



# Our Lady OF THE Prairie

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 19, 2023

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 3:00pm

### Mass Schedule

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday | 4:15pm

Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

#### Weekday Masses

Tuesday | 6:30pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday | 8:30am

#### Holy Days & Holidays

Consult bulletin.

#### Eucharist Adoration

Wednesday | 9:00am - 10:00pm

### SACRAMENTS

#### Sacrament of Confession

30 mins prior to Mass.

#### Sacrament of Marriage

Make arrangements with the Parish Office six months prior to proposed wedding date.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations! Thank you for accepting and caring for one of God's greatest gifts. As part of Baptism preparation, expectant parents are required to attend Mass weekly. Please contact the Parish Office (952) 873-6564. We look forward to getting to know you and your baby.

### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140



©LPI

200 East Church Street | Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011  
952-873-6564 | [www.ourladyoftheprairie.com](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie.com)

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## LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

### TRUSTEES

Charlotte Mulroy, Sue Schultz

### PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Buchanan, Dan Flynn, Ginny Morgan, Allen Schmitz, Ty Buesgens, Renee Schultz, Leticia Fogarty, Cindy Berger, Joan Brueggemeier, Sandy Schroers, Bob Smith, Tim Murphy

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Simons, Jessica Fogarty, Loni Scheff, Jason Palo, Kelli Berger

### FINANCE COUNCIL

Dan Neisen, Maria Tracy, Jerome Flaherty, Joe Vandermark, Jim Koepp

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

Discipleship is Stewardship

As I write, I am hoping that you will be reading this in our newly painted church! It has been an exciting time to care for our church and maintain its beauty for generations to come! Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel story concludes with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

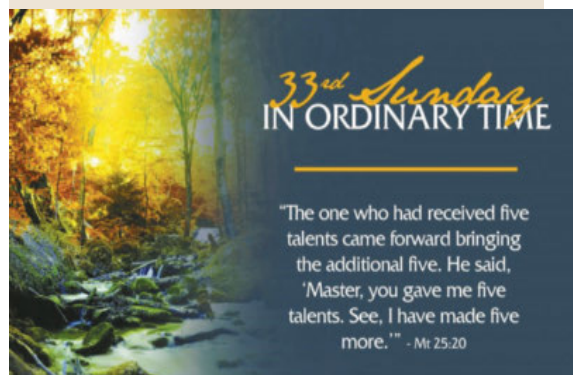
Stewardship is the way to live our lives by answering the call received in our Baptism and realizing that all we have is a gift from God. Stewards are asked to accept these gifts with grateful hearts, develop these gifts, and with a spirit of generosity, share them with others.

Stewardship as a way of life is more than giving a few moments of spare time or some spare change to someone in need. It is truly a journey of discovery and conversion starting with the individual who asks, "Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? What can I do to make a difference? How am I called by God?" As more and more individual stewards reach out to one another, the entire community of faith can be transformed, and together we can build a vibrant and engaged parish embracing Stewardship as a Way of Life.

Stewardship as a way of life has astonishing implications for our relationships and our daily lives. We can experience life-shaping changes of mind and heart when we commit ourselves to the Lord. Recognizing God as the origin of life, receive gifts in a gratitude that is glued to action, eager to demonstrate our love for God and neighbor. The journey of discipleship is one of intense joy, fulfillment and peace. As Mary the mother of Jesus lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service, we can find the same favor with God by living as authentic stewards of our world, our vocation and our Church.

God bless you!

Father Michael Kaluza



Let my prayer  
rise up  
like incense  
before  
You

Please pray for . . .

Richard Beach  
Mary Jo Gregory  
Eileen Effertz

Bud Steen  
Sara Meyer  
Bob Koenig

Merlin Bartels  
Special Intention  
Mary Pat Murphy

If you know of someone who would like to have their name added to the prayer List, please notify the bulletin editor. A name will be listed for four weeks. Please get the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing.



**STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

For the Week of November 12, 2023

Collection and attendance totals were not available at time of publishing due to early submission deadline.

