

# ST. GERARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

4433 W. WILLOW HWY. · LANSING, MI · 48917

February Newsletter

February 16, 2023

## St. Gerard School Safety Reminders - See attached letter.

**Financial Aid Applications** - If you are seeking financial aid assistance from the Diocese of Lansing or St. Gerard Parish, you will need to fill out a financial aid application through FACTS. The address is online - <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3YZNQ> To be eligible for Diocesan scholarships, you need to fill out this application before March 1st. Anyone who wishes to be considered for a scholarship from St. Gerard Parish must apply for the diocesan scholarship.

**Registration Packets for 2023 - 2024** - Please complete the forms and return to school as soon as possible.

**Snow Day Procedures** - In the event of inclement weather and we have to close school, we will send an announcement through School Messenger. We will try to make this announcement by 6:00 a.m. We will also post the closing of school on WLNS, WILX, and Fox 47. Please keep in mind that Waverly Public School determines when school is closed because they provide transportation to our students.

**T.R.I.P** - Our TRIP program is a great way to help reduce tuition expenses. Any money earned through participating will be applied at the end of each semester. If you would like more information about this money saving program, please contact Shawn Macksood at the school office. She will be happy to give you details and answer any questions.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** - Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for today, Thursday, February 16th in the afternoon, 12:00 - 2:30 pm and evening, 5:00 - 7:30 pm.

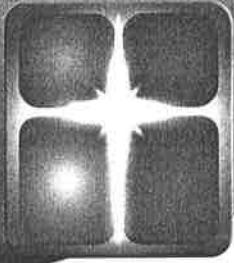
**Hot Lunch Orders** - Ordering hot lunch for the month of March will begin on February 18th and will end on February 25th. Mark your calendars so you don't forget to order!

**Cold Weather** - Please make sure that your children are prepared to go outside for recess each day. They should have hats, gloves, mittens, snow pants and boots. Please label your child's snow gear as well. Students will go outside unless the wind chill temperatures reach 0 degrees or below.

**Mileage Club** - Mileage Club will continue for the 2023 school year due to Bridgett Melinn and Melody Warzecha volunteering to run this wonderful program! Details on registration will be coming soon!

Congratulations to Mrs. Britney Becht! Britney received the Teacher of the Month award from the House of Representatives District 76 for January, 2023. Britney is an incredible teacher who forms true bonds with her students and encourages a love of learning. 6th grade is a year of change for students and many have begun to believe there are things they are not good at. Many students believe if they struggle with math concepts that means they are bad at math. Mrs. Becht changed that way of thinking for so many students! She makes learning fun, helps each student individually and truly cares about their success. My student's attitude on math did a complete 180 and now loves math and school. Congratulations Britney on this deserving recognition!

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Dear Parents,

Due to the events of this past week at MSU, I would like to remind all of you of our safety procedures we follow here at St. Gerard to ensure our students, staff, and visitors are safe:

- It is critical that during school hours all doors remain locked and secured. Doors should **never** be propped open and no one should ever open or hold a door open for a stranger.
- Lockdown drills are always taken seriously. The State of Michigan requires two lockdown drills per school year, but we choose to do 5 lockdown drills per school year. The drills are recorded with the State of Michigan as well as on our website. **Note:** St. Gerard had a pre-planned lockdown drill scheduled for yesterday. We have rescheduled this lockdown drill for next week. Staff will have a chance to discuss this with their students before we practice to reduce any unnecessary anxiety. As required, our building officer will be present for this drill to assure all procedures are performed accurately.
- All visitors must check in at the main office and wear a colored name badge. If you see an unfamiliar face inside the building without a name badge, tell someone. "If you see something, say something."

## **Additional safety measures we have taken at St. Gerard are as follows:**

- In 2020, St. Gerard did significant work on installing the boot system; this included the smart boot, ballistic shields, rapid response placards, loud boxes and smart lockdown lights. Staff was trained on this system before the school year started.
- Our building has been controlled by an electronic door security system for many years.
- In 2022, all our panic bars, closers and metal doors were inspected and tightened.
- In October, 2022 we participated in a safety training course through our county that was attended by our Assistant Principal, Sara Wade, Student Advocate, Jacob Zandstra and Jr. High Teacher, Luke Wilcox.
- In January, 2023, the Secure Education Consultant spent the day with administration, plant manager, child care director, preschool director and our maintenance manager to assist in ensuring that St. Gerard continues to provide a safe and secure environment for its students, staff, and visitors. Our next follow up is scheduled for March, 2023.
- For the spring, we have applied for grant money to complete critical incident mapping and are also in the process of redoing our site wide campus surveillance system.

