



Saint Agnes

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 15, 2024

Rev. Rayappa Konka
Pastor

Susan Flohr
Pastoral Minister

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am

Monday - Friday
8:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

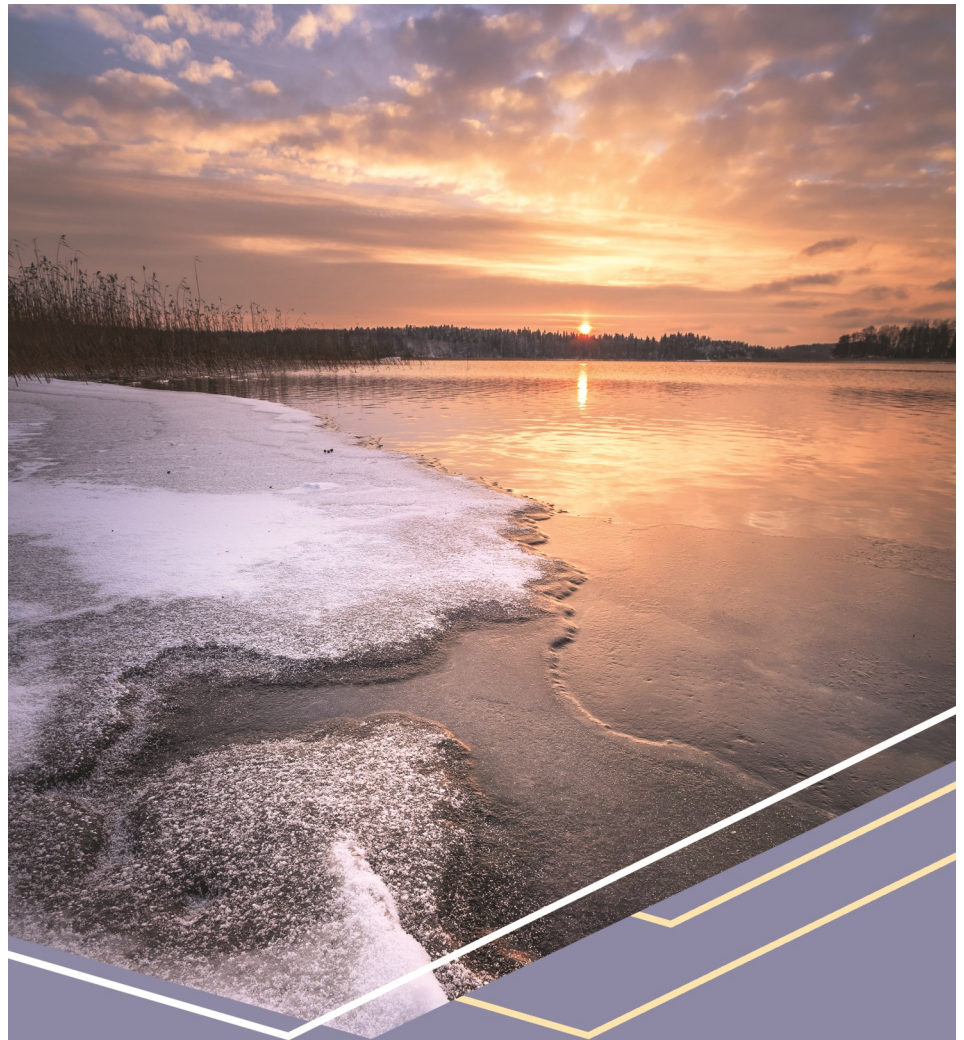
Saturdays one hour prior to Mass
or by appointment (632-2541)

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours:

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



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

- Lk 3:16



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

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

Saint Agnes Catholic Church

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Psalms: Isaiah 12:2-3/4/5-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18



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 Third Sunday of Advent

Asking the Question

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” that his reply was not going to be: “Keep doing exactly what you’re doing.”

