



# 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

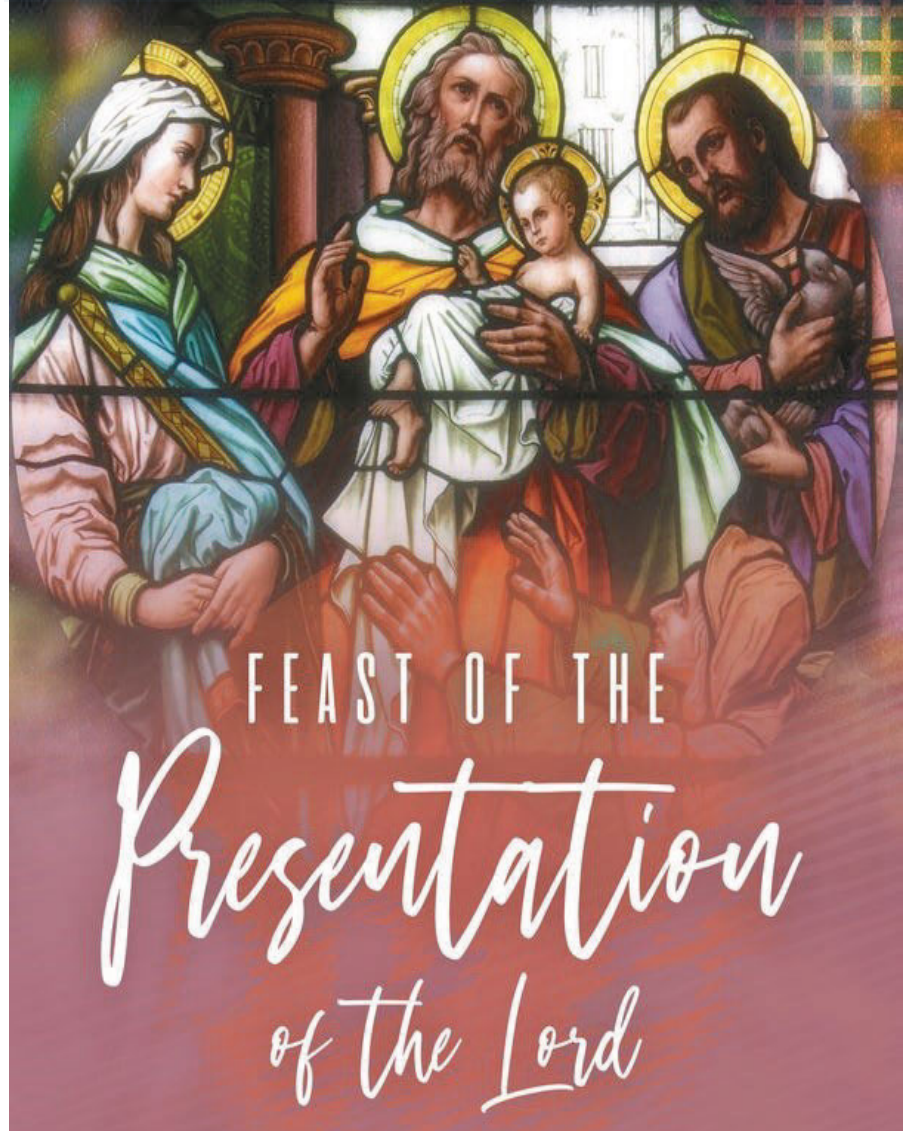
If you would like to post in the bulletin, please send an email to: [bulletineditor@olp.church](mailto:bulletineditor@olp.church) by noon on Monday for the following Sunday. (Holidays may have earlier deadlines)

### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140

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

February 2, 2025



### St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat Today

Perhaps it's an example of divine providence that the **feast of St. Blaise** falls on **Feb. 3** — right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a layperson. During the blessing, the minister takes **two candles that were blessed on the feast of the Presentation** and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness." A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross

## PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

### PASTOR

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mkaluza@olp.church

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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, 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 Presentation of the Lord

This weekend we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, which occurs 40 days following the birth of the Christ Child. As faithful followers of the Lord, Mary and Joseph present the baby in the Temple according to Jewish traditions and make an offering to God for the blessings of the baby. We too have been blessed by God and are called to also acknowledge the wonders that God has done in our lives and give back with our time, talent and treasure. Our offerings acknowledge our gratitude and demonstrate thankfulness and faithfulness.

