



Our Lady OF THE Prairie

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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.

Bulletin Announcements

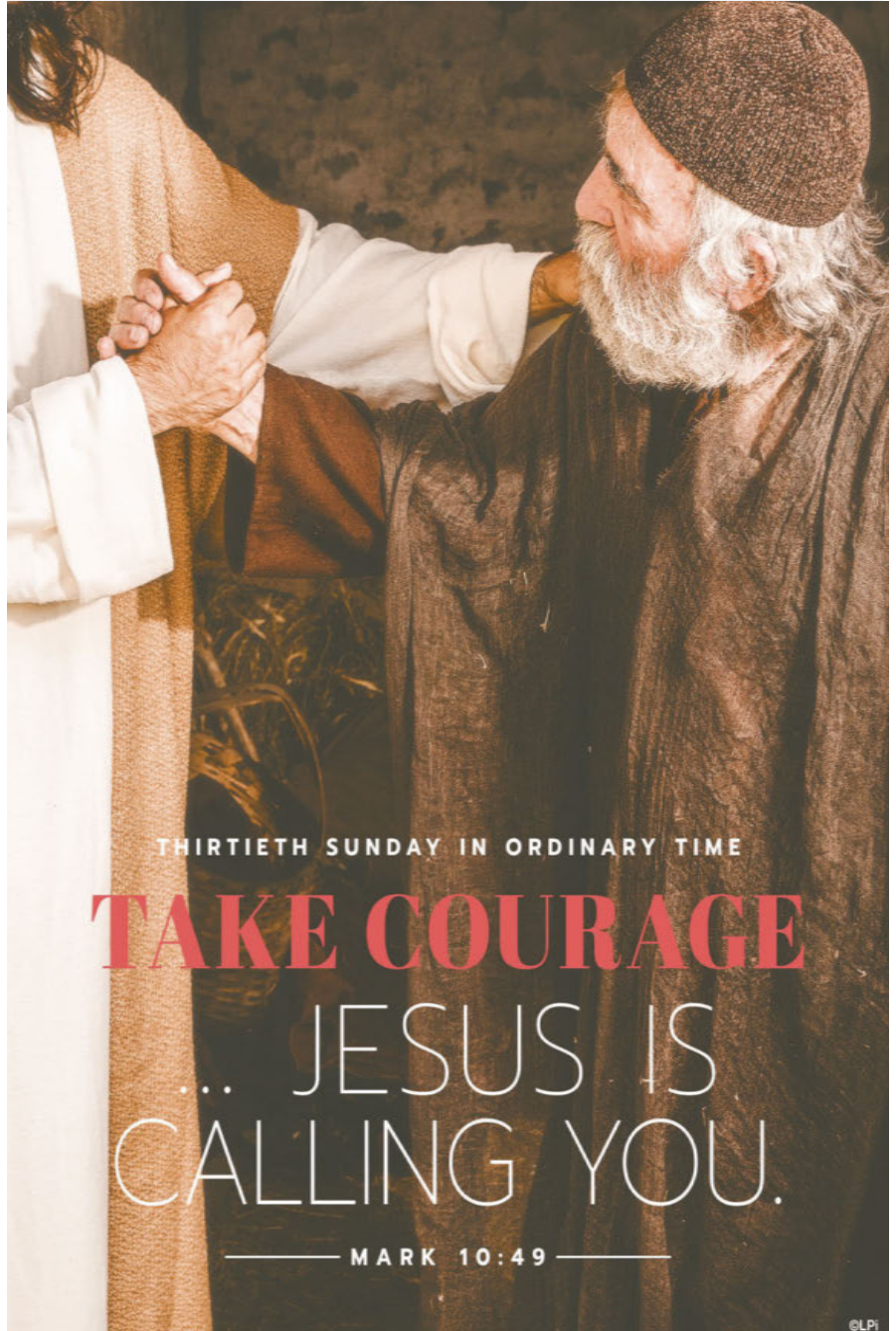
If you would like to post in the bulletin, please send an email to: bulletineditor@olp.church by noon on Monday for the following Sunday. (Holidays may have earlier deadlines)

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140

200 East Church Street |
Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

October 27, 2024



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TAKE COURAGE

... JESUS IS CALLING YOU.

