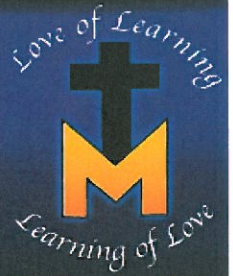




St. Mary's Grade School



304 E. CLOUD | SALINA, KS 67401 | 785-827-4200

December 2016 St. Mary's Messenger

The Nativity Scene

The first-ever Nativity scene recorded in history was created by St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was concerned that the meaning of Christmas was becoming lost as most people were more focused with the ritual of gift giving than they were of the true message of Christmas.

Determined to remind people what Christmas is really about, he set about creating the world's first known Nativity scene to help tell his people of [The Nativity Story](#). It was created in a cave near Greccio, Italy and involved real people and animals, making it a living Nativity scene.

Apart from his happy demeanor, the most prominent attribute for which Francis is remembered is his sympathy. Quite novel to the medieval world in which Francis lived, he showed a special affection for the poor, the sick and the fallen. It was probably his love for the poor that moved him to re-enact the Nativity scene that has become a familiar symbol of Christmas. Francis wanted to give a visual demonstration of the poverty into which our Lord was born (remember that the poor were also illiterate). He said that his intention was "to celebrate the memory of the Child who was born in Bethlehem and see with my bodily eyes, as best I can, how He suffered the lack of all those things needed by an infant; how He was 'laid in a manger' and how He rested on the straw, with the ox and ass standing by."



Today, nearly 800 years later, we still hear religious leaders echoing St. Francis's words. The true message of Christmas is becoming lost; buried underneath layers of secular traditions. Yet at the same time, we also still see nativities everywhere come Christmas time. It is also time to remember as we gather in our homes during this holy season of the humble gifts we offer each other in conversation, sharing food, performing kind deeds and worshipping with family and friends. Jesus' birth and the Nativity Story exemplifies how important the simple things are in our lives.

Here at St. Mary's Grade School we are blessed in our ministry in being able to reinforce our faith traditions. Keep Christ in Christmas!

INFORMATION PLUS

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school December 22 through January 2. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

LOVE 'N LEARN NEWS

December is a busy month; the children will be learning about Christmas and what it means. We will not have a gift exchange between children. We are asking that no gifts be brought for anyone at Love 'n Learn. The children may bring a wrapped game, book, baby doll, puzzle, or any type of learning item to be donated to the center by the family.

Love 'n Learn will be closed December 26th & Jan. 2nd

CANNED GOODS

In November the classes collected canned goods that were donated to the Emergency Food Bank & Catholic Charities. Students collected 1050 cans to stretch from the Library all the way down to the Kindergarten rooms!

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to students and parents of those who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Special thanks and appreciation to their teachers. Thanks to St. Mary's Home and School for the special brunch the students had on Monday, December 5th.

JOB CHANGE

If you have had a job change, increase in household size or a change in family income, you may qualify for free and reduced lunches for your children. Applications are available in the school office.

These can be completed at any time during the school year. Please contact the office, if you would like us to send you an application. All information is kept confidential.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

The Christmas Programs will be here very soon. All of the grades are working hard on their beautiful music for your enjoyment.

December 13, 2016 at 7:00p.m., the 1st - 3rd grade Christmas program will be held at St. Mary's Church. **1st- 3rd need to be at their designated place at 6:45p.m.** 2nd & 3rd please meet in the Parish Hall next to the Church. The doors will not be open until 6:30. 1st grade meet in the cry room over at the Church. **DO NOT** drop off children to wait outside.

December 19, 2016 at 7:00pm, the 4-6 grade Christmas program will be held at Kansas Wesleyan's Sam's Chapel. **4-6 grade students need to be at the building at 6:45p.m.** **6th grade Band members will need to meet at KWU at 6:30p.m.** All 6th Grade will meet in Miller's Chapel. 4th and 5th grade will meet downstairs in the lounge area.

