



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

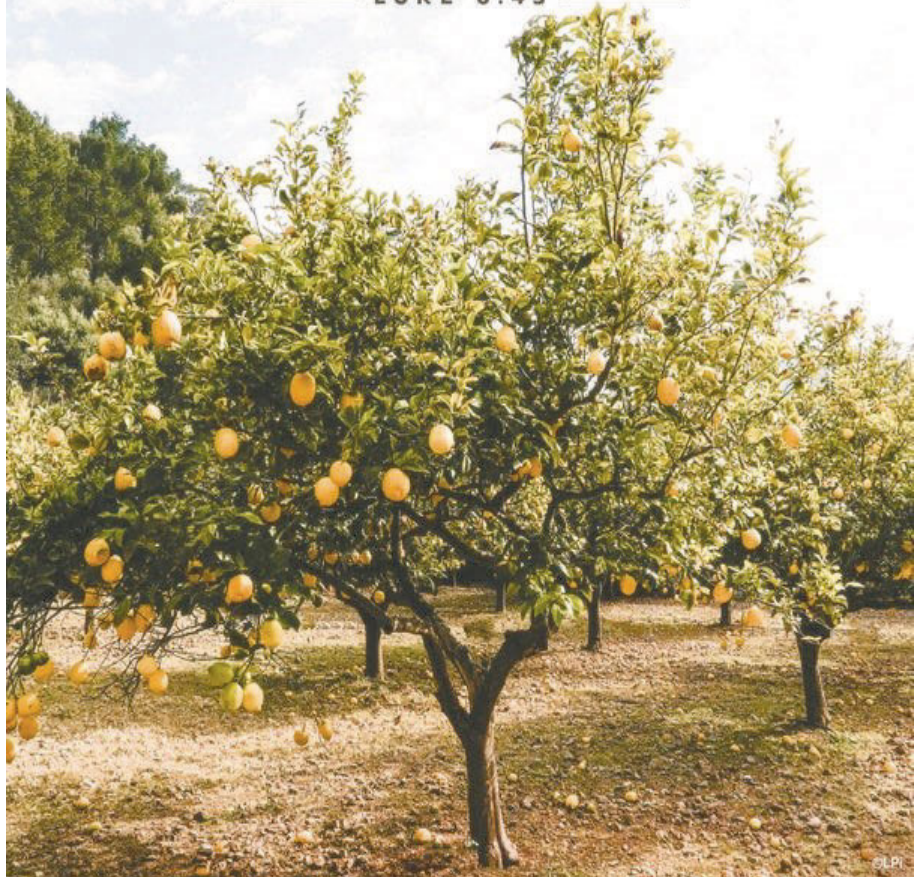
200 East Church Street
Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011
952-873-6564
www.ourladyoftheprairie.com

March 2, 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A GOOD
TREE DOES NOT
BEAR ROTTEN FRUIT.

LUKE 6:43



PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
mkaluza@olp.church

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Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

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DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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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 . . .

This final weekend before the start of Lent the Scriptures help us to review our own lives and find places that need to be re-evaluated and re-ordered. We have the privilege to start fresh and begin anew. I hope that you will take advantage of the many graces of the holy season and participate fully in all the liturgical offerings. Be sure to make attending stations of the cross a regular family practice. They are offered each Friday at 9 a.m. for the school and 6:30 p.m. You can even go twice each Friday!

I also hope you will take part in our Fish Dinners! They are good ways for us to share time and food together to build community. The Knights of Columbus are planning four Friday dinners. Let's be sure that we embrace our fellow parishioners and take time to introduce ourselves and make the effort to meet new people. Being a parish means knowing one another, sharing one another's good times and sorrows. We demonstrate our Christianity by the actions of our lives. The apostles formed a community around Christ and our parish also needs to be a visible community!

Integrity, credibility and authenticity are at the heart of the Scripture readings this weekend. The wise words remind us that our actions should match our speech and that people will notice what we do much more than listen to what we say. With God it is never too late to start over and make the changes necessary to improving relationships with God and one another.

God bless you,
Father Michael Kaluza



COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE



March 19, 2025

6:30 pm

Several priests will be available to hear confessions.



