



St. Mary's Grade School



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

December 2018 St. Mary's Messenger

No Ordinary Man

Nicholas was a man of God who worked tirelessly for his flock. He gave to those in need and comforted the distraught. The legend describes St. Nicholas, giving away three sacks of gold to unfortunate families. People began to tell stories about a bishop and his power to change people's hearts. Because of all the good deeds Nicholas did, there were many stories of a man who could accomplish things no ordinary person could.

"It is easier to count the waves of the sea, the drops of rain, the stars, and with a glance see all the Atlantic, than to recount in detail God's marvels accomplished through Saint Nicholas," an eighth-century hymn proclaimed.

Nicholas gradually became an international phenomenon in the Old World. By the end of the fifteenth century, more than 2,500 churches, monasteries, hospitals, schools, and works of art had been dedicated to him in Western Europe.

In America, of course, he transformed into the champion bringer of gifts. Those three bags of gold have become Santa's sack of toys.

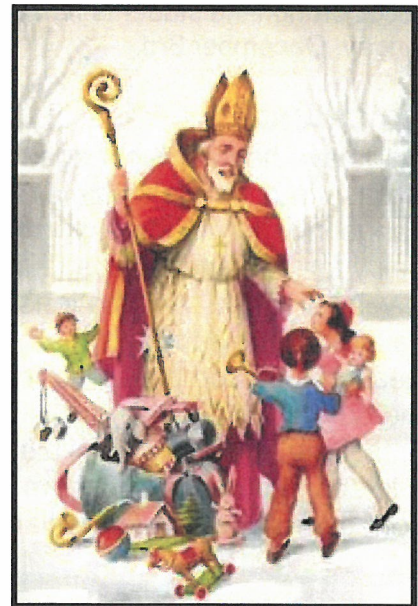
Yes, Santa Claus (whose name comes from Sinterklass, the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas) is sometimes overexposed and exploited. At his best, though, he stands for the virtues that Saint Nicholas championed:

generosity, selflessness, and largeness of spirit.

There is one essential truth in the stories of Nicholas and Santa Claus: the goodness of the gift offered with no expectation of anything in return. That spirit lives in any parent who with secret joy watches a wonder-struck child on Christmas morning.

The legacy of Saint Nicholas has rippled across seventeen centuries, bringing messages of faith and joy. His is a story worth knowing, especially this time of year.

Except from Bill Bennett: The Legacy of St. Nicholas



INFORMATION PLUS

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school December 20 through January 2. School will resume on Wednesday, 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 24th & 25th & Dec.31st & Jan. 1st. Love N Learn has openings for children 3yrs old thru Kindergarten. All kids must be potty trained.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

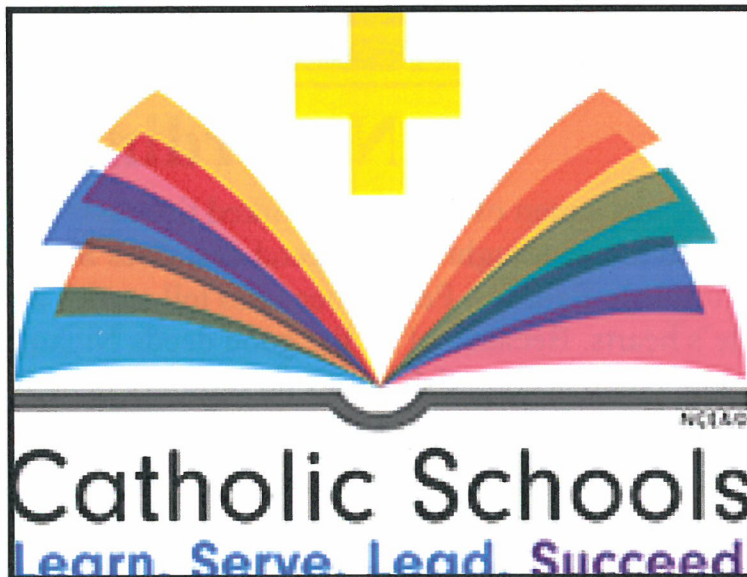
Congratulations to students and parents of those who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Special thanks and appreciation to their teachers. Thanks to St. Mary's Home and School for the special brunch the students had on Monday, December 3rd.

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 27th through February 2nd, 2019 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: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."



5th & 6th Graders presented STEM projects to families and friends on November 29.

Fitness Tip:

Stay active even on a rainy day. Just because your child can't play outside because it's raining doesn't mean it's time to turn on the TV. Put on music and encourage your kids dance in the house, walk briskly in an indoor mall or take a trip to your community center and [swim](#) in the indoor pool (if there is one).

Healthy Tip:

Grocery Shopping can teach your child about food and nutrition. Discuss where vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy and protein foods come from. Let your children make healthy choices.

