



St. Mary's School

Such a busy time of year! We had another successful family night last evening, and a wonderful time visiting with the Seniors this morning for Tea. Thank you to all who have assisted us with snacks and goodies. We so appreciate your generosity!

On Monday morning (Dec. 4), we will celebrate our Students of the Month for November, immediately following our prayer service.

Wednesday morning, December 6 will be the student choir presentation in conjunction with their instruction by the Crane music students. The performance will be held in the gym at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Bishop Terry LaValley will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with us at the 8:10 a.m. mass on Friday, December 8. At 9:30, our Pre-K through Grade 3 students will visit the Teddy Bear Clinic with their favorite stuffed animal. The following week, our school-wide Christmas presentation will take place.

On a personal note, thank you to my St. Mary's family for their outstanding support and kindness to me during my travels and recent loss. Your prayers and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated.

Michele Meyers



Upcoming Events

December

3 – Family Advent Fair 10:00 am

4 – Student of the Month

6 – Choir presentation 8:30 am

6 – Painting Event for Kids 5:30 pm

7 – Band Presentation

7 – Painting Event for Adults 5:30 pm

8 – Immaculate Conception – Mass with Bishop LaValley

8 – Teddy Bear Clinic

20 – Classroom Christmas Parties

Dec. 22 – Jan. 1 – Winter Recess

Important Announcements

Last Orders taken on Tuesday Dec. 5

Let us know if you need more forms for your handcrafted Christmas Wreaths. Proceeds go to St. Mary's School. Thanks Sue Dean!!



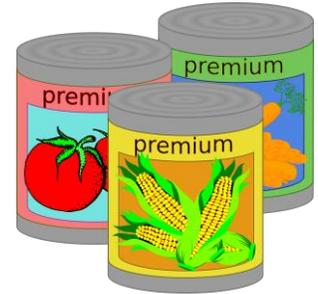
Our Saint of the Week December 3 – December 9



St. Nicholas – Feast Day Dec. 6

Patron of Bakers and Pawnbrokers

 We are still collecting canned goods. Please help those in our community!



The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.