Prayer Requests

Bud Steen	Elmer Lambrecht	Megan Chard
Bob Koenig	Lisa Pobuda	Don Morrison
Matt Hennen	Cheri Brennhofer	Chuck Kroells
Deacon Bob Raleigh	Maureen Millard	Annette Mann
Ron (Franny) Gerres	Mike Duffy	Laurie Fogarty
Mona Bentfield	Louis Wawrzyniak	Lisa Korba
Rajen Sidhu	Betty Wolf	
Chad Feltmann	TC Fogarty	

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.




Last chance to purchase is this weekend.

WIN a 2025 Chevy Trax SUV, or \$20,000 in cash.
Purchase your \$10 ticket from a student.

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



Our Lady of the Prairie welcomes our new Parishioner.
Carson Chapman
Please make him feel at home in his new parish community.




Lenten Fish Dinners

<p>Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church 200 East Church St. Belle Plaine, MN</p> <p><u>March</u> 21, 28</p> <p><u>April</u> 4, 11</p> <p>Free will donation.</p> <p>Proceeds will go towards the Special Olympics.</p>	<p>Menu</p> <p>Salad</p> <p>Dinner Roll</p> <p>Baked Fish (breaded & unbreaded)</p> <p>Au-Gratin Potatoes</p> <p>Dessert</p> <p>Coffee</p>
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Serving: 4:30 - 6:30 pm | Take out available



COLLECTIONS

Weekly Collection Goal: \$8,344.00

Date	Amount	Deficit/Surplus
02/23/2025	\$6,711.60	(-) \$1,632.40
Cemetery Fund	\$1,244.00	

ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 2/22	4:15 pm	199
Sunday, 2/23	8:00 am	158
	10:00 am	187
Livestreamed		24

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.



GREETERS NEEDED

If you have a desire to create an environment where people arriving for Mass feel wanted and comfortable, this ministry might be a good fit for you!

Hospitality ministers enjoy a scheduled rotation and are asked to arrive 30 minutes before Mass. If you are interested, please email: Joan Brueggemeier joanmbrue@gmail.com



Jessenland Irish BINGO

Sunday, March 16th, 2025
2:00 pm

Scenic Escape Barn
25628 337th Lane,
Henderson, MN 56044

\$15 at the Door – 15 Games of BINGO



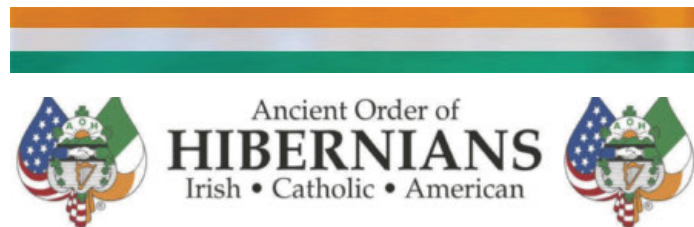
Cash Prizes
Raffle and Silent Auction
Lunch to Follow



Proceeds go to the 501c3 non-profit group Friends of Jessenland in support of the Jessenland Historical and Cultural Center.



IRISH MASS
 Saturday, March 15th
 12:00 Noon
 - followed by -
 parade, program & festivities
Metro Bagpipers playing all day!



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
 Irish • Catholic • American



The Ancient Order of Hibernians are hosting the
Legacy Celtic Band
Rince na Chroí Irish Dancers Club
Saturday, March 15
 at the Vet's club. Free event. Starting at 1:30 pm.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternal organization. Members must be male, Catholic, and either born in Ireland or of Irish descent.



Giving is Faith in Action

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

The Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is an annual campaign to empower local ministries to educate in faith, help those in need, strengthen in faith, and protect life.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift that will impact the lives of people throughout the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis.




CRS RICE BOWL
 CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program for families and faith communities in the United States who want to bring **Lent to life**.

Your donation to CRS Rice Bowl helps provide lifesaving support to more than 200 million people in more than 120 countries. But did you know your support also helps your local diocese?

Twenty-five percent of every donation stays in your community to fight hunger and poverty, while 75% supports Catholic Relief Services programming around the world.

Pick up a rice bowl from the back of the church for your family!



Visit the CRS Rice Bowl website to learn more.