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That’s a hard thing to do, and I don’t do it enough. Too often, I’m afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 16, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Lucien Kicken by Margaret Kicken

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Buford & †Benny Williams by Eileen Young

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Carol Windhorst by The Windhorst Family

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Contemplative Prayer (6:00pm)

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Brad Tyree

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Friday, December 20, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †John Kissack Sr. & †John Kissack II by Marjorie

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Saturday, December 21, 2024

Weekend Mass (5:00pm)

Intention: Carmen Trevino by Renee Malm & Theresa Trevino

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Weekend Mass (8:00am)

Intention: †Mary Carson by The Carson Family

Weekend Mass (10:00am)

Intention: For Our Parish

This Week's Readings



Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-2

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Server Schedule

Dec 21 5pm Alyck Rodriguez
Kensington Suhr

Dec 22 8am Erin Warburton
Isabella Songco

10:00am David Hafner
Kellan Zulkoski

Lector Schedule

Dec 21 5pm Kathleen Roehl

Dec 22 8am Bridget Peck

10:00am Chuck Schwartz

Rosary Leader Schedule

Dec 21 5pm Diana Rohrick

Dec 22 8am Knights of Columbus

10:00am Kristin Schiff

Finance Corner

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

December 8, 2024

Actual	\$7810.75
Online Giving	\$1439.50
Budget	\$10000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$749.75

December 2024 Totals

Actual	\$12240.69
ATW	\$3695.00
Online Giving	\$2780.00
Budget	\$20000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$1284.31

Next Sunday's 2nd collection is for VCNIN

Thank you for your continued giving!

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.



December Schedule

Advent Communal Reconciliation Services

December 15th
3:30pm St. Agnes Church
6:00pm Christ the King Church

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule

7:00am, Noon, 5:30pm

Christmas Eve

4:00pm & 8:00pm

Christmas Day

9am

New Year's Eve

4:00pm

New Year's Day

9am

(*No 8:15am daily mass*)

VCNIN CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM

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

December 17 - 19: Gift wrapping @ Knights of Columbus Hall, 1719 1st 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.

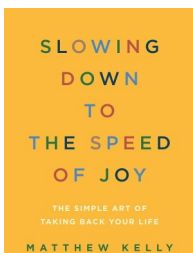
Sunday, December 22, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Gift Basket Drive Thru @ St. Agnes School Gym. Volunteers needed to distribute food baskets, toys, and bikes to recipients of the Christmas Sharing Program.

Men's Group (update)

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

December's meeting has been cancelled.

For more information, please call Jordan Colwell at 308.225.2498.





Knights of Columbus



Knights and family members from Father Timothy P. Molony Council 2681 in Scottsbluff, Neb., are joined by State Deputy Bob Wolf (top right) for a Christmas distribution last year. The council partners each year with Valley Christian Neighbors In Need and St. Agnes Catholic School to provide food, clothes and toys to more than 100 families.

DECEMBER 2024 + COLUMBIA 27

The Knights of Columbus made it in our International **Columbia Magazine** for **December 2024** edition. Please check your mail. This is the online version. <https://issuu.com/columbia-magazine/docs/columbiadec24en/28>



The Knights of Columbus St. Agnes Council along with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Council and Christ the King Catholic Church Council served the **St. Agnes Premiere**, greeted and opened doors for patrons with their fancy tuxedos.



Knights of Columbus®

Scottsbluff, NE Council 2681



What: Christmas Party with Santa
When: December 22nd, Sunday
5 pm to 8 pm
Where: K of C Hall - 1719 1st Ave
How: Please RSVP to John at
308-615-9429
St Agnes Families and Children
are welcome.
Please join us for food, games
and treats with Santa!



PIC•COLLAGE



The Knights of Columbus had another successful Breakfast Buffet with almost 150 patrons. Thank you for your continuous support of our local K of C projects.

Jubilee 2025

So, what is a Jubilee Year and where did it come from?

A Jubilee Year is a special celebration the Church holds at least once every 25 years. It’s a year of pilgrimages, of a focus on the spiritual life, of confession and special Masses, and of a general turn towards God in thanksgiving, and in repentance.

It’s often said that Jubilee years are all about seeking and giving forgiveness - asking God and one another for forgiveness and offering forgiveness to the people we need to forgive.

Where did the concept of a Jubilee Year come from?

The Jubilee Year has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition, where it was celebrated every 50 years. In the Book of Leviticus 25, the Jubilee Year was a time for: freeing slave, forgiving debts, and universal pardon.

The first Christian Jubilee was established in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII. Since then, the Catholic Church has celebrated Jubilees every 25 or 50 years, and sometimes extraordinary Jubilees as needed.

What is the faithful to do in a Jubilee Year?