All students need to wear their school uniform for the program. No Shorts!

December 14, 2016 @ 9:30am, Kindergarten Music Program in the All Purpose Room.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 29th through February 4th, 2017 we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Look for special events in next month's newsletter. The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service".



Christmas Dinner

We have one day set for Parent Christmas Dinner, Dec. 19th. Invitations were sent home in the Red Communication Folders. This is a time for parents to come eat with their children.

Reservations were due by Friday, December 2nd. Plan to enjoy the Art Show and the Home & School Holiday Bake Sale. Scrip cards will also be available for immediate purchase.

School Council

Noticias en Español

NO HABRA CLASES

No habrá CLASES Diciembre 22 a Enero.

Regresaremos a clases el Lunes, 3 de Enero.

PROGRAMAS DE NAVIDAD

Los **Programas Navideños** estan muy cerca . Todos los grados estan trabajando muy duro en sus hermosos programas musicales para que ustedes los disfruten.

Diciembre 19, 2016 a las 7:00 p.m. Los grados 4, 5 y 6 Programa de Navidad se llevara acabo en la capilla Sam de Kansas Wesleyan. 4-6 grado necesitan estar en el edificio a las 6:45 p.m. Los miembros de la banda de 6º. grado se reuniran a las 6:30 p.m.. Todo 6º grado se reunira en la capilla Miller. 4º y 5º grado se reuniran bajando las escaleras en el área común (lounge).

Diciembre 13, 2016 a las 7:00 p.m., el programa de Navidad del jardin de niños - 3er. grado Se llevara acabo en la iglesia de Sta. Mary. **Los niños de 1er a 3er. grado necesitan estar en su area asignada a las 6:45 p.m.** Jardin de niños en el pasillo de la parroquia y 1ro,- 3er. grado en su salón de clases. Las puertas de la escuela se abriran a las 6:30. Por favor NO deje a los niños esperando afuera a menos que usted esté allí con ellos.

Todos los estudiantes deberan traer puesto su uniforme para el programa. Nota: algunos estudiantes necesitaran otra ropa para su actuación. Si algun estudiante necesita cualquier otra cosa se le enviara una nota a casa. No abra Open House (casa abierta) este año. En lugar de esto tendremos una exposición de arte de los niños, se expondra en la feria de arte navideño en conexión con la venta de pastelillos de la escuela y hogar.

- St. Mary's school council met November 28, 2016.
- The meeting was held in Rm A. @ 5:30.
- The school council discussed the following issues:
- Sam Stone proposed his Eagle Scout project to earn his Eagle Badge. His project would redirect and collect rain water to be used for watering the school garden. This would prevent the playground and garden mulch from being washed away and prevent ice on the sidewalks outside the kindergarten classrooms. The benefit of above ground versus below ground storage tanks was discussed. The proposal will be forwarded to St. Mary's Parish grounds committee.
- About 2/3 of the full time teaching staff will be attending the NCEA Convention and Expo in April 2016 in St. Louis, MO. Other teachers from the diocese have been invited to attend as well. Dr. Compagnone and Mrs. Compagnone will be presenting on transitional Kindergarten at the conference. The December calendar was discussed. The Animation and Chess club have been meeting this fall. Computer coding is now being taught in the second grade now.
- Computer Initiative Proposal – Several other schools in the diocese will be starting a computer initiative to allow students to lease/buy lap tops. St Mary's School is researching to have a chrome book for each student in 4-6th grade. The option to lease versus buy the laptops was discussed.
- Endowment – The school is trying to find 5 donors to give \$5,000 with an additional \$25,000 match to fund the Endowment. A new Endowment brochure is being developed with a new campaign drive, "Keeping our faith, Securing our future"
- Finance – Scrip orders have been on the increase and Mrs. Gotti has taken over running the program. Scrip cards will be available to purchase at the parent Christmas dinner on December 19, 2016. The council also discussed the use of automatic billing for tuition payments.
- Next School Council meeting is scheduled Monday January 23, 2017 @ 5:30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Project

Each year St. Mary's Grade School participates in a service project during the Advent Season. This year students are asked to bring unwrapped toys for "Toys from the Heart." These will be taken to Catholic Charities on Monday, December 12th. An old fashion fire engine will be here to pick up the donated toys. Kids will get a chance to ring the bell on the fire truck!!

