



SCS FAMILY NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2024



HAPPY NEW YEAR



It is hard to believe we are in the new year already. Thank you to all who donated via the annual Shoemaker's Appeal through which all members of our current school families, SCS alumni and tri-parish community were invited to help the school reach its collection goal of raising \$35,000. I am very happy to report that our current donation total stands at \$37,539.05! We are blessed to have such generous parents, community members and alumni!

January is looking like another busy month! First, our Home and School Association is hosting an opportunity through Catholic United Financial Foundation to sell tickets in which ALL the funds remain with the school. Many schools in Minnesota and South Dakota participate in this endeavor. These tickets will be sent with your oldest child next Friday, January 12th. Information regarding the tickets will be provided as well. Each raffle ticket costs \$10.00, and 100% of the ticket price goes to St. Casimir's School! The Grand Prize is a 2024 Chevy Trax or \$20,000 cash! There are many more prizes available.

Secondly, all of our kindergarten through fifth grade students will be receiving testing through the NWEA program on January 24th-Jan 26th. They will be tested on the subjects of reading and math. Please make sure that your child is present these days and schedule appointments around these dates if possible.

Finally, at the end of the month, we have Catholic Schools Week and we are blessed to have Bishop Barron here on Jan 31, 2024 at 10:00 to officiate mass! We are honored to have him visit our church and school. We are currently looking for SCS parents and/or grandparents who would be willing to serve in a following role for the Mass: Sacristan, Lector, Eucharistic Minister. If you or your parent is willing to serve in any of these roles, please contact the school office at your earliest convenience. I hope to see many of you at the Bishop's Mass!

Blessings,
John Hengel
Principal





Advent Activities



The kindergarten, first and second grade class of St. Casimir's School celebrated St. Lucia's Day on December 13th by reading the book, Lucia, St. of Light by Katherine Bolger Hyde, and learning about the life of St. Lucy and how a few countries celebrate the special day. For instance, in Sweden the oldest girl in the family will dress up in a white gown, wear a crown wreath with candles and bring special treats to family members in the early morning! According to legend, Lucia or Lucy, would carry food and water to Christians who had been forced to hide out in the catacombs of Rome. The catacombs were dark, and Lucy needed her hands free to carry supplies. Therefore, she created her own "headlamp" of a wreath of candles placed on her head to light her way. The students re-enacted their own version of this holiday and followed in St. Lucy's footsteps by dressing in white gowns, wearing paper wreaths with candles and singing a hymn as they walked to the principal's office to share a treat with Mr. Hengel! St. Lucia's Day celebrates light returning to the long, dark days of winter--especially the winter solstice which is the shortest day of the year. During this time of Advent, may we all bring light to those around us!



Submitted by Ms. Jinger Woodring

As the all school Advent project this year, the students collected food items for the Wells Area Food Shelf and brought them to the center where the kids were also given a tour of the facility by Director Pat. The kids had MANY questions, and it was wonderful for them to see how the food they collected will be used and why it is so needed. In fact, Pat shared that in November alone, the center served 230 individuals from 73 households who were provided with a total of 3,599 pounds of food. That is a LOT of kindness shared, and it was great for our kids to experience the virtue of charity within our own communities! If you would like to visit the food shelf, it is located at 10 1st Ave. SW and is open Tuesdays from 4:00-6:00 PM. However, if there is an emergency need, please call 507-553-5824.



Christmas Memories





January Need to Know



In order to keep informed on all SCS events and activities, please read through the following:

