

St. Therese Catholic School

February 2024

STS Newsletter

Go Crusaders!



Mission Statement: To provide Faith, Service and Learning opportunities for students, families and communities in a Christ-like environment.

Mary Giglio, Principal
m.giglio@stschool.org
505.344.4479

Business office: Darlyn Benton, Finance
d.benton@stschool.org
Secretary: Bobbi Stevens
r.stevens@stschool.org

UNIFORMS

Here are some links for uniforms. While in the past we have used Dennis uniforms, we have not contracted with them in the past three years. You may buy the polos or sweatshirts from only the school by clicking on this link:

<https://www.stthereseschoolabq.org/uniforms>

- **If you are needing the **plaid jumper**, you can order from Dennis here:**
Dennis uniform basics (Prek-4th grade) [girls jumper](#)
- **If you need a plaid skirt, we have some sizes for new skirts in the office. 5th-8th grade, if you need a particular size, we will order these in bulk and you can purchase from us.**
- **Dennis Uniform also has a **basic store**. This means you can buy their plain stock, such as navy blue slacks, white blouse/shirt, but nothing with a logo. [Dennis uniform basics girls](#) and [Dennis uniform basics boys](#)**
- **Remember boys wear navy slacks, girls may wear navy skorts or the plaid jumper/skirt. Girls need a navy crisscross tie and boys a regular navy tie for Mass.**
- **You can also check out the closet for gently used uniforms, which are all free of charge. If you have any questions on uniforms, just drop me an email m.giglio@stschool.org**

FEBRUARY LITURGY

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 2 | FIRST FRIDAY; PRESENTATION OF THE LORD |
| 3 | ST. BLAISE; ST ANSGAR; MASS OF OUR LADY |
| 5 | ST. AGATHA |
| 6 | ST. PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS |
| 8 | ST. JEROME EMILIANI; ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA |
| 10 | ST. SCHOLASTICA |
| 14 | ASH WEDNESDAY (DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE) |
| 16 | DAY OF ABSTINENCE |
| 17 | SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER |
| 21 | ST. PETER DAMIAN |
| 22 | CHAIR OF ST. PETER, APOSTLE |
| 23 | ST. POLYCARP; DAY OF ABSTINENCE |
| 27 | ST. GREGORY OF NAREK |

SCHOOL MASS SCHEDULE –FEBRUARY



| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday | February 1 | 6 th grade hosts the Mass |
| Sunday | February 4 | 5 th grade hosts the Mass |
| Thursday | February 8 | 4 th grade hosts the Mass |
| Wednesday | February 14 (Ash Wed.) | 3 rd grade hosts the Mass |
| Thursday | February 15 | No Mass today |
| Thursday | February 22 | 2 nd grade hosts the Mass |
| Thursday | February 29 | 8 th grade hosts the Mass |

Adoration will follow most Masses on Thursday.

February Events

| | |
|--------------|---|
| February 1 | CSW Vocations day Father Chavez and Deacon Michael to speak to kids on vocations |
| February 2 | CSW Celebrating Staff/Faculty with lunch from El Agave Family Mexican Restaurant in Rio Rancho (Zidane (1 st gr)/ Zidane (PreK)) Marquez family. |
| February 5-9 | Valentine gram sales (delivered on February 13) \$1 and \$2 choices |
| February 9 | Mid School Valentine's day dance from 6 pm – 8 pm in the Parish Hall Gym |
| February 14 | Lent begins today with Ash Wednesday Mass Day of fast and abstinence |
| February 16 | No School – Teacher in-service with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Schools |
| February 19 | No School – President's day |
| February 29 | Leap day! |

Financial Corner



St. Therese is doing well fiscally. We are within budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The building is in good condition as are the grounds. We are looking to add to the fence on the north side of the campus. We are currently accepting proposals for this job.

We were able to purchase an AED for Long Hall. There is an AED in the gym/parish hall.

+++++

Faith Formation

The month of February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family. Between the events which marked Christmas and the beginning of Christ's public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family.

The Feast of the **Presentation** (February 2) or **Candlemas** forms a fitting transition from Christmas to Easter. The small Christ-Child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in sacrifice.

From Feast to Fast



Though the shortest month of the year, February is rich in Liturgical activity. It contains a feast (Presentation of our Lord) that bridges two other seasons (Christmas and Easter)! In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public sacramentals that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

The Solemnity of the **Presentation of the Lord** on February 2nd harkens back to the Christmas mystery of Light except that now, Christ, the helpless babe, is "the Light of Revelation to the Gentiles who will save his people from their sins." Candles, symbolizing Christ our Light, will be carried in procession this day, as will be the Paschal candle during the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

"The Light of Revelation" shines more brightly with each successive Sunday of Ordinary Time, until its magnificence – exposing our sinfulness and need for conversion – propels us into the penitential Season of Lent. We prepare to accept the cross of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday (March 1) and plunge ourselves into anticipating the major exercises of Lent – fasting, prayer, almsgiving – laying our thoughts and prayers on the heart of our Mother Mary. She, who offered her Son in the temple and on the Cross, will teach us how to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow after her Son.

Courtesy CatholicCulture.org

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. The number forty is significant as it refers to Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to beginning his ministry of teaching.

On Ash Wednesday, Catholics and some other Christian denominations receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their forehead or sprinkled on top of their head. These ashes are created from the palms used during the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass. They symbolize penance, which is appropriate as Lent is a season of penance and remind us of our own mortality. During the Mass, as the priest or lay minister applies the ashes, he says "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Anyone who attends a Mass can receive ashes, not just practicing Catholics.

