



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 30, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LET US
CELEBRATE WITH
A FEAST.

— LUKE 15:23 —



March 30th is Laetare Sunday, a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent. Its name is from the Latin entrance verse for the Mass, "Laetare (Rejoice) Jerusalem". The Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Rose-colored rather than violet vestments are worn on this day.

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
mkaluza@olp.church

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Anita Glisczynski | 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

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



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

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 fourth Sunday of Lent is a special time in Lent for us to rejoice! At Our Lady of the Prairie we have much to celebrate. The life of our parish is all about faithful worship, education, formation and social opportunities to be together. We fill our parish calendar with events to keep you close and near to the church. Also, every Friday during Lent we commemorate the devotion of Stations of the Cross. I hope that every Catholic remembers to pray the Stations of the Cross, because they are a good reminder of what Jesus endured for our sake and help us unite our own weaknesses and sufferings to his. Make sure that you are taking part in the life of the parish and helping to build up the Body of Christ!



We mark Laetare Sunday remembering God's goodness and mercy with the favorite story of the prodigal son. The parable speaks of God's immense compassion toward humanity. No matter how far we stray from God, God constantly waits for us and wants us to return to Him! We truly need God's grace to restore us and make us worthy sons and daughters of a loving Father.

The Bible is God's revelation to us and each page of Sacred Scripture tells us of God's infinite love and of our need to seek God's presence in our lives. May our repentance during this penitential season make us long for God to fill us with all of the graces to heal our infirmities and cleanse our iniquities.

God bless you,
Father Michael Kaluza



Our Lady of the Prairie welcomes our new Parishioners

Alex Meeker & Kelsey Koelbl

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

Prayer REQUESTS

Bud Steen	Dan Lehman	Megan Chard
Bob Koenig	Elmer Lambrecht	Don Morrison
Matt Hennen	Lisa Pobuda	Chuck Kroells
Deacon Bob Raleigh	Cheri Brennhofer	Annette Mann
Ron (Franny) Gerres	Maureen Millard	Gary Stephens
Mona Bentfield	Mike Duffy	Donna LaBossiere
Laurie Fogarty	Louis Wawrzyniak	Gary Kroells
Lisa Korba	Betty Wolf	Kent Blada
Chad Feltmann	TC Fogarty	Jean Dockter

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 at least four weeks.



Knights of Columbus®



Lenten Fish Dinners

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church
200 East Church St.
Belle Plaine, MN

March
21, 28

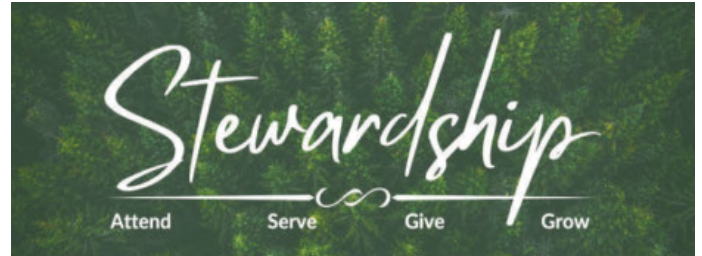
April
4, 11

Free will donation.

Proceeds will go towards the Special Olympics.

— Menu —	
Salad	
Dinner Roll	
Baked Fish	(breaded & unbreaded)
Au-Gratin Potatoes	
Dessert	
Coffee	

Serving: 4:30 - 6:30 pm | Take out available



COLLECTIONS

Weekly Collection Goal: \$8,344.00

Date	Amount	Deficit/Surplus
March 23	\$5,961.40	(-) \$2,382.60

ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 3/22	4:15 pm	210
Sunday, 3/23	8:00 am	164
	10:00 am	227
Livestreamed		Not available

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.




Giving is Faith in Action

"I ask you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Catholic Services Appeal and sharing your blessings with those around you. Just as Christ's love for us is unwavering, your generosity will demonstrate that our Giving is Faith in Action."

Archbishop Bernard Hebda

Please Give to the Catholic Services Appeal today.



Open House

In honor of
Father Roger Hessian's
90th Birthday

Sunday, May 4th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Roedel Hall
Cookies & Coffee
Entertainment by the Shudy Family
All parishioners are invited. *No gifts please.*





Our Lady of the Prairie
Council of Catholic Women

Flower Fund Donations

EASTER SEASON

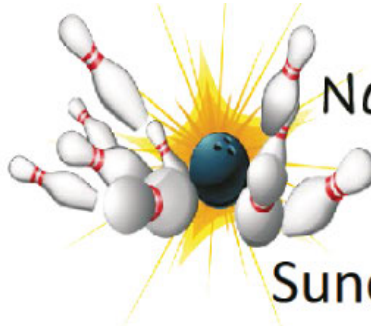
*Excess donations will be used for altar flowers
during other times of the year.*



Donated by:

In Memory of:

*Drop in the flower donation box inside Roedel Hall,
or at the front desk in the Parish Office..*



**No-Tap Bowling
Tournament**

Sunday, April 13

Prairie Grille & Bowl

Belle Plaine

Shifts offered at

11am, 2pm, and 5pm.