A Christian nonprofit medical clinic in the Twin Cities metro area empowering women to choose life by providing physical, spiritual, and emotional support.

We will be collecting baby items for **Alpha Women's Center** during the season of Lent. **Items can be placed in the wooden cradle in the back of church.**

Highest needs:

- diapers (newborn, 6 and 7)
- Pull-Ups - all sizes (no adult diapers)
- baby wipes
- baby shampoo, lotion, diaper cream
- Phillips Avent bottles
- bottle brushes
- baby thermometer
- baby nail clippers
- Dreft laundry detergent
- gift cards (Cub, Wal-Mart, gas)
- baby boy clothing--newborn to 3 months (onesies, socks, outfits, sleepers)
- baby girl clothing--newborn to 3 months (onesies, socks, outfits, sleepers)
- boy or girl (neutral) clothing- newborn to 6 mos (onesies, socks, hats, outfits, sleepers)
- baby blankets
- swaddles
- burp cloths
- pacifiers
- wash cloths
- hooded towels
- bunting bag or fleece suit for winter
- baby books/toys



Please keep this list and watch future bulletins for more info.

Thank you and God bless you for helping moms and their babies!



Free Bus Ride to St. Paul

Monday, March 17th, 2025

7:45am Bus pick-up at Our Lady of the Prairie church parking lot.

8:15am Bus Pick-up at St. Mary's Church parking lot in Shakopee

9:30am St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul

12:00pm St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown St. Paul

2:30pm Departure

Sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Shamrock Division



Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

following 8:30 am Mass

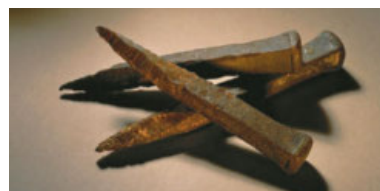
and

at 6:30 pm

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11

Good Friday (April 18) at 3:00 pm



Mass Intentions

Weekend Openings beginning in August, 2025

Weekday Openings beginning in April, 2025

Limit six requests

Stop by the Parish Office to schedule.

Fun with Wine

The Council of Catholic Women invites all women to celebrate

Laetare Sunday

Which derives its name from Isaiah 66:10, the opening antiphon for the day.

"Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all who love her; Rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her."

March 30th, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

in Roedel Hall

RSVP to Maureen Daly: (952) 687-1501



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 03

Tuesday, March 04

6:30 pm Mass at OLP
7:00pm Decorate for Lent after 6:30pm Mass

Wednesday, March 05 Ash Wednesday

8:30 am Mass
6:20 pm Religious Education
6:30 pm Mass



Thursday, March 06

8:30 am Mass
6:30-7:30 pm Men's Small Group in Conf Rm

Friday, March 07

8:30 am Mass
9:00 am Stations of the Cross
6:30 pm Stations of the Cross



Saturday, March 08

4:15 pm Mass

Sunday, March 09 Daylight Savings Time

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, March 08, 4:15 pm

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

Sunday, March 09, 8:00 am

Greeters: Bob & Dorene Smith
Lector: James Fogarty
EMHC: Sheila Hendricks, Rita Halquist, John Watzl, Volunteer
Ushers: Dr. Tim Halloran, Tim Murphy, Volunteer, Volunteer
Servers: Luke Hennen, Henry Hennen, Peter Hennen
Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, March 09, 10:00 am

Greeters: Jim Covington / Mike Buchanan
Lector: Sheila Schmitz
EMHC: Paula Covington, Hannah Wermerskirchen, Jim Covington, Nora Wermerskirchen
Ushers: Caleb Wermerskirchen, Ben Covington, Max Wermerskirchen, Peter Feddersen
Servers: Kenzie Berger, Mason Berger
Gift Bearers: Volunteers
EMHC: Janice Teal (Kingsway), Lisa Schatz (The Lutheran Home)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	03	Mar	†	No Mass
Tue	04	Mar	6:30 pm	† d. Msgr. John Richter
Wed	05	Mar	8:30 am	† d. Jim Hall
		Mar	6:30 pm	† d. Mark & Toy Huber
Thu	06	Mar	8:30 am	† d. Irene Castor
Fri	07	Mar	8:30 am	† d. Mike Fogarty
Sat	08	Mar	4:15 pm	† For the Parish
Sun	09	Mar	8:00 am	† CCW Members
			10:00 am	† d. Irene Castor

READINGS

Readings for the week of March 2, 2025

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45
Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

CAR WASH



Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash Order Your Card through OLP

Makes a great gift for any occasion.
Keep on hand & always have a great gift ready!