Total Number of Registered Active Families . . . . . 486

Total Number of Registered Active Members . . . . 1,293

**Automatic Contributions**

Did you know your contributions can be automatically deducted from your checking, savings, or credit card account? For more information call the parish office at 952-873-6564 or check out our website.



**WINTER WEATHER CHURCH POLICY**



*For the safety of our parishioners:*

If schools are **delayed, close early, or closed** due to snow or poor weather conditions, Church, Adoration and all meetings, events and activities scheduled for that day at the church will be cancelled (PREP, CCW, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter, etc.)

**We will send an email blast to those of you on our weekly bulletin email list letting you know of closures.**

If you are not on our email list and would like to be added, please call the office or email:



[kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com](mailto:kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com)



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**We are close to achieving our goal.**

Please consider putting **Your Faith In Action** by making a donation. CSAF partners with 20 varied outreach ministries, to serve the poor, support life, and strengthen the Catholic faith.



*all are welcome*

**2023**

**Belle Plaine Community  
Thanksgiving Worship**

*Monday, November 20*

*7:00 p.m.*



**Our Lady of the Prairie  
Catholic Church and School**  
200 East Church Street  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011



Stop by the Parish Office to schedule

*Mass Intentions*

Weekday Openings in 2023

Weekend & Weekday  
Openings in 2024



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*in*

*Prayer*

Parishioners  
&  
Guests

We are happy to have  
you with us today.

## Testimony and Gratitude for Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School

The main reason for sending our kids to OLP is for faith-based education. There are many other reasons, but this is the most important for us.



Our children are at a very young age and very impressionable. Having them in a school with other families who have similar values to our own is very

reassuring. Having the consistent reminders from teachers and staff members about the things that are truly important in life helps reinforce the teaching of faith that they get at home.

By starting them young, they are still excited about learning. Our hope is for them to carry that passion and excitement into adulthood. By having them around faith-filled friends, it becomes easier for them to embrace God's love on a daily basis.

Obviously, their education in standard classes, such as reading, writing, math, and science is very important. With the smaller class sizes at OLP, our children are getting the one on one time they need. I can say with absolute certainty that the teachers at Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School are making sure the students are advancing each year and will be ready to move on to the next step of education.

If anyone is ever hesitating to send their child to OLP, they won't have any regrets. I know we don't.

- The Baltus Family



Families & Individuals Sharing Hope  
A PARTNER NETWORK

OLP is a valued FISH Partner, and we thank you for your attention to needs in our area which have been submitted to the network.

View them and see how you can help at:

[FISH@fishpartnernetwork.org](mailto:FISH@fishpartnernetwork.org)



### November

In getting to know our Catechists more and more, it is clear that they are a grateful bunch. They are grateful to have such a nice campus in which to do the sacred and enlightening work to which the Holy Ghost has called them, and they seem even more grateful for having such a supportive parish behind them in their endeavors. These appreciative sentiments will no doubt permeate into the hearts of the kiddos in their charge each Wednesday night. (How awesome is that?) So, on behalf of our Catechists and students, please allow me to thank all of you wonderfully generous parishioners for the opportunity we have to assist our young families with the religious education of their children through your continued support. We could not do this without you! Wishing you all a most Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

#### Important Upcoming Dates

November 22 – NO CLASS *Thanksgiving Break*

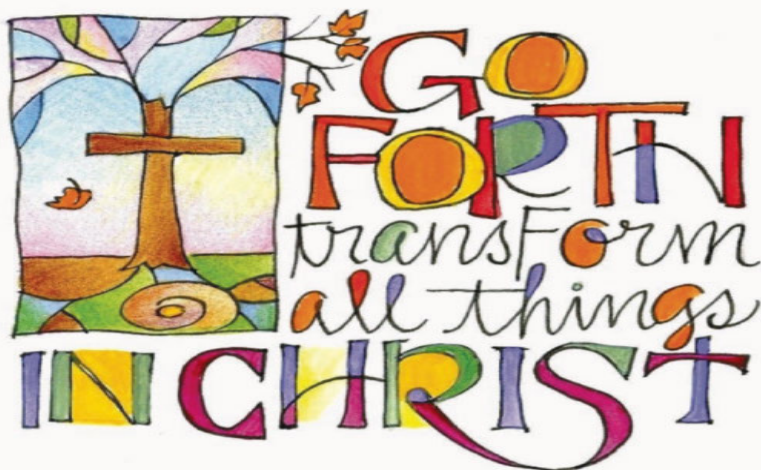
November 26 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cathedral Tour

