



April 2, 2023

# The "Know it all" News

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church and School, 200 East Church Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

## A Note from the Principal . . .

We have three students who have been recognized as our Joan of Arc Saint of the Month.

**Max Johnson** was nominated for Saint Joan of Arc by Miss Schroers. Like Saint Joan of Arc Max is someone who is courageous when things are difficult, and he is a hard worker. Max listens for and carries God's love in his heart. He shows God's love through his friendship and love of others.

**MJ Kurvers** was nominated for Saint Joan of Arc by Mrs. Hennen. Like Saint Joan of Arc MJ demonstrates strong leadership in making purposeful actions to help others. Whenever a classmate is having difficulties solving a problem, he is right by their side helping them solve and think through the problem. He truly cares about when someone is alone at lunch and recess. MJ will go sit by them or go play with them on the playground. He tries to include others that are left out. Like Joan of Arc, MJ has a strong belief in his faith and is prayerful.

**Waylan Preuhs** was nominated for Saint Joan of Arc by Mr. Lopahs. Waylan, like Saint Joan of Arc, is a great listener and open to new ideas. He is a leader and is very respectful to all students and teachers. With an energy of positivity, Waylan attacks the challenges of the day, just like Saint Joan of Arc attacked her enemies. Waylan consistently seeks out God's will through constant prayer and calm behavior.

**Blessings,**

**Mrs. Hendricks**



## Calendar of Events

### March

31 8:30 am Mass hosted by grades 2-3. Student Saint Awards. Report Cards sent home. Braid Palms w/Father

### April

3 Open House  
6 Holy Thursday  
7 Good Friday/No School - OLP & Public  
10 Easter Monday/No School - OLP Only  
13 PTA Meeting  
14 8:30 am Mass hosted by grades 4, 5, & 6  
17 Field Trip to Orchestra Hall for grades 2-6. No hot lunch, all grades bring bag lunch.  
18 Field Trip to Children's Museum for grades PreK-1. No hot lunch, all grades bring bag lunch.  
28 8:30 am Mass hosted by grades 4, 5, & 6.  
School Birthday Mass - Qtly

### May

5 Student Saint Awards from April 28

### **Reminder:**

Register by April 15 for the 2023-24 school year and save \$50.

## A Word from Father . . .

Next week we celebrate Holy Week. The events of Holy Week are much more than just recalling Christ's suffering and glorification. We actually celebrate his life and share in his victory. Through his Passion, Death and Resurrection, Jesus accomplishes the mission to which his Father calls him. He conquers sin and restores humanity to the justice of God. This is the holiest week of the year and these liturgies are the center of the entire Christian year!

Holy Thursday marks the end of the Lenten season and we begin to celebrate the Triduum (Latin for "three days"). On Holy Thursday we experience Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist, which has been handed down to us. At the celebration of the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us an image of what the church is supposed to be like. We contemplate Christ in the Upper Room, on the eve of his Passion, as he made a gift of himself to the Church, instituted the ministerial priesthood and left to his disciples the new commandment of love. In this way he wished to remain with us in the sacrament of the Eucharist, making himself the food of our salvation.

On Good Friday we recall the brutal passion of Jesus who suffered so much for our sins and freely gave himself so to open the gates of heaven and prepare an eternal dwelling for all of God's people. Passing over through death to new life defines daily Christian living. We are called to take up our own cross in order to follow Jesus. Life offers so many opportunities to unite ourselves to the cross of Jesus. We venerate the cross to remember that it was our sins that put Jesus on the cross.

The Easter vigil is the grandest liturgy of the entire year celebrating the gift of newness of life. Fire is blessed to illuminate our passage from death into life as the readings are read. Water is blessed to signify our new birth in Christ. New members are welcomed into the church and the initiation sacraments are celebrated. It is truly a wonderful gift to all who participate! Easter Sunday is the day of resurrection and each Sunday we are reminded of Jesus overcoming sin and death and that his resurrection affords hope for each one of us!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Holy Week Liturgies.

**God bless you,**

**Father Michael Kaluza**

## Here's what's happening in the classrooms . . .

### Ms. Katie Cates Preschool

It's been a fun week in preschool. For the past few months, I've been working every afternoon in the preschool building. When the students came back from spring break, I stepped in as their full time teacher. It's been fun learning the morning routines and getting to know our half day friends more. This week our theme was transportation. We learned all about airplanes, emergency vehicles, trains, boats, and hot air balloons. Next week, we are looking forward to learning more about Holy Week and why Easter is so special!