5 bowlers per team.

Up to 8 teams per shift.

Registration begins ½ hour prior to shift.

Text 952.367.6844 to pre-register your team!

Proceeds to support OLP School.

Team entry: \$125
Includes 3 games of bowling and shoe rental for up to 5 people.
Payment required at time of pre-registration!
Door Prizes & Raffles throughout event!



Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent
following 8:30 am Mass
and
at 6:30 pm
March 21, 28
April 4, 11
Good Friday (April 18)
at 3:00 pm



Join us
Wednesday evenings
during Lent
to watch
THE CHOSEN
6:30 pm
Roedel Hall
*Followed with a
short discussion.*



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



Other needs in addition to highest level needs :

- rear-facing convertible infant car seat (new only)
- bedding--crib size or pack-n-play size
- diaper bag
- nursing pillow
- baby monitor
- baby bathtub
- book: "What To Expect the First Year"

Personal care items for Blessing Bags for moms:

- travel size lotion
- fuzzy socks
- facial sheet masks
- lip balm/Chapstick
- travel size hand sanitizer

- travel size tissue packs
- gift cards for coffee or lunch, \$5-\$10
- new nail polish
- hair accessories
- journal or small craft/coloring item

Donation items NOT accepted:

- bumpers for cribs
- used equipment
- used baby clothing or blankets
- wooden cribs or large furniture items

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

God bless you for helping moms and their babies!



Fun with Wine

The Council of Catholic Women invites all women to celebrate

Laetare Sunday

March 30th, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
in Roedel Hall

RSVP to Maureen Daly: (952) 687-1501

**OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL GALA & AUCTION**

**CASINO
Night**

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

5:00 - 9:00 PM
200 EAST CHURCH STREET BELLE PLAINE

GRAND \$5000 PRIZE

PLUS CASH PRIZES FOR \$3000, \$2000 & \$1000

SILENT & LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

ALL YOUR FAVORITE CASINO GAMES!

CATERED BY FATBELLIES BBQ

WINE & BEER AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL OFFICE (952).873.6564
OR PURCHASE FROM A SCHOOL FAMILY
MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO PURCHASE**



Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic Church & School
200 E. Church Street
Belle Plaine, MN 56011
Phone: 952-873-6564
Email: gala@olp.school

Fundraising Chairpersons

Rick/Eve Hennen
Sean/Christina Koehn

**Return Form to the Office or
Visit the Website to ...**

- BECOME A SPONSOR
- PURCHASE \$100 RAFFLE TICKET
- JOIN US FOR DINNER & GAMES
- MONETARY DONATION
- PARTICIPATE IN THE AUCTIONS



**We request all donations be received
by April 16, 2025**

**Cash Sponsorship Levels are listed
on the back of this page.**

- \$5000 HIGH ROLLER
- \$2500 DIAMOND
- \$1000 PLATINUM
- \$500 GOLD
- \$250 SILVER

Please retain a copy of this form for your records. Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School is a non-profit. 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code (Tax ID# 41-6027712).

Dear Our Lady of the Prairie Parishioner,

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School will be holding its largest event of the year, with a fundraising goal of \$80,000. The 25th Annual Casino Night Gala and Auction will take place on April 26, 2025 from 5:00-9:00 pm. 100% of the proceeds from this evening go to Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School and students to support high quality Catholic education. Last year, with the help of the Knights of Columbus, we were able to raise enough to install the basketball court, attend the event to hear more about the plans for this year's funds. This event is a wonderful opportunity for socializing, dinner, games, as well as online and live auctions. As always, the evening will end with our raffle ticket drawing. Our raffle drawing has a grand prize of \$5,000! Second prize is \$3,000, third prize is \$2,000, and fourth prize is \$1,000! The tickets are \$100 and only 400 tickets will be sold. You may purchase one from a school family, the parish office or from an OLP student following masses on the weekends leading up to our event. You must be 18 years or older to purchase a raffle ticket.