November 29 – Classes Resume

December 6 – Advent Confessions for Grades 3-8

#### **29 Class for K-8**

- Kindergarten 4:00 pm
- Grades 1-2 6:00 pm
- Grades 3-8 6:30 p



**Weekly Calendar with Readings**

<p>Monday <b>20</b> November</p>	<p>1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43 7:00 pm   Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service at OLP</p>	
<p>Tuesday <b>21</b> November</p>	<p>2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10 1:30 pm Mass at Kingsway 6:30 pm   Mass ☩</p>	
<p>Wednesday <b>22</b> November</p>	<p>2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28 8:30 am   Mass☩ liv. &amp; d. Francis, Leona, &amp; Robert Huber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee &amp; donuts after Mass</li> <li>• Parish Office Closed</li> <li>• 7:00 pm - Small Group Planning Day #2 in Roedel Hall</li> <li>• No School / No Religious Education classes - Thanksgiving break</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Thanksgiving</i> Thursday <b>23</b> November</p>	<p>1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44 8:30 am   Mass ☩ d. Susan Fahey 2:00 pm   Mass at Lutheran Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Office Closed</li> <li>• No School - Thanksgiving break</li> </ul>	
<p>Friday <b>24</b> November</p>	<p>1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48 8:30 am   Mass ☩ d. Michael Fogarty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Office Closed</li> <li>• No School - Thanksgiving break</li> </ul>	
<p>Saturday <b>25</b> November</p>	<p>1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40 4:15 pm   Mass ☩ CCW Volunteers</p> <p><b>Lector:</b> Sarah Williams <b>EMHC:</b> Betty Weldon, Charlotte Mulroy <b>Ushers:</b> Brad Schultz, Matt Schultz, Volunteer, Volunteer <b>Servers:</b> Quinnlyn Gleason, Liam Gleason, MJ Kurvers <b>Greeters:</b> Patrick &amp; Charlotte Mulroy</p>	
<p>Sunday <b>26</b> November</p>	<p>Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-4 8:00 am   Mass ☩ d. For the Parish</p> <p><b>Lector:</b> Sharon Beach <b>EMHC:</b> Sharon Beach, Sheila Hendricks, Sharon Schmitz <b>Ushers:</b> Dr. Tim Halloran, Tim Murphy, Volunteer, Volunteer <b>Servers:</b> David Fogarty, Teresa Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal <b>Greeters:</b> Richard &amp; Sharon Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 am - Choir Practice</li> </ul> <p>10:00 am   Mass ☩ d. Jim Covington</p> <p><b>Lector:</b> Pat Schroers <b>EMHC:</b> Terry Feddersen, Jason Palo, Karen Vandermark <b>Ushers:</b> Jim Covington, Ben Covington, Volunteer, Volunteer <b>Servers:</b> Kaiden Palo, Jaxson Palo <b>Greeters:</b> Al &amp; Dorothy Bartolomei</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Paul Cathedral Field Trip for Grades. 7 &amp; 8. <i>Required Confirmation Prep for candidates &amp; families.</i></li> </ul>	

**Bulletin Announcements**

If you would like to post in the bulletin, please send an email to: [bulletineditor@olp.church](mailto:bulletineditor@olp.church) by noon on Monday for the following Sunday's bulletin.