For \$36 you can purchase a Kwik Trip card preloaded with 5 "Ultimate Car Washes" (a \$50 value)!

Complete this form and return it to the OLP Parish Office with your check (payable to Our Lady of the Prairie).

Place your order by March 19, 2025.

Pick up the cards in the office after March 25th, 2025.

Includes*:

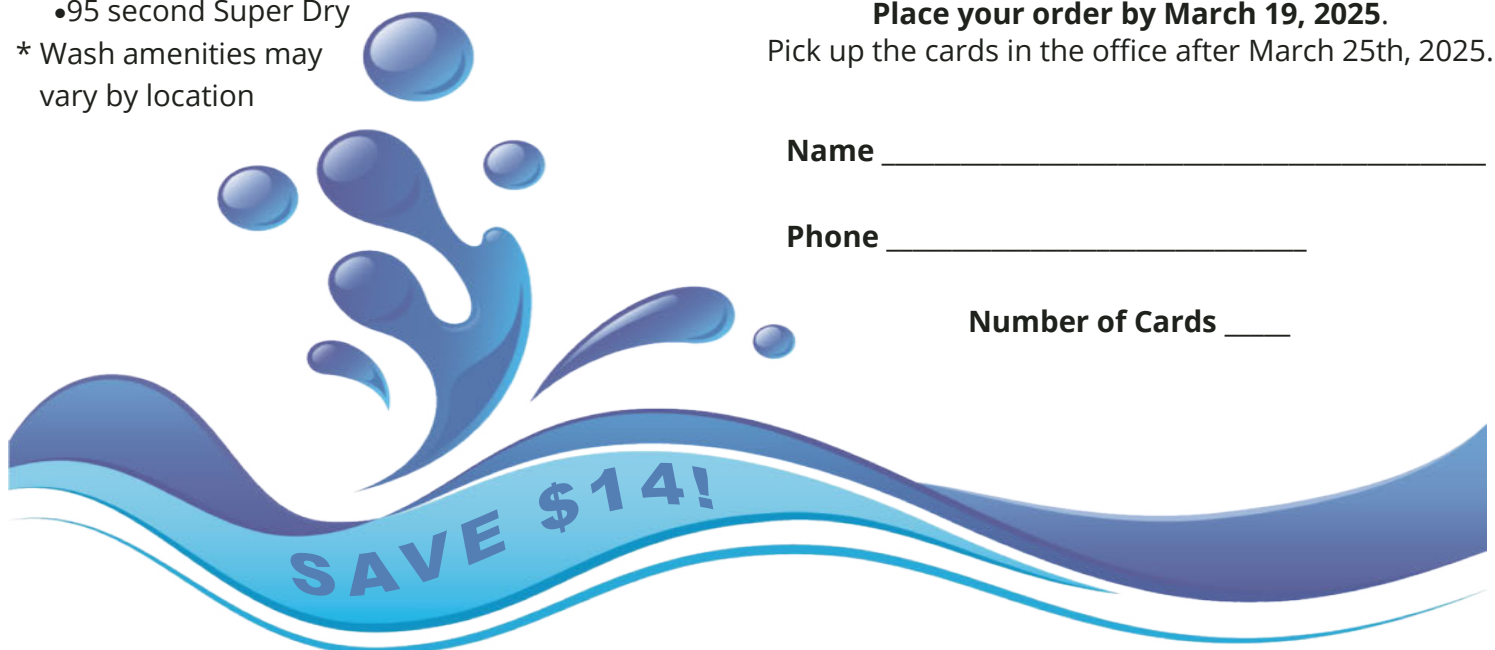
- Under Carriage Flush
- Presoak
- High Pressure Wash or soft Foam Wash
- Triple Shine Enhancer/Cleaner
- Spot Free Rinse
- 95 second Super Dry

* Wash amenities may vary by location

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of Cards _____





O.L.P. School News

& CLASSROOM REPORT

200 East Church Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

FEBRUARY, 2025

A Note from the Principal . . .