The 2025 Jubilee Year, themed “Pilgrims of Hope”, begins on December 24, 2024, and ends on January 6, 2025. The Jubilee Year is marked by the opening and closing of the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica.

During the Jubilee Year the faithful are encouraged to repent their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. Pope Francis designated 2024 as a Year of Prayer to prepare for the Jubilee Year. The Year of Prayer is a time to rediscover the value of prayer in personal life, in the church, and in the world.

At St. Agnes we will be celebrating the opening of the Jubilee Year the weekend of January 4th and 5th, Epiphany.



Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome

Have you been looking for a calendar that lists the daily events in the parish life of St. Agnes?

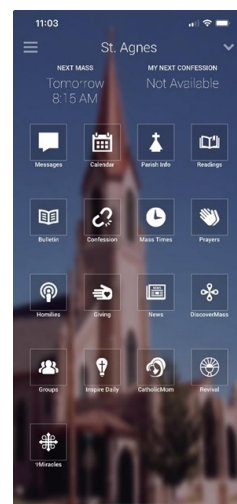
Now you can find that on MyParish App under the calendar tab!

MyParish App has been utilized at St. Agnes for the past several years. MyParish App is an opportunity to foster a stronger parish life and better engage the New Evangelization.

If you haven’t downloaded the App, do so today. It is easy, just go to the App Store on your mobile device or tablet and search for MyParish App. Once the App has downloaded, search for St. Agnes, Scottsbluff.

On MyParish App you will find a wealth of information, relevant parish messages, the weekly bulletin, daily Mass readings, prayers, and more! Again, you are now able to access the parish calendar to stay apprised of upcoming events in our parish.

There is no need for parishioners with smart phones to remember to silence their phones before Mass. The app will send you a reminder to silence your phone 20 minutes before the Mass you select. Many great features will be a help to everyone, such as, daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, quick access to online tithing, Confession reminders, and our weekly bulletin. Once again, the calendar tab has been updated listing the daily events that are taking place at St, Agnes. What are you waiting for? Download MyParish App today!



Religious Education Program

Email—dre@st-agnes-church.com

Religious Education Office—308-635-1362

Celebrating Sunday Third of Advent

Gospel: *Luke 3:10-18*

On the Way to Mass:

Crowds came to the desert to listen to John the Baptist preach. Who is someone who's encouraged you to live well? Is there anyone who makes you want to be like Jesus?

On the Way Home From Mass:

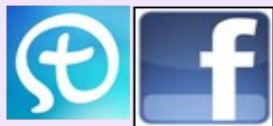
Do you think people liked beginning told the ways they were sinning and how they needed to change? What do you think they did?

Living the Word:

As a family, consider what vices God might be calling you to address as you prepare for Christmas. Pick one (perhaps impatience with one another in the morning, leaving undone chores for others to finish, or a habit of sarcasm) and make an intentional plan of practicing its opposite virtue - patience, diligence in one's work, or charity in your words.

*Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families
2024-2025*

Find Us On



Parish Website

www.st-agnes-church.com

myParish App

*In the App Store on your phone
or tablet*

Facebook

St. Agnes Catholic Church

Parent Talk:

Our holidays were so hectic, I stopped enjoying them. Instead of celebrating on Christmas morning I wanted to stay in bed. Two years ago, I was so cranky and tired, I almost ruined everyone else's day.

So last year I asked the guests we expected for Christmas dinner to each bring a side dish. That way I wouldn't have to spend the whole day cooking. Next, I drew up a list of our closest friends and family and bought small gifts for them, and the children and I spent a weekend baking cookies and wrapping gift baskets. People loved the homemade touch. Finally, I put the children's bedtime off each night by 15 minutes. We spent that time lighting the Advent wreath and praying the Rosary.

On Christmas morning, I cooked a special breakfast, sang joyfully at Mass, and celebrated Christmas Day. I finally had my blessed family Christmas.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why does the priest wear purple in Advent?

Purple – or violet – is traditionally associated with penance and penitential

seasons such as Advent, a season marked by hope, simplicity, reflection, and preparation. This season calls us to repent of our sins and strive to become the individuals God intends us to be. It is a time to ready our hearts for Jesus' arrival, both at Christmas and at the end of time.

Purple is also a royal color, reminding us that the King is coming to rule our hearts!

