



# St. Mary's Grade School



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

November 2020 St. Mary's Messenger

## Thankful for Silver Linings Happy Thanksgiving!

Yes, soon we will celebrate Thanksgiving, yet this year may be a little different with smaller gatherings and celebrations. None the less, it is the start of a season that anticipates hope and renewal.

Naturally, at this time of year we all feel thankful. During this 'extra' thankful time, we ponder and reflect about the past year, as we move forward to the future.

Keep in mind, since March '20, a lot of unexpected things have happened. Since then we have also had awesomeness surround us.

Prior to the first day of school, teachers and staff prepared the building to open on time, ensuring a safe and protective environment from the ongoing pandemic.

On the first day of school, St. Mary's 65<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, a rainbow formed in the sky as we opened the doors to all of our students. It was such a blessing!

We started the new school year with an increase in enrollment, challenging the school to keep classroom limits in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. At the same time, we learned through remote learning, how to make our curriculum more challenging for individual students.

As a community, we have strived to keep everyone safe by following protocols that we know may have disrupted conveniences of life. The results so far have been successful, as we have attained the goal to keep our school open.

This year the National Catholic Educational Association has declared the week of November 17-24 as "National Catholic Schools Appreciation Week". The faculty and staff wish to thank our parents and the Salina community for their support of St. Mary's educational ministry.



# Around the School



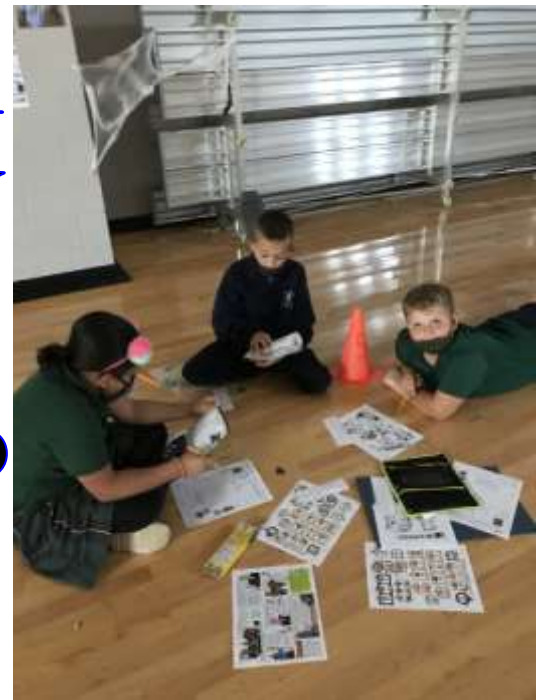
Sunflower Bank presented Dr. Compagnone with a check for the ABC program. The check sponsors 4-6 grade planners.

5th & 6th grade students enjoyed a fun & spooky escape room for Reward Day.

Thank you Sunflower Bank



Reward Day



## Great Lake Scrip/Dillons

**Don't forget to get your Holiday Shopping done early!! Purchase gift cards for your holiday needs or for gift giving...** Many popular merchant cards will be available to purchase all of November and December. Ask about the new Scrip Card app!! Purchase cards on-the-go. Pre-orders will be taken, watch your 'Red Folder' for information. Also available will be Scrip Gift Certificates. Don't forget to sign up with Dillons and designate St. Mary's Grade School. A percentage of purchases will come back to the grade school. Just go to Dillons Rewards to sign up! If you would like credit for your Dillons Rewards, please print off a copy of your statement and bring it to the school office. You will only get the credit if we have your family's statement.



## **School Council Summary**

St. Mary's School Council met on Sept 26.

**Mr. D'Andrea gave the group information about the new promethean board and some of its features. The board is like an interactive Smart TV, with no projector needed. Mr. Compagnone commented that the hope is to get another board in the future. The 14 yr old boards in the school are not compatible with Windows 10.**

Mrs. Kinkelaar showed the group some short clips of Mystery Science which was adopted by the school to be used for the STREAM Accreditation goal. Mystery Science contains various units for different grade levels based on the standards. This platform provides hands-on activities for

students to work on. Home and School will help with any expenses for supplies needed to complete the activities.

