



# Saint Agnes

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 1, 2024

**Rev. Rayappa Konka**  
Pastor

**Susan Flohr**  
Pastoral Minister

**Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday: 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am**

**Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri**  
**7:00 am**

**Wed 8:15am**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturdays one hour prior to Mass  
or by appointment (632-2541)

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Please call the Parish Office

**Parish Office Hours:**

Tuesday-Friday, 9am - Noon  
& 1pm - 4pm



“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.  
But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because  
your redemption is at hand.”

- Lk 21:27-28



2314 Third Avenue, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

(308)632-2541 Fax: (308)632-2146

Mailing address: PO Box 349, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0349

Website: [www.st-agnes-church.com](http://www.st-agnes-church.com)

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-Noon & 1pm - 4pm

# Saint Agnes Catholic Church

## Today's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms:25

First Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



### Parish Administration

(308) 632-2541 / (308) 632-2146 (Fax)  
office@st-agnes-church.com  
www.st-agnes-church.com

### Pastor

Rev. Rayappa Konka (ext. 2)

### Church Office Manager

Theresa Trevino (ext. 3)  
office@st-agnes-church.com

### Pastoral Minister

Susan Flohr

### Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Terri Calvert (ext.5)  
dre@st-agnes-church.com

### School Head Teacher

Mrs. Julie Brown (632-6918)  
office@st-agnes-school.com

### School Office Manager

Teresa Johnson (632-6918)  
office@st-agnes-school.com

### School Foundation

### Executive Director

Isabel Moreno (632-6918)  
imoreno@st-agnes-school.com

### Prayer Chain Coordinator

Jean Ahrens (308-672-4632)

### Music Ministry Director

Jessica Mikoloyck (308-631-6290)  
jes.mikoloyck@gmail.com

## The First Sunday of Advent

### Remembering Advent

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent.

What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent.

There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I overdecorate, I over gift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My *spiritual* Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door and the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)

*Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## This Week's Schedule

### Monday, December 2, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Lucien Kicken by Margaret Kicken

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

### Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Buford & †Benny Williams

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

### Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: Jared Hort by Connie McDonnough

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Contemplative Prayer (6:00pm)

### Thursday, December 5, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: Wayne & Betty Hort by Connie McDonnough

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

### Friday, December 6, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: Paul Pieper by The Pieper Family

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

### Saturday, December 7, 2024

Weekend Mass (5:00pm)

Intention: For Our Parish

### Sunday, December 8, 2024

Weekend Mass (8:00am)

Intention: †Mary Carson by The Carson Family

Weekend Mass (10:00am)

Intention: †Shirley Huck by The Peck Family



## This Week's Readings



Monday Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 21:20-28

Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

## Server Schedule

Dec 7 5pm Zalie Adams  
Quinten Gould

Dec 8 8am Carson Windhorst  
Allie Windhorst

10:00am Holly Polk  
Nina Polk

## Lector Schedule

Dec 7 5pm Kristin Schiff

Dec 8 8am Jordan Colwell

10:00am Lisa Ringle

## Rosary Leader Schedule

Dec 7 5pm Carmen Trevino

Dec 8 8am Addison Peck

10:00am Angie Hilbert

## Finance Corner

### Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

#### November 17, 2024

Actual	\$3716.78
ATW	\$4020.00
Online Giving	\$1320.50
Budget	\$10000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$942.72

#### November 2024 Totals

Actual	\$12548.53
ATW	\$7715.00
Online Giving	\$3851.00
Gen. Church Support	\$2000.00
Budget	\$30000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$3885.74

Next Sunday's 2nd collection is for Christmas Altar Flowers

Thank you for your continued giving!

### Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

Because of early transmission dates for the bulletin this week, the collection report will not be published on its regular schedule

### Important Notice

Please mark your calendar that there will be a meeting for all Greeters and Ushers on **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** at 1:00 pm in the church.

