

# The Saint Teresa Times

“Pray, Serve, Learn”



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## Thoughts From Our Pastor

### Stewards, Not Owners, of What We Have

Daily, I find myself falling to my knees to thank Almighty God for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon me. One of the greatest blessings I receive is the joy of caring for the children of our parish, especially through the gift of our fine school. The children of St. Teresa’s Parish Family are truly beautiful children of God. He has entrusted them to me, or rather to us—to all of us—and we must take very seriously the responsibility of caring for our school, which in turn is forming and fashioning the children intellectually, academically, emotionally, psychologically and, most importantly, spiritually. This is called stewardship—taking good care of what God has given us.

Stewardship means that I, as a Christian individual, realize that God is the source of all good. I acknowledge that He has been generous to me. Therefore, I, in turn, strive to be generous with the gifts He has given me—my time, my talents, and my treasure. Stewardship therefore reminds me that I will have to render an accounting to God for how I manage these gifts from Him. I am the steward, not the owner, of all God’s gifts to me.

I so desire to continue the great work here at St. Teresa’s—work with the little children, but also the elderly, the married and the single, from birth and Baptism to death and entrance into glory. To keep our parish and school strong, vibrant and fruitful, we must be truly generous and sacrificial in our giving. Supporting our parish is simply part of good stewardship—giving a portion of what we have back to God for the salvation of souls. We may not be the perfect parish and school, but, by the grace of God, great things are indeed happening here. God is good. Thank you for your love, prayers and support, which He deserves.



These are pictures of the newly renovated Kindergarten and Preschool classrooms in the area that formerly housed the Thrift Shop. What a great example of how many came together to use their time, talent, and treasure to improve the school for our children!

THE SAINT TERESA TIMES

**St. Teresa's School has seven new teachers this year.  
A couple of them will be featured in the newsletter each quarter.**

**Meet Sister Teresa Marie**

Praised be Jesus Christ the King! My name is Sister Teresa Marie, and I (with Jesus) have the privilege of teaching the second grade students this year. I am so blessed to be back at St. Teresa's as a full time teacher. I team taught with Sister Marie Caritas in 2012 and feel privileged to be assigned here again. After my time here in 2012, I was assigned to finish my education at Benedictine College. I graduated in December 2015 with my degrees in Elementary Education and Theology. This past spring semester I was assigned to co-teach fifth grade at St. Peter School.

God is so good to call me to such wonderful work. This year I am especially looking forward to using the method, The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in both the school and CCD settings. This is a method that has helped me to grow personally and as a catechist.

I am looking forward to getting to meet the new families and to be with those of you that I have already met. Let us continue to ask the intercession of our holy patroness, St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, to love Jesus in the "little ways" of life.



**Sister Teresa Marie and her 2nd Graders**



**Meet New Music Teacher, Terri Schilmoeller**

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to St. Teresa's School. I am honored to continue the rich tradition of music education here in the footsteps of Cheryl Johnson. And as a graduate of St. Teresa's, I am so excited to be back! I attended St. Teresa's School from PreK-8th grade, Pius X High School, UNL (where I received my bachelor's degree in music education), and then taught at Clinton Elementary School in Lincoln for 3 years. I now get to say I am a St. Teresa's alumna, parent, and teacher. God is good, and returning to teaching after some time spent at home with my three children has been exciting and filled with blessings.

This year in music class the students will be experiencing a variety of musical genres and activities that coincide with the national and state standards of music. This includes a focus on singing, playing a variety of percussion instruments, practicing music notation, studying music history, composing and improvising, and of course, playing a plethora of music games. Students are also learning new hymns, meditation pieces, antiphons, and Mass settings to sing at school Masses.

For those who are wondering (your children certainly were!), many of the important music traditions will continue at St. Teresa's. This includes the Christmas and Spring Programs, the Talent Show, and of course the ever-popular metronome game (ask your 4th-8th graders about that one).

Thank you for sending your children to our school, and know that their music education is very important to me. Please come visit my room sometime, or attend one of the programs which are already in the works! I look forward to meeting all of you parents soon.