Please be assured that we take safety and security for our students very seriously. We will continue to remain diligent and invest in the safety and security of our St. Gerard families.

Karen Marshall  
Principal

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Perseverance is the key to building grit. There is no doubt that kids who develop it will lead happier and more productive lives than those who don't. Listed below are a few "grit builders" with corresponding "grit stealers."

Grit Builders	Grit Stealers
Allow your kids to make affordable mistakes and live with the consequences.	Micromanage or rescue your kids.
Celebrate effort, hard work, and perseverance.	Constantly tell them that they are bright, gifted, or exceptionally talented.
Let them see you make mistakes.	Model perfectionism.
Show your kids that you maintain a positive attitude when you make mistakes.	Talk badly about yourself when you make mistakes.
Guide your kids toward getting along well with their teachers and coaches.	Talk to their teachers and coaches, ensuring that things go smoothly for your kids.
Expect your kids to do their fair share of chores.	Treat your kids like a guest at a resort for the rich and famous.
Let them hear you discussing how trials build mature character.	Let them hear you complaining about the trials you face.
Let them wait for what they want.	Immediately gratify their desires.
Allow them to experience a natural and full range of emotions. Show that you care by expressing empathy.	Try to keep them happy at all times. Give them the impression that life should never be upsetting or stressful.

Teaching perseverance isn't complicated. It requires a willingness to allow kids to experience healthy challenges as they grow. It also requires that we let them see that they have what it takes to cope with life's challenges.

**St. Gerard School, in partnership with family and church, provides a Catholic education that focuses on faith, academics, and service while living and sharing the light of Christ.**

# Upcoming Events

- Feb. 16 Parent/Teacher Conferences - School Dismissal @ 11:00 a.m.
- Feb. 16 Lenten Rice Bowls being sent home.
- Feb. 17 No School - Child Care Open
- Feb. 18 Window to Order Hot Lunch Opens
- Feb. 20 No School/Presidents Day - Child Care Closed
- Feb. 21 No AM/PM buses
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday/All School Mass @ 8:10 a.m.
- Feb. 25 Window to Order Hot Lunch Closes
- Feb. 26 5th & 6th Grade Parish Mass @ 9:00 a.m.
- Mar. 2 6th Grade Field Trip - Synagogue
- Mar. 3 Adoration
- Mar. 4 2nd Grade 1st Eucharist Parent/Child Workshop - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Mar. 5 Choir - Grade 4th - 8th - Mass - @ 9:00 a.m.
- Mar. 6 3rd Grade Field Trip - State Capitol
- Mar. 8 Book Fair Preview/Staff Hockey Event - 6:00 p.m.

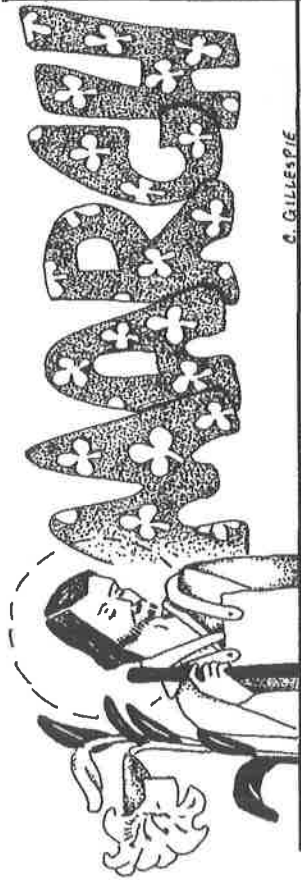
Mar. 9 Book Fair Purchase

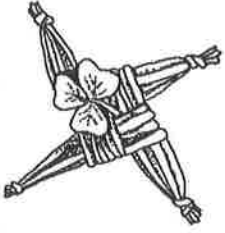
Mar. 9 6th Grade Field Trip-"Cinderella" Rodgers & Hammerstein Classic Musical