So much good work has occurred in our parish. I am always grateful for the signs of progress in our parish and the awesome contributions and accomplishments of our parishioners! So many talented and gifted people make awesome things happen! I hope that all of us recognize the important contributions that assist us in our prayer and worship.

Anna and Simeon recognized the magnificence of Jesus in the temple and confirmed that the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel is found with the life of the son of a poor carpenter and his wife. We too are to recognize the fulfillment of those promises and blessings that pour forth from God's lavishness. May we always be ready to contribute to the magnificence of worshipping God and giving back according to the example of our Lord.

God bless you,  
Father Michael Kaluza



Our Lady of the Prairie  
welcomes our new parishioners

**Ann Bigaouette**

**Marilyn Sexton**

**Michael and Anastazia Junge**

Neil & Scarlette

**Harry and Allison McNeil**

Conor & Davina

**Jason and Beth Wadsley**

Landon & Owen

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

## Prayer Requests

Bud Steen  
Bob Koenig  
Matt Hennen  
Deacon Bob Raleigh  
Ron (Franny) Gerres  
Mona Bentfield

Rajen Sidhu  
Dave Buesgens  
Elmer Lambrecht  
Lisa Pobuda  
Cheri Brennhofer  
Maureen Millard

Mike Duffy  
Louis Wawrzyniak  
Betty Wolf  
TC Fogarty  
Megan Chard

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.



**On Sale NOW thru Mar 2**

WIN a 2025 Chevy Trax SUV, or \$20,000 in cash.

Purchase your \$10 ticket from a student, or stop into the Parish Office.

Every Dollar Sold Stays At Our Lady of the Prairie School!

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



Troop 324

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**  
**8am-noon**

Free will donation

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**148 S Chestnut St, Belle Plaine, MN 56011**



**COLLECTIONS**

Weekly Collection Goal: \$8,344.00

Date	Amount	Deficit/Surplus
01/26/2025	\$5,827	(-) \$2,517
Maintenance Fund	\$1,370	

**ATTENDANCE**

Saturday, 1/25	4:15 pm	221
Sunday, 1/26	8:00 am	155
	10:00 am	229
Livestreamed		49

Total Registered Active Families ..... 512  
Total Registered Active Members ..... 1,301

**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.

Saint Paul & Minnesota  
Archdiocesan Council of  
CATHOLIC WOMEN

## Leadership Day

Saturday, March 1, 2025

8:30 Registration/Refreshments  
11:45 Closing Mass  
Purse Drawing and vendors -bring cash!  
Lumen Christi Catholic Church  
2055 Bohland Ave  
St. Paul, MN

### Roots in Leadership & Growing your CCW

\$25.00 before 2-20-25  
\$30.00 after 2-20-25

Mail to:  
ACCW  
777 Forest St.  
St. Paul, MN 55106

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**register online: [www.archspm.org/accwlead2025](http://www.archspm.org/accwlead2025)**

Call the office or email for more information  
[accw@archspm.org](mailto:accw@archspm.org) 651.291.4545

## MASS OF ANOINTING

Saturday,  
Feb. 15th  
at 11:00 a.m.

All are invited to attend  
Mass and receive the  
special blessings of this  
Sacrament.

A fabulous brunch  
will be provided by:  
Council  
of  
Catholic Women  
in the Parish Hall  
following Mass.



### Mass Intentions

**Weekend Openings**  
beginning in August, 2025

**Weekday Openings**  
Beginning in April, 2025

**Stop by the Parish Office to schedule.**



#### IN CHRIST WE LIVE FOREVER

Please remember in your prayers

**Stanley Joseph Effertz**

We extend our sincere sympathy to his families, friends, and loved ones, and pray for his eternal peace.