Graciously,
The OLP School Gala & Auction Committee

Donor Information:

Name: _____
 Donating Family/Company: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

I would like my donation to be anonymous _____
 I would like a receipt _____

Donation Description: (Items must be in new, unused condition)
 Item/Service Description: _____
 Fair Market Value of Donation \$ _____
 Item/Service Description: _____
 Fair Market Value of Donation \$ _____

Please Check One:

- Items are enclosed with this form
- Donor will deliver
- Contact me to arrange for item to be picked up

Company and/or Family Sponsorship Opportunities:

- Please complete the front of this form to accompany your donation. Information provided will assist us in promoting your sponsorship and/or donation.
- Please include a business card or email your company's logo to gala@olp.school with the subject line "Gala Sponsor."
- All levels of sponsorship will be highlighted in all Gala communications before and during the event. Your business logo and/or family name will be featured on our website, event slideshow, social media postings, printed communications and acknowledged during the event's announcements.



High-Roller Sponsorship includes 10 complimentary dinner and drink tickets and \$100 of Casino Cash to use on games and raffles at the event.



Diamond Sponsorship includes 8 complimentary dinner and drink tickets and \$80 of Casino Cash to use on games and raffles at the event.



Platinum Sponsorship includes 6 complimentary dinner and drink tickets and \$60 of Casino Cash to use on games and raffles at the event.



Gold Sponsorship includes 4 complimentary dinner and drink tickets and \$40 of Casino Cash to use on games and raffles at the event.



Silver Sponsorship includes 2 complimentary dinner and drink tickets and \$20 of Casino Cash to use on games and raffles at the event.

**We sincerely thank you for your consideration and support of
Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School's 25th Annual Casino Night Gala and Auction.**

Silent & Live Auction Themed Donation Package Ideas

- Event Tickets
- Memberships
- Trips
- Resort/Hotel Stays
- Anniversary Basket
- Art Lovers
- Athlete in training
- Baby Boomer
- King of the Grill
- Mani Pedi
- Night on the Town
- Off to College
- For the Love of Music
- Bakers Bundle
- Beach Bums
- Chocolate Delight
- Fiesta
- Couples Night
- Dog Lovers
- Everything Legos
- Family Fun Pack
- Fishing Tackle
- Fitness Fun
- For Love of the Game
- Fun in the Snow
- Gardening
- Office party
- Outdoorsman Basket
- Pampered Pet
- Passion for Pasta
- Picnic in the Park
- Picture Perfect
- Pool Party
- Road Trip
- School Sports Basket
- Spa at Home
- Superheroes
- Princesses Party
- MN State Theme
- Survival Kits
- Tailgate Time
- Tea Time
- Teacher Appreciation Pack
- Teen Girl's Basket
- Teen Boy's Basket
- Thanks Mom
- Thanks Dad
- Toddler Mania
- Travel
- Vineyards and More
- Welcome Baby


April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 8:00am d. Carl Gansen 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am For the Parish 2-5:00pm Wine Tasting hosted by CCW (RH)	31	1 6:30pm d. Ronald Ruhland 7:00pm KC Meeting (PH) 7:00pm CCW Meeting (RH) 7:00pm SAC Meeting (CR)	2 8:30am Dick Hayden 6:20pm Religious Ed Class 6:30pm The Chosen viewing in RH	3 8:30am d. Brent Meyer 6:30-7:30pm Men's small Group (CR) 7:00pm Confirmation -Cathedral	4 8:30am d. Irene Castor 9:00am Stations of the Cross 4:30-6:30pm Lenten Fish Dinner hosted by KCs (PH) 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	5 4:15pm d. Ronald Ruhland
6 8:00am For the Parish 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am d. Msgr. John Richter CCW Treats & Fellowship after Masses	7	8 1:30pm Mass at Kingsway 6:30pm d. Mike Fogarty	9 8:30am d. Irene Castor 6:20pm RE meet in Church for Way of the Cross Night 6:30pm The Chosen viewing in RH	10 8:30am d. Richard Beach 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Group (CR)	11 8:30am d. John Anthony Schilz 9:00am Stations of the Cross 4:30-6:30pm Lenten Fish Dinner hosted by KC's (PH) 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	12 4:15pm d. Steve & Laurie Oakes Baptism-Bigham
13 Palm Sunday 8:00am For the Parish 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am CCW Members ME Treats & Fellowship following Masses 7:00pm ME Meeting(RH)	14	15 1:30pm Mass at Kingsway 6:30pm d. Rev. Thomas P. Fitzpatrick	16 8:30am d. Bob Bigaouette 12:00pm Ecumenical Lunch 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:15pm Divine Mercy Chaplet No Religious Ed Class (Holy Week Break)	17 Holy Thursday No School Office Closed 6:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration following Mass until 9pm in Church	18 Good Friday No School Office Closed 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross 6:30pm Good Friday Liturgy	19 Holy Saturday 4:15pm No Mass 8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass 8:00pm d. Teresa Witt
20 Easter Sunday 8:00am For the Parish 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Donald & Mary Jane O'Brien	21 Easter Monday No School Office Closed	22 6:30pm d. Stan Effertz	23 8:30am d. Sylvester Gerold 6:20pm Religious Ed Class	24 8:30am d. Bob Fisher 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Group (CR)	25 8:30am d. Jim Halloran Gala Setup in Roedel Hall -PH	26 4:15pm d. Lorence & Ethel Boehne 5:00-10:00 pm Gala Night Roedel Hall & Parish Hall
27 8:00am For the Parish 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Lajeunesse & Shannon Families 2-3:30pm Divine Mercy Celebration - Adoration, Confessions, Chaplet	28	29 6:30pm d. Irene Castor	30 8:30am d. Dick Hayden 6:20pm Religious Ed - Last Night of class with Mass followed by Ice Cream Social 6:30pm d. Rev. Thomas P. Fitzpatrick	1 8:30am d. Irene Castor 6:30-7:30pm Men's Small Group (CR)	2 8:30am d. Janice Fahey, Tammy Fahey Schultz	3 4:15pm d. Derrick Schmidt First Communion at 4:15pm Mass
4 8:00am d. Richard Beach First Communion at 8:00am Mass 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am For the Parish First Communion at 10:00am Mass CCW Treats & Fellowship after Masses 1pm-5pm 90th Birthday Celebration for Father Hessian (RH)	5	<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) *PH - Parish Hall *CI - Catechetical Institute *ME - Marriage Encounter						

