## Dear Aquinas Families,

Come Lord Jesus! The final words in the Bible from the Book of Revelation proclaim that sentiment. We want Jesus to come. Advent and Christmas are two very special and important liturgical seasons for us as Catholics and for many people throughout the Christian world. Advent is the short liturgical season where we prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ in the flesh which we call his Incarnation. This season also has a second coming that we are preparing for, his final coming. Therefore, the readings at Mass focus on the prophets during the Advent season. The prophets were getting the people of Israel prepared. They wanted them to wake up and be ready for God and his judgement. We too, should always be prepared not just for Christmas but each day should the Lord call us back to himself. And so, during these four weeks we increase our prayer, we are asked to be generous to the poor and those in need and to sacrifice through acts of mortification or possibly doing something extra.
Remember to keep your family in the Advent season. Put out an advent wreath on the table, get an advent calendar for the kids to open each day, sacrifice something as a family (maybe electronics and technology) and be sure to get to Mass and to pray during these four weeks.
On Sunday December $18^{\text {th }}$, the entire deanery, that is our 12 parishes in the area, will have confession. Each parish usually brings in a guest confessor if you prefer to go to someone other than you pastor. Additionally, all the parishes will have extra confession times the week of Christmas. The best way to receive the amazing graces of Christmas is to humble ourselves and seek out Christ's mercy! It truly prepares our hearts to receive the gift God wants to give to us, His very Son! Make time for Confession.
At the end of these four weeks, our focus shifts to the joy of Christmas. Jesus Christ comes into the world for our salvation. I love the song O Holy Night. Its lyrics have a profound and deep meaning,

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices, O night divine, the night when Christ was born.
Later we hear...

> Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, with all our hearts we praise His holy name.

Therefore, we rejoice at Christmas! God sends someone who become like us who "dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty." (Easter Exultet)

My brothers and sisters, don't miss out on the opportunity to be loved by Christ this Christmas. In this special season God gives us a child to wipe away our fears and to give us hope!

I pray that all our Aquinas faculty and staff, students, your families, our benefactors, and friends will be kept safe and abundantly blessed this Christmas. Thank you for all you do to support our Catholic School. May you know joy this Christmas. May this joy never subside in your hearts and your home!
Merry Christmas,


Fr. Michael Ventre

## Middle/High School Principal letter- December 2022

## Current news

- Why we do what we do- We recently had 2 opportunities available for our students that really emphasize well what we are trying to accomplish at Aquinas. The HS students attended a retreat at Dwight Assumption parish on Friday, November 18 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, and then on Tuesday, November $22^{\text {nd }}$ all MS and HS students worked on parish service projects with their House at a local parish. While I realize there may be legitimate reasons students can't attend these opportunities, I am encouraging our parents to discuss with their students the importance of service and growing in holiness and taking advantage of opportunities to participate in both of these areas.
- 1:1 device rollout- We began rolling out the $1: 1$ devices for student use earlier this week. This will be a transition for our students and teachers both as everyone adjusts to significantly increased access to technology throughout the school day. With the enhanced implementation of technology into our classes, we will be making significant progress toward achieving our school improvement goals. One important item to note is that students/families will be responsible for paying for any damage caused to devices, with the exception of regular wear and tear (i.e. keyboard keys not working as the device ages). Students have also been reminded of the expectation of being good digital citizens and using technology the way it is intended to be used. One final item of note is that we will make a small number of devices available for overnight check out on a limited basis, hopefully after Christmas Break. These overnight check out devices are intended for families who have very low quality or nonexistent internet and computer access at home. I ask that families who have decent internet and computer access at home not check these devices out so we can make sure we are able to help those who are most in need.
- HS semester finals- Finals will take place on Wednesday December $21^{\text {st }}$ and Thursday December $22^{\text {nd }}$. Here's a reminder that semester finals count for $20 \%$ HS grades, so it can't be emphasized enough how important it is to be prepared for finals. A detailed schedule is found on a separate page of this Torch.
- Canvas parent registration instructions- If you still want or need to set up access to Canvas, you can either download the Canvas Parent app or visit www.cdol.instructure.com. You will simply need to register for a parent account, then request your student's access code (via email or phone call to school).