Dr. Compagnone reported that since our last meeting, 40 new chrome books have been acquired, working towards the goal for each student to have one. Some of the chrome books are refurbished. They have been hard to find since COVID. New WiFi access points have been updated in classrooms. E-Rate paid for 50%.

Nick Compagnone Ph.D.

## Garden Dedication

God, we need peace – so we come to the garden for quiet.  
We need joy – so we come to the garden for our senses  
the green of leaf,  
the rich crumbling smell of soil,  
and the scent of pine needle,  
the sounds of small life, of chipmunk and bird,  
that come and go in all places natural,  
the rough texture of gravel, the delicacy of a flower petal.

We need to let things go – so we come to the garden for rest,  
and we need to let people go,  
so we come to the garden to remember them.

We need hope – so we come to the garden to watch  
things grow  
reminding ourselves to be planters  
and to enjoy what others have planted.

We need benches where we can begin to let Sabbath in  
our lives.

We need paths to help us recognize our own journeys.

We need a justice commitment to environment,  
a global commitment that calls us to action,  
but we also need a small square of real earth  
to root our speeches and to get our hands dirty.

We need community – so we come to this garden  
to give and receive a shared blessing  
(not the result of our personal winter catalogues,  
spring compost, summer weeding)  
to give and receive a shared blessing  
from the hand of the Sower of seeds.

Amen



Teachers, students, staff, clergy and family of Rhonda Cole and Msgr Weber were all present on this beautiful day.



## ITBS Testing

**St. Mary's School, Grades 1-6,** take a Norm-referenced test each fall in order to measure students' current performance, as well as progress from previous years. The results are beneficial to not only parents, but the school as well. Teachers can guide their instruction and the school can develop its curriculum.

Kindergarten will do their testing in January. Please make sure your children get plenty of rest & eat a good breakfast the week of Nov. 9th.



## Canned Food Drive

During the month of November, students will be asked to collect canned goods which will be distributed to Salina Emergency Food Bank and Catholic Charities.

**This year, we will have a "Thermometer" outside the office tracking our progress!!**

We would like to reach our goal of 1000 boxed and canned items!!

Students may bring in items from Nov. 16-23



# Announcements

## No School

### Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 25th

Thursday, November 26th

Friday, November 27th

Love N Learn will be closed Nov. 26 & 27



## COLD WEATHER

With the cold weather season arriving, it is the parents' responsibility to see that their children are dressed appropriately to play outside, and sometimes wait outside in the morning before school. Please make sure that your child brings a coat as the weather turns colder. Remember that shorts will not be worn during the months of **Dec., Jan. and Feb.**

Please put your child's name on the tags of their sweatshirts and hoodies. Also, please check the tags of your child's items. If you find an item at your house that was picked up accidentally, with someone else's name in it, please return it to the office.

A plain, short sleeved white t-shirt may be worn under a uniform shirt, but no other long sleeved shirt. St. Mary's sweatshirt or hoodies are recommended instead.

**WEATHER ALERT**— School closings will be posted on our school website (<https://stmarysalina.org>), will be announced on local radio stations, tv stations and will be sent as a text message to families that have signed up for this service at the school office.

## Red Wheel Products

Thank you to all the parents that helped to distribute Red Wheel Products on Monday, October 26. Those volunteers were: Kim Cochran, Thomas Cook, Gage Cranmer, Curtis & Jodi Feist, Theresa Gotti, Jennifer McGilvray, Cheri Smock, Danne Reed and Heather Relph.

The school sold 1,554 items for a profit of over \$10,500.

Top Sellers were Aiden Mai who sold 92 items and Olivia Stottmann who sold 66 items!!

Congrats to both of them!!