Partners in Faith—December 2024

Family Advent Calendar



Sunday, December 15th Third Sunday of Advent

*Communal Advent Reconciliation
3:30 pm in the church*

Gaudete Sunday

Light two violet candles and one rose one for joy. Have a small treat to celebrate.

Monday, December 16th

Before bed, gather around a crucifix and pray an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be for any family intentions.

Tuesday, December 17th

Christmas is in nine days! Place a candle or light in the window for the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.

Wednesday, December 18th

“Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4). Encourage everyone to practice patience today.

Thursday, December 19th

Offer a chaplet of Divine Mercy for those who have lost loved ones this year.

Friday, December 20th

Share favorite Christmas family memories over hot chocolate and cookies.

Saturday, December 21st

The King is almost here!
Declutter the house so it's nice for Christmas.

Partners in Faith - December 2024

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

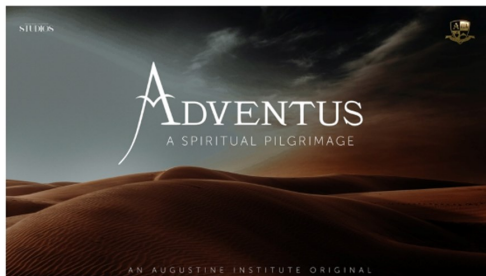
Week of December 15, 2024



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.



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



Christmas (Part 2) | What Catholics Believe

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

Kids' Corner

PUZZLE

Circle the pictures that are **facing the same way**.
Then color in all the pictures.

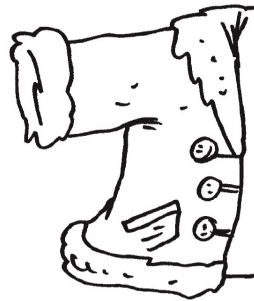


MISSION

This week I will give money, canned food,
and/or clothing to the poor.

PUZZLE

Complete the picture.



MISSION

The next time you go grocery shopping with your
parents, ask if you can pick out some foods to
share with the poor. As a family, talk about how
thankful you are for the many ways God takes
care of you.



Connecting Students and Families through Faith
December 15, 2024



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Dec 17th
Advent Celebration

Wednesday, Dec 18th
Mass @ 8:15 - 1st Grade leads

Thursday, Dec 19th
Kindergarten Nativity - 8:30
Caroling to follow
Christmas Parties - 2:30
Dismiss for Christmas Break - 3:15

Friday, Dec 20th
NO SCHOOL

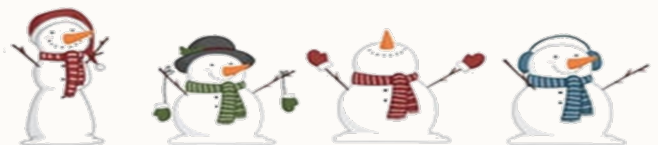


Service From the Heart

St. Agnes Student Council members assisted with the Salvation Army bell ringing project during the week of December 2-6. The students manned the bell ringing post at Walmart from 4:00-6:00 each evening. This service project allows the students to impact their community as 90% of the money raised during the campaign stays right here in the valley and is distributed by CAPWN. What a great way to prepare our hearts for Christmas!



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



Classroom News.....

Baptized in Christ

2nd grade students, Anita and Iviana Garcia and their older sister Olivia, received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, November 24th.

What a great celebration! Anita and Ivi are preparing to receive the sacrament of 1st Holy Communion this spring. Congratulations ladies!



Celebrating St. Nicholas Day

December 6th marked a beloved celebration at St. Agnes School – St. Nicholas Day. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, is known for his generosity and gift giving especially to the poor. He always gave in secret, expecting no recognition for his good deeds. After leaving their shoe in the hallway, the students were excited to find a candy cane and gold coin left by a secret gift giver.



Christmas Around the World

Kindergarten students have enjoyed “traveling” around the world to learn about Christmas traditions in other countries. The students were excited to “visit” and learn more about Christmas in: Italy, Germany, Mexico, Sweden and France. They loved the German tradition of creating gingerbread houses and were thrilled to break open a pinata like the children of Mexico do. This is a favorite experience for the kindergarten students.



November 2024 100 CLUB WINNERS

\$200: Ben/Kelli Jenkins; **\$100:** Bryon/Mandi Adams, Todd/Stephanie Lewis, Anna Bingham; **\$65:** Ed/Ann Connelly; **\$50:** Lorna Caniglia, Larry/Chris Burbach, Jean Ahrens, Tom Carson, KJ Hafer, Rob Polk, Greg/Dawn Wolf

CONGRATULATIONS!



