



# ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## Office of Communications and Planning

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Forty-Second Annual Catholic Schools Week Begins Sunday

**ST. LOUIS** – The annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week across the country and in the 140 schools of the Archdiocese of St. Louis begins Sunday, January 31. Each school around the archdiocese will hold its own unique celebration, with Masses, open houses, and other activities for the nearly 40,000 students, their families, parishioners, and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. This year's theme is "*Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.*"

Most Catholic elementary schools will host an Open House on Sunday, January 31, or during the week. For a complete list of open houses and additional information about Catholic Schools Week, visit [archstl.org/education](http://archstl.org/education).

Dr. Kurt Nelson, Superintendent of Catholic Education, will visit at least a dozen schools during the week for special events and meetings. Dr. Nelson will be documenting his travels via twitter at [@Dr\\_KurtNelson](https://twitter.com/Dr_KurtNelson). Some notable special events for Catholic Schools Week include:

**January 24-30** – More than 1,000 pieces of K-12 student artwork are on display at South County Mall, West County Mall, Chesterfield Mall, Plaza Frontenac, and the Galleria.

**January 31-February 6** – K-12 student artwork (different from previous week) will be on display at South County and Chesterfield Malls.

**Monday, February 1** – Eighth grade students from North County will celebrate Mass with Bishop Edward Rice at Christ, Light of the Nations Catholic School at 10:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Old Monroe will follow the footsteps of St. John Bosco (patron of students) and hold the school's annual Religion Bee for grades 1-8. Mass at 7:45 a.m. followed by the Bee at 8:45.

**Tuesday, February 2** – South City eighth grade students will celebrate Mass with Bishop Edward Rice at St. Cecilia Catholic School at 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 3** – St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Gildehaus will honor service men and women (police, firefighters, etc.) from the community at Mass at 8:00 a.m. with a reception to follow.

Eighth graders in the West County area will celebrate Mass with Bishop Edward Rice at St. Joseph Catholic School in Manchester at 10:00 a.m.

South City Catholic Schools will host an ice skating party while collecting canned goods and monetary donations to support the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry. The party begins at 4 p.m. at Steinberg Rink in Forest Park.

**Thursday, February 4** – South County eighth graders will celebrate Mass with Bishop Edward Rice at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Catholic School at 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, February 5** – Good Shepherd (Hillsboro) will hold annual student-organized Mission Carnival, 8:30-10:45 a.m.

This year marks the 42nd anniversary of this annual celebration which began in 1974. Nationwide, about 1.9 million students are currently educated in nearly 6,600 Catholic schools. More information about the national celebration of Catholic Schools Week can be found at [ncea.org](http://ncea.org), or on social media under the hashtag #CSW16.

#CatholicSTL