Tuition

December is also a busy time for all of us and we urge everyone to keep vigilant with payments. We ask that all monthly tuition payments be made by **December 9**. Many families pay by semester and quarterly; **we would appreciate your payments early, if possible**. Thank you for your help!

Weather Advisory

Should the need arise to cancel school because of bad weather, announcements will be made on local radio stations. It will also be posted on the school website: <http://stmarysalina.org>. We will also use our text messaging system to notify families. Decisions are usually made by 6:30 a.m. If bad weather should occur during the school day, please listen to your radio for announcements and watch for a text message.

SCRIP

Please keep in mind buying Scrip cards before you do your holiday shopping. These gift cards also make wonderful Christmas gifts. We have limited inventory in the office of these cards or you can order what you need—watch for order forms in the weekly Red Folders.

You can also purchase a Scrip voucher which allows the receiver to choose the card of their choice.

Reconciliation Services

Grades 3rd thru 6th will have the opportunity during Advent to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 15th (5th & 6th grade) and December 16th (3rd & 4th grade).

After School Pickup

We really do appreciate everyone's cooperation in picking up their children at dismissal. With weather getting colder it is very important that students not be left waiting. In case of snow, please drive carefully. Snow banks sometimes leave single lanes to exit the parking lots. Children who are not picked up by 20 minutes after dismissal will be taken to Extended Care.