APRIL

OUR CLASSROOM schedule

Saint Faustina – Pray
for us.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God, I Trust in You. (St. Faustina)		1 Month of the Holy Eucharist	2 5 th -6 th grade mass	3	4 Mass/Stations	5	<p>My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners ... it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from my Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy (<i>Diary</i>, 367).</p> 
Divine Mercy, accompanying us through our whole life, I Trust in You. (St. Faustina)							
6 Fifth Sunday of Lent	7	8	9 2 nd -3 rd grade mass	10	11 Mass/Stations Gala class projects due	12	
13 Palm Sunday	14	15 Science Museum 1 st -6 th Children's Museum PreK-Kindergarten	16 5 th -6 th grade mass Divine Mercy Teacher/Staff meeting Newsletter articles due	17 Holy Thursday No School	18 Good Friday No School	19 Holy Saturday	
20 Easter Sunday	21 Easter Monday No School	22 Earth Day	23 2 nd -3 rd grade mass	24	25 Arbor Day	26 OLP Gala after 4:15 Mass	
27 Divine Mercy Sunday	28	29	30 5 th -6 th grade mass Saint and Birthday Mass	"God's Love is the flower—Mercy the fruit" (St. Faustina).			
© Joey Udovich 2019							

A Note from the Principal . . .

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Pray for us.

March 19, 2025 Accreditation with Lumen was a great success for Our Lady of the Prairie Community.

A heartfelt thank you to our **PTA members**. The snacks and beverages supplied were plentiful. Presence at school all day making sure snacks were replenished, dishes put away, and meals served, showed genuine hospitality that was warmly received from the Archdiocese Lumen Accreditation Team.

Father Kaluza and I met with the team for an exit interview. OLP received high praises from the team. The official accreditation report will be sent in the near future. In brief:

Commendations:

1. Vibrant Catholic Culture
2. Staff belonging and valued
3. Adaptive and Responsive School Community

Recommended areas ready for growth:

1. Boosting and Partnership (Optimal enrollment)
2. Enhance curriculum with vertical alignment from PreK to 6th grade and beyond

We will be working with the Accreditation Team on a five year Road Map to establish annual goals and strategies. I will report annually on our progress in the State of the School report.

Thank you to everyone for making the 2025 Lumen Accreditation a huge day of celebration for the OLP community.

The **1st-2nd, 3rd Grade** March Saints of the month are **James Offerdahl** and **Gabriel Vandermark**: **James** works hard at his assignments and would rather choose other things in the room to work on before completing his work, but. Recently, **James** has been focusing on the assignment and then choosing center work. **James** loves to share joy in all he does: sharing the story he wrote for an assignment, sharing the drawings that go with the story, telling about something funny he was thinking about, pointing out things he notices that have similarities, and makes connections to other subjects. **James** has a positive attitude and contagious smile and joy that makes others want to be happy. St. Aloysius had unwavering faith. **James** has unwavering faith in his genuine personality of kindness toward others. **James** shows his saintliness through goodness.

