

St. Mary's Grade School



304 E Cloud, Salina KS 785-827-4200

January 2022 issue

Happy New Year

It seems that each year goes by with challenges and success. The 2021 year is no exception. COVID was an obvious challenge for everyone. As a school community, we also have had a lot to be thankful for. Here are some of the highlights:



- ◆ St. Mary's School conducted a Summer School in which 75% of the students enrolled in various activities.
- ◆ School Enrollment has increased 3 consecutive years.
- ◆ St. Mary's School has received about 2.5 million in grants and gifts to support the operation on the school.
- ◆ According to parents' surveys, perceptions of the school are very positive (see inside for more information).
- ◆ St. Mary's received recognition from Cognia for 25 years of Academic Excellence.

These highlights are a good springboard for the start of 2022.

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year and all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name.



Amen

Iowa Test of Basic Skills (Individual results will be shared at conferences in February)

Subject Areas by Grade Equivalents

(Percentage of students scoring by Grade Equivalent

average or higher)

	2018	2019	2020	2021		2018	2019	2020	2021
Grade K	K.8	K.8				99%	95%		
Grade 1	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.5		98%	93%	96%	96%
Grade 2	2.5	2.9	2.2	2.4		73%	94%	79%	83%
Grade 3	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.7		78%	77%	97%	96%
Grade 4	5.0	5.3	4.9	4.8		90%	94%	92%	98%
Grade 5	5.8	5.9	5.7	6.4		86%	82%	93%	92%
Grade 6	7.6	6.7	7.3	7.5		92%	79%	93%	93%

Subject Areas by Grader Equivalents

Reading	2018	2019	2020	2021	Math	2018	2019	2020	2021	Lang Arts	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Grade 1	1.9	1.7	1.6		1.4	1.7	1.7	1.6		1.8	2.1	1.9	1.7
Grade 2	2.4	3.0	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.2	2.4		
Grade 3	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.7		
Grade 4	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.7	5.4	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.3		
Grade 5	5.6	5.7	5.4	6.8	5.9	6.0	5.4	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.7	6.8		
Grade 6	7.1	5.7	6.7	7.6	7.6	6.3	6.9	7.4	8.1	6.4	7.3	7.0		

Science	2018	2019	2020	2021	Social Studies	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Grade 1								
Grade 2	2.6	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	3.0	2.2	3.4	
Grade 3	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.5	
Grade 4	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.0	
Grade 5	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.1	6.6	
Grade 6	7.3	7.4	8.0	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.9	

ST. MARY’S ENDOWMENT FUND

In 1986 an educational endowment was set up for St. Mary’s School. The purpose of St. Mary’s Grade School Endowment Fund is to invest funds in which the proceeds of those investments go to support the ministry of St. Mary’s School. Funds are invested with financial institutions. Today the total amount of funds invested is close to \$1.1 million. A separate endowment advisory board oversees the investment and recommends disbursements. Information about the endowment will be sent out later this month.

Drink water instead of sugary drinks:
Cut calories by drinking water or unsweetened beverages. Soda, energy drinks, and sports drinks are a major source of added sugar, and calories, in American diets.

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.

Assessment Program at St. Mary's School

St. Mary's Grade School follows a traditional curriculum. The basic core subjects of Religion, Math, and Language Arts are integrated with Science, Social Studies, and Data Analysis.

In today's educational conversations, there is a great emphasis on "academic growth" and preparing students for the next level.

For over 40 years, St. Mary's Grade School has been committed to monitoring academic growth in Grades K-6. Data collected from assessments are for both short and long term academic progress of individual students. The staff utilizes several tools to observe and analyze student advancement.

ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) helps schools evaluate faith, knowledge, and attitudes of Catholic School students. This is administered in the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades.

Acadience Reading which is individually administered, measures acquisition of early literacy skills in K-6. Acadience Math is a brief evaluation of numeracy, computation, and problem solving skills in K-6. These two assessments are done three times a year.

ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) is a national standardized assessment and is more comprehensive across the curriculum including Phonics, Reading, Math, Language (Spelling/Capitalization/Punctuation), Science (Life and Physical), and Social Studies (History, Economics and Civics). Results of the ITBS are shared with parents at **mid-year conferences. At the same time, individual student's academic growth from year to year is also reviewed and shared.** Starting in 2017, The ITBS will also provide predictive scores for ACT starting in Grade 6.

Kansas Assessments are summative assessments used to measure student knowledge based on the Kansas College Standards. Summative assessments are given towards the end of the year and can aid in reviewing curriculum and infrastructure.

21-22 Catholic Identity Parent Survey

This section gives the reasons why you enrolled your child(ren) at a Catholic school.

Catholic Identity – 65%

Class Size – 75%

School Reputation – 68%

	Agree/Strongly Agree
Catholic schools are the best way to help parents educate and nurture their children in the Christian faith	93%
Catholic schools make a positive contribution to the well-being of the parish in which they operate.	98%
Catholic schools are worth what the cost is to operate them.	95%
Catholic schools should continue to stress social issues such as peace and justice, poverty, racial equality, right to life, etc.	94%
Providing Christian education for children is a shared responsibility of parents and the parish.	99%
Catholic schools make a positive contribution to the general community in which they are located.	99%
Fund raising is a desirable method of obtaining revenue for Catholic schools.	94%
Catholic schools offer a safe learning environment.	92%
Catholic schools offer a diverse learning environment.	99%
A good community spirit exists within the school.	98%
Children treat each other respectfully.	97%
Student discipline is administered in a way which tends to build Christian character.	90%
Children are developing an awareness of social responsibility and character development.	91%
The school encourages parish involvement.	91%
The Gospel message is evident in all areas of learning.	97%
Children are learning the need for community service.	94%
The school setting reflects a Catholic environment.	99%
The school provides a good balance between academic and religious teaching.	90%
The staff creates a welcoming environment.	98%
The staff responds to the needs of my child(ren).	98%
Catholic values are shared in the school community.	89%
Teachers in the school display agreement with the Church's teaching.	96%
The staff views parents as partners in the education of their child(ren).	99%
Parents view the staff as partners in the education of their child(ren).	95%

Around the School



Top: Kindergarten Christmas Program brought many smiles!!

Bottom: We are happy to be able to have had 1st-3rd Christmas program this year.



4th Grade students stand by our school's Jesse Tree.



5th grade collected items for our school wide Advent Project. 5th grade chose the Animal Shelter to donate to.



2nd grade collected items for our school wide Advent Project. 2nd grade choose Birthright and collected much needed items like diapers, wipes, soap, and much more!

Around the School



3rd grade chose Toys from the Heart for their Advent project. Students collected new toys to be donated



1st grade chose Catholic Charities for their Advent project. Students collected soaps, shampoos, deodorants, tooth paste and tooth brushes.



6th grade collected socks to donated to the Salina Rescue Mission.



Some of our teachers and staff enjoyed a nice breakfast to kick off the last day of school before Christmas break!! We enjoyed pancakes, sausage links, coffee and juice. Plus we got to wear comfy flannel shirts!! A tradition we should continue!!

Thank you 2nd & 5th grade teachers for hosting!



Ten Reasons Why Catholic Schools Matter



1. A Faith View of the World

Catholic school students are taught a faith view of the world, there is no such thing as a secular subject, as all learning helps to develop and bring to full bloom that image of God that is in each person.

2. Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dyings and risings. In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize that there is redemptive power in suffering, and in the power of the cross.

3. The Value of Relationships

Catholic school students learn to experience God's grace and presence in their lives through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. We are made for Community.

4. A Holistic View of Scripture

Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice. They learn to apply Scripture to their own lives as a tool for prayer and the true guide for virtuous living.

5. Civic Engagement

In recent research, it has been reported that private school graduates are significantly more likely to actively participate in civic activities..

6. Service for the Common Good

Catholic schools promote service as an essential component of their curriculum. Many Catholic schools have service programs from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

7. Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel. Students are challenged to be Christ-like in work and action.