Saint Scholastica, Pray for us.

Kindergarten The Saint Scholastica student of the month in Ms. Schroers classroom is **Eddie Koehn**.

Like Saint Scholastica, who devoted herself to learning and faith, **Eddie Koehn** shows an appreciation for growing in knowledge and faith at school. **Eddie's** curiosity and eagerness to learn are evident in the way he listens, participates, and seeks to understand more about God both in the Atrium and our classroom lessons.

Eddie also demonstrates love in small but meaningful ways. He notices when a friend is feeling down and offers help. **Eddie** has shown kindness through simple gestures like lending his art supplies or sharing a smile. These small acts of love reflect the compassion and care that Saint Scholastica modeled.

Saints did not live easy lives—they faced challenges, made mistakes, and had to persevere. In the same way, **Eddie** understands that mistakes are part of life and valuable opportunities for growth. Rather than becoming discouraged, **Eddie** learns from them, becoming stronger and better each time. Challenges make us stronger and success often comes from trying again and again. **Eddie's** dedication to growing in faith and facing challenges with courage make him a true reflection of the spirit of Saint Scholastica. ~Miss Schroers



Student Saints

1st-2nd, 3rd Grade February's Saint of the month in Mrs. Hennen's room is **Elyse Elliot**.

Elyse is a reflection of St. Scholastica by her quietness. **Elyse** works hard each day doing her very best. **Elyse** is calm and does not interrupt. **Elyse** has a gentle voice toward others. If **Elyse** doesn't have something important to say, she is quietly listening. **Elyse** tries to be fair and friendly to everyone. ~Mrs. Hennen

CONGRATULATIONS

Patriotic Youth Award - Congratulations to **Charlie Baltus** (2nd place) and **Kora Krautkramer** (3rd place) in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Patriotic Youth contest on your artwork titled: My Beautiful America.

Saintly Service Halo Award - Congratulations to **Carolyn Gleason** winning the St. Therese of Lisieux award by honoring the ordinary little things. "Carolyn does a wonderful job teaching our kids about God's music. On the third Thursday of each month, she leads the school in the Divine Mercy Chaplet, singing it beautifully. The students love it, and her voice adds a special touch to this meaningful experience" (OLP Parent, Catholic Schools Center of Excellence).

WE  OUR
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February Service Projects

	Date: Monday, 3.10.2025
	Time: TBD
	Place: Roedel Hall



A Word from Father Michael . . .

A while back in an address to the Congregation for Catholic Education Pope Francis, addressed the seriousness and importance of Catholic education: "Catholic education is one of the most important challenges for the Church, currently committed to new evangelization in an historical and cultural context that is undergoing constant transformation", remarked the Holy Father.

He went on to re-iterate the purpose of Catholic education: "With full respect for the freedom of each person and using the methods appropriate to the scholastic environment, the Christian belief, that is, to present Jesus Christ as the meaning of life, the cosmos and history." With that focus, we can better understand all the disciplines as we uncover knowledge and make it useful for our lives. We can only become sons and daughters of a loving God when we realize our origin and look to our destiny. Education allows us to flourish as human beings and makes us active participants in sharing God with the world.

God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza

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

Preschool

February is a sweet month in preschool. February 3rd -7th, 2025 Letter Uu "Uniquely You!" Human Body and Dental Health theme. Students enjoyed a variety of stories that emphasized the things that make us unique and things that we all have in common as Children of God. Our Bible story was "The Last Supper" and the Smartboard taught us how to make unleavened bread. February 10th -14th Letter Vv "Always More Love" a Valentine's Day theme reminded us of God's love for us. Students learned about St. Valentine. Classmates shared valentines and a sweet treat during our classroom celebration. February is "I Love to Read" month, and we have invited some *special guest readers* to visit our classroom. It is also Dental Health month, and our students are *logging tooth brushing* before school and at bedtime for a surprise. We will zoom thru a short week due to weather with our Letter Ww "Wheels on the Go!" transportation theme and finish with Letter "Xx" Extraordinary People of the Bible" theme. Always something FUN happening in preschool! Mrs. Ross



