MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

The CRUSADER CHRONICLE

One Faith, One Light, One Journey

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

FAITH • ACADEMICS • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

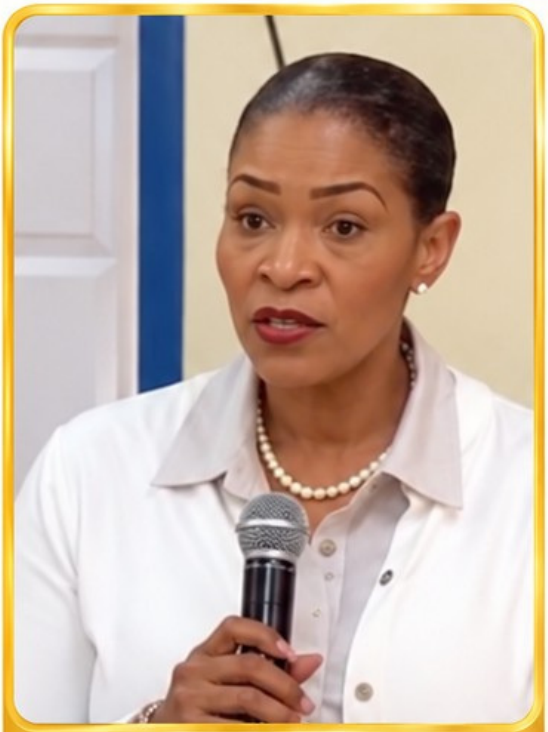


Anchored in Faith...
Sailing Towards a Brighter Tomorrow.

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

From the PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Shannals Johnson
Principal

"Let your light shine before others..."
Matthew 5:16

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, Faculty and Friends,

As we approach the close of another year, we give thanks to God for His many blessings upon our school community. The months of November and December invite us to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts — first in remembrance during All Saints and All Souls, and then in joyful anticipation of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This time of year reminds us of the values that make Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy truly special — our faith, our commitment to academic excellence, and the strong sense of family and community that guides all we do.

I am proud of our students for their dedication, creativity, and spirit, and I am deeply grateful to our teachers, staff, and parents for their continued support. Together, we continue to shine the light of Christ through service, kindness, and a commitment to being the best versions of ourselves.

May this season be a time of peace, gratitude, and hope for each of you and your families. Let us continue to journey together, guided by our theme, *"One Faith, One Light, One Journey,"* as we strive to make a positive difference in our school, our parish, and our wider community.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Advent and Christmas season!

Yours in Christ,

Shannals Johnson

Shannals Johnson
Principal

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

Important Dates
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2026

One Faith, One Light, One Journey

NOVEMBER 2026

"The Bahamas Catholic School Graduate is Financially Adept"

This Month's Value: THANKFULNESS

1	Feast of All Saints
2	**MIDTERM BREAK**
3	School reopens – 8:00 a.m.
4	**Founders' Day – 136 Years of Catholic Education in The Bahamas**
4	School Mass @ 8:45 a.m.
5	Grade 5 Retreat
9 – 13	**ELC Department Week**
12	Grade 9 Retreat
12	Staff Meeting/Professional Development – 2:00 p.m. Dismissal
17	Primary Department Writing Exam
18	Primary Department Language Exam
19	Primary Department Mathematics Exam
20	World Children's Day
21	**MARY, STAR OF THE SEA PARISH BAZAAR** Your support is appreciated.
23 – 27	**VOTECH & BUSINESS DEPARTMENTS WEEK**
26	Grade 8 Retreat
27	**Christmas Photos Day – $40.00 per student.** Students are allowed to dress up to take pictures.
29	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 2026

"The Bahamas Catholic School Graduate is a Loving Person"

This Month's Value: FAIRNESS

1	**1st Day of SECOND TERM – FEES DUE**
3	Grade 4 Retreat
7	Staff Meeting – 3:00 p.m. Dismissal
7 – 11	**ART & MUSIC DEPARTMENTS WEEK**
8	**Feast of the Immaculate Conception/ Mary, Star of the Sea Feast Day** School Mass @ 8:45 a.m.
11	**MSSCA Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m. – $10.00 Entrance Fee**
14 – 18	**Secondary Department (Grades 7 – 12) Final Exams**
18	Primary Department Report Card Distribution (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
18	Last Day for teachers & students – 12:00 noon dismissal
18 – 28	School office closes for the Christmas holiday
29	School office reopens following the Christmas holiday
30	School offices close for New Year holiday

Advent
A Season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Christmas
A Celebration of the True Meaning of Love.

UPDATED: "A Disney Christmas" • Friday, December 11 • 6:30 p.m.

Wallace Groves Auditorium • $10 adults • $5 eligible children

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

A Life of Faith,
A Legacy of Excellence

In Loving Memory of

Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, O.S.B.

