



ST. FRANCIS
XAVIER
ELEMENTARY

Our Mission:

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary School cultivates the full potential of each individual through the pursuit of academic, spiritual, and personal excellence. In union with our families, the Church, and the greater community, we strive to lead and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ in this world and to live as saints for eternity.



the HEAVENLY TIMES

January
2024
Edition

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

St. Thomas Aquinas

Born: 1224 / 25
Died: March 7, 1274
Cannonized: July 18, 1323
Feast Day: January 28th
Patron of: Catholic schools

"-Came from a wealthy Italian ruling family in the 13th century.

-At age five, he was sent to a Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in hopes that someday he would be abbot

-He came into contact with the Dominicans. Their life of prayer and study fascinated him, and he was determined to join them.

-His family was shocked that Thomas would join a group of poor friars. His mother sent his brothers after him. They kidnapped and imprisoned him for more than a year at a family castle. Nothing would shake his resolution to enter the Dominicans.

-Thomas's family gave up on discouraging him from becoming a priest, and in 1244, he joined the order.

-Studied under Albert the Great

-Became well known for his writings in philosophy and theology

-His love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament led him to write prayers and hymns that are still used to honor the Eucharist

-This brilliant man was very humble. He knew that all his gifts came from God

-Thomas died at age 49 on his way to the Council of Lyons, France per request of Pope Gregory X

-Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Doctor of the Church and patron of Catholic schools."

(Info from LoyolaPress.com)



From the Principal's Desk...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With a new year comes the opportunity for a fresh start in our lives with our families, in organizing our homes, but also in renewing and refreshing our prayer lives. **Please pray the following with me as we work to refresh and renew in this new year...**

God, I choose to find my joy and strength in you today. I choose to walk in love. I choose to set my eyes on you and off all the struggles and chaos of this world. I choose your peace over worry. I choose kindness over hurry. I choose forgiveness over disunity and resentments. I choose your Spirit-filled power over relying on my own strength and ability. I know that my life is far from perfect, and the enemy would want nothing more than to take me straight down before I even get out the door. But I believe in your truth, and I have Jesus in my life, and because of that, I have all that I need to live free and abundantly for this very day. AMEN.

XAVIER ANNUAL APPEAL

Our 23-24 Annual Appeal letters have been sent out to our Alumni & Friends. Donations received in the past have helped with many projects and improvements here at school. Most recently, we were able to remodel classrooms on 1st, 2nd & 3rd floors. Funds we receive this year will help us to remodel and update our library.

If you have not received a letter, please contact us and we will send one to you and put you on our listing. If you have donated to the appeal, we thank you for your generosity and if you have not, we ask you to prayerfully consider.

We thank you for your continued support of Xavier School and pray that God continues to bless you and your family.

Friendly Reminder for After School Pick-Up

With the weather changing and getting colder, it is very tempting to stay in your vehicle at pick-up time, with the hope that your child will come to you. With that being said, we need to remind our families of the following policy regarding student pick-up:

There is a long RED line marking off the sidewalk on the west side of the school where K - 6 students will wait to be picked up. Know that the pick-up areas will remain the same throughout the school year. When parking in our parking lot, we strongly encourage families to park in the parking spaces with your vehicle facing the school, which will reduce the potential to hit a student or another vehicle & will eliminate the need to back up.

For the safety of the students and drivers, **you or the person who is picking up your child(ren) MUST get out of your/their vehicle and walk to the designated areas to pick up your child(ren).** Students will not be allowed to leave the area until the person who has come to pick them up has walked to the designated area to get them. With a lot of vehicles in the parking lot, it can be difficult to see a student walking to a vehicle and we have had some close calls, especially with our younger students who are hard to see. Safety of our students is our #1 concern. God Bless & Thank You for your understanding and cooperation!

January Events >>>

1st – No School- Christmas Break

2nd - No School- Christmas Break

3rd - Happy New Year! Classes Resume! Early Out at 2:10 pm

5th - 8:30 am Mass lead by Ms. Tillis's class, 2:05 pm BCHS Winter Music Concert Tour in the gym

8th - FAST Testing Starts

9th - FAST Testing

10th - FAST Testing, Early Out at 2:10 pm

11th - FAST Testing, 5th & 6th Gr. Sundown Ski Trip

12th - 1st Semester Ends, FAST Testing, 8:30 am Mass lead by Mrs. Schilling's class

13th - 2nd Semester Begins, 8 am – Noon XSA Can Drive at Xavier School

15th - **NO SCHOOL - MLK DAY**

16th - FAST Testing

17th - FAST Testing, Out of Dress Code for sister parish in Haiti (see out of dress code for more info)

