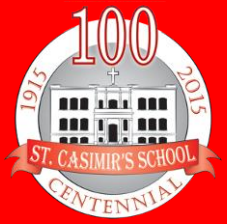




# SCS FAMILY NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2024

Happy February, Everyone!

What a wonderful Mass we had on January 31st when Bishop Barron was here along with the students from St. Theodore's of Albert Lea and St. John Vianney of Fairmont. Bishop Barron had an uplifting homily that directly involved the students.

The Catholic United Financial fundraiser will come to a close on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, when all tickets and funds need to be turned in to the school office. Please remember that ALL tickets need to be returned to the school—even those that were unsold. It is a requirement of the program that all tickets be mailed to the CUF offices the next day, February 21<sup>st</sup>, so please make sure to send/bring the necessary items to school on Tuesday. Thanks to all for participating in this program!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are slated for February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a conference schedule has been included with this newsletter. Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance. Therefore, if you need to visit with me, please email/call me before February 22<sup>nd</sup> or the following Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

This is an important time as we look to the upcoming school year and discern how we can best meet the needs of our school community. We are currently seeking a preschool and elementary teacher for the 2024-2025 school year, and these openings have been posted in various publications. Please feel free to share this information with your family and friends and join us in praying for faith-filled teachers to seek and appreciate what SCS has to offer. Any interested individuals can contact the school office at 507-553-5822. Thank you!

As you all are aware, Fr. Gregory Havel passed away Sunday night. Upon learning of this, a prayer service in his honor was held in our school chapel. Please remember him in your prayers. In regard to Father's arrangements, this information has been shared by the rectory:

- Visitation: Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00 PM, St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 116 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Stewartville; There will also be a visitation prior to the funeral.
- Funeral: Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM, Saint Bernard Church, 116 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Stewartville

May your month be blessed with hope and blessings!

John Hengel  
SCS Principal



## Teacher Talk



**Kindergarten-Grade 2:** After a fantastic Christmas vacation, the kindergarten, first and second graders returned to school full of energy and enthusiasm! Our first celebration this month was Epiphany, which we celebrated a day early on January 5th. Throughout Advent, we had watched the wisemen traveling through our school towards the manger. On the morning of our Epiphany celebration, the children visited the school manger and saw that the wisemen had indeed found baby Jesus! Back in the classroom we continued our Epiphany celebration when the kids enjoyed "King Cake" which is a cake that has a baby Jesus figurine baked into one of the pieces. The person who chose the piece of cake with the baby Jesus would get to be king or queen for the day! It was a lot of fun watching the children search for the baby Jesus. After our Epiphany celebration, we changed our classroom prayer tablecloth from white to green to remind the children that we are now in winter ordinary time. They really enjoy participating in the upkeep of our classroom prayer table.



Since we are at the start of a new year, our focus has turned to learning about the four Cardinal Virtues and developing a pure heart that is open to God's will. The first virtue we focused upon was justice, and we have now worked through the virtues of generosity, respect and courtesy. We practice the virtues through role play, draw pictures that explain the virtues and then encourage the children to use those virtues within and outside of the classroom. So if you see a small child smiling at you, holding a door for you or perhaps greeting you with a "Good Morning!", know that they are practicing what they are learning about virtues!

Blessings from the K-2 SCS Classroom!

Submitted by Jinger Woodring, Classroom Teacher

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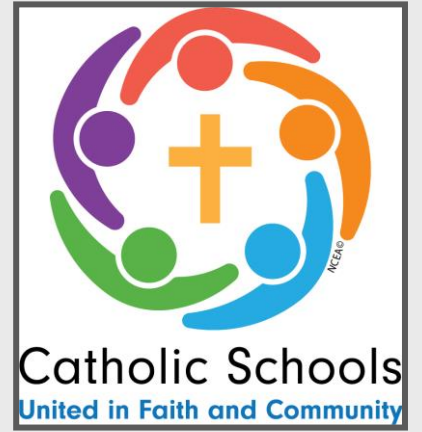
**Grades 3-5:** Happy New Year! In the third-fifth grade SCS classroom, we have been on a cultural journey, exploring New Year celebrations around the world such as the Chinese New Year celebration. They students have gained a global perspective on how different cultures welcome the new year. As we embark on a brand-new year filled with possibilities at SCS, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey of learning and growth that our third-fifth grade students have experienced so far.

In the realm of mathematics, the third and fourth graders have been diving into the world of multiplication. They've not only mastered the basics but have also developed a deeper understanding of how multiplication plays a crucial role in solving a variety of math problems. The fifth graders have been tackling the fascinating world of decimals. They've not only mastered the fundamental operations involving decimals but have also demonstrated a keen understanding of how to apply these skills in real-world scenarios.