## Turn TV commercials into fitness breaks.

Invent silly names for simple exercises like squats, push-ups, and sit-ups, and then do them together till the show comes back on. "Call them princess sit-ups or Bob the Builder muscle builders," You can also play "coach," in which you take turns "ordering" each other to "drop and give me five," or "follow the leader," in which one person leads the others in fun, simple moves like clapping, wiggling, and marching.

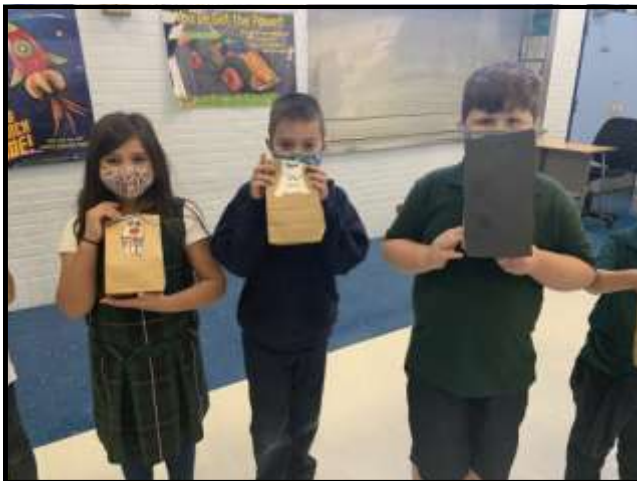
Enjoy your food, but eat less:

Take the time to fully enjoy your food as you eat it. Eating too fast or when your attention is elsewhere may lead to eating too many calories. Pay attention to hunger and fullness cues before, during, and after meals. Use them to recognize **when to eat and when you've had enough.** For more information on the school's wellness policy, see the school's website.





## More Around the School....



Happy Halloween!! Students went trick or treating in the APR.

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2020

St. Mary's School



## Thoughtful Moments

### A new year begins

Each year the Church begins a new liturgical year on the Sunday closest to the feast of the apostle Andrew (November 30). This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 29. We begin Year B in the liturgical cycle.

### Welcome saints into your family

Saints are holy people who lived a life of extraordinary virtue and now celebrate with God in Heaven forever.

All Saints Day (November 1) reminds us that we are

still connected to them through the Communion of Saints. Introduce children to new saints regularly.



### Judge not

Help children to remember that criticizing others is a serious business. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37). Better to worry about our own behavior and let others do the same.



## Heaven is worth the wait

No one likes to wait, and children are particularly poorly suited to delayed rewards. Yet, Advent is all about waiting for something amazing. So how can we help youngsters see that Heaven will be worth the wait?

**There are no worries in Heaven.** "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain" (Revelation 21:4). When we get there, we leave behind concerns, pain, worries.

**Everything good comes from Heaven.** "Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). If all good things come from Heaven, imagine how great it will be

when we get there.

**The company is great there.** When we get to Heaven, we will have joyful reunions with beloved grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who have died before us.

Best of all, we get to mingle with the saints, angels, and with Jesus, himself.

**The one who loves us best is there.** As much as earthly parents love their children, it's nothing compared to the love God has for

each of us. He is the perfect parent – our true Father – and he is waiting for us in Heaven.

**Heaven is our true home.** "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).



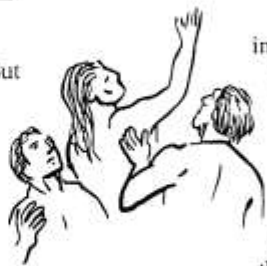
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do we pray for the souls in Purgatory?

All who die in God's friendship go to Heaven. But if we haven't properly atoned for our sins, we are purified in Purgatory first. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Purgatory, "a final cleansing of human

imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven."

Praying for the souls in Purgatory helps them pass through faster than they would otherwise. "Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin" (2 Maccabees 12:46).



## Make Christmas all about love

What parent doesn't cherish the sparkle of excitement in a child's eye at Christmas? As Catholic parents, though, we want our children to have the joy of the holiday, not just the anticipation of receiving gifts. Try these ideas to experience Christmas as a holiday of love.

