



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

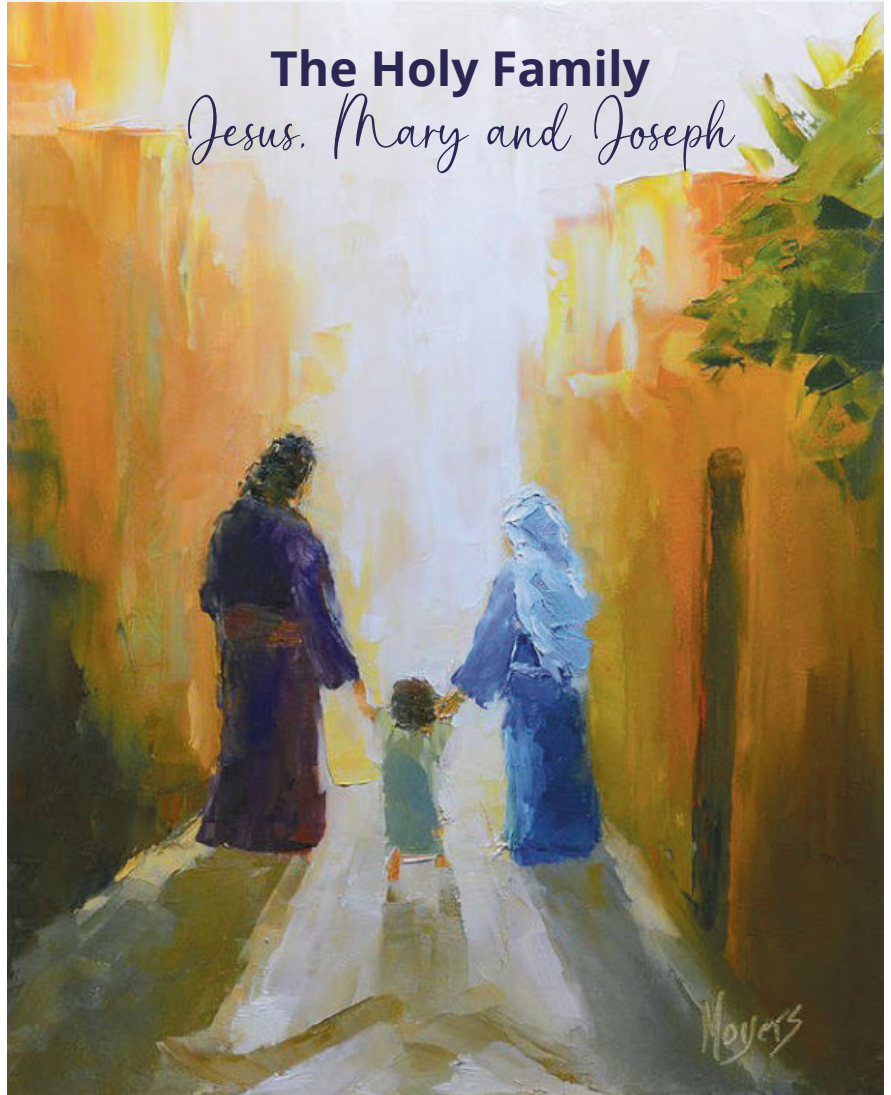
Please contact 952-992-0140

200 East Church Street
Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011
952-873-6564
www.ourladyoftheprairie.com

December 29, 2024

The Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph make my family like yours. May we be rich in love, peace and unity so that we may perfectly imitate your joyful home.

Come to dwell among us and never leave our side so that everyday our actions towards each other may show the perfect love of Christ.

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
mkaluza@olp.church

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Anita Glisczinski | Bonnie Weber
frontdesk@ourladyoftheprairie.com

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FACILITIES MANAGER

Patrick Schroers
pschroers@olp.church

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mark Simons |
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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

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).

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

The Holy Family

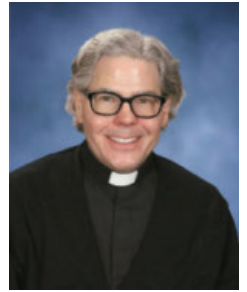
During the Christmas season we spend a lot of time with family. This weekend we reflect on what it means to be a part of God's family. As sons and daughters of God we have the privilege of sharing in God's life, because he has willed that we participate. The readings allow us to ponder worship together as a family. In the Gospel Jesus stays back in the Temple to be about the work of his Father. When Mary and Joseph notice that he is missing, they return to Jerusalem and find him teaching in the Temple. Jesus is all about doing the will of the Father and his prayer is in union with his Father.