Gabriel shows great awareness that Our Lord is real and has thoughtful answers when discussing the parables in our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. **Gabriel** enjoys reading about the saints and like St. Aloysius, **Gabriel** wants to be holy. **Gabriel** cares about others and notices when they need help and shows concern for others through his intercessions in the classroom. Also, **Gabriel** has much joy when sharing his stories with others. ~Mrs. Hennen

The Saint Aloysius Gonzaga student of the month in the **5th-6th grade** classroom is **Peter Hennen**. Like St. Aloysius Gonzaga **Peter** has a deep devotion to God and is committed to a life of prayer. **Peter** is humble and does not seek praise for his good deeds. Like St. Aloysius **Peter** gives up his comforts to help others. **Peter** is ready to share with his classmates, frequently providing a snack for those who forget. In addition, **Peter** is committed to growing spiritually and intellectually. **Peter** completes his work on time and helps others to catch up when they are behind. Recently while working on a poetry project, **Peter** assisted a younger classmate by providing a more appropriate word for his poem. **Peter** shows a great deal of maturity and provides a good example for school. **Peter** has a heart full of love for God and others, always seeking to serve and uplift those in need and has a gift for seeing what needs to be done, and the wisdom to complete tasks with little direction. ~Mrs. Moonen



A Word from Father Michael . . .

March 19th is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph! It is a great feast of the Church and a very special day during the Holy Season of Lent. We put aside Lenten disciplines and feast because the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster Father of Our Lord and Savior has a special ranking in the church. He is a powerful saint and as Patron of the Universal Church a great intercessor for us. Very little is written in Sacred Scripture about Saint Joseph, but there is a pious tradition that remembers the joys and sorrow of Saint Joseph. Here they are:

The Sorrows of St. Joseph

1. His doubts about Mary
2. His pain at the lowly poverty of Jesus' birthplace.
3. Watching the circumcision, Jesus' first blood spilt for us.
4. Listening to the painful prophetic message from Simeon.
5. Having to take the Holy Family into exile.
6. The hard trip back from Egypt.
7. The loss of Jesus for three days.

The Joys of St. Joseph

1. The angel's message of joy.
2. The Savior's birth.
3. Having the honor of naming Jesus.
4. Knowing the effects of Jesus' redemptive work.
5. The idols of Egypt fell at Jesus' feet.
6. Holy life with Jesus and Mary.
7. Finding Jesus after three days.

God bless you,
Father Michael Kaluza

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

Preschool

Our month had a silly start with our **Letter Yy "Yum, Yuck & Yay!"** 5 Senses theme. Students added colorful confetti sprinkles to a yummy cupcake, sponge painted a yucky sour apple, and assembled a paper pizza; inspired by our "Pizza Day" story by Melissa Iwai. Students showed off confidence and leadership skills during a visit from Instructor Richardson. Our **Letter Zz "What's New at The Zoo?"** theme had students moving like animals, making animal sounds and building a zoo out of wooden blocks. Our imaginations ran wild retelling the "Stand Back" Said the Elephant, I'm Going to Sneeze" story by Patricia Thomas using elephant paper bag puppets. Students had two opportunities for Show & Tell during our St. Patrick's Day and Alphabet Celebrations. Preschool Students have made their way from A to Z with our Letter of Week! We will finish the month with an Emotions theme. Think Spring, Mrs. Ross

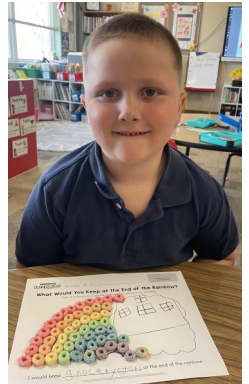


Kindergarten

March has been a month full of growth and learning! In Believe and Read, we've been practicing blending and segmenting CVC words, recognizing short vowel sounds, sounding out words, and spotting our sight words in stories. In math, our focus has been on addition up to ten and practicing our numbers on 100 charts. We will also begin exploring subtraction soon.

In science, our unit on forces, motion, and direction has been exciting! Kindergarteners have observed and investigated how changing the strength or direction of pushes and pulls affects movement, and experimented with the force of a paper wrecking ball to knock down a wall of cups. We also learned about different machines that help with work, including excavators, cranes, and wrecking balls

This month also marked the beginning of the Lenten season. We reflected on Lent as a time of quiet and listening to prepare for Easter. We have also been learning about the materials at the Model Altar and recognizing them in real life during our weekly Mass. God Bless, Ms. Schroers



1st/2nd/3rd Grades

A warm welcome to Spring, Families,

Our classroom is always busy with activities, either in the classroom, or the whole school! It sure makes coming to school fun. This month with the whole school, we are collecting birthday kits for the food shelf, selling GALA raffle tickets, and we have celebrated meeting our goal at the Prairie Grille and Bowl, for selling Catholic United Raffle tickets. In our classroom, we are painting on terracotta pots making our project for the GALA.