**Help children give, not just receive.** Children love to give gifts. Write up a list of grandparents, teachers, and siblings and help children make and send handmade gifts like Christmas cookies or ornaments.



**Focus on Jesus.** Start the season by reading a few verses of the story of Jesus' birth each day. Sing your favorite religious Christmas carols. Make birthday cards for the Baby.

**Come alive.** In the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, act out your own Nativity. Each take a part to play. Imagine what it would have been like to have been there for the real event.

**Thank you note.** All good gifts come from God. Write Jesus a "thank you" note for the blessings you received in the last year.

### Scripture LESSON

### Mark 13:33-37, Keep watch!

In this reading, Jesus urges us to always be ready because "You do not know when the time will come." He wants us to be on the watch for Him.

Next month we celebrate Jesus' arrival at Christmas. He will come twice more for certain: at our death and at the end of time. Advent is the time to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?"

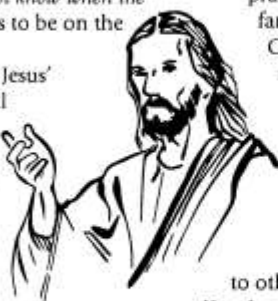
**What can a parent do?** Start by doing your best to remain in a state of grace and help children to do the same. Teach youngsters to perform a daily examination of

conscience, and pick one sinful practice to eliminate. Make it a family practice to go to Confession regularly – once a month, if possible.

Then attend or watch Mass weekly and try to spend more time in prayer. Finally, see if there are ways your family can offer yourselves in service

to others.

Keeping watch means fixing our eyes on God at all times. Then, when Christmas comes, we can greet the Lord with joy.



### Feasts & Celebrations

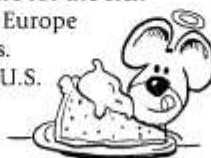
**Nov. 1 – All Saints Day.** In the early Church, saints and martyrs were each assigned a feast day. However, the extreme persecution of the Christians meant there weren't enough days in the calendar for individual commemorations. Eventually Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day.

**Nov. 2 – All Souls Day.** On this day we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and souls in Purgatory to help them get to Heaven faster.

**Nov. 12 – St. Josaphat (1623).**

Born in the Ukraine to Orthodox parents, St. Josaphat converted to Catholicism, became a Basilian monk, then a priest, and was named Bishop of Vitebsk (now in Russia). He worked for unity in the Church and was martyred for his efforts.

**Nov. 13 – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1917).** Mother Cabrini started the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Italy and founded 67 institutions to care for the sick and forgotten in Europe and the Americas. She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.



### Parent TALK

One afternoon, my daughter, Kara, went to a friend's home and came back in a thoughtful mood. It seemed that at three o'clock, everyone in the house stopped what



they were doing and came together. They spent time in prayer: fifteen minutes for the Divine Mercy chaplet (at the

hour of mercy) and thirty minutes for a family Rosary. Everyone took turns praying a decade and sharing a meditation on the Mystery, which Kara liked, because then she didn't have to "pray all those beads" by herself.

When Kara came home, she told me about the family holy hour and asked if we could do it, too. I told her it might be hard to make a whole holy hour every day, but it gave me the idea to put a "Rosary reminder" in my phone, for three o'clock. Thanks to Kara's friends, daily prayer has become a family habit.

### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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# NOVEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Election Day No School	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
*****ITBS Testing*****						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Discover Catholic Schools Week Canned food Drive			
22	23	24 All School Mass & Thanksgiving Dinner	25	26	27	28
			Thanksgiving Break			
29	30 School Council @ 5:30	26	27	28	29	30



## Looking Ahead

**Dec 5th** 1st Reconciliation (2nd Grade) @ 10am St. Mary's Church

**Dec 8th** Home & School Meeting @ 12:00

**Dec 8th** Holy Day of Obligation, Mass @ 9am (for students only) in SMGS Gym

**Dec. 11th** DARE Graduation @ 2:00pm

**Dec 18th—January 3rd** - Christmas Break

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your Son. Amen.



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## St. Mary's Messenger

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Salina, KS 67401

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