The History of Ash Wednesday

Ashes have a place of prominence throughout the Old Testament. They are an outward sign of an internal state of penance or mourning. You can find some scriptural references below:

"Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes." - Job 42: 6

"Daughter of my people, dress in sackcloth, roll in the ashes." - Jeremiah 6:26

"I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." - Daniel 9:3

"When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: ^{}"By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands." - Jonah 3: 6-8*

And the practice continued after the coming of Jesus. The practice of public penance was common in the Early Church. After making a confession a person would receive ashes on his head from the priest. The practice of using ashes to mark the beginning of Lent is first recorded during the time of St. Gregory the Great. The Gregorian Sacramentary has the earliest known record of it, then called the "Day of Ashes." Pope Urban II recommended the practice be used universally throughout the Church in 1091.

Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?

Holy Days of Obligation are days Catholics should attend Mass and do their best to avoid unnecessary work. Contrary to popular belief, Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics. While it's not an obligation many Catholics choose to attend Mass and mark the beginning of the [Lenten](#) season.

Can you eat meat on Ash Wednesday?

No. Unless you have a medical exemption, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting for Catholics.

Make It Personal

Ash Wednesday is a great day to reflect on how you can grow spiritually throughout the Lenten season. Set aside 15 minutes to think about how you can embrace [prayer](#), [fasting](#), and [almsgiving](#). Is there a daily prayer, like the rosary or Morning Offering, that you want to start? Can you go to Daily Mass at least once a week? When did you make your last Confession? What habits or indulgences can you resist for forty days? Is there a charity or nonprofit organization close to your heart that you can either donate to or volunteer with? Focus on one or two things you can really commit to and ask God to help you grow powerfully this season. You'll be amazed at the outcome!

Courtesy of Dynamiccatholic.com

Valentine's Day Candy Grams Sale

- Valentine's day candy grams will be on sale February 5-9. There will be a choice of a \$1 gram or a \$2 gram. This will benefit the yearbook club. Valentine's grams will be delivered on February 13.

+++++

Service Hours

We are in the third quarter of the school year, and many have given of their time or donated items to the school. Please make sure to log your hours in your FACTS SIS account. To do this:

1. Log into your FACTS SIS account
2. Click on Family on the left side of your screen

3. Find service hours
4. Click Add +
5. Add hours
6. Add description (volunteer or food / goods)
7. In the note, just BRIEFLY state what you did i.e. Halloween carnival, donated food for party, etc.
8. We will verify the hours throughout the year

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year

Enrollment is on-going for the new school year! The registration fee is \$250. Several classes are getting full: 3rd grade is 77% full; 4th grade is 73% full; 5th grade is 82% full.

To enroll:

1. Log into your FACTS SIS account.
2. Scroll down to Apply/Enroll
3. Click on Enrollment/reenrollment
4. Click on blue link that state “click here to open enrollment”
5. Under the Packet Status, click on “Start Enrollment Packet”
6. Go through all the pages and make sure all needed boxes are filled. If you get a yellow triangle on the left screen, you must address those areas. Finally, click on the last page and submit enrollment. You are welcome to check with me to see if your enrollment was submitted successfully.

Once you are enrolled, I encourage you to fill out the FACTS grant and aid applications. There are a lot of good scholarships to help with the tuition. If you are concerned about tuition, please come in and let's talk!

Email m.giglio@stschool.org with any questions or issues you may have.

I have had several questions on dress code, including shoes (boots, high tops) and hair (length, style, razors). Please review the school dress code below.



School Dress Code

Just a reminder that students (male and female) should not have highlights or colored hair, artificial nails, non-prescription contacts or wear make-up. Boy's hair should be cut above the collar and groomed; hair should not have any shapes or razor art in their cuts. For both boys and girls, hair/bangs should not cover their eyes. We ask that girls keep hair items to a simple hair tie or STS uniform headband or scrunchie. No big bows or jewelry/beads in their hair. Shoes and other items for your student: please make sure that shoes should be regular sneakers that are white, black or blue; no high tops, no Vans with checks or designs, no light-ups, and no wheels on the shoes. Please no boots; heels on student shoes no more than an inch. Please keep socks conservative: white, black, or blue. A small swish is fine, but no graffiti or images on the socks or shoes. Please do not have students wear the no show socks. They must be ankle or knee socks for both boys and girls. Thank you for helping in honoring the dress code for the school! This is referenced in the handbook.

Lastly.....

I wanted to announce to the community that I will be leaving St. Therese at the end of my contract. It has been a pleasure serving the community for the past 13 years. I wish you all the best in all your future endeavors.



Virtus

Virtus is an Archdiocesan training for all volunteers that helps adults learn to recognize the warning signs of abuse, and it shows them the appropriate way to respond to suspicious behavior. If you are planning on attending or volunteering in any capacity at the school, even if only driving or being with your own child, please take the time to take "Protecting God's Children" online. The certificate is turned into the front office and is good for five (5) years. This will also cover any volunteering in any of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe communities. Visit www.virtusonline.org and take your class today.

Annual Notifications

Legal Notice

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and St. Therese Catholic School comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) by providing access for the review of the Management Plan at this school. The Management Plan is kept in the principal's office and will be updated as various situations develop and inspections are completed. Arrangements may be made with the principal of the school or to the executive director of general services at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Civil Rights

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



You can attach your Smith's Rewards card to St. Therese Parochial School with your Smith's digital account. Visit by clicking or copying/pasting for info how to set up this easy fundraiser:

<https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations>



APIAL is our sport program. Registration is currently active for the following sports: ELEMENTARY SEASON 4: Track Soccer REGISTRATION DEADLINE 3/4/24. 5th-8th Grade SEASON 4: Track and Field, Soccer, Golf REGISTRATION DEADLINE 03/04/24. Please click the link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/apialathleticsregister/sts?pli=1> to register today.

No registrations will be accepted after the deadlines. Registration includes the student information and payment which is all available on the APIAL link above.