## A Note from the Principal . . .

### Saint Faustina, October Saint of the Month

#### Divine Mercy Chaplet

In honor of Saint Faustina, OLP PreK-6th student body assembled on the fourth Wednesday of October to sing the **Divine Mercy Chaplet**. One of our teachers said, "I thought Jesus was going to appear right outside the school windows while the children were singing." A parent walked into the school building and could hear the students singing the **Divine Mercy Chaplet**, he said that it brought him to tears; our souls are drawn to truth, beauty, and goodness. A new tradition has blossomed: the 4th Wednesday of the month, PreK-6th grade OLP students and staff will assemble to sing the **Divine Mercy Chaplet**. Join us!

The saint of the month in Mrs. Hennen's 1st and 2nd grade class goes to **James Offerdahl**. **James** is caring, obedient, and kind, and he stops to say hello to everyone. He notices when someone is sad, hurt, or needs help, and he forgives others when they budge in front of him. He forgives when others offend him and is always willing to ask others to participate in group work, or join him if they don't have a buddy. **James** shows mercy and forgiveness like St. Faustina teaches.

The saint of the month in Miss Schroer's kindergarten class is **Paisley Pekarna**. **Paisley** demonstrates the qualities of Saint Faustina by showing kindness and love toward others. She carries the love of Jesus with her and has a forgiving heart. Prayer is important. She is quick to volunteer to lead prayer and usually has a special intention to add to daily prayers. She understands the importance of praying for people. An example of this was when a classmate was sad and having a hard day, **Paisley** went to find a quiet spot in the room, knelt down and said a prayer for her classmate.

The saint of the month in Mr. Lopahs' 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class who most showed the Mercy and forgiveness modeled by Saint Faustina is **Jaxson Palo**. St. Faustina didn't have it easy and yet learned about how God's Mercy should be shared with everyone, and **Jaxson** showed true forgiveness in moments of frustration and pain. And just like St. Faustina, **Jaxson's** example is inspiring for all of us to be more merciful and forgiving to everyone.

Mrs. Hendricks, Principal



## A Word from Father Michael . . .

Next week is Thanksgiving. All of us have much for which we should be very grateful. A big part of our prayer life should be to give thanks to God for the abundance of blessings that we receive each day and throughout our lives. God is the giver of all good things and we are fortunate to receive so many of these gifts from God. It is fitting that we have a national holiday to consider how grateful we are for the people and possessions that make life so enjoyable. I am truly thankful for our parish school and the service we do to educate children in the faith and academics!

We will celebrate an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in our church. I hope you will join us and many other local parishes to give thanks to God with gratitude for the abundance of blessings in our lives. It is good for us to gather with our Protestant brothers and sisters and share time of thanks and praise and unite ourselves as the body of Christ. I am obliged to the other pastors for their desire to take part in the service and to be a welcoming presence in Belle Plaine for all who seek to know Christ. There will be refreshments following in our parish hall and we will have time to get to know our spiritual neighbors. See you there!

God bless you, Father Michael Kaluza

## Here's what's happening in the classroom . . .



We are SO thankful for our preschool students and their families. Learning & growing together each week is a blessing! Students learned about many types of animals exploring the Jungle with Jesus. They added spots to a Jaguar, tore up paper feathers for a parrot headband and looped together snakes. Kk – King of Kings week was majestic! Students added jewels to a crown, designed their own castles and roared with lion puppets after hearing the Bible story " Daniel in the Lion's Den". We will finish the month with a Thanksgiving celebration sharing "Friendship Fruit Salad" and a fieldtrip to the Old Log Theatre.

Mrs. Ross

The Kindergarteners have been working on identifying letters and sounds and writing them in their workbooks. They are recognizing sounds at the beginning and ending of words. In math, kindergarten is practicing writing, ordering, and counting numbers. Each morning we keep track of how many days we have been in school and use tens and ones to count those days. We just celebrated our 50th day of kindergarten! Our science unit is on weather and seasons. We are learning many different types of weather and observing and describing the weather. The graph in our classroom helps us keep track of the weather patterns we observe at school. Kindergarten is learning all about the liturgical year of the church and saints. We are all called to be saints. This month we will be learning about Saint Anne. Ms. Schroers



Hi Families,

We have been busy with big works in the atrium. We are learning the History of the Kingdom of God, The Liturgical Year and numbering the names of each Sunday, an Altar collage, and much more!

