Dear Parents,

Accreditation Site Visit - Last year school staff and the Board of Education completed a Self-Study and Long-Range Plan. As a final piece of the accreditation process, we will host a Site Visit on October 22-24. During the Site Visit, a team of five members will review all our policies and procedures and also visit with parents and stakeholders. **During this visit, the team will want to visit with as many people as possible.** You may get a phone call or be approached by a member of the accreditation team during drop off and pick up times and be asked to share your thoughts on school.

The purpose of the visit is:

- To validate the findings of the school through a review of documents, observations, and interviews with stakeholders
- To evaluate if there is sufficient evidence of compliance with the accreditation criteria
- To analyze the School Strategic Plan for improvement to discern its development was in accordance with the quality expectations of the association
- To provide objective outside feedback on the educational plan and strategic plan

There is a lot that goes into the Self-Study and Site Visit, however, it offers an opportunity for our school community to celebrate the great things that are taking place and to learn ways on how we can improve as well.

The St. Mary’s School staff is ready for the visit and we are excited to welcome the accreditation team to our community!

Parish Mission - We are excited to be hosting Mark Price for our Parish Mission on October 20-23. Mark will be presenting to our students on Monday, October 21 at 10:00 in the Great Hall. Parents are invited to join us for his presentation at school. Mark will present Bible-based theatrical presentations that bring key figures of history to life. Please see the attached Parish Mission information flyer.

Picture Retakes Postponed - Lifetouch has had some complications with the processing of pictures and as a result, our pictures have not been delivered yet. Therefore, our retake day planned for Tuesday will be postponed until all photos have been delivered. The new date will be communicated once it has been scheduled.

Magazine Renewals - On Tuesday, October 22, the students will begin the magazine subscription sales and renewals. This is an opportunity for your family and friends to renew or subscribe to new magazines for the coming year. St. Mary’s School gets $.40 of every subscription dollar. Last year’s program generated over $3500.00 to the school. The program will only run for four days, with all orders needing to be into school on Monday, October 28. **Please note this is an optional fundraising activity, if you are not interested in ordering any magazines, please disregard the materials sent home.**

School Dance - Our PAC is hosting the school dance Friday, October 25 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please note that it is an expectation that parents attend with their children.

Halloween Parade - All parents and siblings are invited to join us on Thursday, October 31, at 2:10 p.m. for our costume parade in the gymnasium.
**Marathon of Service Update** - All this month, the students and families are to be working on a community service project. Please get your pictures and documentation of your project into school so we can post it and celebrate all of these good deeds. Stop in our cafeteria to see the wall filled with a variety of service projects that many of you did during October. I am very proud of all the hard work and giving of time our school families did for the work-a-thon. Thanks to everyone who got out and did something for our community!

**No School Dates** - On Monday, November 4, there is no school. This is designated as a teacher professional development day. On Monday, November 25, and Tuesday, November 26, there is no school for conferences. Conferences are from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday and from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday. November 27, 28 and 29 we are not in session for Thanksgiving vacation.

**Report Cards** - The first trimester will end on November 22nd. Report cards will be viewable on FastDirect that day and a paper copy of the NWEA MAP testing report will be sent home on Friday as well. This will give you plenty of time to review the reports and discuss any concerns with teachers at conferences the following week. Each classroom has designated dates as to when late or missing work must be turned in to receive credit. Use the next week to make sure your child is current with all assignments and tests.

**Elden’s Receipts** - Thanks to everyone who has remembered to turn in their receipts. For every dollar spent, we earn a point that can be applied towards the purchase of school equipment. Receipts may be dropped off at the school or the drop box at Elden’s.

**Social Media** - You can now stay connected with St. Mary’s school by following us on Instagram and Facebook. Please refer to the #smsalexandriafamily to share your photos of all school happenings.

**Referendum Information** - Once your children graduate from St. Mary’s, they continue their education at Discovery Middle School and Alexandria High School. We work in partnership with the school district to ensure our students get a great education from kindergarten through high school graduation.

Alexandria Public Schools are asking residents to consider approving a school funding request. If voters approve the request on November 5, the additional funding would help the district maintain the quality education currently provided, including support to:

- Maintain or expand real world work experiences at middle and/or high school
- Maintain or reduce class sizes
- Expand mental health support for students

Watch this short video, [https://vimeo.com/358104852](https://vimeo.com/358104852), to learn more. Questions? Visit [alexschools.org/referendum](https://alexschools.org/referendum). Additional information has also been sent home in the Friday Folder.

Have a great long weekend!

Mr. Sladek
The Church of St. Mary  
Alexandria, MN  
**PARISH MISSION**  
**OCTOBER 20 - 23, 2019**

Bible-based theatrical presentations by evangelist, educator, and actor, MARK PRICE.  
Encounter biblical characters in modern times!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| SATURDAY & SUNDAY,       | **REFLECTION BY MARK PRICE**  
Mass Times: 5:00 PM, 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM                                           |
| OCTOBER 19 & 20          |                                                                                   |
| SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20       | **LIGHT SUPPER • 5:00 PM • GREAT HALL**  
JUDAS ISCARIOT • Villain or Saint • 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM GIVING UP ON JESUS  |
| MONDAY, OCTOBER 21       | **SIMON PETER • Fisherman, Apostle, Pope • 6:30 - 8:00 PM**  
GOD’S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL AND ALL-KNOWING                                      |
| TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22      | **PRESENTATION: BELIEVE & ACHIEVE • 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**  
GREAT HALL • BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH • BEVERAGES AND DESSERT PROVIDED  
ST. PAUL • Persecutor to Preacher • 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
The Unlikely Disciple                                                |
| WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23    | **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI • From Riches to Rags • 6:30 - 8:00 PM**  
GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN THE LORD LEADS TO FREEDOM  |

**FREE • ALL ARE WELCOME • FOR MORE INFO: STMARYALEXANDRIA.ORG**