We have also celebrated the second grade receiving their **Sacrament of First Reconciliation**. Second grade is now preparing for **First Holy Communion** in our religion class. Third grade is enhancing the knowledge of the sacraments with deeper meaning in the different prayers we have and how the Church Leads us in worship. First grade is also learning how we belong to the parish and learning a little about the sacraments. The presentations in the atrium are deeper meanings of parables we hear during Lent to prepare us for Easter and the sacraments.

Math: First grade is adding two-digit numbers; second grade just finished the topic of arrays and is starting data and graphing; as third grade is wrapping up data and graphing and will be starting concepts about telling time.

In **Believe and read** we are working on homophones, vowel digraphs, and spelling choices. We are also working on fluency in our oral reading.

Social Studies for first and second grade this month was about different cultures in our community. We will be starting our unit The Marketplace about goods and services. Third grade unit is on Citizens and Government.

We continue to learn and try to model the saints. Blessings, Mrs. Hennen



5th/6th Grades

Spring is here, and that means it's time for maple syrup tapping! Mrs. Moonen's Stars have been learning about the process of collecting sap and turning it into delicious syrup. Students had the opportunity to participate in the tapping process and learn about the science behind this sweet tradition.

Our Language Arts and Religion classes combined once again this month. We read the Book of Psalms, chose our favorites, and presented them to some special guests. Inspired by these meaningful readings, we created our own poetry and entered another contest.

We wrapped up our novel study on *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, completing book reports that summarized the story, analyzed Brian's journey, and explored the book's themes.

In math, we continued practicing real-world applications, solving word problems, and using models to deepen our understanding.

Last but not least, our students attended the **Young Writers and Artists Conference** at Bethany College in Mankato, where they explored various styles of writing and enjoyed a fast-paced day of creativity and learning.

Mrs. Moonen

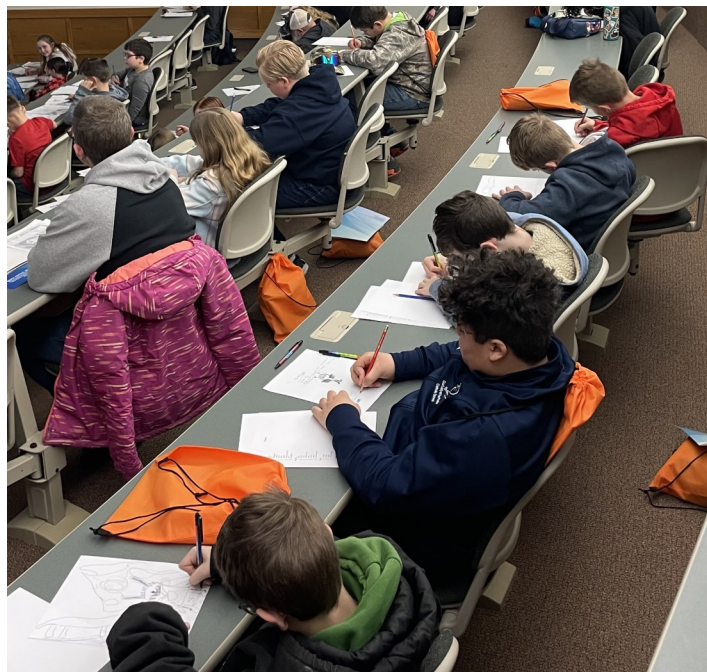
[More 5th/6th Grade photos on page 4 . . .](#)





Pi Day 03.14.2025

π Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi), observed on March 14 (the 3rd month) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of π . It was founded in 1988 by an employee of, the Exploratorium Science Museum in San Francisco. Celebrations often involve eating pie.



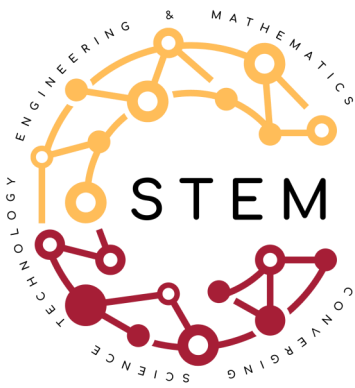
PhyEd: Our focus in March is fitness and conditioning, raising our heart rates and improving our fitness levels as we get ready for Spring. We started out with our Q3 fitness test, and I was excited to see every student make improvements - way to go! We also had a wee bit 'o fun on St. Patty's Day with a high-energy game called Lucky Charms. Who says cardio workouts can't be fun?

Art: In our K-2 classes, our next famous artist was French artist Henri Matisse. Matisse is primarily known for his paintings, but when illness late in life restricted him to a wheelchair, he found a new way to express himself - paper collages made from cutouts. He called it "drawing with scissors." Students created their own colorful compositions based on his style by painting paper, cutting out interesting shapes and arranging them in collages.

