

ST. MARY'S NEWS



St. Mary's Grade School

December 2022

304 E Cloud, Salina, KS 67401 785-827-4200

St. Mary's Grade School

Upcoming Events

December Events

- December 8 - Kindergarten Christmas Program @ 9:30am
- December 9 - D.A.R.E Graduation for 6th grade @ 2pm
- December 11 - Panera Fundraiser 8am-8pm
- December 15 - 1st-3rd grade Christmas Program @ 7pm
- December 16 - Christmas Parent Lunch and Bake Sale 11am-1pm
- December 20 - Dismiss at 1:20pm - No Extended Care
- December 21 - January 3rd No School - Christmas Break
- January 4 - School resumes



From the Principal

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending". —

C.S. Lewis

Families, it is with great joy and excitement that I am writing this message to you during Advent. As we prepare for Christmas it is very easy for us to become secular and start to worry about the typical stresses of the holidays. As Americans we become obsessed with Christmas parties, sporting events, purchasing presents and the stress of trying to afford everything.

Instead, I would like to refocus our attention toward spiritual introspection and preparation for Christ, our risen Lord. As Father Mike recently said in one of his YouTube videos **"Preparing for Christmas - The True Meaning of Advent"**. Father challenged us to imagine what you would do if you knew you would die on Christmas day. If you knew this, how would you spend your 2-3 weeks leading up to Christmas. Would you spend more time in prayer? Would you go to confession? Would you spend more time with your family and friends? Would you say I love you more? Would you relish the food that you ate and savor the free time that you had? Would you be more giving and less selfish? Would you quit worrying about the secular stresses of Christmas and refocus on your relationships with family, friends, and God? As you reflect on this, challenge yourself to do those things before this Christmas and every Christmas thereafter.

As C.S. Lewis states in the quote mentioned above, it truly doesn't matter how you got here...it matters where you go from here. If we can make internal changes this Advent season in preparation for the birth of Jesus, we will actually become more Christ-like in our encounters with others. By doing this we bring God (who is love) to the people around us. Now, imagine how impactful Christmas will be this year, if this truly happens. Vivat Jesus!

Mr. Tym Bonilla, Principal

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of SALINA

JOIN US FOR THE ADVENT FAMILY CHALLENGE!



Step 1

Commit to a Family Night during each week of Advent.

Family Nights involve making and sharing a meal and playing a game or activity together. We will help with suggestions & have a special guest help us with recipes!



Step 2

Pray the Novena for Marriage and Family with us.

Join us from December 21st to December 29th in praying the Novena for Marriage and Family. You will be joining families from all over the diocese in praying this together.



Step 3

Go to Mass together on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 30th)

Ask the Holy Family to intercede for your family and all families worldwide.

Stay Tuned For More Information On How To Join Us For This Challenge!

We will have special guests provide recipes, game ideas, and activities that you can do with your family. We will also provide the prayers for each day of the Novena.

Our Website

<https://salinadiocese.org/office/family-life/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SalinaDiocese>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/SalinaDiocese>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/salina_diocese/

Salina Diocese Office Of Family Life



ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL Christmas BAKE SALE

DECEMBER 16, 2022

Bake Sale 11am-1pm or until gone!!



ABC Program Pays Out!

Lani Newton, Branch Manager, and Dusty Farris, Senior Branch Manager, present an ABC check to Tym Bonilla, the principal of St Mary's Grade School in Salina, Kansas.

Counselor Corner



Diaper Drive for Catholic Charities. SMGS & SHHS collected 7,464 Diapers!! Way to Go!!

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Deuteronomy 15:10

You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

Thanksgiving Dinner



It is a tradition at St. Mary's before we dismiss for Thanksgiving break, we all enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together family style.
Thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible!!



CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR FAMILIES

"HOW DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD?"

We spend far too much time asking kids what they want to be when they grow up, when really, we should ask them how they want to change the world. What is your child driven to do? How does she see herself making a difference around her? By talking about the impact she can make, she'll be less constrained by careers and more focused making the world a better place.

"WHAT WAS HARD ABOUT TODAY? HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?"

We all have hard days, kids included. Encouraging your child to talk about her challenges shows that you're open to listening to even her not-so-good days. That you're not always expecting her to have a wonderful day, or get discouraged if she happens to have a hard one. She also learns how to focus on getting through challenges instead of dwelling on them or letting them sour her for a long time. Not only are you asking what was hard, you're showing that you're curious about the ways she overcame obstacles.

"WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT FOR TODAY?"

Encourage your child to think and act positively throughout the day. This helps her stay positive, even when things go wrong. Imagining positive outcomes doesn't mean everything goes perfectly, but it does encourage her to weather negative events much more smoothly. Asking her what she's excited about also extends the positive feelings not just to the moment itself. She'll also be excited about it beforehand as she's anticipating it.

"WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?"

Gratitude can make a powerful impact on how kids view the world. Ask your child what he's grateful for in his life. He's reminded of all the wonderful things he has, from his parents to his house to his favorite toys. You can also talk about his day and have him share which part of it he's most thankful for. Gratitude shifts our thinking away from the empty feeling of lack, to genuine pleasure in living in the moment.

"WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY?"

This is a fantastic question to ask at dinner or bedtime. She falls asleep with a positive picture of her favorite part of the day, helping her have a good night's sleep and feel satisfied with how the day has gone. Asking her favorite part of the day also helps her focus on the positive things that happened, even if not-so-happy things did as well. This doesn't mean we brush difficult feelings aside, but you help her remember that good things do still happen.

"WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOURSELF?"

It's powerful to equip our kids with the ability to truly love themselves. For one thing, having self-confidence can help keep limiting beliefs, doubts, and criticisms at bay. Kids can also turn into themselves, remembering what's awesome about them, when they feel down. And at the end of the day, all of us need to love ourselves in order to give love to others.

SLEEPINGSHOULDBEEASY.COM

Because of your support, St. Mary's Home & School has raised over \$2000.00!! This comes from the Table of Plenty nights at Jimmy Johns and Chipotle and also Treat Trolley.

Also, St. Mary's Grade school has raised over \$1000 from the RaiseRight Scrip program so far this school year. All from families purchasing gift cards from us!!

We appreciate all of our St. Mary's families and wanted to say Thank You!!

Be sure to participate in the upcoming Table of Plenty night out at Panera on December 11th!!

And don't forget to purchase your holiday gifts cards from St. Mary's!

Thank you to all our generous donors during the #I Give Catholic event.

St. Mary's raised \$14,725!!



#IGIVECATHOLIC
#GIVINGTUESDAY



Report allegations of the abuse of a minor to the
Department of Children and Families
800.922.5330
KBI Crime Hotline
800.572.7463

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If you suspect abuse of a minor by church or school
personnel, in addition to contacting civil authorities,
the diocese provides a confidential
Hotline: 866.752.8855 ext.1067
Website: reportandprotect.com

Email: reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
Reports will be responded to promptly by the Victim
Assistance Coordinator

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To report an incident of sexual abuse and related
misconduct by a Bishop or Religious Superior cur-
rently or in the past, the Catholic Bishop Abuse
Reporting Services provides a confidential
Hotline: 800.276.1562
Website: reportbishopabuse.org

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The Diocese of Salina complies with Kansas laws
regarding reporting suspected abuse to civil authori-
ties and cooperates with civil authorities investigat-
ing reports of suspected abuse by all persons, includ-
ing but not limited to Church Personnel.

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Questions regarding reporting should be
directed the Safe Environment Office
Diocese of Salina -785.827. 8746

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*"God is light; and in him there is no dark-
ness. If we walk in the light, as he is in the
light, we have fellowship with one another."*

1 John 1:5-7















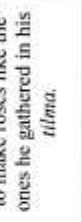















Spirit Mania



Thank you SHHS!!