— MARK 10:49 —

©LPI

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
mkaluza@olp.church

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Anita Gliszinski | Bonnie Weber
frontdesk@ourladyoftheprairie.com

PRINCIPAL OF PARISH SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Sheila Hendricks |
shendricks@olp.church

FACILITIES MANAGER

Patrick Schroers
pschroers@olp.church

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mark Simons |
msimons@ourladyoftheprairie.com

CEMETERY CARETAKER

Keith Heitkamp |
heitkampkeith@gmail.com

LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

TRUSTEES

Charlotte Mulroy, Sue Schultz

PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Buchanan, Dan Flynn, Ginny Morgan, Allen Schmitz, Ty Buesgens, Renee Schultz, James Fogarty, Brian Berger, Joan Brueggemeier, Bob Smith, Susan Cole, Greg O'Brien

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

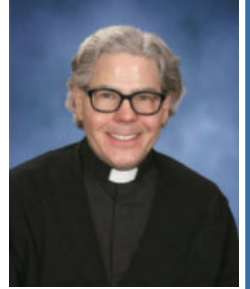
Ashley Simons, Matt Offerdahl, Loni Scheff, Danielle Campos, Kim Baltus

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

The prophet Jeremiah writes to those in exile about their return. God always seeks out those who are far away and brings them back. Returning to the Lord is a constant theme in Sacred Scripture. The bible is filled with stories of people sinning, repenting and returning. With God new beginnings are always possible.



The Gospel account of Bartimaeus receiving his sight finds the poor blind man surprised that Jesus is calling him. The disciples try to distract and deter the blind man, but his perseverance reveals his strong faith. Jesus always calls us and once we find him we find ourselves changed. Bartimaeus was not only changed in response to his encounter with Jesus by receiving his sight, he was also spiritually changed. We too are spiritually changed when we meet our Lord. That is what keeps us responding to God. That is what keeps us coming to Mass. That is what brings us to the adoration chapel. That is what has us longing to be with Jesus. That positive change in us allows us to always follow Jesus.

The Gospel tells us that Bartimaeus followed Jesus on the way - which means toward Calvary. Jesus makes his way toward his crucifixion and resurrection which leads to our redemption. Along the path of life there are many difficulties and obstacles and also much joy because we know that Jesus is right beside us, always calling us and assuring us that by our faith we are saved.

God bless you,
Father Michael Kaluza



Knights of Columbus®

Memorial Mass

Saturday, November 9 at 4:15 pm



PRAYER LIST

If you know of someone you would like added to the prayer list, please notify the bulletin editor or Parish Office. Obtain the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing. Names will remain on the list for four weeks.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Natalie (Covington) Ruiz
Jordan Ruiz
David May
Dylan May
Sean Alander
Alex Vandermark

and for all military members & their families.

If your family has an enlisted service member, please contact Ginny Morgan: (701) 212-3109 (leave a message).

Bud Steen	Rajen Sidhu
Bob Koenig	Don Morrison
Matt Hennen	Dave Buesgens
Cara Miller	Chuck Kroells
Deacon Bob Raleigh	Eileen Effertz
Ron (Franny) Gerres	Elmer Lambrecht

Remembering All Souls *November 2nd*

"IF TODAY WE ARE REMEMBERING THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF OURS WHO LIVED BEFORE US AND ARE NOW IN HEAVEN, THEY ARE THERE BECAUSE THEY WERE WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THAT IS OUR HOPE, AND THIS HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT. IF WE LIVE OUR LIVES WITH THE LORD, HE WILL NEVER DISAPPOINT US."

Pope Francis

All Soul's Day Remembrance Mass
November 2nd at 4:15 pm
Prelude: Candle Procession & Remembrance
Sponsored By: Council of Catholic Women

www.chelseythall.com



Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic School
2024 Marathon of Prayer

Thank you

Dear Parishioners,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible support during our recent prayer marathon. Your dedication made this event a success! **We doubled our goal and raised \$12,100.20!**

Our students and staff held up each prayer with sincerity and reverence. Thank you for entrusting your prayers with us. Father Rocky always says that the prayers of children are very powerful.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

A special thanks to our matching donors:

Bob Fritz Trucking, Inc.	\$3,000
Knights of Columbus	\$1,000

We look forward to more opportunities to pray and grow in faith together.

Blessings,
Sheila Hendricks, Principal



Advancing the Dignity of
Christians in the Holy Land

Please visit our display
At your parish
Saturday & Sunday
November 2nd and 3rd, 2024
After each Mass



Blest Art will be visiting our parish on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Their mission is to support those families in the Holy Land.