#### Prayer for Deceased Souls

God Our Father, Your power brings us to birth; Your providence guides our lives, and by Your command, we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence; their lives change but do not end.

I pray in hope for my family, relatives, and friends, and for all the deceased known to You alone.

In company with Christ, Who died and now lives, may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away.

Unite us together again in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever. Amen.

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



Ladies, you are invited to the 10th annual WINE: Catholic Women's Conference at St. Bartholomew in Wayzata, "Laboring Joyfully~A Decade in the Vineyard," on **Saturday, March 1, 2025.**

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Mass, the conference includes inspirational talks, faith-filled entertainment, opportunities for confession, adoration, shopping, and prayer with a prayer team, along with tons of laughter, a fabulous lunch, more shopping, CHOCOLATE, and a fun raffle.

An optional fantastic evening, "Gathering in the Vineyard," on **Friday, February 28,** will bring together women passionate about living out the New Evangelization. (Space is limited.)

Invite a friend or three and register today at **Early Bird pricing ends Feb. 12, 2025.** Special pricing for religious, consecrated women, and students. For more information, visit [CatholicVineyard.com](http://CatholicVineyard.com).



**Scan here to donate to the 2025 Catholic Services Appeal**



**Or visit [love.archspm.org](http://love.archspm.org)**

For questions please call 651-291-4540

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Monday, February 3

### Tuesday, February 4

Father Kaluza out of Office  
 Father James Devorak Presiding  
 3:30-5:00 pm Parent Teacher Conferences (PreK - 6th Grades)  
 6:30 pm Mass  
 7:00 pm KC Meeting in Parish Hall  
 7:00 pm CCW Meeting in Roedel Hall

### Wednesday, February 5

Father Kaluza out of office  
 Father James Devorak presiding  
 8:30 am Mass  
 5:00-7:00 pm Women's Small Group in Conf Rm  
 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class

### Thursday, February 6

Father Kaluza out of Office  
 Father James Devorak Presiding  
 8:30 am Mass  
 3:30-5:00 pm Parent Teacher Conferences (PreK & Grades 1-3)  
 6:30-7:30 pm Men's Small Group in Conf Rm

### Friday, February 7

Father Kaluza out of Office  
 Father James Devorak Presiding  
 8:30 am Mass

### Saturday, February 8

4:15 pm Mass

### Sunday, February 9 World Marriage Day

8:00 am Mass  
 9:00 am Choir Practice  
 10:00 am Mass  
 Treats & Fellowship following Masses  
 hosted by Marriage Encounter  
 7:00 pm Marriage Encounter Meeting in Roedel  
 Hall

### Saturday, February 8, 4:15 pm

Greeters: Volunteers  
 Lector: Joe Shimota  
 EMHC: Keith Heitkamp, Sue Schultz,  
 Joe Shimota, Volunteer  
 Ushers: Jim Fogarty, Joe Hartmann,  
 Scott Williams, Chris Weldon  
 Servers: Eli Williams, Volunteer  
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers

### Sunday, February 9, 8:00 am

Greeters: Tom & Pam Cates  
 Lector: Sheila Hendricks  
 EMHC: Sheila Hendricks, Rita Halquist,  
 John Watzl, Volunteer  
 Ushers: Calvin Hartman, Mark Hartman,  
 Volunteers (2)  
 Servers: Luke Hennen, Henry Hennen, Peter Hennen  
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers

### Sunday, February 9, 10:00 am World Marriage Day

Greeters: Joe & Kristen Lajeunesse  
 Lector: Marriage Encounter Couple  
 EMHC: Marriage Encounter Members (4)  
 Ushers: Marriage Encounter Members (4)  
 Servers: Marriage Encounter Members (4)  
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers  
 EMHC: Janice Teal (Kingsway)  
 Lisa Schatz (The Lutheran Home)