2022 Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 November Buy or make an Advent wreath. Have the youngest light the first violet candle for Hope. 	28 Choose a gift to prepare throughout Advent to give Jesus on His birthday: myrrh (sacrifice), frankincense (holiness), gold (treasure). 	29 Make Christmas cards for troops overseas. Use these ideas: https://tinyurl.com/2pwx9vme . 	30 St. Andrew the Apostle St. Andrew answered the Lord's call. Pray for priests and more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. 	1 December Practice singing all the verses to "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." 	2 First Friday Devotion Visit Jesus in the tabernacle in church (find the lighted tabernacle candle). Thank Him for His blessings. 	3 Bake and decorate cookies Advent-style, holiday-style, or free-style. Enjoy them together. 
4 Light the first candle and a second violet one for Faith. Share a way you experienced God's love today. 	5 Add gently used clothes to a box. When it's full, bring it to a clothing drive. 	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Perform an act of kindness in honor of this generous saint. 	7 Sacrifice sweets and desserts today as penance for the souls in Purgatory. 	8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary Honor Mary by attending a Mass and praying a family Rosary. 	9 St. Juan Diego Mary's miraculous image on St. Juan's tilma (cloak) helped convert Mexico. Use playdough to make roses like the ones he gathered in his tilma. 	10 Attend Confession as a family. Make sure everyone is prepared. Celebrate God's mercy. 
11 Gaudete Sunday Light two violet candles and the rose one for Joy! 	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Place roses on the family table and pray a decade of the Rosary together. 	13 Eat dinner together by candle light. Mention the ways Jesus brings light to the darkness. 	14 At bedtime, pray for everyone who is traveling for Christmas. 	15 Start a Christmas Charity Chain. Every time someone performs a good deed out of charity, add a loop to the chain. Hang it on the tree at Christmas. 	16 Eat pizza and play board games together. 	17 Have each child pick an "O Antiphon" and draw it. (Hint: find them here at https://www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons/) 
18 Light all the candles, including the last one for Peace. Pray for peace in the world. 	19 Pray tonight for Catholic missionaries. 	20 Play "Name that hymn." The winner gets to light the Advent candles tonight. 	21 Eat dinner together and ask everyone to share a favorite Christmas memory. 	22 Put up your family Nativity set. Leave out the Baby. 	23 Read Luke 2:7-20 and talk about how you would each welcome Jesus if you visited the manger. 	24 Christmas Eve Put the Infant Jesus in the manger and sing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" 

Mary Brown
Miguel Stein

Monica Gaurin

Marissa Roberts

Patricia

Cory Rottler

Jane Weiser

Mandy Gaurin

Peggy Zager

Ashlyn Joke

Heidi Sprague

Zoe Greenmeyer

Sarah Torres

Cheri Gillis

Theresa Gotti



Jessica Jacobs

Bryan Lewis

Frank Hinkelmann

Dawn Chapin

Ignacio T. Rella

Abby Naselhorst

Krista DeMarco

Kayla Roberts

Brianne Hansen

Vonda Bonilla

Melissa Smith

Jessica Noe

Alondra

Pat Klemda

Tammy Moon

Shirley Zink

Alinda Owen

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From: St. Mary's Grade School

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Mass @ 8am Rosary @ 9am	3
4	5	6 Freddy's Night out Fundraiser	7 Mass @ 8am	8 Kindergarten Program	9 Mass @ 8am	10
11 Panera Fundraiser	12	13	14 Mass @ 8am	15 1st,2nd,3rd Christmas Concert	16 Parent Lunch & Bake Sale	17
18	19	20 Dismiss at 1:20pm	21	22	23	24
			No School - Christmas			
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31
		No School - Christmas Break				

Library Lane



Winter is right around the corner and I am wanting to snuggle up with a good book more and more. For some of our early readers, it can be a bit of a challenge to find that "just right" book for them as they start to branch out on their own in selecting a book, so I wanted to share a method that was taught to me that I think may be helpful to some of you. It's called the 5 Finger Rule. Some of your kiddos may already know this by heart, but just in case they don't here is what it is. The student opens the book to the first page and starts reading. They then hold up a finger for every word that they don't know or can't pronounce. Holding up only 1 or two fingers? Perhaps the book is a bit too easy. 2 to 3 fingers? Just right. If they have all 5 fingers before the end of the page, this is one way to say that the book is beyond their level right now, but might be a good choice for a read-along with a more experienced reader. Of course, it isn't always perfect. One big *gotcha* on that rule can sometimes be the interest level that the child has for the book. There are some students who are so excited to find a book about football that they don't care about its' age, lack of pictures, or easy words, they are going to check out that book and they are going to find out what it says. It is always a bit of a balancing act, and I am sure that I send home much tougher books than I should sometimes, but it is a wonderful thing to see the eyes of a young person shine when they find something on the bookshelves that lights them up.

I hope that this is helpful to you. It is tough getting started with reading, but pairing just the right amount of challenge with a topic they enjoy makes all the difference. See you again soon!

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Mary's Grade School is to form lifelong learners of Faith through spiritual guidance and academics, who serve and lead in Church and community.



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St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary's School

304 E Cloud
Salina, KS 67401

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