Kindergarten

This month in kindergarten, we celebrated the 100th day of school! Each day, we keep track of how many days we've been in school by counting by tens and ones. The 100th day has been a milestone we've eagerly anticipated for many months! To mark the occasion, we had a special classroom celebration filled with fun activities including painting 100, counting to 100 games and songs, and 100 exercise challenges. We also celebrated Saint Valentine's Day, reflecting on his beautiful example of love and sacrifice. Our classroom has been filled with heart-themed projects, brightening up our space and adding to the joyful spirit of the month. In Believe and Read, we are working on consonant and short vowel sounds. We are also learning about sight words and practicing spelling and reading consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words. In math, our focus has



been on the position and location of objects. We have been exploring ways to describe where objects are located in real life—above, below, next to, in front of, behind, left and right. In Catechesis, we have begun exploring the parables of Jesus, including the Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Precious Pearl. It is a gift to ponder these stories and reflect on the beauty of the Kingdom of God.

We are looking forward to all the learning and growth ahead! God Bless, Ms. Schroers



1st/2nd/3rd Grades

First, second, and third graders have been busy this month with our Mystery Science lessons about Light, Sound, and Vibrations. We made black out boxes to see if we can read in the dark. We made translucent tissue art and investigated vibration.

Students participate in great discussions with Dr. Hendricks on the Mass readings when it is our turn to read at Mass. We continue pondering parables presentations in the atrium (our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd). In our math studies first grade is working on adding and

subtracting through 20. Second grade is adding 3-digit numbers with regrouping. Third grade students will be wrapping up on fractions.

Third grade is enjoying learning about Fighting for Freedom, which involves learning a little bit about the Revolutionary War. Third grade also has a state report they are working on in the classroom. Second and first grade started a unit on People of the Past. Always learning, always fun! Blessings, Mrs. Hennen

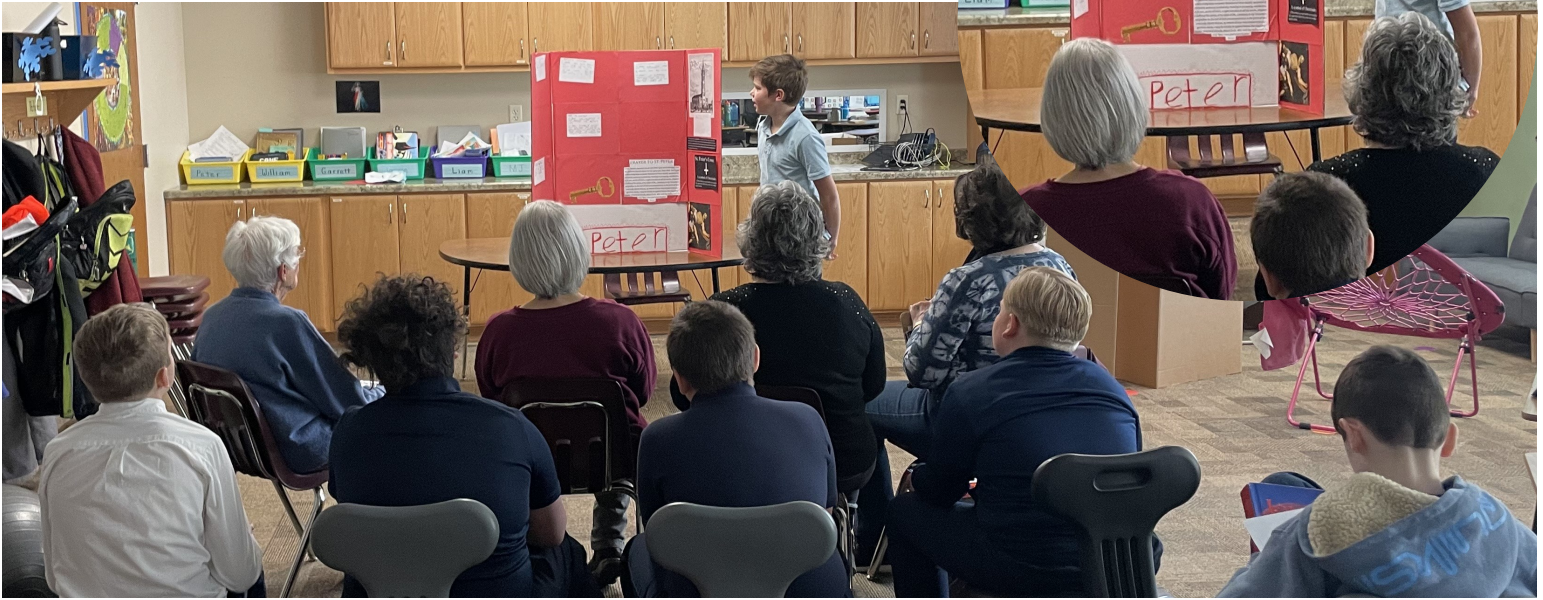
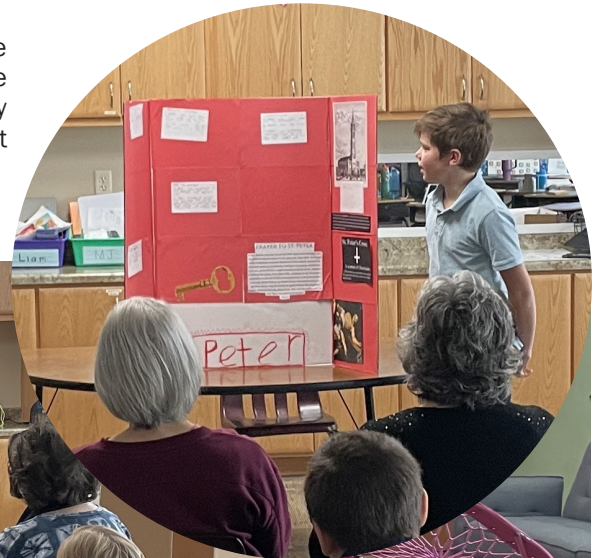
5th/6th Grade