**2016-17 St. Teresa's School Theme**  
**"Do ordinary things with extraordinary love" – St. Teresa of Calcutta**

**By School Family Chairs Craig and Natalie Keaschall**

We are currently living in the Jubilee Year of Mercy which will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. Along with this special year, we also celebrated St. Teresa of Calcutta, who was recently canonized on September 4. In honor of these two special events, this school year's theme is based on one of St. Teresa of Calcutta's quotes, "Do ordinary things with extraordinary love". This really summarizes how our patron saint, St. Teresa of Lisieux, lived too.

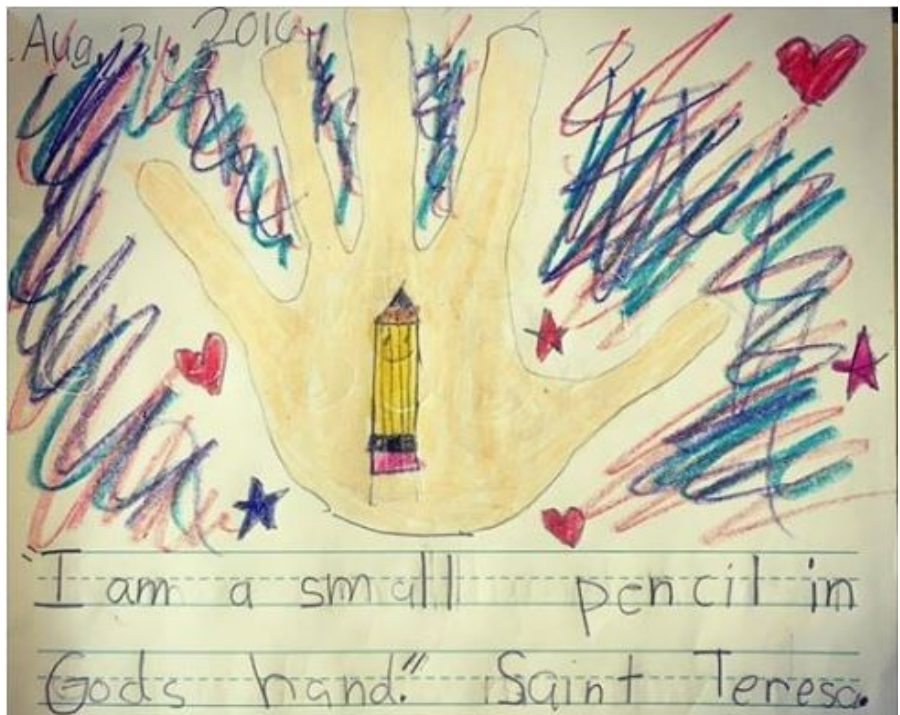
Throughout the 2016-17 school year, we would like to challenge our families, faculty, religious, and staff to perform random acts of kindness to those in our own families, our school and church community, our neighbors, and our world.

We would also like to celebrate our stories, which will in turn inspire others to live outside of themselves and bring happiness to others. How have they received a RAOK (Random Act of Kindness)? This isn't to brag or boast, but studies have shown where RAOK have had a phenomenal impact, not only on the giver and the receiver, but also anyone that witnesses that act of love/self. The sharing is to inspire others to live and give as St. Teresa of Lisieux, St. Teresa of Calcutta and so many other saints that have lived...selflessly and with their being.

There are many ways to do this that have been noted in our world. A few include:

- Write a thank you note or note of appreciation or encouragement to someone special to you or someone who has made an impact on your life.
- Pray for others, including those who aren't so nice to you.
- Pay for someone's coffee/food anonymously.
- Make a meal for a family/individual having a rough time.
- Share a smile or a greeting with a new person or someone you don't know.

Just like these wonderful saints, the beauty of this challenge is in its simplicity. Whether you do one RAOK or seventy, the challenge is just to do more. We believe this will make ripples in our community and hopefully develop a lifetime of looking for ways in which we can brighten others' lives. This isn't a competition or a way to show off. It is really to be a personal challenge. If you would like to share your story anonymously (no names attached of who did them and who received them), please feel free to drop them off at the school office and we can celebrate or share some of them in our newsletters, St. Teresa Times, and/or during our upcoming SFA Meetings with our families and St. Teresa's staff. May this help to remind us to live as Jesus did in giving of ourselves to one another.



