



# St. Catherine Catholic School

The mission of St. Catherine Catholic School is to provide a Christ-centered education where children can strengthen their relationship with God and prepare for life's challenges and their service to others.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

## Looking to the Future...

In January, parents and guardians were invited to a special evening presentation by South Florida State College (SFSC). The presentation included several options for our students as they look to their educational future. SFSC offers courses that allow students to take college-level classes, earning their Associate of Arts (AA) Degree along with their high school diploma. Students can begin taking these advanced classes on the SFSC campus if they meet several requirements. Students have options of the Collegiate Program, Dual Enrollment, or certificate programs in the trades. 8<sup>th</sup> graders toured SFSC campus and saw first-hand the opportunities available to them.

Isabella Jamora, who attended St. Catherine Catholic School for elementary school, is currently taking Trigonometry and college-level English II. Isabella hopes to become a bio-medical engineer or a dentist, but either way, is off to a good start and hopes to attend the University of Florida.

Additionally, in January, Sebring High School students presented their International Baccalaureate (IB) Program to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This is another advanced program that offers students college-level classes and credits. Several St. Catherine graduates are in the program!



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## ***The Highlights of Catholic Schools Week, January 28 – February 3***

- ❖ Superintendent of Catholic Education, Fr. John Belmonte, and Fr. Jose Gonzalez celebrated our opening Mass on Sunday. Students participated as members of the Cantor Club, lectors, altar servers, and gift bearers.
- ❖ Students in grades 3 - 8 learned the importance of spending quiet time with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- ❖ A door decorating contest honored our Blessed Mother – *Congratulations* to 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the winning door – friends and families voted for their favorite on Facebook this year!
- ❖ Students were challenged “spiritually” and “physically” with a Catholic Trivia contest and Field Day.
- ❖ Our first Inaugural Gala was held on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, closing our special celebration of Catholic Schools Week! Thank you to our Community for generously supporting this event.

### **Welcome to our New Advancement Associate**

St. Catherine Catholic School is investing in a part-time Advancement Associate to help us continue our growth! Antoinette (Toni) Joyce has extensive experience in grant writing, fundraising, and development, which will allow her to extend those skills to us at St. Catherine School.

Toni has been a member of St. Catherine parish since 2013. She was educated for 12 years in a Catholic school, and she shares our passion and our mission to provide a Christ-centered education and a strong Catholic foundation where students will strengthen their relationship with God. *“Welcome, Toni!”*

### **Academic and Effort Awards**

Congratulations to all the students who received honors and awards in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Awards ceremony on January 16<sup>th</sup> ...85 in total. *Keep up the good work!*

- 30 Perfect Attendance Awards
- 9 Citizenship Awards - Kindergarten thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 9 St. Monica or St. Martin Awards – Kindergarten thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 11 Second Honors Academic Awards
- 13 First Honors Academic Awards
- 13 Principal’s List Academic Awards



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

## Our Friendly Theme

Each month, our social emotional curriculum focuses on a theme that we use as a common language among teachers, staff, and students. This month our theme is, "Practice makes Permanent." The goal is to learn that the practice of healthy habits becomes a part of who we are. Thank you to our Art Club and Mrs. Alexander for all the work they did in creating our Friendly bulletin board!



## Time for Re-Enrollment!

Our current families are asked to complete their re-enrollment information now in order to ensure their child's place for next year. We will open up the enrollment to new families on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Enrollment is handled through our FACTS Management. Please contact Ms. Mendez at ext. 203 if you need assistance or by email:

[mendez@stcatheschool.org](mailto:mendez@stcatheschool.org)

**Scholarships for Florida Children** – The Family Empowerment and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship programs offer an average of \$7,800 to families to help cover the cost of tuition and fees, and other educational costs. All students, regardless of household income, who are residents of Florida are eligible.

Program funds for each scholarship are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Teaching to Give Back

Our students created special pieces of artwork for the residents of Lakeside Manor. Part of our Mission is to prepare students for life's challenges and their service to others. I am grateful to our teachers who consistently reinforce and model this valuable life lesson.



## Graduates are Grateful

St. Catherine School had its first graduating class in 2020, which means many of these students are in their final year of high school and will be starting the 'next chapter' of their lives as college students or going into the work force. Recently, several graduates have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity of attending St. Catherine:

"I feel St. Catherine School academically challenged me and really pushed for me to do my best." *Natalie Gomez, Class of 2020, SFSC Dual Enrollment Program*

"I had an amazing experience. I am at Sebring High School and I will be graduating this May. Currently, I am in my second year of the IB Program working towards my IB Diploma." *Makayla Mendez, Class of 2020*



**Extra photos from our Catholic Schools Week celebration with "Throwback Thursday", Field Day, and our Gala.**





# Our Inaugural Gala!

Thank you to our Premier, Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors, our volunteers, and all who attended or donated money to our special evening for St. Catherine Catholic School. As we celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> year in the community, it was a beautiful evening that included dinner, raffles, silent auction, door prizes, and the "Jam Band" to help dance the night away! All the money raised is going towards our Building Fund for future development. The cost to educate a student at St. Catherine Catholic School is approximately \$10,800.00. Most of our families receive scholarships or financial aid to help offset the \$7,800 tuition. Because of the gap in tuition and the per-pupil expense, St. Catherine Catholic School relies heavily on fundraising and donations to help cover school operations, improvements, and programs. WE ARE GRATEFUL to all our parents, parishioners, and benefactors who support us.



▶ **TERRA NOVA**, Standardized Testing begins February 20<sup>th</sup> . Our students are STARS and will rise to the top! Students in grades 2 – 8 take a series of tests that cover reading, language, math, science, and social studies.

**Our students and teachers are celebrating Black History Month...**

**“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” Malcom X**

**Dr. Christine Higgins** [higgins@stcatheschool.org](mailto:higgins@stcatheschool.org)  
Principal

**(863)385-7300**