When Blest Art visits they will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art.

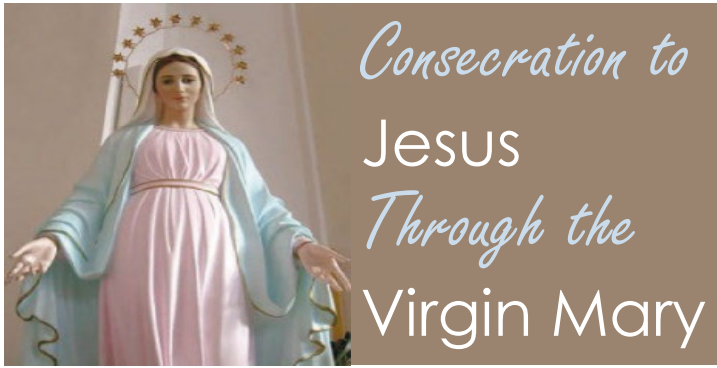
They gladly accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards.

Come to a place where you can hear the voice of the Lord in the quiet & peaceful setting of Lake DeMontreville.

Join us for a three-day men's silent retreat at the **DeMontreville Jesuit Retreat House** in Lake Elmo, MN. The retreat begins Thursday evening November 21, 2024, and ends Sunday evening November 24, 2024.

Free-will donations are accepted.

For more information call our office at 651-777-1311 or see our website www.demontrevilleretreat.com



"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke, 1, 41-45).

John the Baptist trembles; he receives from the very womb of his mother, Saint Elizabeth, the strength of the Holy Spirit to carry out his mission. We also need that strength.

With the Virgin Mary comes the Holy Spirit, she is united to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit rested on the Virgin Mary and is still in her; because her Son, Jesus, is there.

Saint Elizabeth calls her "mother of my Lord". Mary is the mother of the Lord, a sweet and beautiful name that shows the profound admiration, respect and love for that woman, who is overjoyed by this unexpected visit; Elizabeth feels surprised and highly grateful for this visit. And us? Do we desire her visit? Do we rejoice in her presence?

To consecrate yourself to Mary means to take her in a unique way as your mother, and to entrust yourself entirely to her care. Like all proper devotions, this practice has the ultimate end of conforming, uniting, and consecrating the faithful to Jesus Christ.

33-Day Preparation | Starts Sunday, November 3, 2024, with the introduction of the 33-Day Preparation, delivery of the "33 Days to Morning Glory" book, and supper. From 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

Monday | We will meet every Monday starting on November 11th at the Church to talk, share and/or listen to others in small groups what we have learned and/or experienced during the week in our daily readings, reflections, and prayers. From 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Day 34 | Consecration Day | Monday, December 9, 2024

Immaculate Conception, December 8 falls this year on one of the Advent Sundays so, the Solemnity date will be transferred to the following Monday (December 9).

To Register: There is a registration list on the desk at the entrance of the Roedel.



STEWARDSHIP

For the Week of October 20, 2024

Weekly Collection Goal: \$8,344.00

COLLECTIONS

Date	Week	Amount
10/20/2024	16	\$5,740.00
	Deficit (weekly)	(-) \$2,604.00
World Mission		\$1,104.00

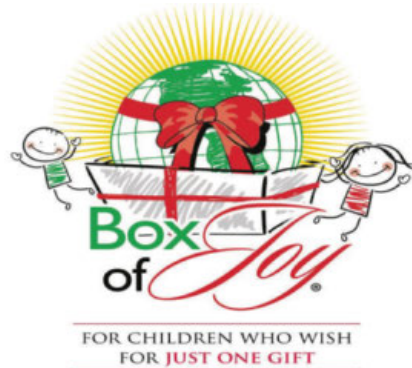
MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday October 19	
4:15 pm	200
Sunday, October 20	
8:00 am	176
10:00 am	152

Total Registered Active Families 486
 Total 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.



Our parish will be participating in the holiday **Box of Joy** project during the upcoming seasons of Thanksgiving & Joy!

The **Box of Joy** project is a fun and simple activity for the whole family. It teaches the lesson of loving our neighbor as God has loved and blessed us.

