



*We are a faith-filled Catholic community called by God
to teach, nurture and guide our children
to achieve their God-given potential on life's journey to heaven.*

Faith Community Academic Excellence

December 13, 2017 - St. Lucy

Dear Parents,

During this 100th anniversary year of Fatima, our love and reverence for our Blessed Mother is further revealed in the K-4th Christmas program in her honor (see "Upcoming Events" for details regarding the program). Advent is a very Marian season. Let us strive to experience the coming of our Savior with her.

Some of you probably remember what life was like before cell phones. As you can imagine miscommunication was common, which is nowadays easily avoidable. For example, back in the 90's my dad and brother agreed to meet at the local Casey's. Both were there on time but on opposite sides of the store and waited in their cars for at least 30 min. before they got out and found each other. Once my mom waited for close to an hour to take me home after volleyball practice, but I had gotten a ride with a teacher because I was at the elementary school wondering where she was, while she was waiting at the high school. These things probably don't happen quite as often now that we carry phones. Praise God for that.

Although it seems convenient to be available to everyone all the time, there can also be a down side. Are we truly present to those we are with? Does our presence to others show that they are important, more important than the incoming call or the quick text we have to send or the checking of social media? My observation is that people have gotten out of the habit of being where they are, and being present to who they are with. Phones can distance us from the very people we are with at the moment. I know it is not intentional, but it's become cultural. I see it happening all over, including in my own family during our family visiting days.

Mary, the Mother of God, gives us an example of a gift we can give to each other – the present of presence. It will not affect your bank account, but it may cost you in time and productivity. When Mary heard that her cousin Elizabeth was expecting, she went in haste, 130 miles on a donkey, to be present to her; to be with her. If you recall, Mary had just received some very exciting news that she herself was to carry God's Son. Mary was present to the angel Gabriel and she teaches us the value of personal contact.

As the hustle and bustle in your life increases, I encourage you to focus on presence. Focus on the people God has placed in front of you at each moment. They are His gift to you and you are a gift to them. The children will follow your lead. They love attention, your attention most of all. Thanks for being there for them. You are a blessing!

In Christ our Infant King,
Sister Mary Faustina, C.K.

DATES for: December

- 13 Grade 5 Confessions Happy Birthday, Jody Degenhardt!
- 14 Thurs. Grade 3 Class Mass 2:00 p.m. Christmas Program Dress rehearsal for those who can't make the 7 p.m. performance; **Candy Cane Sales** Christmas Program (Grades K-4), 7 p.m.
- 15 **12:30 Dismissal** / Faculty mtg. PK-A Day
- 17 Sun. Happy Birthday, Pope Francis!
- 18 Grade 7 Confessions Chess Club Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Grade 4 Field Trip Jr. High Choir Christmas Caroling, 4:45 p.m.
- 20 Wed. Sign-a-long, 11 a.m. / Noon Dismissal End of 2nd quarter
- 21-29 **No School / Christmas break! Have blessed holidays!**

January

- 4 Thurs. Classes resume Happy Birthday & Feast Day Fr. Fulton!
- 5 Fri. MCA Collection/Lunch adoration/Benediction 2:45 p.m. PK-A Day
- 10 Wed. Report Cards issued Leadership Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 11 Happy ½ Birthday, Mrs. Hraban!
- 12 PK-B Day
- 13 Sat. Winter Band Rehearsal, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Pius X gym
- 14 Winter Band Concert, 1:30 p.m., Pius X gym
- 15 Mon. **No School** / Faculty Meeting & In-service

PRAY FOR THESE SEMINARIANS: Anthony Bedient & James Beran

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

THINGS BEING SENT HOME: Textbook Loan Packet; Altar Server Schedule; Grade 5 Field Trip form; Student Council Jeans Day flyer; Lunch and Library notices; Grade 8 Theology of the Body Parent Guide & form; Grade 7 Theology of the Body reminder forms

ATTACHMENTS: Christmas Wish list; Catholic Author/McCracken Series flyer; Altar Server Schedule, Dec. 19, 2016-Apr. 2, 2017; UNL Women's Basketball flyer; Band Information; Men's Advent Matins flyer

*Please note that January School Calendar and January Hot Lunch Menu will be emailed to all families next Wednesday.

TEXTBOOK LOAN APPLICATIONS are coming home with all students in grades PreK-7. *All of the forms are due by **Wednesday, December 20th. Please return them ASAP.** Parents will be responsible to purchase the textbooks we are requesting for your children if your forms are not returned in time.* The "Application for Loan of Textbooks" requires your child's name & address, date, both your printed and written name, please circle either parent or guardian, and add your address & phone number. The "Authorized Parent Representative Form" requires your name, signature and date. Thank you!