Mar. 10 No School - Teacher Retreat - Child Care Open

Mar 13 No School - Teacher Professional Development Day

**Spring Break 2023 will be from March 27th - March 31st!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Choir 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. 9:00 am	6 Hamburger/ Cheeseburger French Fries Vegetable Fruit & Milk 3 <sup>rd</sup> gr. field trip	7 Sweet & Sour Meatballs White Rice Egg Roll Fruit & Milk	1 Pancakes Sausage Yogurt Fruit & Milk	2 Chicken Nuggets Potato Smiles Vegetable Fruit & Milk 6 <sup>th</sup> gr. field trip	3 Adoration Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit & Milk	4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gr. First Eucharist Parent/Child Workshop 10:30-11:30 am
12 Daylight Saving begin	13 NO SCHOOL- PD DAY CHILD CARE OPEN	14 Bosco Sticks Marinara Salad Fruit & Milk	8 Waffles Sausage Yogurt Fruit & Milk Book Fair/Staff Hockey Event	9 Pepperoni Pizza Salad Fruit & Milk Book Fair 6 <sup>th</sup> gr. field trip	10 NO SCHOOL Staff Retreat CHILD CARE OPEN	11
19 St Joseph's Day	20 Hot Dog French Fries Carrots & Dip Fruit & Milk	21 Sloppy Joe Chips Cheese Sticks Fruit & Milk	15 Breakfast Burrito Hash Brown Fruit & Milk	16 Chicken Sandwich French Fries Vegetable Fruit & Milk 4 <sup>th</sup> gr. Parent Camp mtg. 6:30 pm	17 St Patrick's Day All School Mass Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit & Milk	18 ORDER APRIL HOT LUNCH 18 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>
26	27 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	28 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	22 French Toast Sausage Yogurt Fruit & Milk	23 Chicken Tendef's French Fries Vegetable Fruit & Milk	24 NO AM & PM BUS Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit & Milk End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	25 LAST DAY TO ORDER APRIL HOT LUNCH
31	30 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	29 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	31 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	31 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	31 SPRING BREAK CHILD CARE CLOSED	

# Dive into Reading March 2023

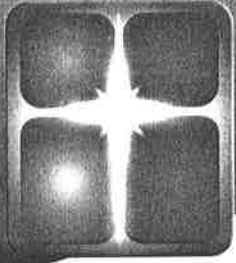


Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday

**For Spirit/  
Dress up days  
jeans day  
guidelines  
apply**

		01	02 Slipper Day! Out of Uniform	03 Stuffed Animal Day
	06	07 Sunglasses	08	09 Comfy Cozy Day Out of Uniform
13 No School Read at home!	14 Crazy Sock Day	15	16 St. Gerard Spirit Day Out of Uniform	17 Wear green for St. Patrick's Day Over Uniform
20	21	22 Popcorn Reading Day!	23 Beach Day! Dress like you're visiting the ocean Out of Uniform	24





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Dear Families,

This Lent our St. Gerard community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that will help you experience Lenten spirituality by living in solidarity with people in need around the world.

As we, the global Church, begin our prayerful walk through this Lent, it is especially appropriate to come together in prayers as a family reflecting on how we can live our lives more abundantly.

Use your cardboard CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar to guide your Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

As a family, read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey and motivate your Lenten giving.

Prepare simple, meatless meals on Fridays throughout Lent to eat in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Be sure to visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to watch videos of the people and communities whose lives your Lenten gifts are changing through CRS Rice Bowl.

We will be collecting your CRS Rice Bowl at the end of Lent, so stay tuned to learn more.

Thank you for using the CRS Rice Bowl with your family this Lent.

