



Saint Agnes

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 8, 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

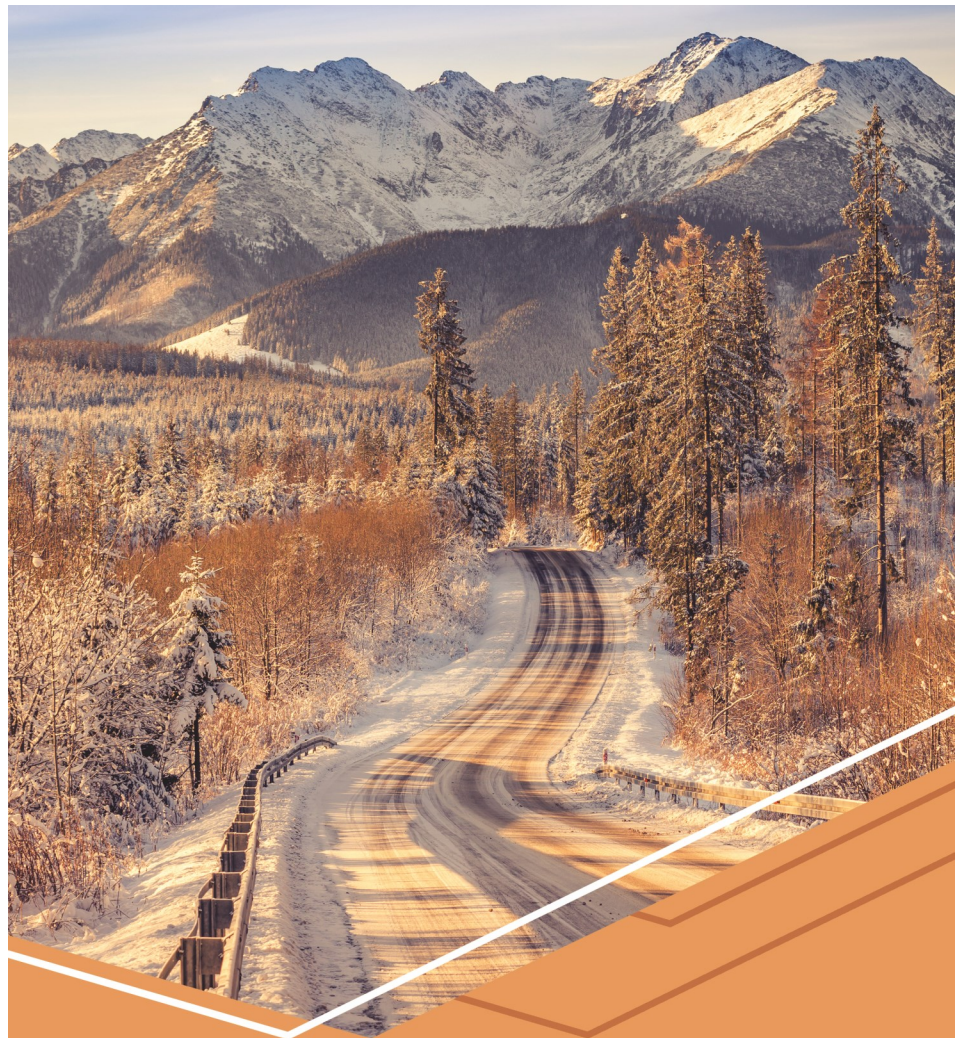
Saturdays one hour prior to Mass
or by appointment (632-2541)

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours:

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



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

- Lk 3:5-6



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

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms:126

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6



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 Second Sunday of Advent

The Straight Path

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. *You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine.* Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 9, 2024

The Immaculate Conception

Mass (7:00am)

Intention: †Lucien Kicken by Margaret Kicken

Mass (Noon)

Intention: †Buford & †Benny Williams by Lucille Koenig

Mass (5:30pm)

Intention: † Mary Carson by The Carson Family

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: Fr. Dan Gilbert by Margie Rood

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: In Thanksgiving by Becky Murdock

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Contemplative Prayer (6:00pm)

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: Seven Sisters Apostolate by The Seven Sisters

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Friday, December 13, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Fr. Donald J. O'Brien & Family by The Diocese of Grand Island