*please join us for the*

**ST AGNES  
ALTAR SOCIETY  
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND  
ROSARY EXCHANGE**

**Thursday, December 5th, 2024  
from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Garden  
Room.**

**Appetizers and beverages will be  
provided. Please bring a wrapped  
rosary to exchange.**

**All women of the parish are  
welcome!!**

# STAR CARDS

## Do you need gift cards?

Gift cards will be on sale December 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd after mass. You buy the gift card for the amount you need, the company you buy from gives a percentage of that purchase to St Agnes School. You may also buy digital cards online at <https://www.raiseright.com/>.

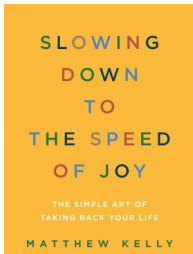
There are over 500 stores! Questions? email us at [starcards@st-agnes-school.com](mailto:starcards@st-agnes-school.com).



## Men's Group

Men's group will be starting this book on the second Thursday in December at 7:00pm in the church basement.

For more information, please call Jordan Colwell at 308.225.2498.



# Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus members were able to collect 600 pounds worth of canned goods from the Scottsbluff Country Club patrons.



The Knights of Columbus Timothy Molony Council #2681 Scottsbluff, Nebraska, members provided and served hotdogs and buns for the St Agnes Catholic School students. They also helped with the clean up process.



WOMEN AT THE WELL



# ADVENT ENCOUNTER Event

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1



Virtual Guest Speaker  
**SISTER TERESA HARRELL**



5:30 MT Social | 6:00 MT Speaker  
7:00 MT Adoration & Confession  
St Agnes Garden Room



## Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

We need you, because God needs you!  
And you need CDA!!

Mark your calendars for these CDA upcoming events!

### Sock it to us!

Socks of all sizes and colors are welcome! Please place new packages of socks or monetary donations in the box in the Gathering Space, now thru December 8th.



Let us do your Holiday Baking!

## CHRISTMAS COOKIES & CANDY Bake Sale

Gathering Space  
Saturday & Sunday Dec.7th & 8th  
after each mass



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Mass Times – 12/9/24 – 7am – Noon – 5:30 pm**

Normally celebrated on Dec. 8, this feast was transferred to Monday, Dec. 9 because Dec. 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent. **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation to attend Mass.**

Although we celebrate the Immaculate Conception during Advent, the season during which we prepare for the birth of Jesus, this feast is **NOT** about the conception of Jesus. This can be confusing because the Gospel reading for this holy day focuses on the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary. "The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.'" (Luke 1:30-31)

The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The "immaculate" is not a reference to how she was conceived by her parents, Sts. Joachim and Anne. It acknowledges that God intervened and allowed her to be conceived without the stain of original sin.

So why does the Church use the announcement of Jesus' birth as the Gospel for this feast day? Before Gabriel tells Mary that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, he greets her: "'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.' But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'" (Luke 1:28-30)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the significance of this greeting. "To become the mother of the Savior, Mary 'was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.' The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as 'full of grace.' In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception."

"That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: 'The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.'" (nos. 490-491. See also, nos. 721-726)



## VCNIN CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM

Since 1983 Valley Christian Neighbors in Need (VCNIN) has coordinated a Christmas Sharing Program every year for families in need in the Panhandle. This program provides food and gifts through an application process with Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN) and in collaboration with Knights of Columbus Council 2681 "Toys for Tots" and Riverstone Bank's "Gift of Love" programs. Volunteer opportunities abound in order to make this program successful!

*They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share - 1 Timothy 6:18*

**November 7 – December 11:** Tree of Love @ Riverstone Bank, Scottsbluff & Gering. Stop by and pick out a name from the Tree of Love, purchase gifts, and return unopened to Riverstone by December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m.:** Canned good sorting @ St. Agnes School Gym. Canned goods from the local food drives will be sorted for use in the gift baskets and for local food pantries.

**Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.:** Truck of Love @ Riverstone Bank, Scottsbluff – Collecting new or gently used toys, new or gently used coats (any size), non-perishable food items, and cash donations.

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.:** Gift Prep @ Knights of Columbus Hall, 1719 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Scottsbluff. Open to the public, preparation of gifts for Family Gift Baskets.

**December 17 – 19:** Gift wrapping @ Knights of Columbus Hall, 1719 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Scottsbluff. Open to the public, bring a pair of scissors and practice your wrapping skills. All the unwrapped gifts collected must be wrapped before delivery. Show up any time after 5 p.m. and stay as long as you can.