First grade just started a unit of Measurement and Length, while second grade will soon start 2-digit subtraction.

Vocabulary is growing stronger each day which helps with fluency in reading and writing. We will start book reports soon and learn about elements of a story (characters, setting).

In our Social Studies, we will start a unit on the World Around Us and learn land formations. Mystery Science has us studying how seeds travel and about other plants.

Blessings to all! Mrs. Hennen



The 4/5/6 Team has been busy with their studies, projects, and activities this month. In Math the 6th grade group is moving quickly along with Fractions while the 4th grade group is just beginning the unit/ For Reading they are well into their 3rd book report of the year and have shown great gains in their ability to read more challenging books.

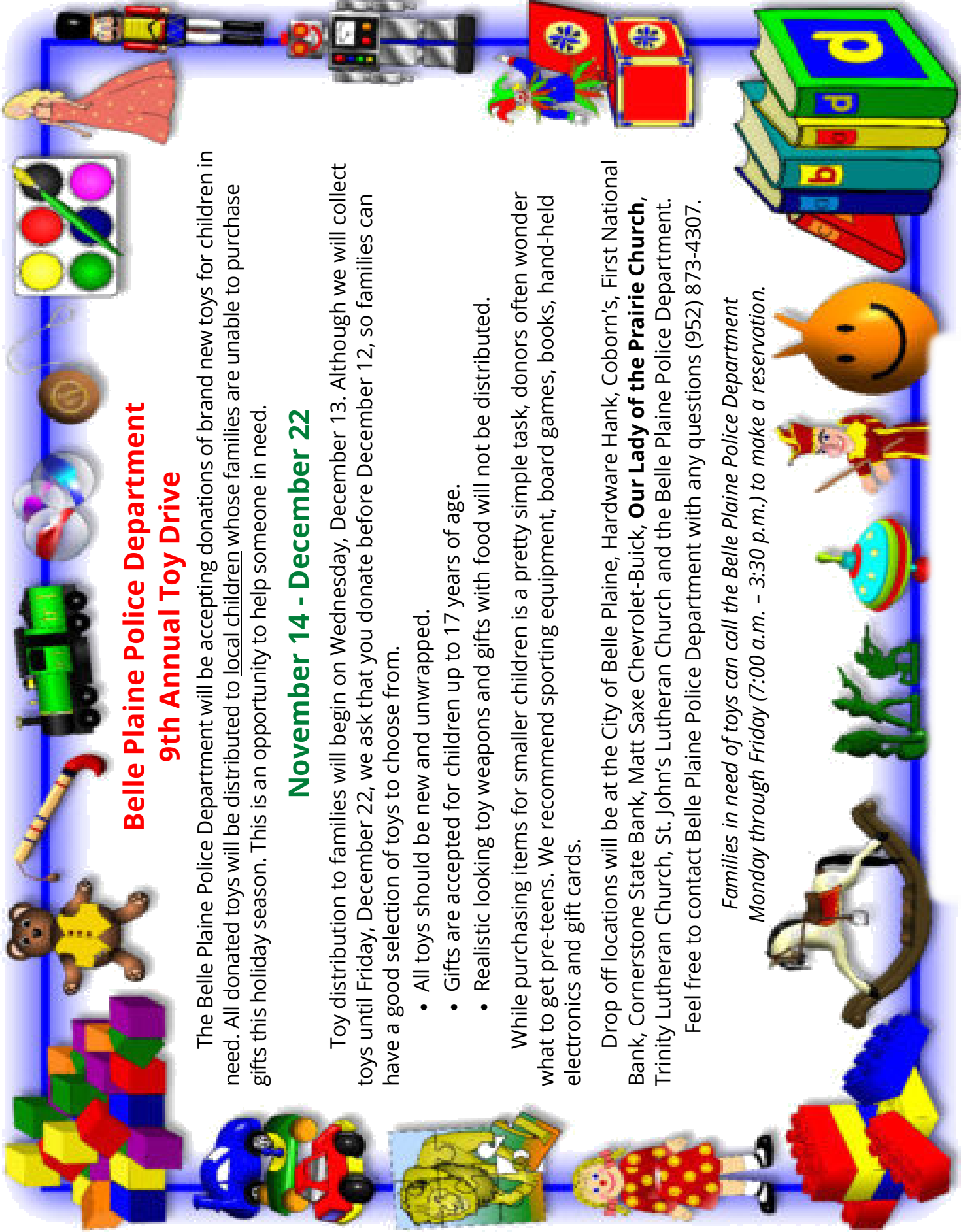
Our History lessons are taking us back to the early settlers and Colonial America. In Science we are beginning a large unit on Motion which will lead us to fun experiments such as a Toothpick Bridge and our Science Fair Experiments. In Religion we are continuing our discussion of Spiritual Warfare and the eternal "Good vs Evil" battle. Mr. Lopahs