8. The Centrality of Arts, Ritual, Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church.

9. The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the product of it, have been called the **"greatest work of the Church"**.

10. Personal Excellence as a Spiritual Goal

Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. Students learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them.



Catholic Schools Week



Catholic Schools Week --Jan. 30 thru Feb. 5

There will be a special Mass at 9:30am on Sunday, Jan. 30th in **St. Mary's Church**, followed by a breakfast at **St. Mary's Grade School**. On Monday, Jan. 31, St. Mary's students will join with Sacred Heart students for a special Catholic Schools Week Mass.

It has been a tradition for classrooms to celebrate the week with various activities. Some of our activities unfortunately are limited because of Covid this year, but teachers will design various events and happenings wrapped around the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family, Community & Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor & Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers, Solidarity, and **Care for God's Creation**.

Special Dress Days for Students During Catholic Schools Week

Monday

"Cozy up with God's Comfort" – students may wear pajama bottoms or sweats with the St. Mary's T-Shirt or uniform shirt.

Tuesday

"Show your support during Catholic Schools Week" – students may wear their favorite team shirt (not sleeveless) along with uniform pants or skirt.

Wednesday

"Hats off to Catholic Schools" – students may wear a hat after Mass.

Thursday

"Walking with God" – students may go "shoeless" inside the building – wearing colorful socks, "crazy" socks or slippers. Crocs will be allowed in the building only. Must have shoes for recess and PE.

Friday

"Rainbow Day" - Please wear a colored shirt with uniform pants or skirt. Preschool & Kindergarten (Purple), 1st Grade (Orange), 2nd Grade (Yellow), 3rd Grade (Green), 4th Grade (Blue), 5th Grade (Red), 6th Grade (Red).



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

January 2022

St. Marys School



Thoughtful Moments

The rhythm of our faith

To help us learn about God and his family, the Church crafted the liturgical year. By observing the seasons of our faith, we follow the rhythm that God has created for us. *"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance"* (Ecclesiastes 3:4).



As God forgives

When we pray the "Our Father," we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." True forgiveness is hard but God wants us to forgive the way He forgives us. We can't obtain true forgiveness unless we give it.

Celebrate parenthood

Parents deserve lots of praise but don't often get it. Someday your children may look back and appreciate you. While they are young, remember that every kiss, hug and smile you get is a celebration of how important you are every day, all year long.



Share what you love about our Catholic Faith

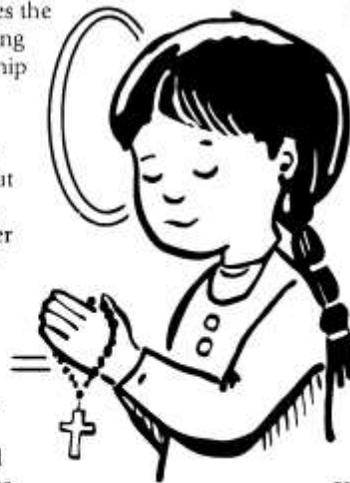
As parents, we want our children to be Catholic because we know the Church provides the surest way to a strong and loving relationship with God. To help children find Catholic joy, share what you love about our Catholic Faith.

"My grandmother prayed the Rosary every day of her life," said Lisa. "When I was old enough, she gave me one and taught me how to pray it. The prayers remind me of everything we believe as Catholics. The Rosary has helped me through many tough times in my life and I pray it often with my own children."

"We moved a lot when I was young,"

said Art. "Moving was hard but no matter where we lived, the Mass felt like home. Jesus was always there waiting for me. Now I love taking my children to Mass because I want it to be their home, too."

"I don't know what I would do without Confession," said Brooke. "It's not easy admitting the things I do wrong. I'm embarrassed that I commit the same sins repeatedly. Still, no matter how often I go, it is such a thrill to hear the words of absolution and know that Jesus really does forgive me. Now, we take our children and celebrate God's mercy together."



Why Do Catholics Do That?

What do we believe about Heaven?