**Wednesday, December 18:** Youth Group gift wrapping @ St. Agnes School – Youth Group Students only.

**Saturday, December 21, 9 a.m.:** Gift basket sorting @ St. Agnes School Gym. Final sorting of perishable food goods for the holiday meal baskets.

**Sunday, December 22, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.:** Gift Basket Drive Thru @ St. Agnes School Gym. Volunteers needed to distribute food baskets, toys, and bikes to recipients of the Christmas Sharing Program.

## Religious Education Program

Email—[dre@st-agnes-church.com](mailto:dre@st-agnes-church.com)

Religious Education Office—308-635-1362

Celebrating Sunday  
First Sunday of Advent

**Gospel:** *Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

### **On the Way to Mass:**

Imagine a great feast about to take place, with the most important guests coming. How would you prepare? See how many different, special clues you notice at Mass that show we're in a time of preparation - Advent - for Jesus' birth at Christmas.

### **On the Way Home From Mass:**

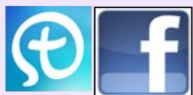
What did you see at Mass that was different from last week? Do you have any ideas of what we can do at home to celebrate Advent?

### **Living the Word:**

The simplest Advent traditions are the easiest to keep. Light candles on an Advent wreath each night at dinner or sing "O Come O Come Emmanuel" together with your dinner blessing.

*Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families  
2024-2025*

### **Find Us On**



**Parish Website**

[www.st-agnes-church.com](http://www.st-agnes-church.com)

**myParish App**

*In the App Store on your phone or tablet*

**Facebook**

*St. Agnes Catholic Church*

### **Prepare for the Holidays by sharing Christ's love**

The holidays are a time of joy and celebration... but not for all. Here are simple ways to reach out in mercy to



those in need — a good way to prepare for Christ's coming:

**Practice patience:** Encourage children to deal patiently with younger siblings and peers — as they'd like to be treated.

**Comfort the sorrowful:** Send a handmade card with messages of kindness and love to someone you know who is struggling or grieving. Model compassionate listening for children.

**Feed the hungry:** Give to your local food pantry. Alternatively, have children help you bring a meal to someone who's sick or has a newborn.

**Donate clothing and shoes:** Donate gently used, no-longer-needed clothing, shoes, and winter wear (coats, scarves, mittens) to families in need.

**Volunteer for the "Angel Tree":** If your parish has one, encourage children to pick an ornament and give someone less fortunate a nice Christmas.

**Practice forgiveness:** Encourage seeking and giving forgiveness early and often. Teach children we show mercy to others since we received mercy from God (Matthew 18:33).

**Pray for the holy souls:** Encourage children to offer their Mass intentions for friends and family in need or who have already passed on. Also, consider adding this traditional prayer at meals: "May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

*Partners in Faith - November 2024*

### **Family Advent Calendar**



#### **Sunday, December 1st First Sunday of Advent**

Buy or make an Advent wreath and bless it. Light the violet candle every night this week.

#### **Monday, December 2nd**

Assign "Advent Angels." Draw names at random and encourage good works in secret.

#### **Tuesday, December 3rd**

Set out the empty Nativity scene. Add characters gradually throughout Advent. Save Baby Jesus for last.

#### **Wednesday, December 4th**

Watch a Christmas movie on Formed.org tonight as a family.

#### **Thursday, December 5th**

Buy gifts for children in need. Consult your parish office for suggestions.

#### **Friday, December 6th**

##### **St. Nicholas of Myra**

Encourage everyone to perform an act of kindness in honor of today's generous saint.

#### **Saturday, December 7th**

Decorate a Jesse tree and discuss its meaning. Learn more at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

*Partners in Faith - December 2023*



# THIS WEEK ON FORMED

## Week of December 01, 2024



### 30 Minutes B.C. A Nativity Play

### 30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.

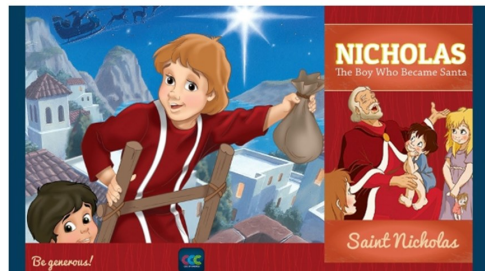


### Is Christmas a PAGAN HOLIDAY?

WHAT CATHOLICS  
believe

### Christmas (Part 1) | What Catholics Believe

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!



### Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa

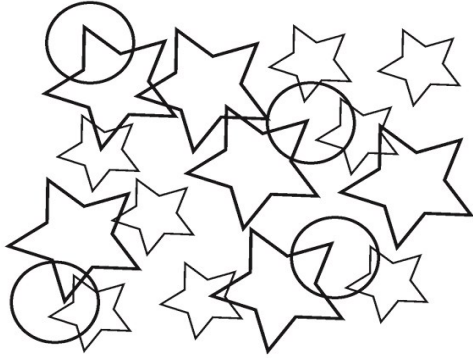
Here is the fascinating story of the boy whose love for others make him one of the most popular figures of all times. Today, more than sixteen centuries later, the entire world celebrates the kindness and generosity of the man we call Santa Claus.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

# Kids' Corner

## PUZZLE

Jesus is the star of life. How many stars can you count?

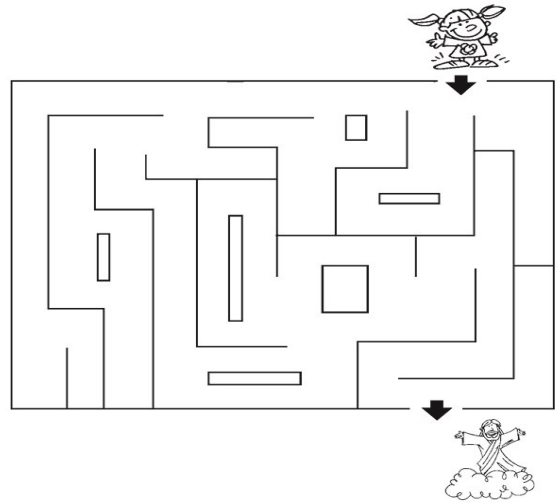


## MISSION

I will pray every morning that my family sees and stays on God's path.

## PUZZLE

Help this child find the path to God.



## MISSION

Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask him to help you to be brave.





Connecting Students and Families through Faith  
December 1, 2024



## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, Nov 26th**

PK & K Thanksgiving feasts  
4th & 5th shopping trip to Walmart

**Wednesday, Nov 27th**

No School - Thanksgiving Break

**Thursday, Nov 28th**

No School - Thanksgiving Break

**Friday, Nov 29th**

No School - Thanksgiving Break



## Annual Hotdog Feed

St. Agnes 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students hosted the annual hotdog feed on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. A meal of hotdogs, chips, beans, pickles, jell-o and cookies were served. Each child was asked to donate \$2 for the meal. A total of \$610 was raised to purchase gifts for 7 children whose names are on the Tree of Love. This is a beloved event for our students, and we thank all who supported them in their efforts to raise funds for this special project.



St. Agnes Catholic School  
205 E 23rd, Scottsbluff, NE  
Ph: 308-632-6918



# Classroom News.....

## Advent Celebrations

December 1<sup>st</sup> marks the first Sunday of Advent. As part of our preparation for the coming of the Lord, the students will be taking part in special Advent celebrations on Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning at 8:20 in the school gym. The program theme this year is the Jesse Tree. Parents are welcome to join us as we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas.



## Christmas Program

The St. Agnes Christmas Program, *Know Christ, Know Christmas*, will be performed in the school gym on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30. Christmas attire is the expected apparel for the PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade performers who all have been hard at work preparing their portion of the program. Families and friends are invited to join us for this fun performance, which will put you in the mood for Christmas. A cookie reception will be hosted by HSA following the program.



## Discipleship Friday

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Discipleship Friday was held on the afternoon of Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for the afternoon was: The Mass is a gift. The students learned that Jesus is the greatest gift we receive at Mass and the more we prepare ourselves for Mass, the more we will enjoy the Gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. We also learned more about the virtue of – Peace. As always, the students enjoyed actively learning more about Mass and the Eucharist as we participated in the game, art, music, prayer and snack stations.