Our greatest moments in life also happen in the communal worship and celebration. We experience the sacraments in the Church. In baptism we are made members of God's family and we are reconciled with God and one another through the sacrament of confession. In the Eucharist we offer profound worship to God and allow God to dwell within us by consuming the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Worship is at the heart of our life in the Church and belonging to God's family not only offers special advantages, but also requires obligations to be faithful.

The Holy Family is an ideal model for family life and also for Church life! Jesus, Mary and Joseph live in complete harmony with one another and Jesus is obedient to his earthly parents. May we always hold up the example of the Holy Family to be our help and model and try to imitate the faithfulness and fidelity their lives demonstrate!

Merry Christmas!

Father Michael Kaluza



PRAYER LIST

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Bud Steen | Lisa Pobuda |
| Bob Koenig | Cheri Brennhofner |
| Matt Hennen | Maureen Millard |
| Deacon Bob Raleigh | Mike Duffy |
| Ron (Franny) Gerres | Louis Wawrzyniak |
| Mona Bentfield | Betty Wolf |
| Rajen Sidhu | Wayne Mattison |
| Don Morrison | TC Fogarty |
| Dave Buesgens | Eileen Effertz |
| Elmer Lambrecht | |

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.



Pancake Breakfast

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, January 12
 8am - 12Noon
 Pancakes, Sausage, Orange Juice, Milk, Coffee.
FREE WILL Offering



Stewardship

ATTEND SERVE GIVE GROW

COLLECTIONS

Weekly Collection Goal: \$8,344.00

Date	Amount	Deficit
12/08/2024	\$988.00	
12/15/2024	\$6,752.97	(-) \$1,591.03

MASS ATTENDANCE

Date	Time	Count
Saturday, 12/14	4:15 pm	162
Sunday, 12/15	8:00 am	143
	10:00 am	250
Live Streamed		43

**LLIVE STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE
 For the Week of December 22, 2024**

Contribution amounts & attendance for December 22, 2024 were not available due to early holiday printing deadlines.

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.



Wine Tasting

Free Wine Tasting
 Join the Council of Catholic Women
January 19th at 2:00 pm
 in Roedel Hall

All women of the Parish are invited.

Please Make a reservation with
 Maureen Daly: (952) 687-1501
Space is limited.



WINTER WEATHER 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



**Our Lady of the Prairie's
 New Parishioners**

WELCOME We're glad you're here

**Theodore & Edwina Aslakson
 Jacob & Gabrielle Klegstad
 Kurt & Jodee Korkowski
 Kathy Noll
 Trent & Rachel Shaw and son William**

Please make them feel at home in their new parish community.

READINGS

Readings for the week of December 29, 2024

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

*Empowering men to live their faith at home,
in their parish, at work and in their communities.*

Join Today at



www.kofc.org/Join
or by scanning QR Code



Blankets Because We Care Blanket, Coat, & Sock Drive

Please help us keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter by donating your gently used or new blankets, coats, outerwear, boots, and socks.

Your donation will be given to Loaves and Fishes and some of the monetary donations will also be used to buy and make fleece blankets for the children at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis.

Please drop off your donations **now through January 22nd** in the bin marked **"Blankets Because We Care"** or drop them off at our home: 1109 Rose Court, Jordan, MN. We are also willing to pick up donations, just call! (952) 457-9877.

Thank you for your generosity and may God Bless you!
Jason and Jennifer Schmit Family

ATTENTION ALL YOU KATS & CHICKS



It's time to come and get your kicks!
Whether you wanna swing it or groove it
Mark your calendars so you can *move* it
At Our Lady of the Prairie's

1st Annual Sock Hop

Saturday, February 1, 2025 **5:15 PM in Roedell Hall**
Fundraiser for Totus Tuus **Be there or be square!**

Ticket Prices and more info to come soon...

