



St. Mary's Grade School



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

December 2019 St. Mary's Messenger

No Ordinary Season

Advent is the time of year we all enjoy listening to Christmas Carols as we lead up to the celebration of Christmas. Many of the traditional carols are religious in nature. Other secular songs capture the spirit of the season in giving to others and the value of family.

One popular carol is the "Drummer Boy" The song lyrics are said to be based on an old Czech carol actually entitled the Carol of the Drum.

In the lyrics, the singer relates how, as a poor young boy, he was summoned by the Magi to the Nativity of Jesus. Without a gift for the Infant, the little drummer boy played his drum with approval from Jesus' mother, Mary, recalling, "I played my best for him" and "He smiled at me." Although the "Little Drummer Boy" is often remembered for the lines that famously imitate a drum, a review of the song's lyrics reveal why it is indeed a Christmas carol. It is about the birth of Jesus Christ and the gifts presented to the newborn king on this momentous day. It reminds us that we too have little to offer to the Christ child but ourselves and the rum pump um is the sound of our hearts. The first verses of the lyrics go like this:

*Come they told me
pa rum pum pum pum
A new born King to see
pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring
pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King
pa rum pum pum pum
rum pum pum pum
rum pum pum pum
So, to honor Him
pa rum pum pum pum*



INFORMATION PLUS

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school December 20 through January 6. School will resume on Tuesday, January 7.

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 23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th & 31st & Jan. 1st.

Love N Learn has openings for children 3yrs old thru Kindergarten. All kids must be potty trained.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

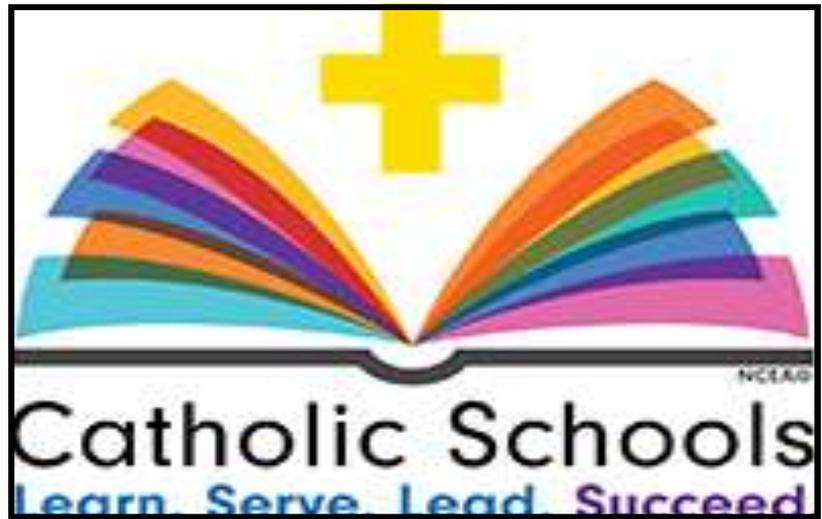
Congratulations to students and parents of those who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Special thanks and appreciation to their teachers.

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 26th through February 1st, 2020 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.



Thank you to the Greater Salina Community Foundation. **St. Mary's received a grant to go towards the Robotics program.**

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. 16th. 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 2nd. 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.



What Are the Primary Reasons Parents Enroll At St. Mary School?

Recently we sent AdvancED surveys to parents attending St. Mary School concerning why parents send their students when it comes to their children's education. According to the results of the survey one can infer that parents want their children to receive the best education possible, so their child will have a better chance of success as adults.

Some of the primary reasons parents send their children to a Catholic school are:

- Catholic schools are the best way to help parents educate their children (93%)
- Catholic schools provide make a positive contribution to the general community they are located (96%)
- Catholic schools like SMGS are developing an awareness of social responsibility and character development. (97%)
- Catholic schools offer a safe learning environment (95%)

What Are Some Benefits a Child Can Receive from St. Mary Grade School?

Academic Excellence

A Catholic education can provide students with a solid academic foundation. Students learn mathematics, social studies, English, science, foreign language, art, and religious studies. In the AdvancED survey 98% of parents in SMGS agreed with this statement "the school provides a good balance between academics and religious teaching and the staff responds to the needs of my child(ren). Parents view staff as partners in the education of their (children) 99% agreed.

According to research students do best academically when staying in school. According to the Kansas State Department of Education statistics, St. Mary school has a 97% average daily attendance.

Catholic Faith and Values

Catholic education teaches students core values to help them mature into Christ-like people. Students learn self-discipline, how to accept responsibility for their actions, and to make good decisions based on the tenets of their faith. They also learn about commitment, respect of others, and service. According to the parent survey, 93% of the respondents agreed with the statement that children are learning a need for community service while 95% agree the gospel message is evident in all areas of learning.