## Upcoming events, schedule changes and reminders

- 10:00am late start (teacher PD)- Wed. December $7^{\text {th }}$
- No School (Immaculate Conception)- Thur. December $8^{\text {th }}$
- Last day for PK-8- Tues. December 20 ${ }^{\text {th }}$
- HS semester finals- Wed. December $21^{\text {st }}$ and Thur. December $22^{\text {nd }}$
- Christmas Break- Fri. December $23^{\text {rd }}-W e d$. January $4^{\text {th }}$
- No School (Faculty/staff retreat)- Wed. January 4 ${ }^{\text {th }}$
- CANCELLED: 10:00am late start (teacher PD)- Wed. February $1^{\text {stt }}$ - this will be a regular day of school
- CHANGED: No School- Thur. April $6^{\text {th }}$ (Holy Thursday)

God Bless!

Spencer Zysset, Principal B

This is the December 2022 Semester Test Schedule for grades 9-12. Semester exams count for $\mathbf{2 0}$ percent of the total semester grade, so I can't stress enough the importance of being prepared. Please encourage your sons and daughters to prepare for these exams. Some students tend to procrastinate, so a reminder from time to time may help to keep them focused. This is an opportunity for students to raise their grades. Take advantage of it.

## Spencer Zysset

## December 2022 Semester Test Schedule

## Grades 9-12

All classes having projects as finals (Art, Computers, Speech, Art and Accounting) should have them scheduled early enough to allow students to have them done by Friday, December 16.

Monday, December 12- Friday, December 16: Regular school days

Monday, December 19 \& Tuesday, December 20: Tests during regularly scheduled classes (may use both days if needed).
Psychology/Sociology, Building Trades, Cabinetry
*Tuesday December 20 is the last day for PK-8*

Wednesday, December 21- NO TRANSPORTATION, NO LUNCH PROVIDED
*Students will report directly to their first testing location*
8:00-9:20 Religion 9, 10, 11, 12
9:25-10:45 Phys. Science, Biol., Anat., Chemistry, Envir. Science, Biochem, Physics
10:45-11:05 Lunch/study- must provide your own lunch
11:10-12:30 $\quad$ Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4

Thursday, December 22- NO TRANSPORTATION, NO LUNCH PROVIDED
*Students will report directly to their first testing location*
8:00-9:20 English 9, 10, 11, 12
9:25-10:45 Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Calculus
10:45-11:05 Lunch/study-must provide your own lunch
11:10-12:30 Intro to Business, American History, World History, Government

Grades PK-8
Buses will run like usual on Monday, December $19^{\text {th }}$ and Tuesday, December $20^{\text {th }}$. PK- 8 students will not have school on Wednesday, December $21^{\text {st }}$ and Thursday, December $22^{\text {nd }}$.

## From the Principal's Desk at Aquinas Elementary

There are many great things happening at our school. I'll try to recap a few below and enjoy the teachers' additions on the following pages.

## Better Able to Learn and Love

Some people may wonder why we work so hard to develop good habits, virtues, and behaviors at school when many out in "the world" don't seem to care. The teachers, staff, and I decided at the end of the year last year to commit to clarifying all of our behavior expectations for students and to teach and reinforce them consistently. We are also working on a specific program called Virtues Based Restorative Discipline which guides conversations during class and when something goes wrong. It does take a lot of work and effort, but it pays great dividends. Because of that focus on behaving correctly and being kind in all situations, we see more students who are:

- More respectful
- Easier to correct when needed
- More able to focus on their work

Closer to God through practice of virtue
We are certainly not perfect, but we are all in this together, trying to grow to be good disciples. The more parents (and grandparents) work to develop good habits and behavior at home, the quicker we make growth.
Thank you for all you do/ Many blessings on your beautiful families.

## Advent Program is Coming



The beautiful voices of children fill the hallways this time of year as we prepare for the annual Advent Program. This is the schedule for the performances:

Dec. 20 (last day of school for PK-8)
~ both events at Aquinas High School, North Gym
1:30 PM, Grandparents Matinee (K-5, Preschool/Pre-K if at Holy Family or if parents bring to program) (Open to those who cannot attend the evening performance, too.)
6:30 PM, general performance (PK-5) - Band arrive by $6: 10$, K-4 by $6: 20$
Preschool/Pre-K notes: Children at Holy Family will be transported to/from the afternoon program. Parents may take/pick up their children who are not at Holy Family if they wish. It is not required. For the evening program, parents should bring children to the stage at $6: 20$ and pick them up in the lobby right after their performance.
Thank you to Mrs. Helen Ostdiek and Mrs. Shelby Schaunaman for their hard work and preparation.