Gift ideas, Drop off, and packing information along with scheduled dates & times are available to you at the Box of Joy display by the Roedel Hall entrance.

Ginny Morgan/Maureen Daly will be at the display following Masses.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, October 28

No Mass
5:30 -7:30 pm OLP School Families Pumpkin Bingo in Parish Hall

Tuesday, October 29

6:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, October 30

8:30 am Mass
5:00-7 pm Women's Small Group in Conference Rm
6:20 pm Religious Education Classes

Thursday, October 31

8:30 am Mass
6:30-7:30 pm Men's Small Group in Conference Room

Friday, November 1 All Saints Day

Holy Day of Obligation
8:30 am Mass
6:30 pm Mass

Saturday, November 2 All Souls Day

4:15 pm Mass
CCW Commemoration of All Faithfully Departed
Blest Art in Roedel Hall
Treats & Fellowship Following Mass - sponsored by CCW

Sunday, November 3

8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass
Blest Art in Roedel Hall
Treats & Fellowship Following Mass - sponsored by CCW
4:30-6:00 pm Dinner followed by Intro to Consecration to Jesus thru Mary & book delivery

Saturday, November 2, 4:15 pm

Greeters: Volunteers (2)
Lector: CCW Member
EMHC: CCW Volunteers (4)
Ushers: CCW Volunteers (4)
Servers: Elijah Williams, Volunteer
Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, November 3, 8:00 am

Greeters: Mark & Leticia Fogarty
Lector: Dr. Tim Halloran
EMHC: Rita Halquist, Sharon Schmitz, Susan Cole, Bob Fahey
Ushers: Mark Hartman, Calvin Hartman, John Edberg, Paul Guertin
Servers: Henry Hennen, Luke Hennen, Peter Hennen
Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, November 3, 10:00 am

Greeters: Jim Covington / Mike Buchanan
Lector: Mary Randklev
EMHC: Mary Randklev, Nora Wermerskirchen, Hannah Wermerskirchen, Volunteer
Ushers: Jim Gerres, Jim Covington, Jeff Klein, Johan Miller
Servers: Cole Chessen, Emmett Strauss, JD Vandermark
Gift Bearers: Volunteers
EMHC: Carman Meyer (Kingsway) Georgine Gansen (Lutheran Home)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 28 Oct † No Mass
Tue 29 Oct 6:30 pm † d. Gary McCue
Wed 30 Oct 8:30 am † d. Bill Saxe
Thur 31 Oct 8:30 am † d. Rev. Fred Meyer
Fri 1 Nov 8:30 am † liv. Florentina Faunillan
6:30 pm † d. Rev. Larry R. Johnson
Sat 2 Nov 4:15 pm † d. Dick Hayden
Sun 3 Nov 8:00 am † For the Parish
10:00 am † d. Paul Rand

READINGS

Readings for the week of October 27, 2024

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52
Monday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 13:22-30
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a
Saturday: Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18, 20-21/Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-3

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Christians, we are all called to bear the burdens of others who are in need. These words resonate with us today as the entire world garbles with many silent and active wars including the war on our families and our traditional Catholic morals on marriage and many other things.

While no country or community has been spared, it is truly the most vulnerable communities which have borne the brunt of this calamity. This is especially so of the Christians community in the Holy land. **Since Hamas attacks of October 7th, 2024, shaped up to be the worst year for the Holy Land Christians in a decades.** Priests of all denominations say they've been stalked, spat on and beaten during their walks to church. This has made life worse for Christians in the birthplace of Christianity. Many Christians feel squeezed between a rock and a hard Place.

None of this would have ever been imagined 50 years ago where Christians were the majority in Jerusalem. For centuries, our community has suffered from wars and disasters leading to a rapid decline of our numbers to a mere few thousands. Then came these attacks and dealt severe blow to the livelihood of the Christians who made their living from olive wood carvings and catering to our religious pilgrims from all the world.

However, the continues anti-Christian pressure and economic difficulties due to violence and the lack of tourism may be the final straw leading to Christian extinction from the Holy Land. For the very first time in History there will be no one to protect our Church, our history, and our holy sites.

Therefore, today we are asking those who are more fortunate and blessed to help in any way possible. Our carvings make beautiful gifts for all occasions. Include yourself, your Church, for your wonderful Priest and even for someone you don't like at all.