We don't really know what Heaven looks like. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,"* (1 Corinthians 2:9). Heaven is the fulfillment of our

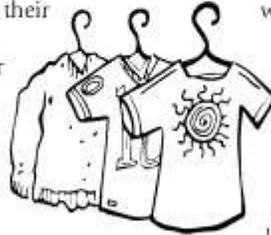


deepest desire of union with God. We know that God has prepared a place for us in His home. All who enter must be in His friendship. Nothing should keep us from our place in the house of our Lord.

Modest dress for today's Catholic kids

Current fashions – even if immodest – often feel right to young people because they see them accepted by their friends and favorite celebrities. Current styles can be too tight or too revealing to be appropriate for followers of Jesus. When children wear such styles, people may be distracted from their personalities, their accomplishments, and their faith. Instead, try these tips to help children dress modestly and fashionably, too.

Layers can make it work. Does your child love low-cut styles or bottoms that show underwear? Try pairing



a tank top under one with a plunging neckline or a wear a pair of running shorts under sagging bottoms.

Color me funky. One way to make modesty fun is to take note of what the season's hottest colors are, and then find modest clothing in those colors.

Test the light. Transparent fabric is designed to reveal rather than conceal the body. If you place a layer of fabric over a newspaper and can see the lines of letters through it, the fabric is too sheer.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 4:21-30, God's surprising ways

In this Gospel, Jesus returned to Nazareth, His hometown, soon after starting His public ministry. Everyone had heard about the miracles and signs He had worked. They even invited Him to teach in their



synagogue. Imagine how delighted they were when Jesus announced that He was the Messiah of Isaiah's prophecy.

Still, some were doubtful. How could this carpenter's son possibly be the Messiah, the long-awaited Savior promised in the Old Testament? Jesus' listeners thought they had Him figured out. They had gotten so used to

thinking of Him as being "one of them," they couldn't believe there was more to Him.

What can a parent do?

Remind children that we can completely trust in God's loving care for us, but we'll never completely figure Him

out. For example, some doubted that Jesus was the Messiah because His life had looked so ordinary to them. Everyone expected the Messiah to conquer Israel's enemies, but Jesus conquered the more powerful enemies of sin, evil and death by His Resurrection. In fact, God's ways are not our ways, and He knows best.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 2 – Epiphany of Our Lord. Epiphany is Greek for "manifestation." When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

Jan. 3 – The Holy Name of Jesus. In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

Jan. 24 – St. Francis de Sales (1622). As bishop of Geneva, St. Francis bolstered the faith of others by his writings and works. For the laity, St.

Francis wrote *Introduction to the Devout Life*, which is as applicable today as it was in his day.

Jan. 27 – St. Angela Merici (1540). Orphaned at ten-years-old, St. Angela turned to God for strength. At twenty, she became a Franciscan tertiary and taught young girls the Faith. In 1535 at Brescia, Italy, she and 12 other women founded the Company of St. Ursula, or the Ursulines.



Parent TALK

My husband and I grew up eating dinner with our families around the table each night. It's how we had raised our own family. When the pandemic



hit, however, everything changed.

We were all spending way too much time on our devices – the children receiving

online instruction and my husband and I busy with Zoom conferences. Meals were sandwiches in front of screens. It got to be too much. To keep us all from spending day and night on our devices, we decided to make family dinners a requirement. Dinner started at 6:00pm, and began with a prayer. It was expected that everyone would help with clean-up.

At first, it took some adjusting, but regular dinners became a great way to reconnect. We realized this habit has helped us grow closer as a family. Even though schedules have returned to normal, we still try to make family dinners a priority.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day
2 No School Teacher In-service	3	4 School Resumes	5	6 5th & 6th Band concert 7pm	7	8 Used Uniform Sale 10-1
9	10	11	12	13 H&S meeting 12pm	14	15
16	17 No School	18	19	20 Geography Bee @ 2pm	21	22
23	24 School Council 5:30	25	26 Chocolate Fundraiser begins	27	28	29
30 Catholic Daughters Breakfast	31	Catholic Schools Week				

Kindergarten students collected laundry supplies and quarters which were donated to the “Laundry Love Foundation”.





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St. Mary's Messenger

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