The 3-6 grade class began their next unit in Global Art by learning about the ancient tradition of Byzantine icons, which are particularly common in Eastern Orthodox churches but are also venerated by Catholics. More than just religious paintings, this sacred art is "Scripture in visual form," guided by the Holy Spirit. Students are in the early stages of writing their own icon using a template.

Blessings,
Mrs. Vandermark





Dear Families,

We've had an incredible month in **C-STEM** as students across all grades engaged in hands-on projects that explored the wonders of God's creation through engineering, technology, and faith-filled reflection.

Paper Airplanes: Soaring with Stewardship (Grades 3–6)

Did you know most of our 3rd–6th graders didn't know how to make a paper airplane? We fixed that!

Students explored aerodynamics and engineering design by building and testing various models. Alongside measuring flight distance and time, we discussed how aviation supports stewardship—through disaster relief, transportation of aid, and connecting communities. It was an engaging blend of science, service, and creativity.

Sounds of Creation – Coding with ScratchJr (Grades 1–6)

Students dove into digital storyboarding and animation using ScratchJr. After planning their ideas like real designers, they brought them to life with code—learning sequencing, problem-solving, and the power of creativity guided by purpose. Their digital scenes reflected joy, order, and thoughtful design.

Creative Engineering Kits (Grades K–2)

Our K–2 students got inventive with Creative Engineering Kits—think Legos with a twist. They built all kinds of imaginative creations while exploring how parts connect, structures support, and designs come together. This early engineering work sparked collaboration, spatial thinking, and joy in hands-on learning.

Building with Purpose – KEVA Planks (Grades 1–3)

Using KEVA Planks, students designed purposeful structures and reflected on how building can be a form of service. We tied this into our Catholic value of stewardship: using our skills to serve others and build up our community.

Kindergarten – Navigating God's Creation

Our youngest learners explored bridge-building with KEVA Planks and Dash Robots. They tested balance, learned how engineers solve problems, and reflected on how even young builders can care for God's world.

Exploring Circuits (All Grades)

All students had the opportunity to explore the basics of circuits—learning how energy flows, how switches work, and how components come together to make something function. Whether it was lighting up a bulb, powering a buzzer, or completing a challenge with Makey Makey, students practiced problem-solving and learned how technology can be used to bring light, connection, and purpose into the world.

Pi Day Recap

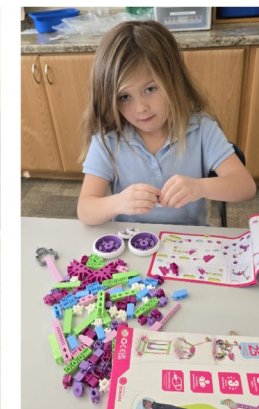
Pi Day was a big hit! Students celebrated the mystery of pi with hands-on investigations of circles, math games, and real-world applications. It was a joyful way to see how math reveals God's design and beauty in creation.