We accept all payment, cash, credit, checks and post-dated payments. So please stop by if you find it in your heart that you can help our families. Let us remember the words of Jesus: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Sorry for my accent, I know it is different and it may be difficult to understand, but I hope you get the message that my people in the Holy Land ask me to deliver to you. The Christian Families in the Holy Land loves you and they will keep you in their prayer, also, keep them in your prayer and please pray with us for peace on earth.


Thank you and God Bless you and God Bless America, We Love You,

Ambassador for the Church of Jerusalem

November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>27</p> <p>8:00 am d. Patrick Bigaouette 10:00 am liv. Jamie Rand KC Treats & Fellowship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>OLP School Pumpkin Bingo-Parish Hall 5:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 pm d. Gary McCue</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 am Bill Saxe 6:20 pm RE Class 5-7pm Women's Small Group in Conf Rm (Leticia Fogarty)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30 am d. Rev. Fred Meyer 6:30-7:30 pm Men's Sm Grp in CR</p>	<p>1</p> <p>All Saints Day - Holy Day of Obligation 8:30am liv. Florentina Faunillan 6:30 pm d. Rev. Larry Johnson</p>	<p>2</p> <p>All Soul's Day 4:15pm Remembrance Mass (CCW) d. Dick Hayden Blest Art CCW using Kitchen CCW Treats & Fellowship</p>
<p>3</p> <p>8:00am For the Parish 10:00am d. Paul Rand Blest Art CCW Treats & Fellowship 4:30-6pm Consecration to Jesus through Mary</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Fr. Michael out of Office Fr. Roger Hessian Presiding 6:30pm d. Rev. Fred Meyer 7pm KC Meeting-PH 7pm CCW Meeting-RH</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Fr. Michael Out of Office Fr. Roger Hessian Presiding 8:30am d. Jerry & Alice McCarthy 1-2:30pm OLP Students pack Box of Joy- RH 6:20pm RE Advent Confession 5-7pm Women's Sm Grp in CR</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fr. Michael Out of Office Fr. Roger Hessian Presiding 8:30am d. Gary Halloran 6:30-8pm Box of Joy -Parishioners help pack Boxes RH 6:30-7:30 pm Men's Sm Grp in CR</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Fr. Michael Out of Office Fr. Roger Hessian Presiding 8:30am d. Garman Elder 6:30pm-8pm ME & KC's pack Box of Joy shipping-RH</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:15pm For the Parish KC Memorial Mass 2-4pm ME Kitchen</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:00am d. Carl Gansen 10:00 am d. James & Marie Christensen ME Treats & Fellowship 7:00 pm ME Meeting in RH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30-8:00pm Consecration to Jesus thru Mary in RH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 pm d. Rev. Fred C. Meyer 1:30 pm Kingsway 7:00pm CCW Mtg RH 7:00 pm Liturgy Planning</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30am CCW Volunteers 6:20pm Religious Ed Class 5-7pm Women's Small Group in Conf Rm (Leticia Fogarty)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am d. Jeron Pint 2:00 pm Lutheran Home 6:30-7 pm Men's Sm Grp in CR</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30pm d. Brent Meyer</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:15pm d. Colleen Murphy McCreight</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:00am For the Parish 10:00am For the Souls in Purgatory CUF Treats & Fellowship following Masses</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30-8pm Consecration to Jesus thru Mary in RH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm d. Pat Fogarty</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30am d. Gene & Mary McMahon 12:00pm Priest Deanery Mtg 6:20 pm RE Class 5-7pm Women's Small Group in Conf Rm (Leticia Fogarty)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30pm d. Carl Gansen 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Group in CR</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30am d. Ernesto Faunillan</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:15pm d. Lynn Skelly</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:00am For the Parish 10:00am For Women Contemplating Abortion "The Feast" Dinner KC Treats & Fellowship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00pm Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service First Presbyterian Church 6:30-8pm Consecration to Jesus through Mary in RH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:30 pm Kingsway 6:30 pm Gary McCue Church Night Meetings</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30am d. Jake & Irene Balk No RE Class(Thanksgiving Break) 5-7pm Women's Small Group in Conf Rm (Leticia Fogarty)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Office Closed Thanksgiving Day 8:30am d. Susan Fahey</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office Closed 8:30am Frank & Bea Bigaouette</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4:15pm d. Phyllis Muecke</p>
<p>1</p> <p>8:00am d. Lynn Skelly 10am For the Parish</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30-8pm Consecration to Jesus through Mary in RH</p>	<p>Notes</p>	<p>Adoration: Every Wednesday 9:00 AM-10:00 PM *RH - Roedel Hall Gathering Space *CGS - Caticesis of the Good Shepherd *TGA - The Great Adventure</p>	<p>Sacrament of Confession: Half Hour before mass each day *PH - Parish Hall *CI - Catechetical Institute</p>		