- **SCS Chess Club:** We currently have five members for our after school chess club led by Eric Woodring with assistance from his brother, Nicholas. However, there is always room for additional members. This club meets every other Thursday from 3:00-4:00 PM on the following dates: January 4 & 18; February 1, 15 & 29; March 14; April 4 & 18; and May 2, 16 & 30. If you would like to enroll your child in this free program, please contact the school office for the permission form.
- **Home and School Catholic United Financial Kick Off:** As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, this H & S all school fundraiser will begin on January 12th and end on February 20th when all unsold tickets, purchased ticket stubs and funds should be returned to the school office.
- **Second Sunday Social:** The Home and School will once again be hosting this social on January 14th following the 8:00 AM Mass at St. Casimir Church for the members of our community and encourage all to attend.
- **Postponement of Farewell Reception for Father Havel:** As many of you already are aware, Fr. Havel has resigned from active priest duties due to health reasons. We are grateful for Father's past five years of service to our parish communities and school. Please note that the reception for Fr. Havel has been postponed at this time. We ask that you keep the Fr. Havel in your prayers.
- **End of Second Quarter:** We will be officially half-way through the school year on December 19th. Please be watching for your child's report card which will be sent home on January 26th with your oldest SCS child.
- **NO SCHOOL:** Please be aware that January 22nd and 23rd are NO SCHOOL days due to a scheduled teacher work day and staff development.
- **NWEA Testing:** Although it's unfortunate that the next testing session occurs the same month that we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, Mrs. Edwards has made plans to begin the testing process early on January 27th. Doing so will provide the opportunity to receive the results back in time for the teachers to use the February 8th two hour late start to analyze the data and later share it with parents.
- **First Reconciliation, Grade 2:** Our Catholic second grade students have a great blessing in store for them as they prepare to experience their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on January 27th at 9:00 AM in our St. Casimir Church. In advance of that blessing, the second grade students and their parents will attend First Reconciliation Learning Centers on January 25th from 6:00-7:00 PM in Fr. Mikolai Hall. Please keep these kids in your prayers as they prepare to receive this special grace.
- **Catholic Schools Week:** January 28th-February 3rd is recognized across the country as National Catholic Schools Week. Although this celebratory week does not begin until the end of January and much planning will be undertaken between now and then, the time to mark this on your calendar is now! This week is one of the most highly-anticipated weeks of the year—please check out the following activity schedule for all of the special activities! As Mr. Hengel noted in his opening letter, with Bishop Barron presiding over the Children's Mass on January 31st, we would love to have several of our school parents/grandparents volunteer to serve in several key Mass positions. Please let us know if this is something that is for you.









Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

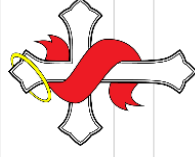


Catholic Schools



United in Faith and Community

Monday Jan. 29	Tuesday Jan. 30	Wednesday Jan. 31	Thursday Feb. 1	Friday Feb. 2
<p>Focus: Community</p> <p>8:30 AM Prayer Service in Fr. Mikolai Hall followed by Mystery Readers</p>	<p>Focus: Students</p> <p>Student Choice Dress Up Day: Students will vote on one of three activities— Results to be announced later.</p>	<p>Focus: Vocation/Parish</p> <p>SCS Shirt Day</p> <p>10:00 AM Mass w/ Bishop Barron</p> <p>CSW Meal provided by the Knights</p> <p>Afternoon Play Time: K-2 may bring their favorite toy and 3-5 their favorite board game</p> 	<p>Focus: Family</p> <p>I Love to Read Month Begins!</p>  <p>8:30-9:15 AM Drop Everything and Read Day (DEAR)</p>  <p>1:45-EOD Bingo w/ Parents/Grandparents</p> 	<p>Focus: Faculty/Staff</p> <p>School Spirit Day</p>  <p>Movie Matinee at Flame Theatre</p> 

2024 January



St. Casimir's School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	NO SCHOOL--Christmas Vacation; January Program Payments Withdrawn					Celebration of Epiphany 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Baptism of Our Lord 					H & S Catholic United Financial Fundraiser Kick off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
H & S Second Sunday Social, following 9:00 AM St. Casimir Church Mass					End of Second Quarter	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	NO SCHOOL-- Teacher Work Day	NO SCHOOL-- Staff Development	NWEA Testing, Grades K-5		Report Cards Sent Home	First Reconciliation, St. Casimir Church, 9:00 AM, Gr. 2
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			National Catholic Schools Week--Activities TBA			
			Children's Mass w/ Bishop Barron, 10:00 AM; Juliana & Lennox Serve			