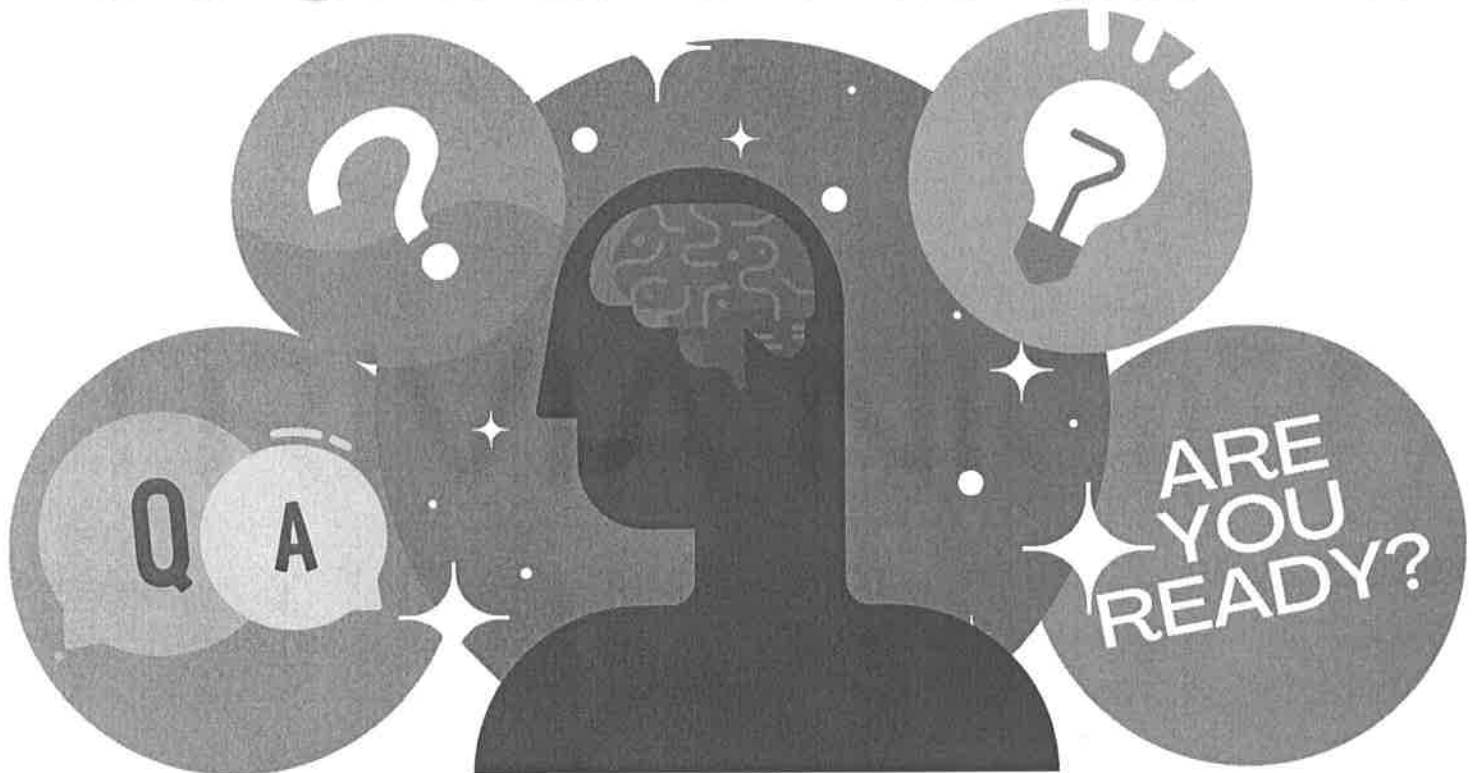
Sincerely,

Karen Marshall and St. Gerard Staff

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# TRIVIA NIGHT



**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023**

**ST. GERARD  
PARISH HALL**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM  
TRIVIA STARTS AT 6:30PM**

**\$10 PER PERSON  
(MAX OF 8 PER TABLE)**

**BRING YOUR  
OWN BEVERAGES!**

**FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**Come with a team or join one that night**

**Must be 18 years or older to participate**

**Reserve your spot or an entire table by calling  
the Parish Office at 323-2379**

**Reservations must be paid for within 24 hours**

**Tickets are available online, you can follow the  
QR code. You can also buy them in the Parish  
Office and they will be on sale at all Masses  
February 25/26 and at the door on March 4**



**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. GERARD YOUTH MINISTRY**

# CONFIRMATION SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

Hey 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders!

I want to take a moment and personally ask you to participate in this year's presentation of Shadow Stations! Shadow Stations will be taking place on March 21st at 5:45 p.m. If you are interested in helping out and get some service hours, check out the information below and sign up on our website:

<https://www.stgerard.org/confirmation-prep> by February 21st, 2023!