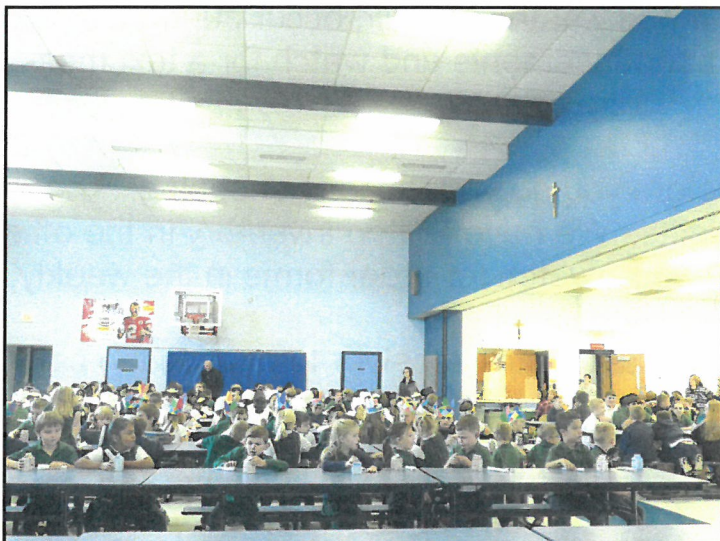
Christmas Dinner

We have one day set for Parent Christmas Dinner, Dec. 17th. 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 Monday, December 3rd. Plan to enjoy the Art Show and the Home & School Holiday Bake Sale. Scrip cards will also be available for immediate purchase.

Annual Thanksgiving Day meal at St. Mary's. All students, faculty and staff have a family style meal together to celebrate this wonderful day of Thanksgiving.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped prepare and serve the food.



School Council

St. Mary's School Council met on Nov. 26 at 5:30 P.M. Dr. Compagnone led with prayer.

Parent surveys focusing on the Catholicity of the school were conducted during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

There was an 85% return rate. Results were shared in the Nov. newsletter. Overall, the results were positive. Religious formation, being a reason to enroll students, was ranked high.

In the spring, parents will take part in another survey based on AdvancEd standards. This survey will be given online. Teachers and students will also be taking part in a survey for AdvancEd accreditation.

At the Nov. teacher's local in-service, STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) was discussed. Teachers are in the process of aligning the Religion portion in the curriculum for next year. A few teachers have indicated they are interested in teaching summer academies during the first two weeks of June. A parent interest survey will be sent home.

Jodee Blanco, was present on campus Nov. 15 & 16. She spoke to students during the day on the 15th and parents that evening. On the 16th she spoke with teacher at the diocesan institute. Her emphasis was on the emotional/social aspects that can be strengthened in the curriculum.

Grants: A grant is currently being written for tools and supplies in the greenhouse.

E-Rate is a federal program that helps school's libraries and infrastructure. For example, this is how the telephone system was updated. We received \$64,000 in this cycle and there is \$24,000 remaining. 60% is funded by

E-Rate and the school funds \$10,000. There are items being looked at such as a Virtual Server and updating Windows 7 to Windows 10 in the computer lab.

The diocese applies for E-Rate as a group and the governing board of each school must approve the Salina Diocese Children's Internet Protection Policy. The handout was shared with the school council. The handout explains how inappropriate sites are blocked. Students can be suspended. Parents can opt out, but then students would not be able to use the computers.

A new PowerSchool App is now available to parents to get announcements on their phones, Information will be sent home to the families.

The next school council meeting is Jan. 28.

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 quarters. Classrooms will have a tube for students to deposit their quarters. Then the tubes will be emptied into a larger jar. The money will be given to "Feed My Starving Children" campaign to help pay for manna rice packets.

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 7**. 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 12th

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.

AROUND SCHOOL



St. Mary's teachers braved the cold temperatures to support the Bill Grevas/Cindy Curran event on Saturday, Nov. 10th.



CANNED GOODS

In November the classes collected canned goods that were donated to the Emergency Food Bank & Catholic Charities. Students collected 925 cans to stretch from the Library all the way down to the Kindergarten rooms!



2nd Grade students had a brunch to celebrate receiving their 1st Reconciliation on Saturday, Decemebr 1st. Dr. Compagnone handed out certificates for their accomplishment.



Students help Mr. Cusick with the greenhouse. The school received a grant for the greenhouse project. Students have enjoyed helping with this project!!



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

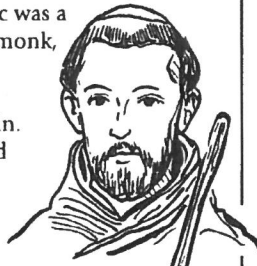
December 2018



Thoughtful Moments

St. Dominic of Silos

St. Dominic was a Benedictine monk, born around 1000AD in Navarre, Spain. He was exiled because of a conflict with the local ruler. Recognized for his leadership abilities, St. Dominic was made abbot of St. Sebastian's monastery at Silos. He's also known for having freed hundreds of prisoners from the Moors. St. Dominic, the founder of the Dominicans, was named after him by his mother, Joan of Aza, after praying to St. Dominic for a son.



The Wait

We spend Advent waiting for something wonderful to happen. While impatient to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Help children take it one week at a time. Wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice at the miracle of Christ's birth.

A Catholic difference

Catholics are never alone in our efforts. We are members of the Church, the body of Christ, and together we make a difference.