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Waffle Breakfast

SUNDAY
JANUARY 26

FOLLOWING
8:00 & 10:00 MASS

Free Will Offering

Proceeds fund
OLP Students trip
to Wolf Ridge
Environmental
Learning Center



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 30

No Mass

Tuesday, December 31 Vigil Mass for Solemnity

6:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, January 1 New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Office Closed

No School

8:30 am Mass

No Religious Ed

Thursday, January 2

School Resumes

8:30 am Mass

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

Friday, January 3

8:30 am Mass

Saturday, January 4

4:15 pm Mass

Sunday, January 5

8:00 am Mass

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

Treats & Fellowship following both Masses - hosted by CCW

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 30 Dec † No Mass

Tue 31 Dec 6:30 pm † d. Rev. Robert Valit

Wed 1 Jan 8:30 am † d. Beth Zehnder

Thur 2 Jan 8:30 am † d. Rev. Robert Valit

Fri 3 Jan 8:30 am † d. Paul & Pat Keup

Sat 4 Jan 4:15 pm † d. Mary Farrell

Sun 5 Jan 8:00 am † d. Susan Flaschenriem

10:00 am † For the Parish

Wednesday, January 1, 8:30 am New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Greeters: Volunteer

Lector: Pat Schroers

EMHC: Joe Lajeunesse, Kristen Lajeunesse, Rita Halquist, Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

Servers: Volunteers

Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Saturday, January 4, 4:15 pm

Greeters: Patrick & Charlotte Mulroy

Lector: Sarah Williams

EMHC: Sarah Williams, Keith Heitkamp, Sue Schultz, Joe Shimota

Ushers: Keith Heitkamp, Randy Schumacher, Brad Schultz, Matt Schultz

Servers: Ian Saxe, Andrew "Gus" Saxe, Addy Saxe

Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, January 5, 8:00 am

Greeters: Dr. Tim & Sue Halloran

Lector: James Fogarty

EMHC: Susan Cole, Bob Fahey, Janice Teal, Sharon Beach

Ushers: Dr. Tim Halloran, Paul Guertin, Volunteers (2)

Servers: Teresa Fogarty, David Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal

Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, January 5, 10:00 am

Greeters: Pat & Sandy Schroers

Lector: Mary Randklev

EMHC: Nora Wermerskirchen, Karen Vandermark, Hannah Wermerskirchen, Paula Covington

Ushers: Jim Covington, Jim Gerres, Johan Miller, Jeff Klein

Servers: Cole Chessen, Emmett Straus, JD Vandermark

Gift Bearers: Volunteers

EMHC: Carman Meyer (Kingsway) Sue Halloran (Lutheran Home)



You're
Invited



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday,
January 8,
2025

WHO?

STUDENTS AND PARENTS
THAT WILL BE
KINDERGARTEN READY
FOR THE 2025-26
SCHOOL YEAR

8:30-9:00

CHILDREN'S MASS LED BY OLP SCHOOL.
COME CELEBRATE MASS WITH OUR STUDENTS.

9:00-9:20

KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING
MEET IN THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM.
PARENTS ARE FREE TO LEAVE FOLLOWING THE MEETING.

9:30-12:30

KINDERGARTEN READY STUDENTS WILL SPEND THE
MORNING EXPLORING THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM.
THEY WILL RETURN TO PRESCHOOL FOLLOWING LUNCH
OR CAN BE PICKED UP BY PARENT

RSVP

ASIMONS@OURLADYOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM



OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
200 E. CHURCH STREET BELLE PLAINE



PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 16

5:30-6:30PM

BRING YOUR PRESCHOOLER

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED & CLASSROOM TOUR

MEET THE TEACHER & EXPLORE THE ROOM



ATTENDEES
GET ENTERED IN
A DRAWING FOR
A COBORNS
GIFT CARD



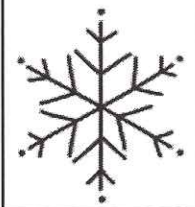
ENROLL NOW OR
SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR
952-873-6564