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 3 Feb	† No Mass
Tue 4 Feb 6:30 pm	† CCW Members
Wed 5 Feb 8:30 am	† d. Richard Beach
Thur 6 Feb 8:30 am	† d. Robert (Bob) Bigaouette
Fri 7 Feb 8:30 am	† d. Martin & Helen Schulte
Sat 8 Feb 4:15 pm	† d. Dorothy Clingingsmith
Sun 9 Feb 8:00 am	† For the Parish
10:00 am	† Lajeunesse & Shannon Families

## READINGS

### Readings for the week of February 2, 2025

**Sunday:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
**Monday:** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13  
**Friday:** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29  
**Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-3



### A Note from the Principal . . .

**Saint Mary Blessed Heavenly Mother**, Pray for us.

#### 1st-2nd, 3rd Grade

**Paisley Scheff** is the Saint Mary Blessed Mother student of the Month in Mrs. Hennen’s 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. **Paisley**, like our Saint Mary Blessed Mother, has love for the Lord, and a lively faithful sweetness and is quick to help others with compassion and kindness. **Paisley** will offer up her place in line for someone else. **Paisley’s** kind soul reaches out to support others around her with kind words and actions. Mrs. Hennen has seen **Paisley** give a sad class member a hug because she thought the other person needed comforting. **Paisley** has given her own colored pencil or crayon to someone else that couldn’t find theirs and has given away sticker rewards from the library to others to cheer them up. **Paisley** responds immediately to anyone who is hurt, lonely, sad or any other discomfort with kindness and a gentle voice to lift the spirits of everyone. **Paisley** truly wants others to be happy, and has a warm heart to offer during the school day and the best smile to bring happiness. ~Mrs. Hennen



Student Saints

#### 5th-6th Grade

**Liam Gleason** is the Saint Mary Blessed Mother student of the Month for Ms. Moonen’s 5th/6th grade class exemplifies the virtues of humility, love, and loyalty. **Liam** is a brilliant student who, much like Mary, sometimes struggles to fully recognize the extent of his remarkable gifts. Despite this, **Liam** carries a deep affection for his school community and family, always prioritizing their well-being in his actions. In the classroom, **Liam** serves as both a student and a quiet leader. **Liam’s** humility shines through in his conduct—never boastful or seeking recognition for his advanced academic achievements. Instead, **Liam** uses his knowledge as a tool for service, eagerly sharing it with his classmates, his teacher, and the other teachers.

**Liam’s** presence reminds us of the importance of using our talents for the greater good. Like Saint Mary, **Liam** is ahead of his time. His actions inspire those around him to approach learning with generosity and cooperation. **Liam** embodies the qualities of a true servant-leader. ~Mrs. Moonen

### January Service Project - Corporal Work of Mercy - Shelter the Homeless

OLP PreK-6th grade students will make Tie Blankets to bring to those in need warmth, love and joy.



### Student Spotlight

*We are excited to introduce our visiting student from Panamá . . .*

Juan David is 9 years old. He is finishing third grade. He is an enthusiastic sweet boy with a beautiful heart who loves his family. He is friendly and cares about others. He wants to make friends and learn English.

Panamá classes calendar is different from here. The classes start in March and finish in December. Right now it is summer in Panamá.

Welcome Juan David!



### 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

We began the new year with an **"Arctic Adventure" theme**. Students identified where penguins and polar bears live on a world map. STEM activities focused on what the animals look like, how they move and what they eat. We compared "winter weather vs. arctic weather". Students matched up mittens and identified snowmen dressed in winter gear. Next was our **"Quiet, The Animals Are Sleeping" Hibernation theme**. This seasonal theme introduced us to a variety of animals that hibernate. We compared how people vs. animals prepare for Winter. We discussed the importance of the healthy habit "sleep". Our Bible Story was Matthew 2:1-12 The wise men visit Jesus. Then we enjoyed **"When We See a Rainbow" Color theme** we focused on primary and secondary color recognition. Students recalled and retold the story of Noah's Ark. Our STEM activities focused on how rainbows are created. Students engaged in a Noah's Ark matching game, a color sort, a game of School bingo and weather lacing cards. We will finish the month with a **"Snow & Ice Are Nice!"** theme and so many special events for Catholic Schools Week. Stay Warm, Mrs. Ross



Kindergarten Roundup

## Kindergarten

January has been a month filled with exciting learning and lots of growth in our kindergarten classroom. We kicked off the month with a fun and hands-on math unit focused on three-dimensional shapes, where students explored cubes, spheres, rectangular prisms, cones, and more. They loved identifying shapes in the world around them and learning how to describe their features.