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS WISH LIST: Our school librarian, Mrs. Pepino, has established a link to the St. Teresa School Library Amazon wish list with a list of suggested books our library needs.

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/3T8SHGVTJ70VI/ref=cm_sw_em_r_z_g_wb

You may also search "St. Teresa School Library" on Amazon Wish List page.

HEALTH SCREENINGS: are completed. If you do not receive a letter and results, your children's results are within normal limits. If you do receive a letter of notification, please note: a school health screening does not diagnose a condition, but identifies individuals who should receive further evaluation.

GRANTS UPDATE:

- We have hired Michelle Birkel to be our grant writer. She has done some wonderful things for us and is in the process of others.
- May F. Flanagan Foundation donated \$3,000 for Walkie Talkies
- Kimmel Foundation denied our request for alternative seating
- Cornhusker Motor Club Foundation denied our request for Art supplies. We will try again in the fall.
- Please say a prayer that a donor we have approached will donate \$13,000 for additional security cameras for school and church

COLD WEATHER: With the temperature fluctuating, it is hard to know how to dress in the morning. It would be good to bring coats to school so that students are prepared to play outside. Many children are not wearing winter coats to school. A sweatshirt or fleece jacket is not warm enough for recess. The students go out for recess when the temperature and wind chill factor are 10 degrees or higher. The fresh air helps us stay healthy! We don't want to have to keep the students inside simply because they are not dressed warmly enough. Thank you.

HAIR CUT REMINDERS: *Hair must be well groomed. Extremes in hair styles are unacceptable. Use of hair color, highlighting, or bleaching of hair is not permitted. Boys' hair may not touch the collar or cover the eyebrows. The sides of boys' hair and sideburns may not extend below the middle of the ear.* Designs, shapes, or lines shaved into the hair are not allowed. Thank you and God bless!

BAND INFORMATION: Today Mr. Downey is passing out band parent golden colored information flyers to the band students. This information is also attached.

CHRISTMAS CHEER: Students may wear Christmas socks to school on Dec. 20th. They may bring Christmas hats, headbands, etc. for the Sing-a-Long at 11:00 a.m.

CATHOLIC AUTHOR will present to 6th-8th Grade students on January 31, 10:45-11:30 a.m. See the attached flyer for a Christmas gift idea.

UNL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: On Friday December 22nd, the Husker Women's Basketball team will host the Washington State Cougars at 1:00 PM. For this game, they will be offering free admission to all children 8th grade and under! See attached flier for more information. **Go Big Red!**

LADIES' VOLLEYBALL NIGHT on Friday, December 29 at 7:30 p.m. Enter gym using the south doors. Bring a friend!

RELIGIOUS SHIRT: For Catholic Schools Week (January 29 – February 3th) field trip day, the students may wear jeans with a t-shirt that has a religious saying or WTLW shirts.

WAYS TO SERVE

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: General Mills offers **10 cents** for each box top from any of the 330 participating General Mills products. Send them to the school office. You wouldn't throw away a dime, would you? What a great way to make money for our School Family!

AMAZON SMILE: #StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0393174 for your holiday gifts and Amazon donates to St Teresa Catholic Church of Lincoln. Use Scrip or Propelr on Amazon Smile for double the profit!

SCRIP AND PROPLR NEWS: Thank you for using \$CRIP for all your groceries, gas, and gifts!
November Scrip profit = \$1,522.40; **Year-to-date total** = \$16,605.73, or 66% of goal.

NEW SCRIP MERCHANT: Granite City \$25 cards. Each card purchased offers \$5 back to St. Teresa's. There are also smaller denominations available for Target and Walmart that are perfect for gifts and stocking stuffers.

There are many, many merchants that offer Scrip. We carry in stock what is listed on the Scrip form. Visit www.shopwithscrip.com to see the selection of gift cards for over 750 of the most popular retailer brands across every retail category. Over 300 brands are available immediately with ScripNow®, and over 100 are reloadable. You don't even need to login...just scroll to the bottom of the page and click on [retailer list](#). Please note that any card that is not in the box will need to be ordered. For delivery by December 20 (Christmas break dismissal), orders must be received by 1:00 pm on Sunday, December 17. You can order ScripNow! anytime for almost immediate delivery. ReloadNow! is also available at anytime but a physical card purchase must be purchased through Scrip to be able to reload it.

Check out all of these limited time [specials](#) on certain merchants. These increased rebates will be available until December 15th!

Please email jeandreasen@me.com or call 402-525-5500 if you have any questions about Scrip.

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (GRADES K-4th): Thursday, **December 14**, 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. – Students will report to the lunchroom and may leave their coats there.

GIRLS CHRISTMAS CAROLING: **Dec. 17**, 1:15-6:30 p.m. for Jr. high to college-aged girls. Vespers and Dinner with the Sisters is included. See the flyer from Dec. 6 for more details.