Early Out at 2:10 pm, XSA Dinner Club at the Fuse

18th - FAST Testing

19th - FAST Testing 8:30 am Mass lead by Mrs. Wubbena's class

22nd - 6th grade Invention Convention in Auditorium

24th - Early Out at 2:10 pm

26th - 8:30 am Mass lead by Mrs. Donovan's class, A Xavier Affair Event (more details under *Save the Date* heading)

28th – 30th Catholic Schools Week

31st - Catholic Schools Week, Early Out at 2:10 pm



Keep God First This New Year

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts. Amen

Church is not just a building, but also those that fill it. We are all called to love and support one another in this life. We were made for community, and what better way to show our support and love, than by gathering at Mass to share a meal, worship & give thanks for one another and all that has been given to us by God. Our presence at Mass not only strengthens us personally, but as a school family. Below you will find the weekend Mass times for the Spires of Faith cluster parishes. Come join us!



<https://spiresoffaith.com/news-events/mass-times>

Spires of Faith Weekend Cluster Mass Times

SATURDAY

4:00 pm St. Paul,
Worthington
5:00 pm St. Francis Xavier,
Dyersville
7:00 pm SS. Peter & Paul,
Petersburg

SUNDAY

7:00 am St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville
8:00 am St. Joseph, Earlville
8:30 am St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville
9:00 am St. Paul, Worthington
10:00 am St. Boniface, New Vienna
10:30 am St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville
12:00 pm St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville

THAT MAN IS YOU! (TMIY) BEGINS JANUARY 13TH, 2024

Attention all men!! Are you looking to deepen your relationship with God? Be a better husband? Become a more loving father? Build friendships with other like-minded men? And seek to be the best man you can be?

The 13 week "That Man is You!" Spring semester begins Saturday, January 13th at Dyersville Columbus Hall. The theme of the Spring semester is "Thy Kingdom Come" with presenters Fr. Dave Pivonka, Fr. Leo Patalinghug, Dr. Raphl Martin, John Edwards and Michael Gormley among others. As in prior semesters, breakfast is served beginning at 6 am followed by the program at 6:30 am and adjournment by 7:30 am. Prayerfully consider making TMIY part of your weekend routine.

In The Know...



EVERY WEDNESDAY

EARLY DISMISSAL

2:10 pm

January Family Matters Newsletter Available

Family Matters Newsletter from the Archdiocese of Dubuque Marriage & Family Life Office is available to read/print. This monthly e-newsletter provides many resources about the Catholic faith, including activities, and ways to live out your faith more fully in your daily lives.

Click on the following for access to this amazing resource:

[January Family Matters
Newsletter](#)



BECKMAN CATHOLIC REGISTRATION

Is your student heading to Beckman Catholic next fall? If your student will be "new" to Beckman, register prior to midnight on December 31st for the 2024-25 school year, and their name will be entered into a drawing for a free school fleece! You can register online at: www.beckmancatholic.org under the admissions tab / online admission form

Nurse's Notes

The start of a new year is a great time to help your children focus on forming good habits. Making New Year's resolutions can be a fun way to do this!

I encourage you to sit down with your kids and, together, pick maybe one or two goals they want to set as their New Year's resolutions/goals.

Here are some healthy and positive goal-setting resolution ideas you can suggest to your children, depending on their age:

- I will try hard to **clean up** my toys by putting them where they belong.
- I will let my parents help me **brush my teeth** twice a day.
- I will **wash my hands** after going to the bathroom and before eating.
- I will always hold a grown-up's hand whenever I cross the street.
- I will do my best to **be nice to other kids** who need a friend or look sad or lonely.
- I will **drink water** every day and healthy beverages like milk with meals.
- I will wear my **seat belt** every time I get in a car.
- I will try to find a physical **activity** or a **sport** I like and do it at least three times a week!
- I will always wear a **helmet** when riding a bike, scooter or skateboard.
- I'll try to be **friendly** to kids who may have a hard time making friends by talking with them and inviting them to join activities.

***St. Francis Xavier Covid regulations:** A child is excluded for 5 days from a positive test or symptom onset. First day of symptoms or positive test date (if asymptotic) as day 0.

Child may return to school on day 6 if fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if symptoms have improved. It is recommended that the child wear a mask from 6-10 days.

***Student Illness:** If your child is complaining of a cough, cold symptoms, sore throat or has a fever, please keep them home until they are symptom free. If they have a fever, they need to be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.