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Weekend Mass (5:00pm)

Intention: For Our Parish

Sunday, December 15, 2024


Weekend Mass (8:00am)

Intention: †Rita Brown by Pete, Joel & Justin

Weekend Mass (10:00am)

Intention: Carmen Ramirez by Leticia Kanno

This Week's Readings



Monday Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcd, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-4

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Server Schedule

Dec 14 5pm Ruby Schiff
Jacob Mark

Dec 15 8am Kaden Blaylock
Easton Becker

10:00am Charlotte Lewis
Havynn Urdiales

Lector Schedule

Dec 14 5pm Kathleen Roehl

Dec 15 8am Bridget Peck

10:00am Chuck Schwartz

Rosary Leader Schedule

Dec 14 5pm Kristin Schiff

Dec 15 8am JoAnn Nash

10:00am Jackie Seymour

Finance Corner


Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

December 2024 Totals

Actual	\$4429.94
ATW	\$3695.00
Online Giving	\$1340.50
Budget	\$10000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$534.56

Next Sunday's 2nd collection is for Haiti/Uganda

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*)



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

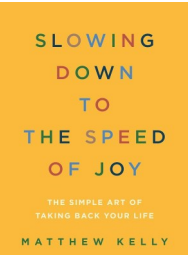
COOKIES & CANDY Bake Sale

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

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 are honored to receive the prestigious **2024 Friends of St. Agnes Award** at the St. Agnes Premiere. We extend our heartfelt thanks to **St. Agnes Catholic Church, St. Agnes Catholic School, and the St. Agnes School Foundation** for their unwavering support of our Knights of Columbus projects. Your partnership inspires us to continue serving our community with faith and dedication.

Friend of St. Agnes Knights of Columbus KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



PIC-COLLAGE

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

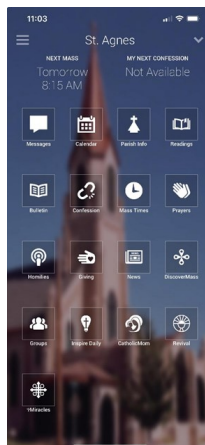
Well, now you can find that on *MyParish App* under the calendar tab! *MyParish App* has been utilized at St. Agnes for the past several years. *MyParish App* is an opportunity to foster a stronger parish life and better engage the New Evangelization.

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!



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!



Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

As the Universal Church looks toward the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord), the USCCB is thrilled to support the Holy Father in this **"event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."**

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

In the Grand Island Diocese, the Rite of opening of the Jubilee Year will take place on Sunday, December 29th, The Feast of the Holy Family, at the cathedral in Grand Island. **At St. Agnes we will be celebrating the opening of the Jubilee Year the weekend of January 4th and 5th, Epiphany.**

Pope Francis has asked that the year 2024 be dedicated to a "great symphony of prayer" as the Church prepares for the Jubilee of 2025.

Jubilee Prayer: *Father in heaven, may the faith you have gifted us in your son Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us, the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds that make humanity, and the cosmos rise unto the confident expectation of the new heavens and the new earth, when with the powers of Evil overcome, your glory shall be manifested eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, the yearning for heavenly treasures and pour over all the earth the joy and peace of our Redeemer. To you God blessed in eternity, be praise and glory for ever and ever. Amen*



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 11th.

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 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.

Religious Education Program

Email—dre@st-agnes-church.com

Religious Education Office—308-635-1362

Celebrating Sunday Second of Advent

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

On the Way to Mass:

We're going to hear again about preparing our hearts for Jesus. What do you think that looks like?

On the Way Home From Mass:

Are there any ways we can make it easier for our family to follow Jesus?

Living the Word:

At a dinner this week, talk about a habit you've worked to adopt that has helped to order your life, spiritually or otherwise. What habits do each of you want to work on? Is there something to work toward as a family?

*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

Embrace the promise of Advent and the wonder of Christmas

In the flurry of holiday preparations, adults can overlook the promise of Advent and the wonder of Christmas. Children never do. This year, try to experience Advent and Christmas through the eyes of a child.

Tie gifts with heartstrings.