We are so excited for our upcoming Christmas Pageant on Tuesday, December 19th starting with 6:30 p.m. Mass. PreK- 6 grade students have been practicing and learning their lines. Save the date!

Mrs. Gleason





## Belle Plaine Police Department 9th Annual Toy Drive

The Belle Plaine Police Department will be accepting donations of brand new toys for children in need. All donated toys will be distributed to local children whose families are unable to purchase gifts this holiday season. This is an opportunity to help someone in need.

### November 14 - December 22

Toy distribution to families will begin on Wednesday, December 13. Although we will collect toys until Friday, December 22, we ask that you donate before December 12, so families can have a good selection of toys to choose from.

- All toys should be new and unwrapped.
- Gifts are accepted for children up to 17 years of age.
- Realistic looking toy weapons and gifts with food will not be distributed.

While purchasing items for smaller children is a pretty simple task, donors often wonder what to get pre-teens. We recommend sporting equipment, board games, books, hand-held electronics and gift cards.

Drop off locations will be at the City of Belle Plaine, Hardware Hank, Coborn's, First National Bank, Cornerstone State Bank, Matt Saxe Chevrolet-Buick, **Our Lady of the Prairie Church**, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church and the Belle Plaine Police Department.

Feel free to contact Belle Plaine Police Department with any questions (952) 873-4307.



*Families in need of toys can call the Belle Plaine Police Department Monday through Friday (7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) to make a reservation.*



# OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL APPAREL ORDER

**ORDERS DUE BY NOVEMBER 21st to have in time for Christmas**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAVY 'HIS' CROSS T-SHIRT (unisex sizing) \$12/EACH	SIZES	QTY	SUBTOTAL
	YOUTH XS		
	YOUTH S		
	YOUTH M		
	YOUTH L		
	YOUTH XL		
	ADULT S		
	ADULT M		
	ADULT L		
	ADULT XL		
	ADULT 2XL		
ADULT 3XL			
ADULT 4XL			
STOCKING HAT WITH LOGO \$10/EACH	STYLE OPTIONS	QTY	SUBTOTAL
	SIMPLE NAVY		
	STRIPED NAVY POM-POM		

NAVY OLP EMBROIDERED FULL ZIP FLEECE LINED SWEATSHIRT \$40/EACH	SIZES (CIRCLE MENS OR WOMENS)	QTY	SUBTOTAL
	YOUTH XS		
	YOUTH S		
	YOUTH M		
	YOUTH L		
	YOUTH XL		
	ADULT S - mens or womens		
	ADULT M - mens or womens		
	ADULT L - mens or womens		
	ADULT XL - mens or womens		
	ADULT 2XL - mens or womens		
ADULT 3XL - mens or womens			
ADULT 4XL - mens or womens			
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$</b>			
CASH OR CHECK (PAYABLE TO OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE)			
<b>ORDERS DUE BY NOVEMBER 21st to have in time for Christmas</b>			

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 Blessings to all:  
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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