St. Nicholas Day

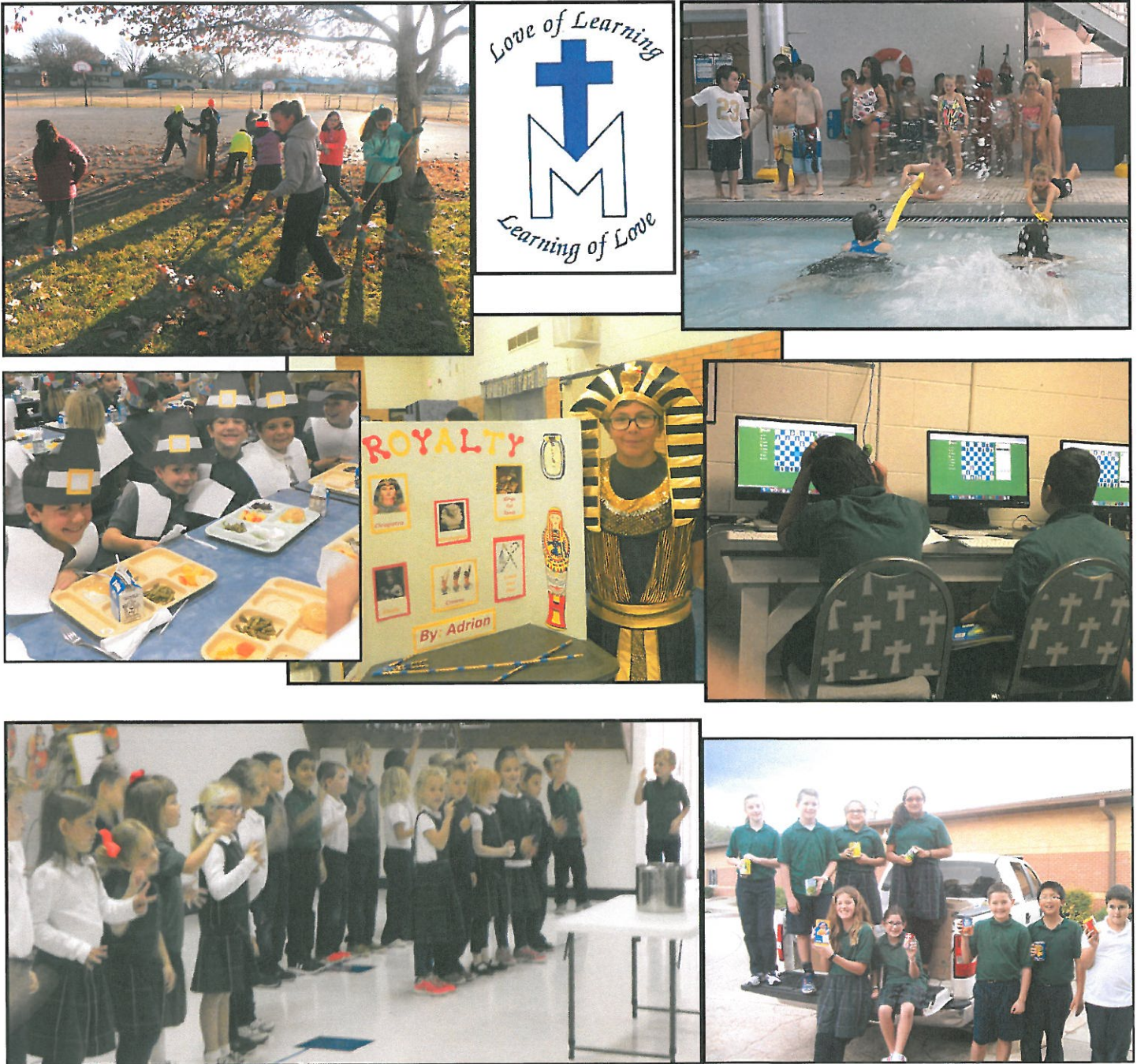
The Feast of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children, is December 6th. We will celebrate this feast day by having students put their shoes in the hall on this day, hoping for an inspirational visit from St. Nick. This is a custom of many countries, believing that St. Nicholas will visit, and commemorating his generosity in giving to others. We hope this activity will instill into the children the true meaning of giving during this time.

Junior High & 6th Grade softball

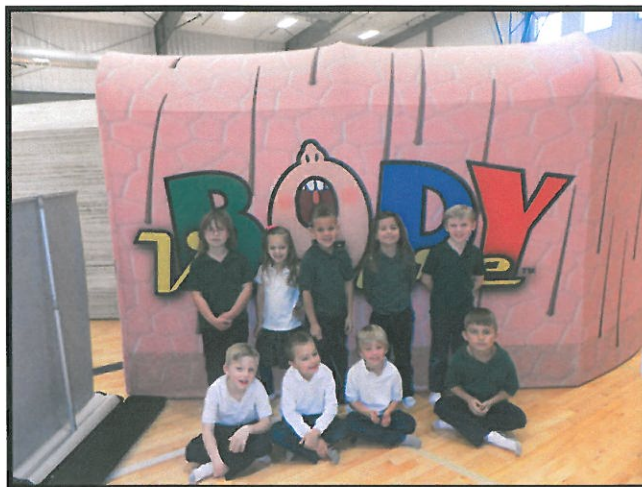
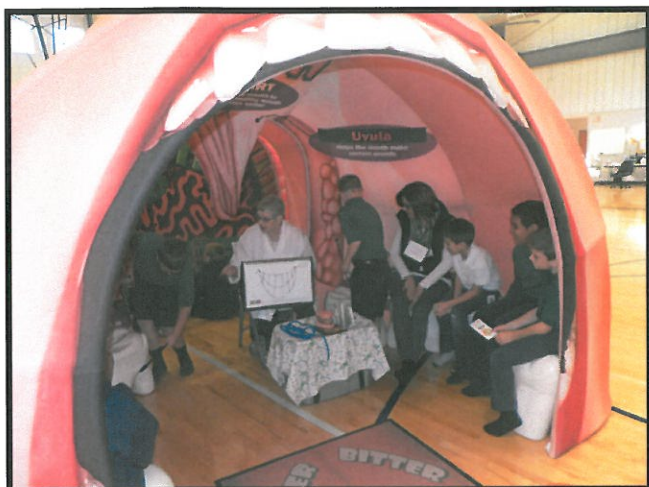
Junior high & 6th grade girls will have the opportunity to play on a softball team for **one** tournament with students from Sacred Heart & St. Mary's Grade School on April 29, 2017.