In Believe and Read, we've been working hard to master new consonant and short vowel sounds, and practicing reading and spelling CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. We've also focused on sentence structure, and identifying new sight words.

In Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, we will soon begin our study of parables. These simple yet profound stories will help the students understand deep spiritual truths in a way that is meaningful to their young hearts.

Our sensory table has been transformed into a cozy hot chocolate shop this month, where students have been using their imagination as well as following recipes to create delicious hot chocolate drinks for "customers" using pretend materials to measure ingredients and follow directions.

We are looking forward to even more fun and learning in February!

God Bless, Ms. Schroers



## 1st/2nd/3rd Grades

Hello Families,

It seems as though Christmas break was some time ago! The class and I jumped right back into routine. We are having fun investigating sound and vibrations in our Mystery Science. Students are very engaged with learning about the past in our Social Studies. Third grade digs a little deeper into ancient history of Egypt, Rome, China, and Mali, and people who made history like Sylvia Earle and Martin Luther King Jr.

In Math for third grade we are practicing Division and Multiplication. Second graders are working on place value to one thousand. First grade is learning to add tens and ones to 20. First grade is tackling long and short vowel words and doing amazing at reading and spelling these words. Second grade just finished reading and spelling soft c/g sounds and now working on syllable dividing of soft c/g words with more than one syllable. Third graders are working on a book study of St. Mother Teresa with the fifth and sixth graders. We are learning about prepositions in our Believe and Read curriculum.

Our Religion lessons correlate well from first grade through third. First grade is learning about Jesus Sends The Holy Spirit, second grade just finished how the Holy Spirit guided the people in the Old and New Testament and now starting to learn the Ten Commandments, and third graders title this week is The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Have a Blessed Week,

Mrs. Hennen



January found **Mrs. Moonen's 5th/6th Grade Stars** studying snow at the Ney Center. Although the weather was uncooperative—true to Minnesota fashion—with cold temperatures but no snow, we still learned fascinating facts about snow and built snowless shelters. Also in science, we're diving into Newton's laws of motion. Can you guess who created the safest egg drop?

In Social Studies, Reading, and Religion, we continue to employ a cross-disciplinary approach, weaving the subjects together. Stop by our class to hear about our saint projects, Mother Teresa, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the transcontinental railroad. We've been honing our skills in annotating texts and constructing complex sentences and paragraphs. Furthermore, we've put these skills to use reporting and dissecting our subjects for a firm understanding of how this connects to our individual and church lives.

In math, the Stars are mastering fraction reduction and multi-digit division. We've transitioned from primarily using iPads to working more from textbooks—a move reflected in our improved NWEA scores.

As we head into "Freezy February," we're having meaningful discussions about our faith and what God calls us to do. It's a privilege to openly discuss loving each other and serving our neighbors.

We're excited for all the learning and growth ahead as we continue to challenge ourselves academically and spiritually. Here's to a fantastic February filled with discovery, connection, and faith! Mrs. Moonen

