AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



THE TORCH



www.aquinas-catholic.com

2022-23 Theme

December, 2022

Dear Aguinas 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 18th, 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)

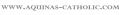
My brothers and sisters, don't miss out on the opportunity to be loved by Christ this Christmas. In this special season God gives us a child to wipe away our fears and to give us hope!

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

In Michael Ventu











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 18th, and then on Tuesday, November 22nd 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 21st and Thursday December 22nd.
 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 7th
- No School (Immaculate Conception)- Thur. December 8th
- Last day for PK-8- Tues. December 20th
- HS semester finals- Wed. December 21st and Thur. December 22nd
- Christmas Break- Fri. December 23rd-Wed. January 4th
- No School (Faculty/staff retreat)- Wed. January 4th
- CANCELLED: 10:00am late start (teacher PD)- Wed. February 1st- this will be a regular day of school
- CHANGED: No School- Thur. April 6th (Holy Thursday)

God Bless!

Spencer Zysset, Principal

Spincer Zysset

WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM









Dear Parents,

This is the December 2022 Semester Test Schedule for grades 9 - 12. Semester exams count for 20 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

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 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
0.00 0.20	EII)SIII J	, 10		

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 19th and Tuesday, December 20th. PK-8 students will not have school on Wednesday, December 21st and Thursday, December 22nd.

^{*}Tuesday December 20 is the last day for PK-8*





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 bless, 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 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
			1 Chicken, Bacon & Ranch Wrap Potato Wedges Pretzels Emerald Pears	2 FRENCH TOAST STICKS NOT BAKE! Hash Brown Yogurt
5 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Corn Breadstick Applesauce Slush	6 Chicken Strips Smile Fries Roll Grapes	7 Chili Cinnamon Roll Baby Carrots Apple Slices 10AM	8 No School Immaculate Conception	9 Bosco Sticks Marinara Green Beans Peaches
12 Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun Tater Tots Mixed Veg Blend Emerald Pears	13 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 Cheese Stuffed Crust Pizza Broccoli Ranch Pineapple
19 Orange Chicken Rice Roasted Broccoli Egg Roll Tropical Fruit	20 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 No School
Seek First matthew 6:33		Reminder: 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.

R

VENDOR	DENOMINATION	COUNT
		16
Amazon	10 25	20
	100	7
Applebees	25	6
Arbys	10	15
71 DYS	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 25	5 2
IC Danage		
JC Penney	25	3
Kohls	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 10	3 6
	25	4
	50	7
weet Harvest Popcorn	10	7
	25	2
Taco Bell	10	6
Target	10	1
-	25	8
	50	6
T D-c-th	100	2
Texas Roadhouse	25	6
WalMart	10 25	21 45
	50	16
Wendys	10	7



Aquinas Catholic Black Illusion Dance Team 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 3rd Location: Aquinas North Gym Time: 9:00am - 11:30am

Registration due: Wednesday, December 14				
Student Name:		Grade Level:		
Parent Name:				
Parent Phone:	Parent E-Mail Addres	ss:		
T-shirt size (specify yo	outh or adult):			
to participate in the A I acknowledge that sh with any physical acti Directors or Aquinas (, give permission for my daughter, _ quinas Catholic Black Illusion Dance Camp. le is physically able to participate in physical activity, there is risk of injury. I will not hold Parent/Catholic Schools liable in the case of an accident of the case o	ities. I further acknowledge that, as Coaches, Coaching Staff, Board of r an injury.		
	m and payment by Wednesday, December 14 to atholic Elementary Office			

Checks should be payable to Aquinas Catholic Dance Team

Please contact Aquinas Catholic Dance Coach, Jodi Prochaska, with any questions at prochaskajodi@gmail.com.





....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

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

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Seek A First

Sat

Fri

Mon

Sun

Tue

Wed

I Thu

				I	7	3
				4:30PM MS GBB vs Lakeview	5:45PM B/GBB vs Raymond Central	8:30AM MS WR @ Schuyler Invite 10:00AM WR
				6:30PM WR @ Boone Central		@ Bennington 1:00PM B/GBB @ Logan View
	5	9	2	8	6	10 ACT Testing
2nd Sunday of Advent	6:30PM Res. BBB	6:00PM B/GBB	Faculty Meeting 10:00AM Late Start	NO SCHOOL IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	10:00AM WR @ Wood River Invite	© Scotus Invite 9:00AM MS WR
	© Aquinas Quad	panor (makeris)	Activity Pictures	TBA State One-Acts @ Norfolk		(@ Ottoe Centennia IIVite 10:00AM WR @ N Bend 1:30PM B/GBB @ Archbishop Bergan
	12	13	14	15	91	17
3rd Sunday of Advent	4:30PM MS GBB	4:30PM B/GBB	Penance Service 6:00PM AMS/HS	6:00PM GBB vs Hastings St. Cecilia		9:00AM MS GBB @ Shelby-Rising City 0:00AM MS WB @ Samuel
	6:00PM Res. BBB @ Utica Centennial	E Distrop iventifaint	Masic Collecti	6:00PM WR Tri @ Central City HS		9:00AM WR @ Wahoo Inv
	61	20	21	72	23	24
	13			77	67	+ 7
4th Sunday of Advent		Last Day of School PreK-8 1:30PM PreK-5 Advent Grandparents Matinee 6:30PM SMS PreK-5 Advent Program @ Aquinas	High School Finals	High School Finals End of Quarter 2 5:45PM B/GBB vs GACC	Christmas Vacation Moratorium	Moratorium
	76			70	20	2.1
	97	17		79	30	31

Christmas Vacation 10:00AM WR @ Wood River Duals Invite

Christmas Vacation 12:00PM B/GBB @ DCHS Inv

Christmas Vacation

Christmas Vacation Moratorium

Christmas Vacation Moratorium

CHRISTMAS Moratorium

25

I8

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





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

STEUBENVILLI YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 2023 Exact date TBA

Registration will open in January. Approximate cost: \$390 (TBA)

Springfield, Missouri

ROME PILGRIMAGE

June 2024 TBA

Registration open Aug/Sept 2023

Approximate cost: \$2800 (TBA)

Rome, Italy

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

TEC #119

Dec. 3-5, 2022 at Neb. City, Lourdes HS

TEC #120

Feb. 18-20, 2023 at St. Patrick School, McCook

TEC #121

Feb. 18-20, 2023 at Wahoo Neumann HS

TEC #122

April 15-17, 2023 at Camp Kateri Tekakwitha

TEC #122

June 10-12, 2023 at Aguinas Catholic HS

SCHOOL CALENDAR APP the App with the Hat



PARENTS, STUDENTS, and MONARCH FANS:

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





S.O.U.L. CLUB (SERVING OTHERS UNDER LOVE) is a service club that supports 7 charities. Mrs. Nolan has been volunteer moderator since 1999. The annual Christmas Angel Tree project has all classes collect funds to give gift cards and special items requested by families served by Genesis PDC. This year SOUL Club been asked to help a family with 2 tween boys, 1 boy and 2 girls in the 10 year old range. All 5of these children would love to have new bikes. The presentation will be made Friday December 9th during House period at 9:30 am.

COAT DRIVE: we will again be collecting new or gently used coats which will be distributed

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 <u>FAFSA ID</u>
- 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.



December 2022



Sat

Sun

Mon

Fri

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer



"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 ELEMENTARY

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