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## Prayer Requests

**Teresa Browning**, friend of the **Clay** family, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

**Carlene Stanley**, a friend of **Michael Swiger's** mom, **Nicole**, who is recovering from surgery.

**Max Scoggins**, **Aidan D'Urabano's** grandfather, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

**Jessica Porto**, **Julian** and **Alexandra Porto's** aunt, who is having some serious health issues.

**Anthony** and **Austin Linatoc's** mother, **Wendy**, who has some serious health concerns.

**Michael Swiger's** friend, **Addisen White**, who is recovering from open heart surgery.

**Mia Bavaro's** grandmother, **Irene Franco**, who is very ill.

**Patrick** and **Ben Motes'** grandmother, and our school office manager, **Chris Motes**, who is recovering from knee surgery.

**Marcus**, **Samson**, and **J.T. Mumber's** grandfather, **Tom Hallin**, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

**James Howard**, former SMS bus driver, who is recovering from surgery.

**John Monroe**, a friend of the **Tillery** family, who is having health concerns.

**Haley** and **Connor Chandler's** mother, **Jennifer**, who is recovering from surgery.

**Mr. Merriam's** grandmother, who is having health concerns.

SMS bus driver **Angela Vinson**, who is recovering from surgery.

**Casey McBryde**, friend of the **Mazur** family, who passed away today.

**Megan Blackwell's** grandmother, **Joan Poore**, who is recovering from surgery.

**Will Hughes'** grandfather, who is having some health issues.

**Anslee Bradshaw's** uncle, **Seth Early**, who was injured in an accident at work.

**John Starkovich**, husband of Archdiocesan Superintendent **Dr. Diane Starkovich**, who is recovering from surgery.

## Support SMS Through the Box Tops Marketplace

Using the Box Tops Marketplace is a wonderful, convenient way to take care of all your shopping needs in one place, and you can support SMS's Box Tops program at the same time. Check out the site at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace/Default.aspx>.

There are over 150 stores to shop from: ToyRus, Sams, Walmart, Staples, Target, Kohl's, Discovery, ThinkGeek, and so many that are amazing. Please check it out before you buy. Also, if you plan on traveling this coming Spring break or during the summer, Expedia.com, Hotels.com are also listed in the Marketplace. You'll be pleasantly surprised to see how quickly those Box Tops Marketplace dollars add up for our school.

## MORNING PRAYER AT THE CHAPEL

Join us for Morning Prayer each weekday morning at the School Chapel at 7:30 am; prayer booklets are provided, and we finish prior to 8 am. Start your day in the best possible way -- by conversation with God.

## Campbell's Labels Update

If you go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com), you can register your Kroger preferred shoppers card and, when you buy participating Campbell's products, it will automatically deposit labels into the St. Mary's school account. It will also send you an e-mail telling you how many points your school received. There's a link to this website on EdLine in the Fund-raiser Links folder.

## Annual Auction Basket Assignments

You will find each homeroom's assigned theme for this year's silent auction baskets posted online. Your support is greatly needed in providing items for these baskets. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

## Annual Auction Tickets On Sale

Please refer to the attached flyer for information regarding tickets to this year's Annual Auction. Tickets may be purchased at the school office.



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### Additional Opportunities to Support SMS

Here are some great ways to earn money for St. Mary's without spending an extra cent!

- 1) Georgia Natural Gas TrueBlue Schools Program—If you're a Georgia Natural Gas customer, select St. Mary's as the beneficiary, and we receive \$5 per month at no cost to you.
- 2) Campbell's Labels for Education—Collect paper labels or e-labels. All will earn points for our school.
- 3) Box Tops for Education—Collect BoxTops coupons from select General Mills products to earn money for our school. Click on EdLine for more information and a link to the BoxTops site.
- 4) Ingles Advantage Card—Tie your Advantage Card in to St. Mary's School to earn money for our school.

You will find links to all of these programs on our EdLine home page.

### Auction Night Babysitting

We will once again offer babysitting on the night of the auction. This year, thanks to the support of the PTO, we are able to offer special low pricing for this service. The registration form is attached to this issue of Backpack Mail, is posted on EdLine and is also available at the school office.

### Tuition Assistance for 2011-2012

Tuition assistance applications have been posted online. Instructions for applying online have also been posted to EdLine. Paper applications are now available in the school office.

### DirecTV School Program

If you are currently a DirecTV customer, or are planning to start DirecTV service, you can earn the school money. Please visit [www.directv4schools.com](http://www.directv4schools.com) for more information.

Attention Golfers:

Spring is just around the corner, and we would like to have a golf club again this year. Parents who are interested in their students participating should e-mail Mr. Sutton.

[msutton@smsrome.org](mailto:msutton@smsrome.org)

### Reverse Raffle Tickets On Sale

Reverse Raffle Tickets are now on sale! Each Ticket is \$100, and the grand prize is \$10,000! The drawing will take place at the Annual Auction on Saturday, February 19th. Winner need not be present.



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### Auction Update

Well, if you get a chance before Friday, peek into the empty pre-k room. All of the items you see behind the bookcase are the items sent in by SMS parents. Come Monday, those items will be organized and grouped into so many fantastic opportunities for patrons of "Italian Knights" to help out our school.

Friday is the last chance to send in items to be counted toward the classroom totals for the pizza party. Results will be announced on Monday. The party will take place at a later date. Along with the pizza party, we are pleased to announce that every class which has at least ONE item toward the auction baskets gets a free ice cream day. Don't miss your chance!

We could still use a few things to help us round out our totals;

- 1) bottles of wine [bring it into the office].
- 2) gift certificates for birthday cakes
- 3) Easter basket items

We have about 20-24 heads which need painting and glittering. Let me know if you can help. We have the paint and glitter.

Watch for an e-mail tomorrow evening detailing the needs for auction week. This auction is shaping up to be quite the evening. Don't miss out on the fun! Get your tickets!

- Kristy Hughes

### Intent To Return Forms For 2011-2012

An Intent to Return Form for the 2011-2012 school year has been mailed to your homes. Please fill out the form and return it to the school no later than Friday, February 11th. The information from these forms will greatly assist in the budgeting process and will help us determine tuition, staffing, and class sizes for the upcoming school year. A form has also been posted on EdLine.

### GRACE Scholars Update

We are happy to announce that thanks to the generosity of our parish and school community, and our extended family of relatives and friends, we raised over \$80,000 for the GRACE Scholars program! A donor list is attached. Thank you all for your commitment to our school and to Catholic education.

### A Few More Auction Items...

- 1) We would like to have a few more bottles of wine for the "Wine Cellar". Parents (NOT STUDENTS) may bring bottles to the school office or you can bring a bottle to the PTO meeting on Jan. 27.
- 2) We need boxes for the centerpieces. Boot boxes, postal delivery boxes, etc. The boxes should be no more than 2ft. x 2ft x 6 inches.



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## **Some things we know we need.....**

Each year for the auction we receive FABULOUS items from very generous members of our St. Mary's family, either directly or by association. This year has been no different. That being said, there are a couple of requests being made for items which could greatly enhance the experience;

Certificates for birthday cakes

Certificates for picnic lunches (1 or 2 certificates for 2-6 people)

Lawn service

We need a brick mason who can install a fire pit which has been given for the live auction

Accommodations for a couple of item we have already;

The weekend of Oct. 29, in South Bend, IN

Key Largo, FL to go with a sailing experience for 6

We are trying "ask and ye shall receive." If you can help us out in any way, it would be a boost to the auction and, especially, St. Mary's School.

~Kristy Hughes

Auction Chair

Italian Knights/February 19, 2011