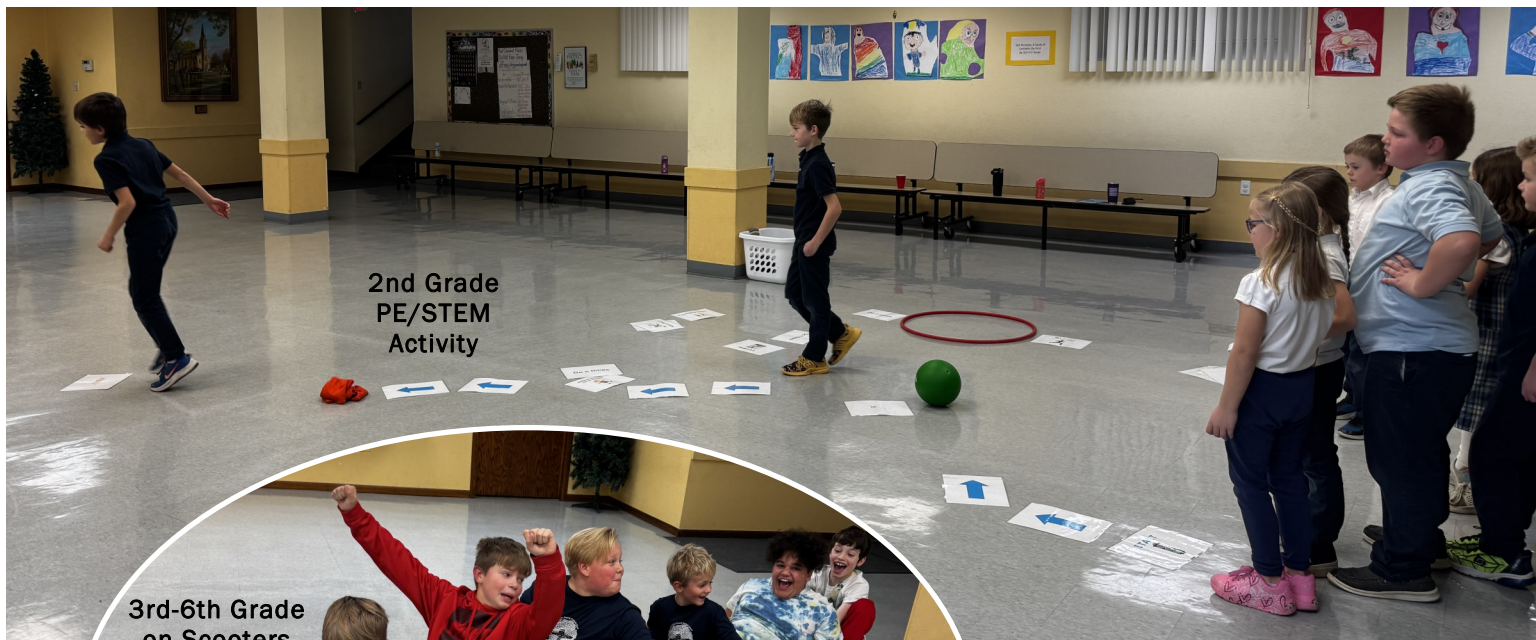
**PhyEd:** This month we've mixed it up with a wide variety of fun indoor activities, including bowling and the long-time gym favorite - scooters! We also tried a PE/STEM crossover that combines physical activity with the concept of using simple code to program robots to move. Rumor has it that robots are a big hit in STEM, so it was fun to see them translate that into creating a program for their classmates to execute a number of movements and exercises following the commands!

**Art:** In our K-2 classes, our next Famous Artist is Louise Nevelson, a pioneer in the art world who is known for assemblage art. She placed found objects in crates and arranged them to create large-scale monochromatic sculptures. We discussed how using a single color unifies the materials, which are chosen based on shape and texture rather than function. Our students filled craft stick boxes of their own with found objects, and their monochromatic crates will be installed together to create a collaborative art piece.

Our next stop on the 3-6 grade global art tour was to Russia, where we discussed the surprisingly new tradition of Russian nesting or Matryoshka dolls (first created in 1890). From the traditional "babushka" (scarf) wearing women to pop culture icons, we discussed the wide range of themes that these dolls can have. Students created paper nesting dolls based on a theme of their choice and as a special treat will be painting real wooden sets with their designs.

Our December and January art will be on display for Grandparents and Special Persons day during Catholic Schools Week so be sure to check them out!

Blessings, Mrs. Vandermark



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 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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