Healthy Social Relationships and a Sense of Community

When children go to a Catholic school, they develop a strong bond with their fellow students, their school, their church, and their home to create a strong sense of community. An overwhelming number of parents agreed (98%) with the statement that a good community spirit exists within the school.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 6**. 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 9th.

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 20 minutes after dismissal will be taken to Extended Care.

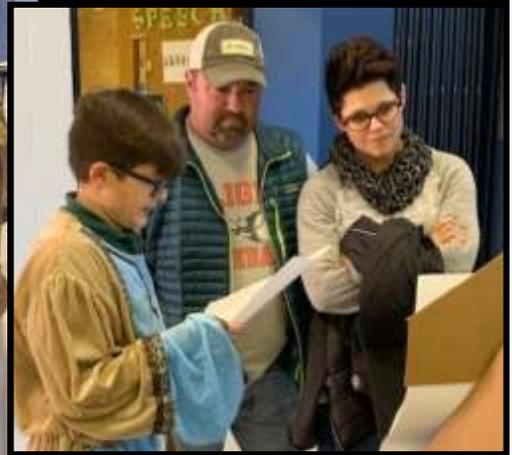
St. Nicholas Day

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 THE SCHOOL



Students collected cans during the month of November. Total cans collected was 1296!!!



6th Grade Students had their Egyptian Museum on Dec. 3rd. Parents and younger grades were able to visit the museum. Many stations had games, food and homemade projects!!

Advent Project

Each year, St. Mary's Grade School chooses an organization to bless during the Holidays.

This year we have chosen to collect various items that include new socks, hats, gloves (all sizes), shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, diapers, baby wipes, baby bottles, toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, ect.

These items will be collected by all grades and then donated to various organizations around Salina.



UNITED IN CHRIST, BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

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St. Mary's Grade School

St. Mary's parents' reflections regarding our school...

- ❖ I'm thankful for my own deepening faith through my children's spiritual growth.
- ❖ A safe and faith-based environment for learning
- ❖ Establishing strength in the areas of Mind, Body and Spirit - must happen early in life and St. Mary's delivers in all three areas.
- ❖ The community outreach and giving the school emphasizes



- ❖ We love the emphasis on the "whole" child, not just their academic development, but their spirituality as well.
- ❖ Provides an overall sense that they "matter"; that their development is important; that their worthy of love, not just training
- ❖ The education at St. Mary's provides a challenging environment to help our child prepare for the real world.



- ❖ Love having a safe, God filled place for my children to be and learn.
- ❖ I am so thankful that our Faith is incorporated into their daily activities and lessons.
- ❖ The teachings and values are an extension of and go in accordance with those of our household.
- ❖ Development of character - teachers molding students into kind, compassionate, spiritual adults.
- ❖ Value education as an important part of the development to include arts, technologies and language.



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2019

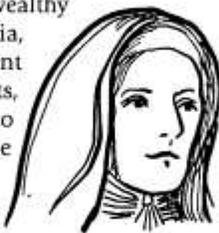
St. Marys School



Thoughtful Moments

St. Maria di Rosa

Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula spent her time, talents, and resources to help others. She left school to help her father with the mill.



She helped her brother run a school for deaf and mute girls and cared for those suffering from the cholera epidemic of 1836. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840—a religious order which cared for the sick. Upon entering, she took the name St. Maria Crucifixa.

The first Christmas gift

Find something shiny or yellow that reminds you of gold. Use something fragrant (like an air freshener) to represent frankincense. Pour a small amount of oil into a small container to represent myrrh. Put these three gifts in a box, label the present with Jesus' name, and open it first on Christmas Day.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14).



Have a peaceful Advent

Do you wish for an idyllic family Christmas complete with joyful music, grateful children, and tinsel-covered tree? For many parents, the weeks of Advent before Christmas mean weeks

spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and are wrought with family tensions, obligations, and overly excited children. Try these steps to keep your sanity

and your Savior in your family's observance of Advent and Christmas:

Be realistic. It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.

Tie gifts with heartstrings. It's okay to give fewer gifts and to keep what you give simple, meaningful, and from

the heart. For example, give a coupon for a household chore to someone who would appreciate an extra hand. Handmade ornaments make meaningful gifts that last.



Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for the season. Play your favorite hymns and carols to keep a peaceful tone in your home.

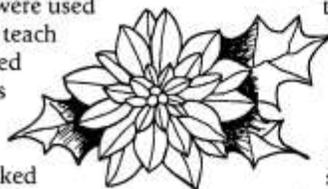
Reach out. Want to help children focus on something other than their gift lists? Do at least one good deed for someone needy.

Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remember what is most important about Christmas.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

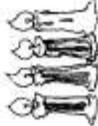
Why do Catholics display poinsettias at Christmas?

Originally from Central America, poinsettias were used by early Christians to teach the faith. The bright red leaves recalled Christ's blood which was shed for us, while their arrangement evoked the Star of Bethlehem. In one legend, a poor Mexican



girl wanted to give something to the Christ child. Having nothing, she arranged weeds into a bouquet and left them before the manger. They grew beautiful red flowers, showing that she had given the best gift of all: genuine love.

Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 December Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle each night this week.</p> 	<p>2 Set up your family Nativity scene with the empty manger. Add other major figures gradually throughout the season.</p> 	<p>3 Consider buying a gift for a struggling family in your parish. Ask the parish office for suggestions.</p> 	<p>4 At dinner tonight, pray for troops stationed overseas and their families this season.</p> 	<p>5 Today, resolve as a family to only say kind, encouraging things to each other.</p> 	<p>6 Show love on St. Nicholas' Day by doing a secret good deed for someone else.</p> 	<p>7 Put up a Christmas tree. Have each family member put an ornament on every day until it is beautiful for Christmas.</p> 
<p>8 Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p> 	<p>9 In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.</p> 	<p>10 Cut star-shaped ornaments out of colored paper. Decorate with glitter on one side and your favorite Bible verse on the other. Hang them on the tree.</p> 	<p>11 This can be a sad time for those who have lost someone or are alone. Include anyone in your gathering who might otherwise be forgotten.</p> 	<p>12 To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary" whenever you pass it.</p> 	<p>13 Make time to visit the church when Mass isn't celebrated. You can sit and pray together quietly, or just show the little ones around.</p> 	<p>14 Gather with friends and go Christmas caroling. Warm up with hot chocolate afterward.</p> 
<p>15 Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.</p> 	<p>16 Give each family member a chance to say "thank you" for a blessing God has given this year.</p> 	<p>17 Make Christmas cookies and decorate them with symbols of the season. Bring them to a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p> 	<p>18 Christmas can be a stressful time for parishes. Send or make thank-you notes to your priests or parish staff.</p> 	<p>19 Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming at Christmas. Read them aloud on Christmas Eve.</p> 	<p>20 Have a family story night. Reread your favorite Christmas storybooks over cookies and milk.</p> 	<p>21 Attend Confession together to ready your hearts for the Savior. Go out to dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness.</p> 
<p>22 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Reread today's Gospel reading, Matthew 1:18-24.</p> 	<p>23 Resolve as a family to pray for at least 15 minutes every night during the coming year.</p> 	<p>24 Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready for the Baby.</p> 	<p>25 Rejoice! Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20. Think of how joyful it will be to meet Jesus when he comes again.</p> 	<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>		

Merry Christmas

Julie Stephens

Deb Scheef

Jana Weiser

Sandy Dorman

Moni Gausman

Sarah Torrey

Cindy Compagnone

Cheri Hillis
Ricky Sager

Egla Eiklaug
Lindsay Sandquist

Jojo Dellera

Mary Brown

Kayla Roberts

Kim Cochran

Fran Kinkelaar

Robert Olt
Olinda Power

Cheri Smack

Sheri Hinters

Katry Muth

Pat Klenda

Scott Schenkeler
Theresa Groth
Judy Claeys

Jackie Kack

Jaylene McIlroy

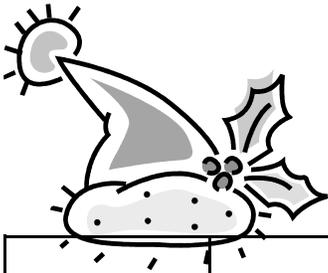
Nick Compagnone
Shirley Jent

Stephanie Brunelli
Dallas Woods

Jessifer Burr
Pam Keller

Zoi Yunemaya

Deanna Chapin



December 2019

School Resumes-
Tuesday, Jan. 7th.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1-3 Christmas Concert 7 pm Church	4	5	6	7 1st Reconciliation 10:00am
8	9	10 Kindergarten Concert 9:30am	11	12 4-6 Christmas Concert 7 pm	13 DARE graduation	14
15	16 H&S Holiday Bake Sale Art Show Parent Christmas Dinner	17	18	19	20 Christmas Break No School	21
22	23	Christmas Break—No School			27	28
29	30	Christmas Break—No School				
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 — MWF Pre K AM @ 10:15 (3yr old)

December 18th— MWF Pre-K AM @ 10:15 (4 yr old)

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

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

December 19th— K1 AM @10:15am, 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

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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