January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 8:00 am d. Teresa Witt 9:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am d. Jeff O'Brien	30	31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass 6:30pm 6:30 pm d. Rev. Robert Valit	1 New Year's Day 8:30am Solemnity of Mary Holy Day of Obligation 8:30 am d. Beth Zehnder Office Closed No School No Religious Ed (Christmas)	2 School Resumes 8:30am d. Rev. Robert Valit 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Grp (CR)	3 8:30 am d. Paul & Pat Keup	4 4:15 pm d. Mary Farrell
5 8:00 am d. Susan Flaschenriem 9:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am For the Parish CCW Treats & Fellowship following Masses	6	7 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 6:30 pm d. Msgr. John Richter	8 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 8:30 am d. Richard Beach 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class 5-7 pm Women's Small Grp(CR) Kindergarten Roundup	9 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 8:30 am d. Gerald Bigaouette 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Grp(CR)	10 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 8:30 am d. Mike Fogarty	11 4:15 pm liv.&d. Alphonse Gill Family
12 8:00am d. Brent Meyer 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am For the Parish 9:00am-12 pm KC Pancake Brkfst Take down Christmas Decor after Mass 7:00pm ME meeting (RH)	13	14 6:30 pm d. Rev. Stephen J. Adrian	15 8:30 am d. Tom Sick Ecumenical Lunch-Noon 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class End of 2nd Qtr/ 1st Semester 5-7 pm Women's Small Grp.(CR) 2pm Staff Meeting in RH	16 8:30 pm d. Ambrose Kramer Preschool Open House 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Group(CR)	17 No School Teacher Workshop (OLP Only) 8:30 am d. Eleanor Kramer	18 4:15pm liv.&d. Delores Karnitz Family CUF Treats & Fellowship Following Mass
19 8:00 am d. Susan Flaschenriem 9:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am For the Parish CUF Treats & Fellowship following Masses 2-5:00 pm CCW Wine Tasting (RH)	20 No School Martin Luther King Day	21 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 6:30 pm d. Rev. Stephen J. Adrian	22 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 8:30 am d. Al & Irene Sowden 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class 5-7 pm Women's Small Grp(CR)	23 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 8:30 am Dick Hayden 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Grp. (CR)	24 Father Kaluza Out of Office Father James Devorak presiding 8:30 am d. Susan Flaschenriem	25 4:15 pm CCW Members
26 8:00 am d. David Gerrish 9:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am For the Parish 10:00 am All School Mass 8am-12pm Waffle Breakfast Catholic School Week Jan. 26-31	27 Catholic School Week	28 Catholic School Week 6:30 pm d. Susan Fahey (AOD)	29 Catholic School Week 8:30 am Fred Keup 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class 5-7 pm Women's Small Grp.(CR)	30 Catholic School Week 8:30 pm d. Charles Morgan 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Grp.(CR)	31 Catholic School Week 8:30 am d. Irene Castor	1 4:15 pm d. Dorothy Clingingsmith Feast of St. Blaise (Blessings after Mass) 5:15pm Totus Tuus Sock Hop (RH)
2 8:00 am d. Susan Flaschenriem 9:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am For the Parish Feast of St. Blaise (Blessing after all Masses) Scout Sunday CCW Treats & Fellowship following Masses	3	<i>Notes</i>	Adoration: Every Wednesday 9:00 AM-10:00 PM Sacrament of Confession: Half Hour before mass each day *RH - Roedel Hall Gathering Space) *CGS - Caticesis of the Good Shepherd *TGA - The Great Adventure *PH - Parish Hall *CI - Catechetical Institute ME - Marriage Encounter			

JANUARY OUR CLASSROOM schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
Saint Mary, Blessed Mother			1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Happy New Year!	2 School Resumes NWEA testing through 1/24	3	4	<i>"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!"</i> ST. JOHN PAUL II <i>"Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary." St Bonaventure</i>
5	6 Catholic United Financial Raffle Begins	7	8 2 nd -3 rd grade mass Kindergarten Round Up	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15 5 th -6 th grade mass End of 2 nd Quarter	16 Preschool Open House	17 Teacher Workshop No students (OLP only)	18	
19	20 Martin Luther King Day – School Closed	21	22 2 nd -3 rd grade mass Divine Mercy Teacher/Staff meeting Newsletter due	23	24 Second Quarter/1 st Semester Grades Due	25	
26 All School Mass – 10:00am Waffle Breakfast	27 Catholic Schools Week	28 Catholic Schools Week	29 Catholic Schools Week 5 th -6 th grade mass/Saint of the month Accreditation Meeting	30 Catholic Schools Week	31 2 nd -3 rd grade mass Catholic Schools Week	Updated 12/12/24	





A Note from the Principal . . .

Teresa of Avila, December Saint of the Month, Pray for us.