## *Hot Lunch Menu for December 2nd, 2024 - December 6th, 2024*

<u>Monday, Dec 2</u>	<u>Tuesday, Dec 3</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec 4</u>	<u>Thursday, Dec 5</u>	<u>Friday, Dec 6</u>
Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Pears	Chicken Salad Wrap Baked Beans Fritos Mandarin Oranges	Chili Steamed Carrots Cinnamon Roll Apple Sauce	French Toast Sausage Patty Potato Wedge Peaches	Chicken Stir Fry Spinach Salad Cherry Tomatoes Pineapple
<b>Helpers:</b> Jordan McBride Kelcie McBride	<b>Helpers:</b> Jordan McBride Kelcie McBride	<b>Helpers:</b> Jordan McBride Kelcie McBride	<b>Helpers:</b> Jordan McBride Kelcie McBride	<b>Helpers:</b> Robn Dendinger Greg Visage



# What's Happening at St. Agnes School.....



## Pre-K Class By Nicole Boness

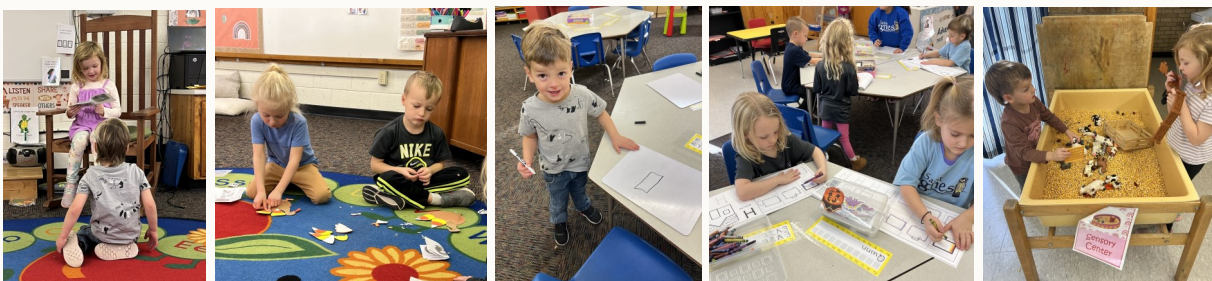


This month, we've continued exploring the concept of our community. The children learned about the different roles that workers play in our community. They had fun dressing up as some of these workers and even built their own little community using Lincoln Logs.

We also celebrated Thanksgiving in the classroom by focusing on gratitude. The children created turkeys, painted wooden pumpkins, and made colorful scarecrows. These activities provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss the things we're thankful for.

A highlight of the month was our Pre-K Thanksgiving feast. The kids made turkey hats and personalized their own placemats. They had a great time helping set up the tables in a circle, eating together in the classroom, trying new foods, and even watching a movie.

It's hard to believe that there are only three weeks left in the semester! I've seen so much growth in each child, and it's truly heartwarming to watch them get excited as they achieve new things on their own. In the coming weeks, Pre-K will be practicing for their music program, enjoying a pajama day and pizza party, and finishing the year with a fun Christmas party.



## Second Grade Class By Lori Svitak



Our month started off with the annual 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Saint Celebration. Each child chose a saint to research and present a report to Father Konka. The students dressed up as their saints too. I always learn about a new saint every year. The students did an amazing job!

In math, we are learning how to skip count. We have worked on counting by 2, 5, 10, and 100. The tricky part is being able to skip count by these numbers starting on any random number. Not always easy! We continue to work on improving our math fact fluency. Once a week we test our skills by trying to solve 100 math problems in five minutes. Each student is encouraged to improve upon their last score.

In science, we are learning about habitats. We are talking about how each place is different and how it provides what is necessary for the animals who live there to survive. Our next unit is on Earth's changes.

In religion, we have started learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are going through each step of the sacrament and discussing what to do and what it means. The students are also memorizing the Act of Contrition. This sacrament will be celebrated in January.

Happy November Birthday to Kane Marshall, Elyanna Torres-Isla and Mrs. Brown.