Hot Lunch Menu for December 16th, 2024 - December 20th, 2024

<u>Monday, Dec 16</u>	<u>Tuesday, Dec 17</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec 18</u>	<u>Thursday, Dec 19</u>	<u>Friday, Dec 20</u>
Cheese Spaghetti Garlic Toast Celery/Cucumbers Pears	Chicken Nuggets Spinach Salad Corn Grapes	Beef Enchiladas Spanish Rice Refried Beans Applesauce	Ham Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK
Helpers: Andrea Margheim Kristin Schiff	Helpers: Andrea Margheim Kristin Schiff	Helpers: Mayra Lara Tiah Alvizar	Helpers: Rachelle Ramirez Danielle Guerrero	Helpers:

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



Fifth Grade Class By Lynsey Ayers

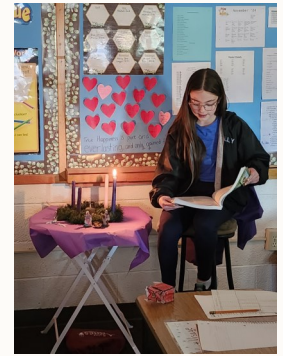


Hello everyone! Here we are at the end of December. The year has flown by so fast. It is so hard to believe that half of the school year is already gone. The fifth grade are finishing up chapters and units, closing many things off so that they will be ready to fully enjoy their break.

We are finishing up chapter 5 in math with both fifth and fourth grade. The fifth grade has been learning about different strategies to multiply multi-digit numbers where the fourth grade has been learning all about prime and composite numbers, factor groups, and pattern rules.

In fifth grade we are bringing a close to our sailing unit, and in science we have learned all about physical and chemical changes. We have also added an advent element to our devotions by including the Advent Wreath. The class has really enjoyed having our daily prayers and readings by its light.

I am so excited to see what the new year will bring for the fifth grade when we return from break!



Library Room News By Lana Payne



Christmas is getting nearer and we become more excited with each passing day! The students are having a wonderful time reading and listening to a wide variety of Christmas books. Our library has a wonderful selection of Christmas books! I love getting to read the students their favorite Christmas stories and introducing new ones to them!

Tomie DePaola is one of the most prolific authors and illustrators of Christian-themed books for children. His books are favorites for the Christmas season both for the themes and his distinctive artwork. The library has added several new Tomie DePaola books this season. And during library time we've joyfully shared several of his Christmas books.

Jan Brett is another of our favorite author/illustrators of Christmas books. Her illustrations are highly detailed scenes in a beautiful Scandinavian style of animals and people, including her signature hedgehog somewhere on the page (often hidden). The children have become quite good at finding the hidden critter and delight in sharing their discovery with the class!

While both DePaola and Brett write and illustrate their own original works, they've often illustrated the retellings of traditional stories which artfully maintain historical connections to our past and the stories of Christmas.

Bless you and your family this Christmas Season. Wishing you Joy, Peace, and Happiness in the New Year!



Music Room News By Cori Taedter



Our St. Agnes Singspirations members certainly had a special experience! The Best of the West Champions from Colorado Springs, CO - Vista Ridge Rhythm - were very impressed with Singspirations' performance, and reached out to them by sending personalized greeting card messages and T shirts for each of our members! The messages were uplifting, encouraging and heartfelt. What a blessing this experience has been for our kids! The Lord has had His hand in it from the beginning, and we have offered many thanks.

On Thursday evening, December 12th at 6:30 pm in the school gym, our very own St. Agnes students presented a most special musical celebration, "Know Christ, Know Christmas!" This fun holiday musical that centers around a Quiz Bowl team preparing for the upcoming Christmas Quiz Bowl competition. When they gather to go over some of the questions they'll be asked at the competition, they discover that while they do know some details about the Christmas season, they are confused about what is true, what is tradition, and what the most important thing is about Christmas. Throughout the musical, they come to learn that what really matters is believing in your heart that the Christmas story is true. Our children worked diligently to do their best in sharing this wonderful message, and have put their musical expertise to good use with bells, drums and a collection of dancing and singing that will be sure to help you celebrate the birth of our King - Merry Christmas!