The team will be coached by Assistant High School Coach Chuck Donmeyer. If you are interested in playing on this softball team or have questions about it, please contact Bob Martin at 785-820-1969 or labsorhorses@yahoo.com, by the end of December. This is not an official school activity as St. Mary's Grade School does not sponsor sports activities.

AROUND SCHOOL



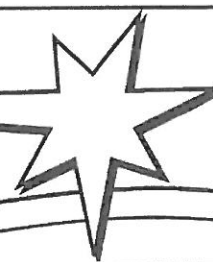
Pictures above: 6th grade Egyptian Museum, 2nd grade classes went to the YMCA for the splash program, Kindergarten Stone Soup, After school Chess club, Thanksgiving Dinner, and 5th graders raking leaves.



Body Venture

Body Venture is a unique educational program designed to involve Kindergarten thru 5th grade students in learning the skills and choices for a healthy lifestyle. Body Venture consists of 45-foot by 50 foot walk thru exhibit representing the

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2016

St. Marys School



Thoughtful Moments

St. Francis Xavier

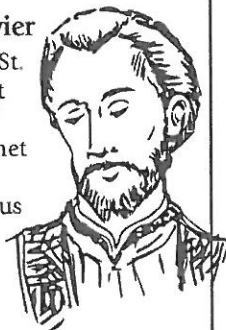
Born in Spain, St. Francis studied at the University of Paris, where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus with St. Francis and five friends.

After becoming a priest in 1537, St. Francis traveled to India and Japan as a missionary. He worked joyfully to serve the poor and the outcasts, and founded several congregations in both countries. He is called the "Apostle of Japan" and "Apostle of the East Indies."

God knows us

"A God who draws near out of love walks with His people... We could never have imagined that the same Lord would become one of us and walk with us, be present with us, present in His Church, present in the Eucharist, present in His Word, present in the poor... And this is closeness: the shepherd close to his flock, close to his sheep, whom he knows, one by one."

Pope Francis

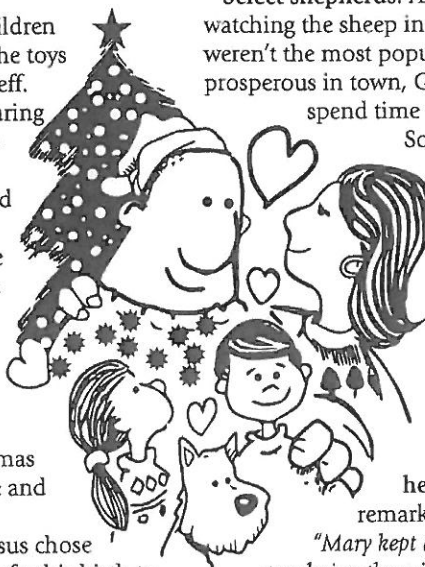


Is there peace and joy in your Christmas?

"Last year Santa disappointed the children by not bringing all the toys on their lists," said Jeff.

"We were so busy during the holidays that we were exhausted by New Year's Day," said Jenny. If we look to the world to provide joy at Christmas, we are often disappointed. Instead, try modeling your family celebration after the first Christmas to bring more peace and joy this year.

Sweep the inn. Jesus chose lowly circumstances for his birth to encourage freedom from worldly goods. Together, donate or sell what you don't truly need so you can free up attention and affection for what really matters. Then limit the number and value of new gifts.



