



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"Don't be content to be the chip off the old block -- be the old block itself."  
- Winston Churchill

## Events Calendar

**September 5**  
**No School/Labor Day Holiday**

**September 7**  
**School Mass**  
(8:30 am, 8th Gr Leaders)

**Christian Mothers Social**  
(7 pm, Angelus Center)  
Free Event -- All welcome!

**September 9**  
**Deadline for Parents to Turn In Angel Walk Forms**

**September 14**  
**School Mass**  
(8:30 am, 7th Gr Leaders)

**September 18**  
**Parish Picnic**  
(1-4 pm, Sonneborn Shelter)

**September 21**  
**School Mass**  
(8:30 am, 6th Gr Leaders)

**September 29**  
**Feast of St. Michael**  
Noon Mass  
(No Hot Lunch Served)  
Double Blessings Vacation  
Get-Away Raffle Drawing!!

**September 30**  
**Noon Dismissal**

## Everything You Need to Know About SMPS...

Bookmark our school website:  
[stmikesparishschool.org](http://stmikesparishschool.org)

Become a Fan of our Facebook Page:  
[facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS](https://www.facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

Get all Mustang Athletic Information:  
[leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs](http://leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs)

## Welcome New, Returning Students!

We extend a warm welcome to all 365 new and returning students in preschool through 8th grade at St. Mike's! We are excited for the new school year and the many experiences our school community will share.

To kick-off the 2011-12 school year, we held our Covenant Signing para-liturgical that brought together school families, school staff and our parish leaders to reaffirm their commitment to one another.

As Principal Marilyn "Sis" Richardson stated at the start of covenant signing, St. Michael Parish School exists as a mission of St. Michael Church. "We are committed to transmitting the Catholic faith and Catholic tradition through religious education and an integrated, challenging curriculum rooted in Gospel values, witness, and service," Richardson said. "Our parish agrees to

support our school by fostering a commitment to parish life, by upholding parents as primary educators of their children, by sharing the school's teaching mission, and by awakening in our school community the Gospel call to service." St. Michael's, she concluded, is dedicated to seeing that each student grows in faith, love and charity. An ice cream social followed the Covenant Signing.



Principal Sis Richardson and Vice Principal Lee Gruber welcome all 365 St. Michael students and their families.



Above left, fourth grade teacher Warren Lenz prepares his classroom for the start of the new school year. Above right, Kindergartner Nathan Litvak and his parents Paul and Karen (of Washington, PA) attend the Covenant Signing. At left, members of the SMPS faculty/staff team: (from left) Mrs. Sarah Kilpatrick (7th Gr), Mrs. Judy Gornik (TK Aide), Mrs. Jeanie Yahnke (Receptionist/1st Gr Aide), Mrs. Mary Smoulder (1st Gr), and Mrs. Ann Railing (8th Gr).



## STUDENT NEWS

### Students, staff pay respects to Bishop Schmitt



SMPS teachers, staff, students, parents, and even alumni stood outside St. Michael's on Aug. 22 to pay their final respects as the funeral procession of Bishop Emeritus Bernard W. Schmitt drove by on its way to his final resting

place at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. It was an emotional moment as many in the motorcade -- Bishop Schmitt's family members and loved ones, priests, community members and dignitaries -- all waved or signaled their approval at seeing the large crowd gathered at St. Michael's, Bishop Schmitt's former parish. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bishop Schmitt's family and many friends.

*May God welcome Bishop Schmitt into His Presence, so that he may enjoy eternal light and peace and be raised up in glory with all His saints. Amen.*

### Third graders carry on Mary's Grotto prayer tradition

St. Michael's 36 third graders gathered at Mary's Grotto after the first School Mass on Aug. 31 to pray three Hail Mary's, asking for the intercession of the Virgin Mary on behalf of each student's mother, father, and teachers. The student prayer offering at Mary's Grotto was begun by former SMPS teacher Lorraine Chvasta more than 10 years ago. Current



*Third graders prepare to pray three Hail Mary's at Mary's Grotto following the first school liturgy held on Aug. 31.*

third grade teachers Dorothy Dudzik and Cathy Sutphin feel it is important to carry on the tradition. "We choose a significant intention for each of the prayers -- someone or something important to our third graders," Dudzik said. "It's important they understand the power of prayer, especially a prayer offered to our Blessed Mother."

**facebook**

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to receive daily SMPS updates!**

You can keep up with the daily happenings at SMPS by becoming a fan of our Facebook Page at [facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS](https://facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

In addition to the weekly e-newsletter, our Facebook page is a great way to learn about school events, see photos taken at various school activities, receive reminders, and re-connect with alumni!



## ANGEL WALK WALKATHON

St. Michael Parish School invites YOU to get involved in our exciting new fundraiser -- the ANGEL WALK walk-a-thon!! Sponsored by Wheeling Jesuit, the event will be held Friday, Oct. 7 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Wheeling Jesuit's track and field complex. All 365 SMPS students will participate, walking for one hour (30 mins. for preschoolers) around the track to raise money to benefit the school's academic programs. This will be one of only three fundraisers SMPS will host this year so we pray for everyone's support in our goal to raise \$20,000!!

*How can you get involved?* You can participate in the actual walk (there is a \$10 registration fee for non-student walkers); you can sponsor a student in his/her walking effort; you can volunteer to help at the walk-a-thon; or you (or your employer) can serve as an event sponsor by donating a tax-deductible gift in support of the Angel Walk.

We look forward to hosting the first annual Angel Walk in an effort to promote wellness to our entire school community -- students, parents, relatives, friends, alumni, parishioners and benefactors!

For more info, please call the school office at 304.242.3966.

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL**

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[www.stmikesparishschool.org](http://www.stmikesparishschool.org)  
Editor: Alyson Hurley

For shadowing information, please contact Principal Marilyn Richardson.  
*Welcoming children of all faiths.*