1937 – 2026

"Well done, good and faithful servant."
Matthew 25:23



A devoted educator
A visionary leader
A woman of faith
A lifelong servant of God's people

The Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy family joins the wider Catholic community of The Bahamas in giving thanks for the extraordinary life and faithful service of **Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, O.S.B.**

A devoted Benedictine Sister, distinguished educator, and visionary leader, Sister Benedict dedicated decades of her life to shaping young minds, strengthening Catholic education, and nurturing the values of faith, discipline, compassion, and excellence.

From her years in the classroom to her service as principal and later Superintendent of Catholic Schools from 1984 to 2002, Sister Benedict remained steadfast in her commitment to educating the whole child—academically, morally, and spiritually.

She was known for her high standards, wisdom, firm yet compassionate leadership, and unwavering belief in the potential of every student. Her influence continues to be felt through the many teachers, administrators, and graduates whose lives were enriched by her example.

As we reflect on our school's theme, **"One Faith, One Light, One Journey,"** we give thanks for Sister Benedict, whose life reminds us that education is not merely a profession but a sacred calling to serve God and others.

Though she has completed her earthly journey, her legacy lives on in the classrooms, hearts, and lives of generations of Bahamians.

Thank you, Sister Benedict, for a life beautifully lived in faith and service.



Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, O.S.B.



A Legacy of Service to Catholic Education

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.

With gratitude and love,

the Administration, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Families
of Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy.

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS



Friday, November 27, 2026

$40.00 PACKAGE

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 18 x 10 Print
- 14 x 6 Print
- 4 Wallet Size Photos
- Digital Copy



Deadline for Funds:
Monday, November 23rd

Sign up at the Front Office

Students are asked to wear Christmas-themed attire.

Capture the Holiday Joy!

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH



MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH



Mary Star of the Sea
Parish Bazaar
& Raffle Drawing

Saturday, November 21, 2026
3:00 p.m. to 12 midnight
on the school grounds

FOOD
GAMES
MUSIC
PRIZES
& MORE!

The annual Mary Star of the Sea Parish Bazaar and Raffle Drawing will be held on **Saturday, November 21, 2026** from **3:00 p.m.** to 12 midnight on the school grounds.

Under the theme: ***"Faith, Family, Fellowship and Fun"***, this major fundraiser contributes to Catholic Schools throughout The Bahamas.

As such, we are seeking your support by selling or purchasing one (1) raffle book. The grand prize is a **$10,000.00 VISA Gift Card.** There are other amazing prizes on offer, all of which have been generously donated by members of our community, local businesses and supporters.

RAFFLE TICKET
RAFFLE TICKET

$10,000
VISA GIFT CARD
VISA

Ticket Prices:
$2.00 each
or $20.00 per raffle book

Students must sell a minimum of 61 books to be eligible.

Top 3 Student Prizes:

1. 1st Place – 100% Tuition Payment
2. 2nd Place – 50% Tuition Payment
3. 3rd Place – 25% Tuition Payment

Additional raffle books can be collected from the high school office.
Please return all sold and unsold tickets by Friday, November 6, 2026.

Thank you for your support.

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 30 & NOVEMBER 2 MIDTERM BREAK

School Reopens Tuesday, November 3 at 8:00 a.m.

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

PARISH BAZAAR

T-SHIRT & JEANS DAY AND STUDENT BINGO DAY



Friday, November 13, 2026

Wear your Parish Bazaar T-shirt with jeans to school and support our parish community!

JEANS DAY

Any comfortable jeans may be worn with the T-shirt.

T-SHIRT PRICES:

$20.00 each
(X-Small – X-Large)

$25.00 each
(1X-Large – 3X-Large)