Kindergarten

Evie Simon best demonstrates the qualities of Saint Theresa of Ávila by showing kindness, a loving heart, and a curious mind. Like Saint Theresa of Avila, who trusted in God and cared for others, **Evie** shares joy with friends, listens to her teachers, and tries her best every day. Through little acts of love, like helping a classmate or using kind words, **Evie** shows the same gentle and caring spirit that made Saint Theresa of Avila so special. With a big smile and a kind heart, **Evie** shines brightly and brings happiness to those around her. ~Miss Schroers

1st-2nd, 3rd Grade

Charli Baltus is the 1st, 2nd, 3rd grade Saint Teresa of Avila saint of the month. One of the strongest attributes of St. Teresa of Avila is her prayer life. **Charli** shows the gift of prayer like St. Teresa of Avila. **Charli** may not show boldness and is often overlooked about kind actions in trying to be like a saint. I have heard **Charli** pray for others and realize she loves and cares for others just like St. Teresa of Avila. **Charli** prays for the less fortunate, sick, and hungry people and does her best work in everything she does. **Charli** works hard at learning lessons taught throughout the day, strives to get good grades, and enjoys learning which is another attribute of St. Teresa of Avila. ~Mrs. Hennen

5th-6th Grade

Among the 5th-6th grade students, the one who most reflects St. Teresa of Avila is **M.J. Kurvers** St. Teresa of Ávila exemplifies deep spirituality, courage, and leadership. **MJ** is a charismatic leader. He is intelligent, and warm, with a natural ability to bring people together. **MJ** is unafraid to challenge norms in the pursuit of truth and continually seeks spiritual guidance through Jesus. Like St. Teresa of Ávila, **MJ** is also a gifted writer. ~Mrs. Moonen

December Service Project - Corporal Work of Mercy - Visit the Lonely

On Wednesday, December 18 OLP PreK-6th grade students performed their Christmas concert for the Kingsway residents spreading much love and joy.

Mrs. Hendricks

I am still on "Cloud 9" after Tuesday evening's musical performances. OLP students know how to work hard and did such a fantastic job! Thanks to all who attended this wonderful event. Have a very blessed and Merry Christmas! Mrs. Gleason



Student Saints

A Word from Father Michael . . .

It's a new year and good time to make some prayer resolutions! Prayer is such an important part of our life, but it can be shelved at times because we think we are so busy. It starts by listening to God. Finding time to listen to God can be a challenge, but it helps us understand where to go. God sometimes speaks to us too through our conscience, and when we make time for silence, or when we find ourselves in nature, or going before the Tabernacle or spending time in Eucharistic Adoration.

We have to summon the courage to trust in God. It sounds easy, but think of Jesus in the Garden: not my will, but your will be done. Sometimes when we listen to God we might (and often are) be challenged. But we need to remember God knows what He is doing, and will continue to be with us as we make that journey by being with us every step of the way, sending down the Spirit to guide us in our journey through life. That's the blessing of prayer.

God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza

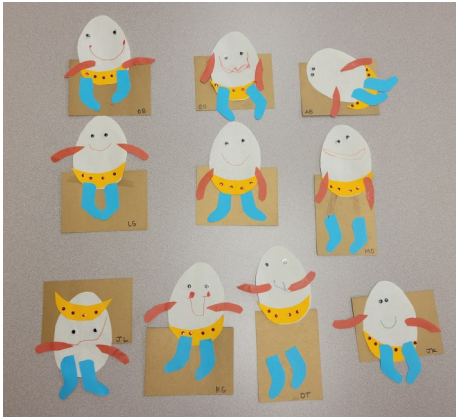
Here's what's happening in the classrooms . . .

Preschool

What a beautiful season of Advent it has been preparing for the birth of Jesus. We have been preparing our hearts by reading and retelling the Christmas story. We lifted our voices to make a joyful noise during our Letter Mm "Music, Music is Everywhere!" theme. We tapped rhythm sticks, shook bells and maracas. Our Letter Nn "We Can Say Nursery Rhymes!" theme was filled with fun. Students assembled a Humpty Dumpty, toothbrush painted This Little Piggy and added sparkles to a twinkling star. There was much laughter as students experimented with rhyming words. Letter Oo "Oh Come All Ye Faithful!" was our final theme of 2024. Students shared "The Best Gift" performing in the annual Christmas Pageant, marble painted "Angel Cards" as a service project and enjoyed the gift of friendship engaging in reindeer games during our classroom Christmas celebration.

Have a safe & wonderful Winter Break!

Mrs. Ross



Kindergarten

The kindergarteners are continuing to build on all of the letter names and sounds skills. We are building words on our pocket chart and blending the sounds to read the words. They are also being introduced to sight words and learning about sentences. In math, our unit is all about two-dimensional shapes and identifying shapes by their sides and corners. The kindergarteners are also drawing, tracing, and searching for shapes all around the classroom. In Catechesis, we are working on Advent including the Annunciation to Mary, the Nativity of the Shepherds, the Visitation, and prophecies in Isaiah. The students have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of Jesus.