Give gifts that are simple and heartfelt. Craft personalized bookmarks for book lovers, homemade bread or cookies, or combine Epsom salts, essential oils, and natural ingredients in a small bag for a spa gift.



Offer your hearth. Young children know that everyone needs a friend. Yet, the holidays can be lonely for those separated from their loved ones. Invite anyone who needs a place to go to share the warmth of the season with you.

Listen for peace. Watch your favorite family Advent and Christmas classics and skip the ads. Or rent movies that inspire you spiritually. Better yet, turn off the TV, computer, and phone, and revel in the gift of silence.

Await the Babe. As a family, spend quiet moments in prayer or before the Eucharist as often as you can during Advent. These peaceful pauses can convey to children the true meaning of Christmas.

Sing like the angels. Check local community events for concerts, Messiah sing-alongs, or other musical celebrations that lift the spirit. Or organize a caroling party and sing with all the joy of the season.

Partners in Faith—December 2024

Family Advent Calendar



Sunday, December 8th

Second Sunday of Advent

Light two violet candles nightly this week. Sing "O Come, O come Emmanuel."

Monday, December 9th

Immaculate Conception

Attend Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation as a family. Mass times 7am –Noon-7pm.

Tuesday, December 10th

Before bedtime, perform an examination of conscience using the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11)

Wednesday, December 11th

At dinner, ask each person to share one way God blessed him or her that day.

Thursday, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Put a vase of flowers before a stature of Mary and sing "Hail, Holy Queen" to celebrate.

Friday, December 13th

Contact Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP- CRS or www.catholicrelief.org). Ask how you can help.

Saturday, December 14th

Seek God's mercy in Confession as a family to greet the Savior with clean souls.

Partners in Faith—December 2023

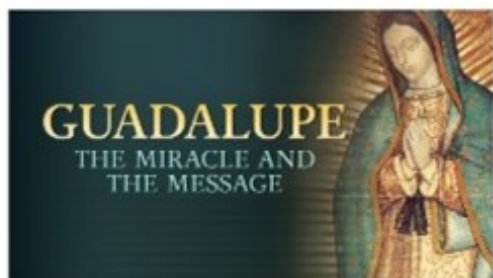
THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 08, 2024



Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Hosted by the Hopeful World, this beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.



Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



What Is The Immaculate Conception?

What is the Immaculate Conception? Use this video to help teach kids about this great mystery of our faith.

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

 PUZZLE

Circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|
| BAPTIZED | JOHN | CROOKED |
| FORGIVEN | DESERT | SMOOTH |
| ISAIAH | STRAIGHT | ROUGH |

C I F O R G I V E N
 R O U G H L O Y U L
 O N B D I F T S M V
 O I A S M O O T H E
 K C P T W S H R I J
 E Y T O U M Y A S O
 D U I L I S A I A H
 R J Z O C E T G K N
 O Y E M K Y I H I W
 H A D E S E R T O U

 MISSION

When you catch yourself being selfish, not following directions, or using hurtful words, stop. Say you're sorry, ask for forgiveness, and then try again.

 PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Mary | Judea | baby |
| town | home | Spirit |
| country | Elizabeth | blessed |

Myra M a r y
 belssde _____
 Ezilabeht _____
 cuntory _____
 byba _____
 tnow _____
 hemo _____
 Siptir _____
 Jedua _____

 MISSION

Say a special prayer for missionary families. People all around the world need Jesus.



Connecting Students and Families through Faith
December 8, 2024



Upcoming Events

Monday, Dec 9th

PPHD Dental Exams

Immaculate Conception Mass @ noon

Tuesday, Dec 10th

Advent Celebration - 8:20

Thursday, Dec 12th

Advent Celebration - 8:20

Christmas Program - 6:30 in gym



Promoting the Christmas Spirit

St. Agnes students and families kicked off the holiday season by participating in the Scottsbluff Christmas parade held on Sunday, December 1st. Singing Christmas carols and spreading good cheer, the students and families helped put parade attendees in the holiday spirit.

Thanks to Elise Gurrola and Mandi Adams for organizing the event and to all who participated. What a fun way to kick off the holiday season!



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



Classroom News.....