God aless. Mrs. Sarah Zook. Principal

## KINDERGARTEN



The Kindergarteners received flags on Veterans Day from the American Legion Auxiliary of David City, presented by Sharon Dewispelare. The students enjoyed learning about veterans and asked many good questions. They also made cards for veterans in our community.
mrs. Miller \& Mrs Fozzard

## First Grade



First Grade did word work with the word Thanksgiving! They counted the number of letters, vowels, consonants, hanging letters, and tall letters in the word. Afterwards, they worked with a partner to make as many words as they could from the word.

## Mrs. Vavrina \& Mrs. Ketteler



## Third Grade

It seems so hard to believe that we are so far into the school year already.
We are currently learning about Moses and how he led the Israelites to freedom with God's help. We are also learning the Ten Commandments and how we need to live our lives according to God's laws. We are learning about vertebrates in Science. We will study the characteristics of different types of animal groups in more detail.
All the Third graders wrote what they are most grateful for on our "Gratitude Pumpkin". We strive to remember and be thankful for all the God gives us.

Mrs. Janak and Mrs. Naiberk


## Fifth Grade

5th Graders did research and reports on saints to give ideas of who to dress up for. This is Dylan Masilko presenting on St. Hubert, the patron saint of hunters.

Mrs. Comte \& Mrs. Nienhueser


# Aquinas Catholic Elementary December 2022 USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider 

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Chicken, Bacon \& Ranch Wrap Potato Wedges Pretzels Emerald Pears | 2 <br> FRENCH TOAST STICKS NOT BAKE! Hash Brown Yogurt |
| 5 <br> Spaghetti w/ <br> Meat Sauce Corn Breadstick Applesauce Slush | 6 <br> Chicken Strips Smile Fries Roll Grapes | 7 <br> Chili <br> Cinnamon Roll Baby Carrots Apple Slices <br> 10AM | 8 <br> No School Immaculate Conception | 9 <br> Bosco Sticks Marinara Green Beans Peaches |
| 12 <br> Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun Tater Tots Mixed Veg Blend Emerald Pears | 13 <br> Frito Pie Corn Churro Jell-O w/ Fruit | 14 Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes \& Gravy Green Beans Roll Oranges | 15 Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham Peas Roll Peaches | 16 <br> Cheese Stuffed Crust Pizza Broccoli Ranch Pineapple |
| 19 <br> Orange Chicken Rice <br> Roasted Broccoli <br> Egg Roll <br> Tropical Fruit | 20 <br> Hamburger/Bun Cheese Pickles Fries Baby Carrots Grapes | 21 Corn Dog Baked Beans Potato Chips Pears | 22 Fiestada Pizza Corn Peaches Jell-O Poke Cake | $24$ <br> No School |
| Mi <br> Seek (A) First |  | Reminder: <br> We are not able to get all food items we are asking for, so bare with us as menus may need to change, we will try to let students know. | Milk \& water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily | Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge |

Several options have been added to our usual SCRIP inventory for your Christmas shopping convenience! Please contact your parish SCRIP representative to place your order or call Nancy Vrbka at (402) 367-8835 or the HS at (402) 367-3175. Thanks! Nancy.

| HOLIDAY CARD INVENTORY |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| VENDOR | DENOMINATION | COUNT |  |
| Amazon | 10 | 16 |  |
|  | 25 | 20 |  |
|  | 100 | 7 |  |
| Applebees | 25 | 6 |  |
| Arbys | 10 | 15 |  |
|  | 25 | 9 |  |
| Barns \& Noble | 10 | 5 |  |
|  | 25 | 6 |  |
| Bath \& Body | 10 | 4 |  |
|  | 25 | 3 |  |
| Bed, Bath \& Beyond | 25 | 6 |  |
|  | 100 | 3 |  |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | 10 | 4 |  |
|  | 25 | 6 |  |
| Dairy Queen | 10 | 13 |  |
| Dominos | 10 | 7 |  |
| Fazolis | 25 | 3 |  |
| Golden Corral | 25 | 2 |  |
| IHOP | 10 | 1 |  |
|  | 25 | 2 |  |
| iTunes | 15 | 5 |  |
|  | 25 | 2 |  |
| JC Penney | 25 | 3 |  |
| Kohis | 25 | 2 |  |
| Marcus Theaters | 25 | 6 |  |
| Olive Garden/Cheddars | 25 | 8 |  |
| Outback/Bonefish Grill | 10 | 6 |  |
|  | 25 | 5 |  |
| Panda Express | 25 | 6 |  |
| Panera Bread | 10 | 3 |  |
|  | 25 | 3 |  |
| Red Lobster | 25 | 4 |  |
| Red Robin | 25 | 5 |  |
| Scheels | 25 | 13 |  |
| Sonic | 10 | 7 |  |
|  | 25 | 4 |  |
| Starbucks | 5 | 3 |  |
|  | 10 | 6 |  |
|  | 25 | 4 |  |
|  | 50 | 7 |  |
| Sweet Harvest Popcorn | 10 | 7 |  |
|  | 25 | 2 |  |
| Taco Bell | 10 | 6 |  |
| Target | 10 | 1 |  |
|  | 25 | 8 |  |
|  | 50 | 6 |  |
|  | 100 | 2 |  |
| Texas Roadhouse | 25 | 6 |  |
| WalMart | 10 | 21 |  |
|  | 25 | 45 |  |
|  | 50 | 16 |  |
| Wendys | 10 | 7 |  |
| This is the number I have on hand as of today - I will be ordering again December 15 th |  |  |  |
| These numbers will be changing as people buy and I replace inventory |  |  |  |