**Tim and Melissa Brox were delighted to find this artwork and St. Teresa of Calcutta quote in their 1st grader Annie's journal at Parent Teacher Conferences! Annie is a student of 1st grade teacher, Miss Sarah Dinan.**



## St. Teresa School

616 S. 36th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
(402) 477-3358

[www.thelittleflower-lincoln.com](http://www.thelittleflower-lincoln.com)

Submissions for the newsletter:  
[Jackievaricak@yahoo.com](mailto:Jackievaricak@yahoo.com)

***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.***



**As of Oct. 5th, the Walk the Little Way fundraiser has raised over \$30,000!**

Donations are still being accepted through the end of October for the 2016 year. Funds are going towards textbooks, classroom teacher needs, student council needs, school renovation needs, and a tower garden (pictured above) for science. Thanks to all who have prayed, collected and donated to Walk the Little Way for our school. God Bless You!!

## It is EASY to Use SCRIP and Propelr to Benefit Our School!

**A Testimonial from Mary Koenig:** Today I was running errands as usual. The great part is between filling up my gas tank, buying some lunch at Panera, and buying some blankets at T.J. Maxx, I was able to give the school about \$4.00. In the past with SCRIP, I would have to pre-plan and make sure I had ordered the SCRIP cards ahead of time. However, now, between my Propelr card and the SCRIP Wallet app on my phone, our family's donations to the school have been able to DOUBLE. I don't have to pre-plan anymore. Now our unexpected trips to the hardware store, restaurants, or last minute grocery runs can all give a kickback to our school. SCRIP has so many different vehicles to suit any family's purchasing styles. Our favorites have been the Propelr card and Scrip Wallet App.

**A Testimonial from Sarah Schinstock:** I love using SCRIP! This has not always been the case though. I remember wondering about it when it would be announced at the end of Mass. I was perplexed by the table in the vestibule. Even after I figured out that piece of the puzzle, I could never remember to bring a checkbook as we were running out the door for Mass. I wanted to help the school make FREE money, but could never get it together enough to do so. Then I was introduced to the SCRIP app for my smartphone, which became a SCRIP-using game changer for me! I am able to shop, and right before I check out, buy SCRIP for the amount I am about to use. Within minutes, I have SCRIP on my phone in the right amount for that purchase! Now, I use SCRIP for Sam's trips, Amazon purchases, buying Land's End or JCP school clothes online, to pay off my Kohl's charge card immediately, Home Depot, and restaurants such as Chipotle and Chili's (for the occasional treat). I also use the Hy-Vee gas station at 50th and O and pre-purchase SCRIP. I pride myself on being a thrifty shopper, and love that I can make FREE money for the school by buying the things I already buy! If you have questions, ask! Check out the Shop with SCRIP website; you won't believe all of the merchants! Happy shopping and contributing with little effort to our beloved school!

**A Testimonial from Veronica and Ryan Wesolowski:** When we found out about the Propelr card back in early 2016, we were immediately interested in it. The philosophy of Propelr was exactly what we were looking for, it made so much sense to us. We know how much we spend at the grocery store, gas for our vehicles, Amazon, and takeout each month; the same stores that participate in Propelr were the places which we already patronized on a regular basis. We have two cards that share the balance between them and find it very convenient when both spouses have a card. The direct deposit option was the best fit for our family budget. We have two direct deposit transactions each month right from our paycheck on to the Propelr card. The Propelr smart phone app is a very handy tool to keep an eye on your card balance; transactions are posted almost instantly. Propelr gives us the flexibility to spend the money that is on the card anywhere; however, using it at participating locations is our goal. Additionally, we find ourselves going to the ATM less...when we are at Super Saver, occasionally we run the transaction as a debit and ask for cash back, and the school still gets 2% back! We can then take that cash anywhere and feel that St. Teresa's school is still benefiting from our other shopping needs. Propelr is continually looking to expand the merchant list in order to broaden this convenient solution, which helps to benefit such great organizations throughout our community.

**A Testimonial from Sara Stewart:** I have found that the Propelr Card is very easy and convenient. I load funds once a week and then use the card to do my grocery shopping at Super Saver and to get gas at Fast Mart on 33rd and A St. when needed. I have also used it at Valentino's, Lost in Fun, and a few other restaurants like Toppers pizza. I like that you don't have to buy individual cards for each place you shop. I feel good about being able to help raise money for St. Teresa school and it really is super easy. The money I put on my card and use to shop is money I would spend anyway at these places.