Select shepherds. Although the people watching the sheep in the fields that night weren't the most popular nor the most prosperous in town, God chose them to spend time with his newborn

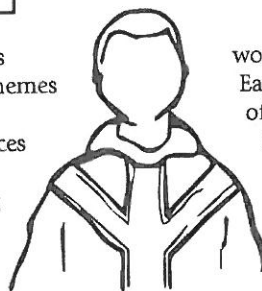
Son. Children benefit from healthy, loving company. Accept and extend only those holiday invitations that will provide precious, loving time together.

Ponder in your heart. When her remarkable Son was born, "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19) so she could savor the joy of every awesome moment. Don't forget to savor time with your own remarkable family so that you can ponder each wonderful moment in your own heart.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

The colors of the priest's vestments highlight the themes of the Church's seasons. Violet signifies the penances we make to purify our hearts and is worn during Advent and Lent. White and gold symbolize purity and joy and are

Why does the priest wear different colored vestments?



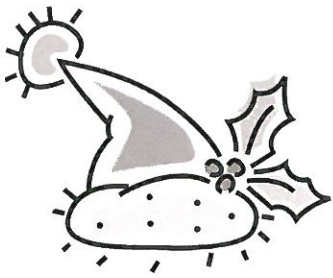
worn during Christmas and Easter. Red recalls the shedding of blood and God's burning love for us and is worn on martyrs' feast days, Good Friday, and Pentecost. Green signifies new life and is worn during the season of Ordinary time.

From Kinkadee Krista DeMare Egle Cikleberns Debra Schief
 Kim Cochran
 Theresa Gotti Michael Brown Cheryl Hooy
 Nellie Sandquist Cindy Compagnone
 Mary Mullen Kayla Roberts
 Stephanie Bruehl Billie Jones
 Zoe Dunmeyer Kerry Chaput Monica Austin
 Laura Weiser Sheri Winters Chen Shack
 Camille Stroud Judy Clacys Pat Klenda
 Peggy Sage Julie McIlwray Michael Zinke
 Sarah A Torrey Jessica Knox Nick Compagnone
 Tim Bullock Dayna Chapin
 Julie Stephens Pam Keller
 Sarah Jule

From:

St. Mary's Staff Pam Keller





December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 1st Reconciliation 10:00am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 1-3 Christmas Concert 7 pm Church	14 Kindergarten Concert 9:30am	15	16	17
18	19 4-6 Christmas Concert 7 pm H&S Holiday Bake Sale Art Show Parent Christmas Dinner	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

REMINDER: Per our school dress code :
Shorts cannot be worn December, January & February. Shoes can be tennis or athletic shoes only -boots may not be worn in the building during school hours

**School Resumes-
Tuesday, Jan. 3rd.**

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

There will be a time to share with classmates the inspirational spirit of giving. Students will exchange gifts that will benefit the child in the school setting—items such as new markers, crayons, pens, etc., which are often depleted by semester time. The exchange is still in the spirit of giving, and yet has a practical application. Teachers will be sending home a note with any special suggestions for the grade level. The price limit will be \$3.50—\$4.00. Parties will be held as follows.

December 20th— TT Pre-K AM @ 10:15

December 21st— MWF Pre-K AM @ 10:15 & M-F Pre-K AM @ 10:15 & M-F Pre K PM @ 2:30pm

December 21st— K1 AM @9:15am, K Full Day @ 2:30pm, Grades 1-6 @ 2:30pm

Lord, summon angels— day & night
To bring miracles and sheer delight
Toward all our friends near and abroad
Bless them with all you can laud
Grant them good tidings, dreams and health
And moments of kind natured wealth
Let everyone know they are held dear
And fill their heart with Christmas cheer



Love of Learning



Learning of Love

United In Christ - Body, Mind and Spirit

St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary's School
304 E. Cloud
Salina, KS 67401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salina, KS
Permit No. 189