***Cooler Weather Coming:** As the leaves begin to change, so does the weather. Cooler temps are on the way. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately when they come to school. Students will go outside to play at recess unless it rains, so keeping warm in the cooler temps is important in keeping them healthy.

Have a Healthy and Safe New Year!
Jolene Bagge BSN,RN

SAVE THE DATE!

XAVIER AFFAIR
FRIDAY,
JANUARY 26, 2024

Thank you to the entire St. Francis Xavier Elementary community for your support of our largest annual fundraising event. Here's what you can expect at this year's Xavier Affair:

In-Person Social Event: Join us for a delightful evening featuring food stations, beverages, and live entertainment. Advance registration for event tickets will be available soon.

Online Auction: Explore our exciting online auction, where you can bid on a wide range of items, experiences, and one-of-a-kind class projects. Please contact Courtney Leonard at critesca@gmail.com if you or your business are interested in supporting the Xavier Affair. If you would like to check out our website, please visit: one.bidpal.net/xavieraffair2024/welcome.

Carry-Out Meals: We understand that family time is precious, and we've got you covered. Enjoy a delicious carry-out meal option for the entire family, so everyone can partake in the Xavier Affair experience. Advance registration for carry-out meals will be available soon.



Fundraising

Car decal



\$5



Car Decals Available!
available for purchase at the Xavier school office.



SCRIP NEWS –

RAISERIGHT (FORMERLY SHOPWITHSCRIP)

At no additional cost to you, you can purchase SCRIP, which benefits your child's tuition, local businesses, and our Catholic schools. A reminder that SCRIP for GAS and GROCERIES is a great and easy way to do this. SCRIP works for everyone!

AVAILABLE AT LOCAL BANKS: Visit Midwest 1 Bank on Hwy 136 or Fidelity Bank in Dyersville for in-stock local SCRIP.

AVAILABLE ON-LINE: Visit the RaiseRight website to view all the Retailer Lists that participate in the SCRIP program as well <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

SPECIAL SCRIP ORDERS: Know that if you want to order Special SCRIP, you must pay for it before it will be ordered. A check needs to be dropped off to Xavier School office. Note that orders will still be placed at 10am on Monday.

RaiseRight Mobile App.: Did you know you can order from your phone? Click the link to learn more <https://www.raiseright.com/>

New to SCRIP or have questions: Call Xavier School at 875-7376 or email us at scrip@xavier.pvt.k12.ia.us and one of our SCRIP Experts can assist you and show you how easy it is to shop with SCRIP.

SCRIP volunteers are needed to assist with this program. We are so blessed and thankful for our volunteers who give of their time to help...we could not do this without them! Please contact Xavier at 875-7376 if you or someone you know is interested in helping.

Out of Dress Code

Last month we collected money for Toys for the Needy - Miriam Eick's annual collection. We collected lots of items for those in need, as well as a monetary amount of \$784.85.

Our next Out of Dress Code will take place on January 17th. **Our sister parish in Haiti needs our help!** Their country has been hit hard with cholera. Your donation of 50 cents or more will help purchase buckets and purification tablets so these people can have safe drinking water. There are always other needs among the people of our sister parish as well, so we thank you for helping us help them!

Students are reminded to follow the rules for Out of Dress Code days found in the dress code rules, on our school website, under the *Parents* heading. Thank you for your generosity in helping the people of Fond Verrettes, Haiti!

Please keep them in your prayers as well.

Xavier Cash Raffle

Raffle tickets are still available in the school office for this weekly drawing. Each raffle ticket is \$20, and you can win more than once!! If your name is drawn, it goes right back in! There are weekly drawings of \$50, a monthly drawing of \$100, additional drawings in October (\$250) & April (\$250), and a Catholic Schools week drawing of \$500. GOOD LUCK!!

DECEMBER RAFFLE WINNERS:

- 1st - \$50 Tim Pins
- 8th - \$50 Lou Ann Schmitt
- 15th - \$50 Kelli Hartbeck
- 22nd - \$50 Jane & Dean Knipper
- 29th - \$50 Dayla Salrin , \$100 Mark Fangman



Fundraisers

We are no longer collecting *Our Family Labels, Prairie Farms Milk Caps, or Box Tops for Education* at Xavier School.

We have GREAT fundraising opportunities that **DO** take place throughout the school year such as...

- Weekly Cash Raffle - \$20 per ticket
- DQ/Happy Joe's Punch Cards - \$15 each
- SCRIP
- Fast Stop Gas Cards
- Dinner Club... just to name a few

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!



january 17