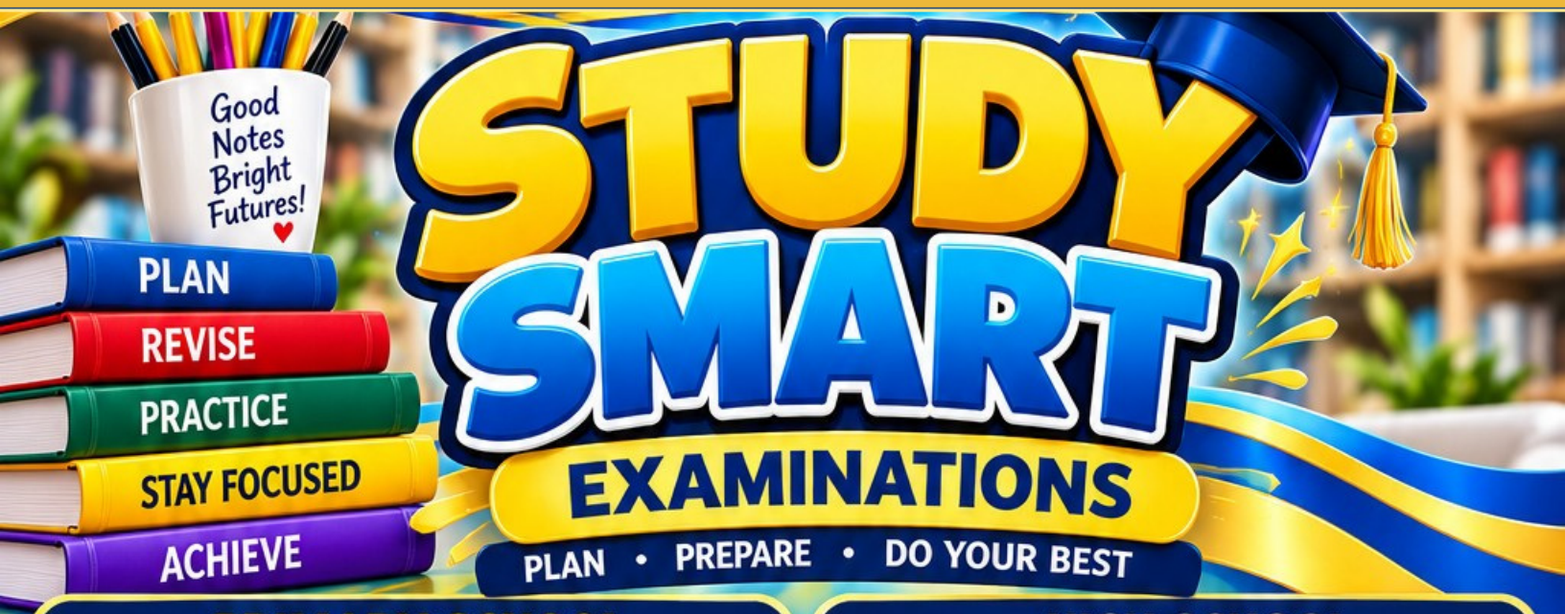
STUDENT BINGO DAY

During school hours on Friday, November 13th.

Let's show our support for our Parish Bazaar!

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH



PRIMARY SCHOOL
(Grades 1 – 6)

November 17, 18 and 19, 2026
End of Term Examinations

HIGH SCHOOL
(Grades 7 – 12)

December 14 – 18, 2026
End of Semester Examinations

STUDY TIPS

- **Make a Study Schedule** – plan your time and stick to it.
- **Review Class Notes** – focus on key points and important concepts.
- **Use Past Papers** – practice helps you become familiar with the type of questions.
- **Create Summary Notes** – write key ideas in your own words.
- **Study in a Quiet Space** – minimise distractions.
- **Take Breaks** – short breaks help you stay focused.
- **Get Enough Sleep** – a well-rested mind performs better.
- **Ask for Help** – talk to your teachers if you need clarification.

TEST-TAKING TIPS

- **Read Instructions Carefully** – take time to understand what is being asked.
- **Manage Your Time** – pace yourself and allocate time for each section.
- **Answer the Questions You Know First** – build confidence and save time.
- **Show Your Working** – especially in Mathematics and Science.
- **Check Your Answers** – if time allows.
- **Stay Calm** – take a deep breath and focus.
- **Do Your Best** – give each exam your full effort.



MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • HONOUR • TRUTH

From the Desk of the Guidance Counselor

Strong Children Brighter Futures!

5 Parenting Habits That Can Help Your Children Grow

Parenting isn't about being perfect. It's about creating a loving, supportive environment where children feel safe to learn, make mistakes, and become the best version of themselves. Research shows that these five simple habits can make a big difference.

1 Letting them struggle

When your child struggles, instead of jumping in, ask:

"What else could you try?"

Research links supportive parental guidance with children's developing executive-function skills.



2 Answering questions with MORE questions

Instead of simply giving the answer, try asking:

"Mom, why is the sky blue?"

"What do you think?"

Then explore the answer together. Research links this kind of conversation to stronger early science learning.



3 Making time for "just play"

Playing pretend. Making up games. It might not look educational, but research shows guided play can support early math and thinking skills.

Play can be powerful learning!



4 Not praising for talent and smarts

Instead, try:

"You kept trying different ways until something worked!"

Research has linked praise for effort and strategies with children's growth-minded beliefs.



5 Allowing all big feelings

Instead of: *"Get over it. It's not a big deal!"*

Try: *"You are very upset, I see that."*

Research suggests emotion coaching can help children understand their feelings.



- ✅ Think for themselves
- ✅ Make mistakes and try again
- ✅ Explore and play
- ✅ Feel understood
- ✅ Express their feelings

Support Today for a Brighter Tomorrow!