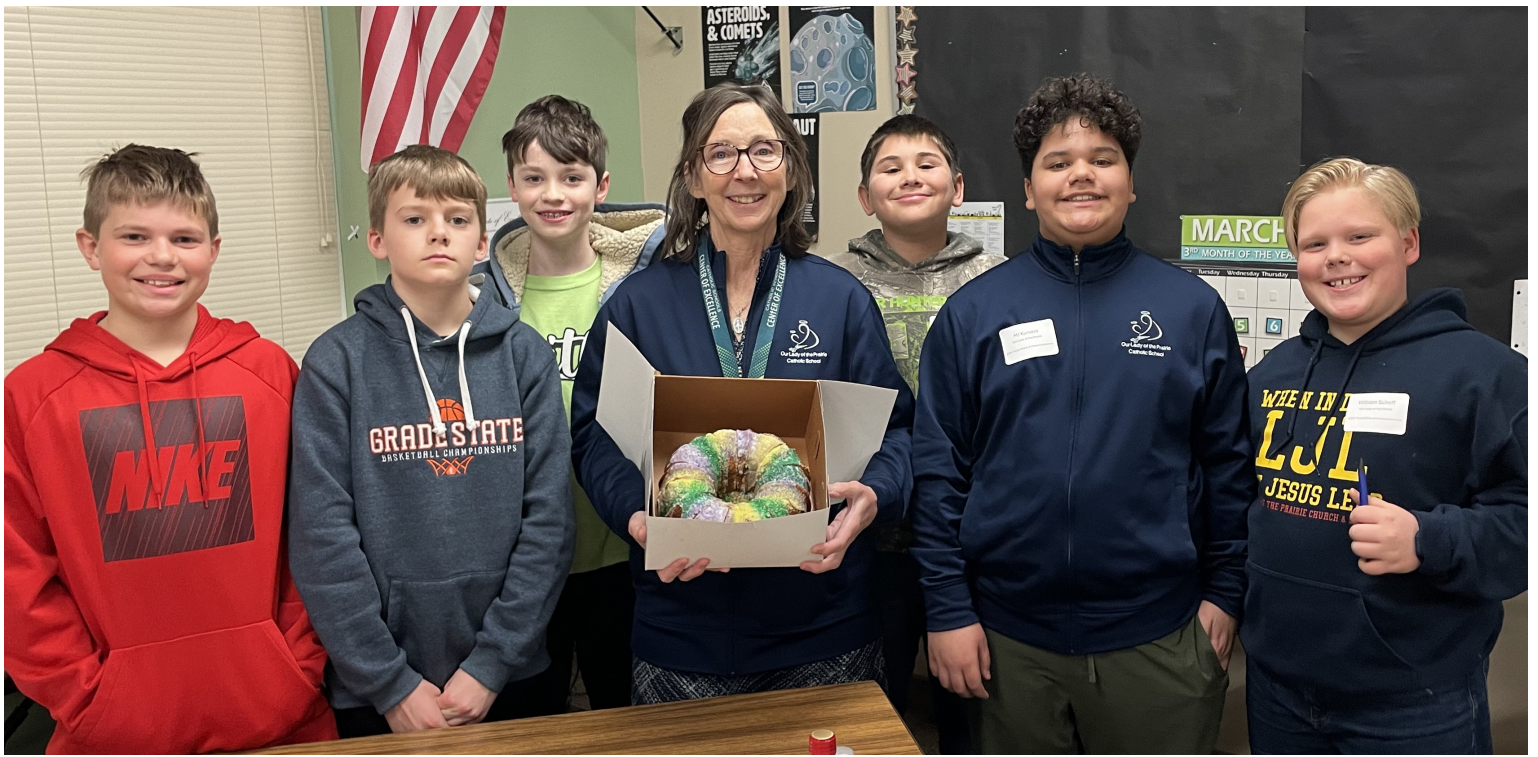
Thank you for supporting our mission to grow future innovators who use [C]STEM to serve, build, and care for the world around them.

Blessings,

Mr. Vandermark

C-STEM Teacher





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 31

Tuesday, April 1

6:30 pm Mass
 7:00 pm KC Meeting (Parish Hall)
 7:00 pm CCW Meeting (Roedel Hall)
 7:00 pm School Advisory Council (Conf Rm)

Wednesday, April 2

8:30 am Mass
 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class
 6:30 pm The Chosen viewing in Roedel Hall
followed by short discussion

Thursday, April 3

8:30 am Mass
 6:30-7:30 pm Men's Small Group in Conf Rm
 7:00pm Confirmation - Cathedral

Friday, April 4

8:30 am Mass
 9:30 am Stations of the Cross
 4:30-6:30 pm Lenten Fish Dinner in Parish Hall
 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross
Note: Articles for April 12/13 bulletin are due.

Saturday, April 5

4:15 pm Mass

Sunday, April 6

8:00 am Mass
 9:00 am Choir Practice
 10:00 am Mass
 CCW Treats & Fellowship after Masses

Saturday, April 5, 4:15 pm

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

Sunday, April 6, 8:00 am

Greeters: Mark & Leticia Fogarty
 Lector: James Fogarty,
 EMHC: Sheila Hendricks, Rita Halquist,
 John Watzl, Sharon Beach
 Ushers: Mark Hartman, Calvin Hartman,
 Volunteers (2)
 Servers: Luke Hennen, Henry Hennen, Peter Hennen
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, April 6, 10:00 am

Greeters: Joe & Kristen Lajeunesse
 Lector: Mary Randklev
 EMHC: Nora Wermerskirchen, Karen Vandermark,
 Hannah Wermerskirchen, Paula Covington
 Ushers: Caleb Wermerskirchen, Ben Covington,
 Max Wermerskirchen, Peter Feddersen
 Servers: Cole Chessen, Emmett Straus, JD Vandermark
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers
 EMHC: Mike Buchanan (Kingsway)
 Lisa Schatz (The Lutheran Home)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	31	Mar		†	No Mass
Tue	1	Apr	6:30 pm	†	d. Rondald Ruhland
Wed	2	Apr	8:30 am	†	d. Dick Hayden
Thu	3	Apr	8:30 am	†	d. Brent Meyer
Fri	4	Apr	8:30 am	†	d. Irene Castor
Sat	5	Apr	4:15 pm	†	d. Ronald Ruhland
Sun	6	Apr	8:00 am	†	d. For the Parish
			10:00 am	†	d. Msgr. John Richter

READINGS

Readings for the week of March 30, 2025

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/ Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

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 Blessings to all: Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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