In science, life cycles have been a captivating focus. The students' hands-on exploration and insightful questions have made our science lessons come alive. They enjoy working together in teams on different online scavenger hunts...and let's not forget the daily brain teasers! The children have been exercising their minds with challenging puzzles and riddles every day. It's been a delight to witness their problem-solving skills evolve and see the joy on their faces as they unravel each brain teaser.

Submitted by Ethel Aranda, Classroom Teacher







## February Need to Know

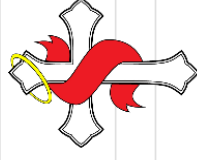


With the craziness of the last few weeks, we are going to fly through the coming events in order to get this newsletter to you before they actually happen! Therefore, in addition to the information already shared by Mr. Hengel, the following is a short description of the events that will be occurring during the remainder of February for our St. Casimir's School families:





- **Two Hour Early Out:** Please remember that there is a two hour early out scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> when classes will be dismissed at 12:55 PM.
- **Second Sunday Social:** This parish community event will be hosted by our Home and School Association on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass.
- **H & S Gertens Plant Fundraiser:** The time to purchase some great plants for your spring garden is now! Our Home and School Association is sponsoring this all school fundraiser in which customers place their order online and the chosen plants are delivered at a later date. This sale begins on February 12<sup>th</sup>, will run until 10:00 PM on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and the orders will be ready for pick up on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Questions? Please contact Danielle Elg at [danielle.twedten@hotmail.com](mailto:danielle.twedten@hotmail.com). To check out this green thumb opportunity:
  1. Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)
  2. Enter the Store ID code (**St. Casimir's School: 337**) provided into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.
- **Lenten Family Night:** This special seasonal family event will occur on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> beginning with a meal at 5:30 PM and the Lenten activities will begin at 6:15 PM. We will have the pleasure of hosting our DOW-R Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Michael Gerard, along with Deacon Gene Paul and our school board members. Please make sure to note the date change from February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Home and School Association Meeting:** Following the Lenten Family Night activities, the Home and School Association will hold their quarterly meeting. Please plan to attend as there are several important events for discussion.
- **Ash Wednesday Communion Service:** During this time of pastoral transition, we are very blessed to have Deacon Joshua Miller visiting our tri-parish. Deacon Miller will be presiding over this service that will mark the beginning of the season of Lent with the marking of ashes. Please feel free to join as for this 8:30 AM service.
- **NO SCHOOL:** Classes will not be held on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day Weekend. Enjoy this extra time with your family!
- **Lent Prayer Service:** As a means of bringing this season of sacrifice and prayer to life for our students, Mr. Hengel and the teachers will take turns hosting a short prayer service the first day of each week of Lent beginning at 8:30 AM in the office hallway. For February, the dates will be February 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, this time of prayer will help all of us begin our week with the appropriate mindset.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Please check out the conference schedule that has been attached to this newsletter. As a reminder, conferences will only be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-7:00 PM in the classrooms.
- **Stations of the Cross:** Typically, our students will attend the highly-revered tradition of the Catholic Church, the Stations of the Cross, several times during Lent. However, as we are in a time of pastoral transition, the dates for these weekly events have not yet been shared. When this has occurred, the information will be passed on to our school families.
- **SCS Carnival:** We will once again be hosting a SCS Carnival on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 PM in our school gym. Not only has this event been a huge success in bringing our community within our school walls, it also serves as a recruitment event for the coming years. And, just like last year, our school parents will NOT be working the event in order to provide the opportunity for you to visit with families from our communities. However, we do hope you will say "yes" to helping out on a few committees beforehand. In regards to the committees, you may be called by one of our chairpersons to help with setting up and/or take down following the event. Please say "yes" as many hands really do make the work lighter!



# 2024 February



# St. Casimir's School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
National Catholic Schools Week -- Please check CSW information sheet for details.						
			<p>Childrens' Mass w/ <b>Bishop Barron,</b> 10:00 AM; Juliana &amp; Lennox Serve</p>	<p>February Program Payments Withdrawn; <b>1st Day of I Love to Read Month</b></p>	<p><b>Communion Service,</b> 8:30 AM, Lennox Serves</p>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		<p><b>Communion Service,</b> 8:30 AM; Clara Serves</p>	<p>Two Hour Early Out, Classes dismissed at 12:55 PM</p>			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>H &amp; S Second Sunday Social following Mass</p> 	<p>H &amp; S Gertens Fundraiser Begins</p> 	<p><b>Lenten Family Night:</b> Meal at 5:30 PM; Lent Activities at 6:15, followed by H &amp; S Meeting at 7:00</p>	 <p><b>Communion Service,</b> 8:30 AM, Abby Serves</p>		<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b></p> 	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<p><b>Lenten Prayer Service,</b> 8:30 AM, SCS Office Hall; CUF Tickets &amp; Funds Turn In Date</p>		<p>Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3:00-7:00 PM</p>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<p><b>NO SCHOOL--</b> President's Weekend</p>				
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
	<p><b>Lenten Prayer Service,</b> 8:30 AM, SCS Office Hall</p>					