OUR CLASSROOM NOVEMBER schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today." (Saint Francis of Assisi)					1 All Saints Day 2 nd -3 rd grade mass End of 1 st Quarter	2 All Souls Day	Divine Mercy Chaplet – November 20 at 2:15 Newsletter Articles Due – November 20 
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends National Vocations Awareness Week	4 Teacher Workshop – No students	5 Election Day Grades due	6 5 th -6 th grade mass Box of Joy Service Project	7 Report cards sent home	8	9	
10	11	12	13 2 nd -3 rd grade mass Teacher/Staff meeting	14 Picture retakes	15	16	
17	18	19 PreK-6 Teacher Conferences	20 5 th -6 th grade mass Birthday Mass Accreditation meeting	21 PreK-6 Teacher Conferences Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary	22	23	
24 Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Break	28 Happy Thanksgiving	29 Thanksgiving Break	30	

A Note from the Principal . . .

Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is an opportunity to spend time with the real presence of Jesus and cultivate a relationship with him. Adoration is a beautiful opportunity to grow closer to Jesus! (Ascension Press)

“Jesus is very clear in Scripture when He tells us that apart from Him, we “can do nothing” (John 15:5). He does not say He will figure everything out for us as long as we move out of the way. We are invited to abide in Him. In abiding, and only in abiding, can we do the things we’ve been created to do” (Salinas, S. “Padre Pio-When Prayer Works”).

“We must understand that in order ‘to do’, we must first learn ‘to be’, that is to say, in the sweet company of Jesus in adoration” (Saint John Paul II). <https://www.catholic.sg/48-things-adoration/>

Saint Anthony of Padua - September Saint of the Month, Pray for us.

The **kindergartener** who has been an example of Saint Anthony of Padua is **Logan Novak**. **Logan** shows our saint’s qualities of humility, peacemaking, and obedience. **Logan** is humble in his actions and lets others join in on games and activities. **Logan** is an excellent example of being a peacemaker when disagreements arise among friends at school. **Logan** also has an understanding of Saint Anthony’s value of obedience. He listens to his teachers and follows directions the first time. He is always one of the first to be ready. **Logan** follows the rules at school and understands that we need to have rules in order to be safe when learning. **Logan** is a wonderful example of what it means to strive to be a saint.

The **first, second, and third grade** saint this month is **Paisley Pekarna**. **Paisley** has similar attributes as Saint Anthony of Padua. **Paisley** wants to spread kindness toward others. Whenever there was a conflict of whose turn it was or who was at the reading center first, **Paisley** would always give it up to the other person involved in the conflict to bring peace among friends. **Paisley** is very giving to others and tries hard to follow rules and be a good example. **Paisley** helps classmates who struggle with their work.

The saint of the month in Mrs. Moonen’s **5th-6th grade** class who most showed charisms of Saint Anthony of Padua is **William Scheff**. **William** is very organized and helpful. Clearly, if a person were to lose something important, **William** would do everything he could to help them find it. **William** is steadfast in prayer. He is respectful and kind. He is a good example to the students of our school.

October Service Project: Corporal Work of Mercy - Visit the Sick

On Friday, October 25 OLP PreK-6th grade students and staff will be raking leaves in several yards. It is a great privilege to give back in small ways each month thanking God for all of the blessings we have. God bless you, Mrs. Hendricks



A Word from Father Michael . . .

As fall approaches, we are grateful for the blessings of school and learning. Education helps us to realize the omnipotence of God and all that he has bestowed upon humanity. In order to be good stewards of creation, we need to learn so that we can make the world a better place. As Christians we bring that unique flavor to the world that has the understanding of God as the author of all. Our duty is to become familiar with God’s gifts and use them appropriately so that we can grow in holiness which makes us more like God. Since we have been so highly blessed our responsibility becomes to share those blessings and make God’s love known to all.