### Mrs. Schroers K-1st Grades

After our week away for Spring Break, it has been so nice to be back with these students! They are ready and excited to be back learning together again. In our math, the kindergarteners are working on subtracting and taking apart numbers. The first graders are working on reading and making tally charts and picture graphs. In our Believe and Read, the focus for kindergarten has been targeting beginning and ending sounds, and short vowel sounds. We've been learning new sight words each week too. In first grade, the focus has been marking syllables and suffixes, and new sight words as well. Both grades have been practicing new stories in their readers and sight words books. In Catechesis, two of our newest words are the Parable of the Found Sheep and Psalm 23: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters." Such a beautiful Psalm to reflect on. God Bless, Ms. Schroers

### Mrs. Hennen 2nd & 3rd Grades

Hello Parents,

Welcome back from Spring break! The kids seem refreshed and ready to move on in their learning! In second and third grade we are putting together a mobile for the Gala and it is keeping us very busy! In our Believe and Read program we are on to ee/ea vowel digraphs and more homophones. Language Arts is review of suffixes, special verb "be", and possessive nouns. Second grade is reviewing adverbs and oo digraphs.

Second grade Math is all about reading and making graphs. Third graders will start Understanding Area! I love the Geometry Units! We will keep on reviewing multiplication as well.

After our Social Studies Test on Wednesday we will be learning about Becoming a Citizen.

As for Science we are still working on the Ecosystem. We have a few STEM activities we will try out to help understand what happens to organisms that don't get the resources they need.

The children never cease to amaze me in Religion class. Their attention and responses are wonderful! This week we started "We Continue the Work of Jesus". Hope everyone gets out and gets some fresh air!

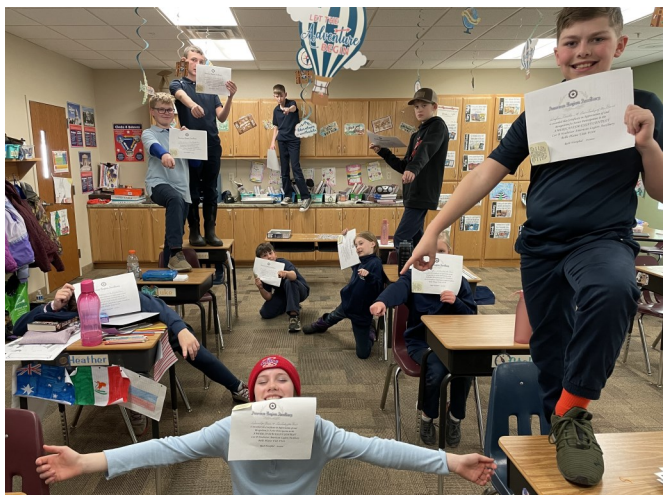
Mrs. Hennen

### Mr. Lopahs 4th, 5th & 6th Grades

We haven't skipped a beat in 4th/5th/6th grade as the post-Spring Break vibe has been focused and productive! In Language Arts, in addition to a book report, students are learning about and writing Poetry. For Math 5th & 6th graders are rocking their Algebraic skills by Evaluating Expressions while 4th graders are dominating division with a remainder. Our latest unit in Social Science, Economics, will challenge students to create a personal budget and understand the Circular Flow Model. And in Social Studies we are continuing to explore Western Europe.

### Carolyn Gleason, Music

I am so excited for our upcoming field trip to the Minnesota Orchestra with our 2nd-6th graders. The MN orchestra will be performing music from around the world. We are planning for our trip by learning the history and architecture of MN Orchestra Hall, learning proper concert etiquette, and listening and analyzing the musical pieces in advance. Pre-K through 1st grade are beginning to learn the names and sounds of different instruments of the orchestra.







## The American Legion Auxiliary Annual Essay Contest

Congratulations to Quinnlyn Gleason,  
the First Place Essay Winner  
out of forty-four local contestants.

This year's essay prompt:  
**"What Patriotism Means to Me".**  
Nicely done, Quinnlyn!



### Top Ticket Sales

Peter and Luke Hennen (pictured on the right) were presented with a Karaoke Machine by Catholic United Financial for being

Our Lady of the Prairie School's top raffle ticket salesmen. MJ Kurvers (pictured on the left) is representing Mrs. Hennen's 2nd & 3rd grade top selling class.



## Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School Gala & Auction

April 22nd is approaching for our school Gala. We hope you will be able to attend and also help throughout the evening. Please sign up for a shift during the Gala through the SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49ACAE2BA0FD0-20233>

We are also asking all families to contribute a bottle of wine, growler pack, or spirit for the Gala. Or you are welcome to bring in \$5 to contribute to the purchases we need.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!