Premiere Event

The St. Agnes School Foundation hosted the Premiere event on Friday, November 22nd at the Gering Civic Center. This event raises funds to support the foundation who in turn support s the budget needs of the school. The Knights of Columbus were named as the Friends of St. Agnes and Xuan (Ahrens) Robbins was recognized as the outstanding alumni. \$31500 was raised in the paddle auction to replace the front sign, which was damaged beyond repair in the summer wind storm. Final totals of the event will be reported at a later date. Thanks to all who supported the event through donations and attendance at the event. Your support is so greatly appreciated.



Celebrating Good Friends

Pre-K and Kindergarten students celebrated good friends when each class held a class Thanksgiving feast on Tuesday, November 26th. The students enjoyed a full Thanksgiving meal, courtesy of their parents while they built memories and shared fun with their classmates. Thanks to all who donated food for these feasts. The students had a wonderful time!



Spreading Christmas Cheer

St. Agnes 4th and 5th grade students took to the isles of Walmart to fill the wishes of 7 children whose names were drawn from the Tree of Love at Riverstone Bank. Each of the groups had \$90 to spend and worked very hard to meet both the wants and needs of each child. Thanks to all who supported our hotdog feed which raised \$610 to fund this project. We are grateful to each of you.



Hot Lunch Menu for December 9th, 2024 - December 13th, 2024

<u>Monday, Dec 9</u>	<u>Tuesday, Dec 10</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec 11</u>	<u>Thursday, Dec 12</u>	<u>Friday, Dec 13</u>
Sloppy Joe Corn Fritos Grapes	Super Nachos Spanish Rice Cucumber/Celery Pears	Mac & Cheese Broccoli Banana Pudding	Pulled Pork Sandwich Steamed Carrots Sun Chips Apple Sauce	Waffles Link Sausage Breakfast Potato Peaches
Helpers: Jordan Diedrich Amanda Diedrich	Helpers: Kristin Gauthier Andrea Margheim	Helpers: Jeremy Becker Henry Nira	Helpers: Toni Warburton Baron Kimble	Helpers: Henry Nira Bethany Nira

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

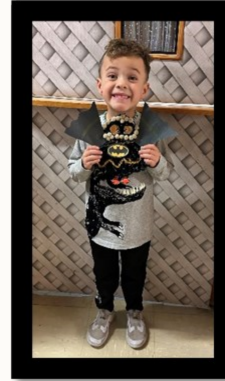
Kindergarten Class By Teri Ramirez

Time is just flying by in kindergarten, and I'm so happy with my student's progress. They are learning new words, learning how to write simple sentences, and figuring out numbers. Everyday they amaze me with all that they are retaining and learning.

In kindergarten we have a 'Friendship Feast', and each student brings something to contribute to our lunch. We decorate the tables, and we all sit together and eat as friends. We talk about why our friends are important to us and enjoy each other's company.

In the month of November, we also read the story Turkey Trouble, and then each student had a turkey they had to disguise so that the turkey wouldn't get eaten. They came up with all kinds of disguises such as a mermaid, ghost, sheriff, princess, and many more awesome costumes. The creativity was great!

For the month of December, we will be going on a trip around the world to see how other children celebrate the holidays. This is always a fun unit to teach and for the students to learn about. Stay tuned to hear about our adventures!



Third Grade Class By Meghan Calvert



Time is flying by and 3rd grade is ready to enter the Advent season. During the last few weeks, we have focused on our government unit in social studies. The students learned about why we have three branches of government, what their jobs are and about checks and balances. We also discussed the election process and had our own election in our classroom. Students were able to vote for Duck or Dubs the dog for president. After turning in their ballots, Dubs the dog won!

Over the last month, we have also been focusing on kindness in the classroom, our community and kindness to ourselves. On world kindness day, we found bible verses that we felt others needed to see, grabbed our chalk and went outside to write the verses on the sidewalk. It was a beautiful sight to see. We also painted rocks and gave them to all the staff members and to others in our community.

Before we left for Thanksgiving break, we had a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving feast. We watched the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving movie; while eating the same meal they did in the movie, buttered toast, popcorn, pretzels and jellybeans. We also had our own Macy's Parade before the break. Each student was able to design their own parade balloon and then we went to other classrooms to show them off.