Mrs. Moonen's Stars have been shining for over 100 days! February was filled with exciting learning opportunities.

In **math**, students explored fractions and decimals, while in **science**, we investigated our natural environment and learned fascinating facts about crows. Our **reading units** focused on both informational texts and fantasy, encouraging students to connect with characters and expand their imaginations. In **social studies**, we examined how new industries influenced immigration and helped shape our nation.

As always, we weave Christ's presence into all our lessons. While we love expanding our minds, we remain mindful of nurturing our souls. This month, we participated in a **service project** to spread hope and share God's love with military personnel. We also entered **essay and poetry contests** and researched different saints, making connections between history and our lives today.

February was a fantastic month of learning, and we're eagerly looking forward to March! Teaser: *The matter is the batter.*



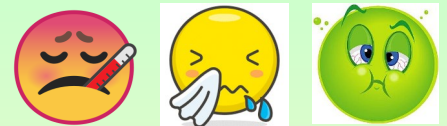
Art: In our K-2 classes, we are learning about Jim Dine, an American artist who uses a wide variety of techniques and mediums in his study of simple, common subjects, such as hearts or bathrobes, highlighting the different feeling each technique brings. Students are applying this in a study of warm and cool colors as they create a collage of 4 hearts using tissue paper, markers and crayons. (continues on page 4)



Art (continued from page 3): The 3-6 grade class is learning about the meticulous work of Tibetan Buddhist monks who create beautiful detailed mandalas with colored sand - and then destroy them to return the materials to the earth as a part of their religious practice. The students' mandalas are much less messy but still very beautiful, as we are using a graphite transfer technique to create an 8-sided circular pattern before we add color.



PhyEd: Our focus in February is collaboration and problem solving, so our games have students working together in teams to achieve a goal. We played active games of Tic-Tac-Toe and Capture the Flag, we worked on communication as we led our blindfolded teammate through a "minefield," and our teams created challenging obstacle courses for the other teams to execute. These activities have been a great opportunity to talk about the Cardinal Virtues and our Catholic values and how they apply to sports and games. Blessings, Mrs. Vandermark



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.

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