## Aquinas Catholic <br> Black Illusion Dance Team <br> invites you to our annual dance camp!

For girls in grades K-5
January 3, 2023
Learn the routine 9:00am to 11:30am \& Basketball game halftime performance at approximately 8pm

We will learn a routine and perform it at halftime of the boys basketball game that evening
Cost: \$20
Includes T-Shirt

Camp Date: Tuesday, January $3^{\text {rd }}$<br>Location: Aquinas North Gym<br>Time: 9:00am-11:30am

## Registration due: Wednesday, December 14

Student Name: $\qquad$ Grade Level: $\qquad$
Parent Name: $\qquad$
Parent Phone: $\qquad$ Parent E-Mail Address: $\qquad$
T-shirt size (specify youth or adult): $\qquad$

I, $\qquad$ give permission for my daughter,
to participate in the Aquinas Catholic Black Illusion Dance Camp.
I acknowledge that she is physically able to participate in physical activities. I further acknowledge that, as with any physical activity, there is risk of injury. I will not hold Parent/Coaches, Coaching Staff, Board of Directors or Aquinas Catholic Schools liable in the case of an accident or an injury.

Parent/Guardian Signature $\qquad$

Please return this form and payment by Wednesday, December 14 to

- Aquinas Catholic Elementary Office

Checks should be payable to Aquinas Catholic Dance Team

## Aquinas Cathatic Schaols!

Thank you to Fr. Sughroue for being the Emcee, on prayer team and helping to clean up at the Encounter High School Retreat on November 18th! Your time, prayers and talents are greatly appreciated!

SOUL CLUB thanks those who have brought coats to school which have been delivered to Blue Valley Community Action. And thank you in advance for purchasing
S.O.U.L. Club raffle tickets! Prizes will be drawn on Friday, January 20th!

Thank you American Legion for supplying flags to the Kindergarten classes and Sharon Dewispelare who represented the American Legion Auxiliary of David City, handed flags out, and taught the Kindergarteners about veterans

December 2022
Seek（A）First

## Sat

|  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ |  | $\bar{\sim}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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|  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |
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## Campus Ministry

Check out the best ways time and money can be spent to help students prepare for a BRIGHT future, while gaining confidence, making new friends \& developing a stronger desire to know Christ and be active in their faith life.

If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Nemec at
(402)641-4023

## NATIONAL

 MARCH FOR LIFE 50th Anniverary PilgrimageCelebrate the overturning of Roe v. Wade with a pilgrimage to Washington D.C.!

When: January 17 - 21, 2023
Cost: $\$ 480$ per person Register: www.lincolndiocese.org/m4l



OPPORTUNITIES
see Mrs. Nemec for more info

MARCH FOR LIFE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

Jan 17-22, 2023
Registration open NOW

Cost: HS $\$ 480$
Adult: \$250
Washington, DC
POST ROE ERA

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE


ROME
PILGRIMAG:


NIOBRARA
RIVER CANOE TRIP

July 9-11 and July 11-13

Registration in Spring 2023

Approximate Cost: \$100 (TBA)

Valentine, NE

## TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

 Cost: $\$ 120$Registration open NOW

Dec. 3-5, 2022 at Neb. City, Lourdes HS Feb. 18-20, 2023 at St. Patrick School, McCook

Feb. 18-20, 2023 at Wahoo Neumann HS

## TEC \#122

 April 15-17, 2023 at Camp Kateri Tekakwitha
## SCHOOL CALENDAR APP the App with the Hat



## PARENTS, STUDENTS, and MONARCH FANS: <br> The rSchool Today Activity Scheduler Mobile App allows you instant access to the updated Aquinas Catholic's School Calendar.

Get and download the App at your App Store by searching "Activity Scheduler".