God bless and have a very Merry Christmas!

Ms. Schroers



24 HOUR SICK RULE.

If your child misses school or leaves early due to illness, they may return to school when:

- ◆ Temperature has been below 100.4 degrees for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine (such as Tylenol or Motrin).
- ◆ A minimum of 24 hours has passed since last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

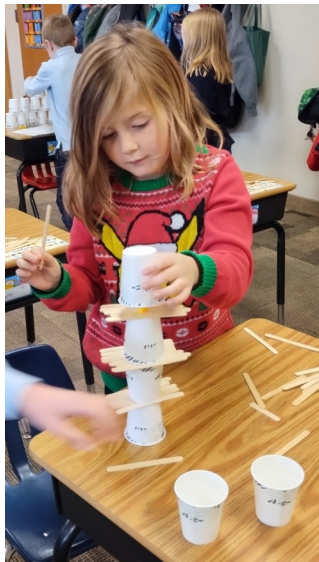
1st/2nd/3rd Grades

Hello Families,

We have had a great start to this busy week! The children are so full of joy and excitement! In our second grade math classes we have been digging into strategies for adding and subtracting two-digit numbers, as well as learning about measuring tools and units of measurement. First grade just ended their measuring chapter and are working on place values of numbers to 120. Third grade is dividing and multiplying through 10. Third grade social studies is studying how our communities have changed through natural disasters and inventions, while the first and second are studying Our Changing Communities then and now. Our science lesson in January will be about Light, Sound, and Communication. Our children are enjoying the Mysteries of the Incarnation: Infancy Narratives and Prophecies. We do a deep dive into the meaning of these passages and it amazes me each week in the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd how much children understand hidden meanings in the scriptures! We are finishing our work on book reports for the month and many students informed me they are working on a book for the next report! The students have become very good friends and enjoy being together.

May you have a wonderful break,

Mrs. Hennen



PhyEd: This month we began our Winter Games unit, where we will play a variety of winter-friendly games that combine fitness and fun whether we are inside or outside. We started with the Q2 fitness test to see if we could improve on our sit-ups, pushups, stretches, jumping jacks and sprints from Q1 – and in almost every instance, yes, we did! We also had some fun with dodgeball, freeze tag, obstacle courses and some Christmas-themed games of tag!

Art: In our K-2 classes, we have been learning about our next famous artist, Leonardo Da Vinci, his most famous portrait Mona Lisa, and many of his other accomplishments. Then we created self-portraits by cutting out life-sized silhouettes, placing them on colorful backgrounds and adding details with oil pastels. Our 3-6 grade global art tour took us to China, where we learned about the ancient tradition of creating porcelain from kaolin clay to form beautiful vases dating back to the Ming dynasty. We then cut and painted beautiful still lifes featuring our own Ming vases. Be sure to check out the students' amazing work featured on the walls when you visit the school!

Have a blessed Christmas!

Mrs. Vandermark

5th/6th Grades

December Highlights: Foxes, Festivities, and Fun!

December has been a month of learning, excitement, and holiday cheer in Mrs. Moonen's 5th/6th grade class. The stars traveled to the Ney Center for an adventure into the world of foxes! We discovered fascinating facts about these clever creatures, from their ability to adapt to various environments to their unique hunting skills. They also learned about the different species of foxes, including the Arctic fox, which thrives in cold climates. In our cooking labs, students continued to explore both physical and chemical reactions. These hands-on lessons not only honed culinary skills but also emphasized teamwork and creativity. In social studies, students took a deep dive into America's Westward Expansion. Through interactive lessons and engaging activities, they explored the challenges and triumphs of pioneers as they moved west, learning about the Gold Rush, cattle drives, and the impact of this era on the development of the United States.

As we wrap up a busy December, we wish everyone a peaceful holiday season and look forward to more exciting adventures in the New Year!

Mrs. Moonen



COLD WEATHER

January is really the beginning of COLD winter weather. Students will be staying in from recess whenever the temperature is 0 degrees or the wind chill is under the 0 mark. Please make sure on those cold days, when we are going outside, that they are prepared for the cold. Also, make sure they don't forget their shoes at home. We love the boots to keep our feet warm but not to be worn all day long.

a dozen reasons

to choose Catholic Schools



NATIONAL REALTY GUILD
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