Find the true meaning of Christmas in L-O-V-E

Children of all ages enjoy gifts on Christmas morning, but Catholic parents know that there is more to Christmas than presents. It is a celebration of hope fulfilled. God promised he would send us a Savior so we could live in Heaven with him forever. He sent his own Son. Help children to experience the true meaning of Christmas by celebrating with L-O-V-E:

L – Lower your outside activities.

More than the gifts you give, children will cherish the Christmas memories you make. Limit the number of invitations you accept, and set aside the extra time as family time.

O – Offer anticipation. Instead of focusing on gifts and lists, anticipate

the Savior's arrival by marking the days on an Advent calendar you make together. Light an Advent wreath.

Decorate your Nativity scene gradually.

V – Visit.

In addition to weekend Mass, make trips to church so children can visit Jesus. Take Christmas cards you have received and pray for the people who sent them.

E – Extend love.

An effective way to experience love at the holidays is to

give it. Act with love,

especially when dealing with family.

Extending patience and kindness during the holiday season can be a challenge and a true act of love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ..." (John 3:16).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics refer to the family the "domestic church"?

The Church calls families "the domestic church" or "little churches" because it is the first place where young, baptized Christians learn about Faith.

We learn how to love God and become part of the

Church through our families.

Our parents had us baptized in the Church, taught us to pray, took us to Mass, and passed on the Faith

















(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1656). What the Church does—helps us

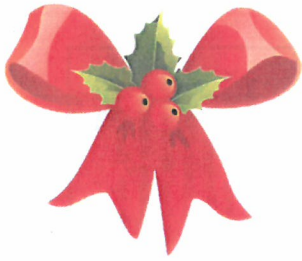
encounter God and his love—the family does on a smaller scale.





2018 Family Advent Calendar

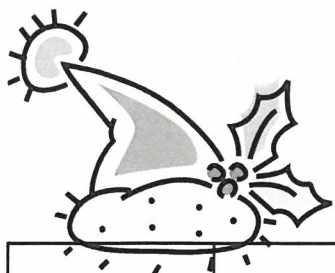
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle tonight and each night this week. 	3 Read about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in <i>Luke</i> 1:5-25. 	4 Ask a family member you have hurt in the past year for forgiveness. Offer it to one who hurt you. 	5 Set up your family Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family. 	6 Show love on St. Nicholas Day by filling an old shoe with treats and leaving it outside someone's door. 	7 Cut and paste pictures from old Christmas cards into ornaments for this year's tree.	8 In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight. 
9 Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." 	10 Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them.	11 Make cookies to bring to a nearby nursing home.	12 Set out a rose tonight in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. 	13 Read about the angel's visit to Mary in <i>Luke</i> 1:26-38. Talk about ways we can also say "yes" to God. 	14 Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family.	15 Attend Confession as a family and go out for a treat afterward to celebrate forgiveness! 
16 Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See who can sing loudest at Mass today. 	17 Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it. 	18 Place the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the scene.	19 Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming. Read them aloud on Christmas Eve.	20 Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day. 	21 Family Movie Night: Make some popcorn and watch a Christmas movie.	22 Put up and decorate your family Christmas tree. Stand back and admire your work. 
23 Light all four candles in the Advent wreath tonight and all week. 	24 Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready for the Baby.	25 Put the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke</i> 2:1-20.	 <p> <i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7).</i> </p>			



Pam
Keller

Merry Christmas

Nick Compagnone
Julie Stephens
Laura Weiser
Nellie Gatt
Cindy Compagnone
Billie Jones
Lindsey Sandquist
Mary Muller
Kim Cochran
Theresa Eotti
Amie Strout
Cheri Miller
Judy Clays
Rugby Jager
Pat Klenda
Monica Gaurin
Scott Schmitt
Jessica Knox
Cheri Snock
Irene Kinkadee
Sueing Winter
Stephanie Br. and
Hilda Dellars
Olinde Poyner
Kayla Roberts
Dawn Chapman
Shirley Zink
Egla Eklberg
Sarah Torrey
Deb Schep
Socorro Montoya
From: St. Mary's Staff



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
School Resumes- Thursday, Jan. 3rd.						1 1st Reconciliation 10:00am
2	3	4	5	6	7 DARE graduation	8
9	10 1-3 Christmas Concert 7 pm Church	11	12 Kindergarten Concert 9:30am	13 5-6 Christmas Concert 7 pm	14	15
16	17 H&S Holiday Bake Sale Art Show Parent Christmas Dinner	18	19	20	21	22
23		25	26	27	28	29
		Christmas Break—No School				
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				

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 18th— TT Pre-K AM @ 10:15 (3yr old)

December 19th — MWF Pre K AM @ 10:15 (3yr old)

December 19th— MWF Pre-K AM @ 10:15 (4 yr old)

December 19th— K1 AM @9:15am, K Full Day @ 2:30pm, Grades 1-6 @ 2:30pm

December 19th — M-F Pre-K AM @ 10:15 & M-F Pre K PM @ 2:30pm (4yr old)

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

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