## What are Shadow Stations?-

- Shadow Stations is an opportunity to give members of our St. Gerard community the chance to experience the Stations of the Cross in a powerful and unique way! As a student reads aloud the Stations of the Cross, other students will pose in front a spotlight behind a large sheet! As the reader reads each station, the "shadow" students will pose according to whichever station is being read. This brings the Stations to life.

## Commitment Needed?-

- As part of the team performing the Shadow Stations, you will be asked to attend two practices and the actual event itself. Dates and times are listed below:
  - o Practice #1: Tuesday March 7th @ 3:30-5:00 p.m.
  - o Practice #2: Tuesday March 14th @ 3:30-5:00 p.m.
  - o Shadow Stations Performance: Tuesday March 21st @ 4:45-6:30p.m.

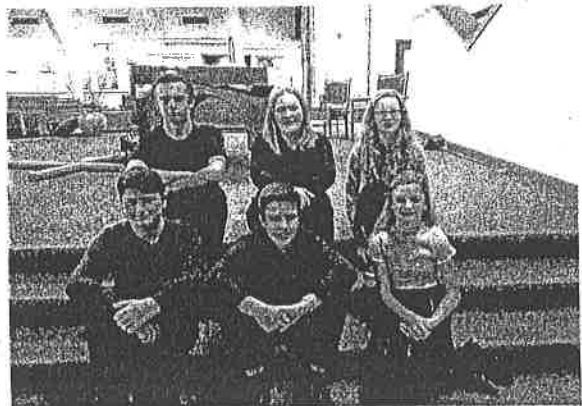
## Why You Should Help Out?-

- You get to share your gifts and talents with the parish community
- You get 4 service hours for Confirmation
- You get a deeper understanding of the Stations of the Cross
- If you are shy....no one actually sees you because your pose is struck behind a large sheet (unless you volunteer to be a reader)!

I really hope that you prayerfully consider helping out with this amazing Lenten activity that is done here in our parish community! It is a great way to give back and a wonderful way to earn service hours for Confirmation!

Again if you are interested **please sign up on our website:**

<https://www.stgerard.org/confirmation-prep>  
or following the QR Code  
by February 21, 2023!



Let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! Thanks!

Theresa Bosman  
Coordinator of Middle School Ministry and  
Confirmation  
517-323-2379  
[tbosman@stgerard.org](mailto:tbosman@stgerard.org)



# JR. COUGAR SPORTS

SPRING 2023

**Registration starts March 1st**

## BASEBALL

**Please join us for another great season of Jr. Cougar Baseball!**

**Practices start in late April/Early May and games begin in June and runs through mid-July.**

Playing baseball is a great way to develop and improve physical and mental health. As the American pastime, playing baseball will keep young athletes physically active as well as learn about teamwork and how to communicate with others. It also helps athletes with their coordination, and to develop attention and focus. First evaluation date is March 4th. Registration fee is \$150.

## SOFTBALL

**The Jr. Cougar Program is excited to now offer Girls' Softball!**

**Practices start in late April/Early May and games begin in June and runs through mid-July.**

Participation in softball is a wonderful way for young athletes to build muscle strength, increase endurance, and improve their hand-eye coordination. Sports such as softball, come with understanding teamwork and the good feelings of being part of a group effort which will improve self-esteem and lay the groundwork for successful relationships. We will kick off the season with a clinic, led by our LCHS Softball Team. The clinic is scheduled for April 18 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm at the LCHS Softball Field. Please register by March 31, 2023. Registration fee is \$150.

## TRACK + FIELD

**Continue the great tradition of Jr. Cougar Track & Field!**

**The Season will start March 20 with practices Mon.-Thurs. at the LCHS track from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.**

Track and Field is a fantastic stand-alone sport for middle schoolers or a supplement to keep young athletes in shape. For athletes in other sports, the practices are flexible. There will be no organized practices during Spring Break. A parents meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm, March 15, 2023, over Zoom. Registration fee is \$100 plus uniform cost.



All sports, register at [studentcentral.bigteams.com](http://studentcentral.bigteams.com) or scan the Q.R. code. For more information, please visit [lansingcatholic.org/jrcougars](http://lansingcatholic.org/jrcougars)