Thanks to everyone for the success of our annual Prayer Marathon. It is an important fundraiser for our school, but even more is the opportunity to be together, do something for our own spiritual lives, and spend time with God. Prayer is simply that. My prayer is that our school may continue to provide a rigorous Catholic education in Belle Plaine for many generations yet to come.

God bless you, Father Michael Kaluza

Here’s what’s happening in the classrooms . . .



PreK

Students welcomed Autumn with a **Trees of Wonder** theme focused on the colorful leaves and seasonal changes they are observing on our playgrounds. They went on a leaf hunt collaborating with a partner to gather leaves, nuts, bark and flowers for a nature collage. Our **Digging for Dinosaurs** theme taught us all about what dinosaurs looked like, how they moved and what they ate. Students made a flying Pterodactyl and a T-Rex bag puppet. Students learned about Healthy Habits – eating a variety of foods, washing our hands and using table manners during our **“This is How We Eat!” Nutrition** theme. They finger painted and avocado, and dot printed a bunch of grapes. Safety is a top priority, and our students have an evacuation plan. October is Fire Prevention Month! Students enjoyed a visit from the Belle Plaine Fire Department. We will end the month with a Halloween Celebration that will include Costume Show & Tell and Parade.

Mrs. Ross

[More happenings on page 2 . . .](#)

Here's what's happening in the classrooms (continued from page 1) . . .

Kindergarten

It has been a beautiful fall season so far! We have been enjoying many fall themed activities in our classroom: Johnny Appleseed, the life cycle of an apple, and apple experiments to see what would keep an apple from rotting. During fire safety week, we learned what we should do in emergencies and practiced fire drills. In Believe and Read, we work on our letters and sounds daily. A few of our daily practice routines include listening for sounds at the beginning and ending of words, rhyming, counting syllables, and letter formations. Another wonderful part of our week is participating in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. A few of our new works include the liturgical colors, the vestments of the priest, and how to prepare a model altar. God bless, Ms Schroers



1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades

Hello Families,

As we head into all the fun Fall activities and celebrations, our students are staying active and engaged in their school subjects. In Social Studies we are learning about geography. In Mystery Science we are learning about observations in nature. In Catechesis of the Good Shepherd we have read and worked on The History of the Kingdom of God which again focused on the creation and nature in our world, a great gift from God. Our language arts stories have engaged in conversations about the environment and nature around us. One student even made the correlation between nature and things of the real-world. In math class first graders are adding and subtracting and finding related facts. Second grade is working on place value and ways to write standard numbers. Third grade is working on multiplication skills. We Believe Religion lessons are helping us learn more about the early christians. Second graders are diving into studying the Sacraments. I am thrilled to see their enjoyment in all their work!

Blessings, Mrs. Hennen



Phy Ed: October's focus: Basketball Basics. Students have been working on perfecting their basketball skills of dribbling, passing and shooting. Thanks to the generosity of our Belle Plaine Knights of Columbus council, we have great new basketball hoops and a court to play on – thank you, Knights!

Art: In K-2, we learned about our next famous artist, a surrealist painter from Spain named Joan Miro. Like Miro, we painted a variety of lines, shapes and symbols on a colorful background, creating pictures from our imagination rather than real objects. In the 3-6 class, students created custom logos – some of fictional companies and some for a company with personal meaning - and applied their new branding to a mobile app, website and company stationery.

Mrs. Vandermark

Mrs. Moonen's 5/6 th Grade Stars are rocketing! They have been busy learning Scientific Processes and Pond Ecosystems. They've applied the scientific process to an oil spill and wrapped up their lessons with a Hook and Cook. Approximately 25 sunfish were caught with William's Pumpkin Seed being the catch of the day. In addition, a full day was spent at Gustavus Adolphus College for the Science and Nature Conference as well as Cedar Lake Farms for Outdoor Education Day. Three full days were spent at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. When we say we are doing "hands on" activities, we mean it! Science isn't the only area where the Stars excel, they've all met or exceeded their NWEA test standards. They're showing us their education at OLP is top tier! We are integrating STEM classes and forming a multidiscipline approach to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. We sent poems off to Appelley Publishing in hopes of a contest win and we are finishing our first book report. We continue to welcome Dr. Hendricks into our classroom weekly to discuss the week's gospel and are discussing the Civil War in Social Studies. As we enter November we will be completing lessons on gratitude. We continue to give thanks daily for the many benefits our Lord God provides.

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