Need support? Email support@rschooltoday.com M-F from 7am-8pm


## From the Career Counseling Office

Seniors and their Parents: Watch your emails for information from the Career Counseling Office. There have been several emails sent out already this year.

## December To-Do List

- Admission Applications should be in!
- Start filling out local scholarships
- Log on and create a FAFSA ID
- Ask admissions rep about scholarships at the college
- Make an appointment with EducationQuest to assist you in filing the FAFSA


## Finanacial Aid Season

This month the seniors have been busy finishing up their admission paperwork. They have also began looking into different scholarship programs.

In December, Seniors will have a "Buffett Buffet" to introduce them to the Susan Thompson Buffet Scholarship. This is a large scholarship based on financial need for a student attending a Nebraska college. Students who have an Expected Family Contribution below $\$ 10,000$ are especially encouraged to apply. (EducationQuest Foundation has a calculator to help determine this.) I strongly encourage you to look into this application.

This month seniors will create a profile with EducationQuest's Scholarship Database: ScholarshipQuest. This database finds scholarships that meet the criteria they specify. It mainly focuses on Nebraska scholarships and will help them narrow in on scholarships and make the searching more manageable.

## John Baylor Update

This month we are finishing up with our John Baylor Prep Program with the seniors! The juniors began in November, and the sophomores will begin soon. Students will continue to have $24 / 7$ access to the material at:
www.johnbaylorontocollege.com I encourage them to $\log$ in to their accounts and watch videos and complete the practice problems. There are amazing 30 second video clips that cover all content.

## Junior Meeting ...

This month I will have two meetings with the Junior Class We will talk about the College Planning Time-line for the Junior and Senior year. We will also begin to work on our resumes, research careers search for colleges. They were also given information on Dual Credit Classes offered here at Aquinas.

I encourage you as parents to have a conversation with your child about college and career planning. Studies show that parents have more influence on College Planning than teachers, counselors, siblings and even peers. We will meet during the second semester to work on this information.

| Sun | Mon | cemb <br> 6-12 L <br> Tue | Q102 <br> unch Wed | lenda Thu | Fri | Seek (A) First <br> Sat |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Veg/fruit bar \& milk offered everyday <br> Menus are subject to change |  |  |  | 1 <br> Popcorn Chicken Bowls Corn Fruit | 2 <br> Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Garnishes Crackers | 3 |
| $4$ <br> 2nd Sunday of Advent | 5 <br> Chicken Noodle Soup Chicken Salad/Lunch Meat Sandwich Crackers Fruit | 6 <br> Crispitos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Fruit | 7 Faculty Meeting <br> 10:00AM Late Start  <br>  Chicken Alfredo <br> Side Salad  <br> Fruit  <br> Garlic Breadsticks  | $8$ <br> Immaculate Conception NO SCHOOL | 9 <br> Fish Sandwich French Fries Peas Fruit | 10 |
| $11$ <br> 3rd Sunday of Advent | 12 <br> Chicken Patty/Bun Chips <br> California Blend Fruit | 13  <br>  Chili <br>  Garnishes <br>  Crackers <br>  Fruit <br>  Cinnamon Roll | 14 <br> Chicken Strips French Fries Mixed Vegetables Fruit | $15$ <br> Christmas Dinner Surprise! | $16$ <br> French Toast Sticks Cheese Omelets Yogurt Fruit | 17 |
| $18$ <br> 4th Sunday of Advent | 19 <br> Chicken Fried Steak <br> Mashed Potatoes/Gravy <br> Corn <br> Fruit <br> Tea Roll | 20 <br> Hot Ham \& Cheese Sandwich Chips Mixed Vegetables Fruit | $21$ <br> High School Finals | 22 <br> High School Finals End of Quarter 2 5:45PM B/GBB vs GACC | 23 <br> Christmas Vacation Moratorium | $24$ <br> Moratorium |
| $25$ <br> CHRISTMAS <br> Moratorium | $26$ <br> Christmas Vacation Moratorium | 27 <br> Christmas Vacation Moratorium | $28$ <br> Christmas Vacation | 29 <br> Christmas Vacation 12:00PM B/GBB <br> @ DCHS Inv | 30 <br> Christmas Vacation 10:00AM WR <br> @ Wood River Duals Invite | 31 |


"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Aquinas Catholic<br>Elementary<br>1026 5TH ST<br>David City, NE 68632 402-367-3669

Aquinas Catholic MS/HS

3420 MN Rd. PO Box 149 David City, NE 68632 402-367-3175

## www.aquinas-catholic.com

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David City, NE 68632

